

Legionnaire

Volume XCV

Number 6



March 2019

Legislative Day

By: Amanda Washburn



On Friday, February 8, 135 people attended the annual Legislative Day at the State Capitol hosted by the Nebraska Veterans Council (NVC). Those in attendance represented The American Legion, American Legion Auxiliary, Veterans of Foreign Wars, Veterans of Foreign Wars Auxiliary, Disabled American Veterans, Vietnam Veterans of America, Military Order of the Purple Heart, Nebraska Department of Veterans Affairs, Nebraska Veterans Coalition, County Veteran Service Officers, Paralyzed Veterans of America, University of Nebraska Omaha Student Veterans, Central Community College Student Veterans, and Military Officers Association of America.

NVC Chairman Seth Kotouc opened Legislative Day with the Pledge of Allegiance then turned the floor over to Nebraska Department of Veterans Affairs Director John Hilgert. Director Hilgert introduced Nebraska Governor Pete Ricketts who spoke about his hopes for the upcoming legislative session and some of the bills he would like to get passed this year. LB 153, reducing the amount of state taxes

military retirees pay on their retirement check to 50 percent, will be his push for the session. He believes this will encourage more military retirees to stay in Nebraska.

State Senators Tom Brewer, Bruce Bostelman, Jim Scheer, Carol Blood, Lou Ann Linehan, and Tim Gragert spoke to the group and informed them on the different bills they have proposed for the legislative session and other business pertaining to veterans and active duty military. The day served as an avenue for the Veteran Service Organization members to talk to their Senator and see how he or she is planning to vote. Senator Bostelman invited those in attendance to sit in the balcony of the Norris Senate Chamber and recite the Pledge of Allegiance with the Senators. Following the pledge, the Legislative Day attendees were introduced to the Senators and they were given a standing ovation.



Nebraska American Legion 2018-2019 Lottery Winners

Thank you to all that participated in this year's lottery. The drawing was held during the Sunday joint session of the Mid-Year Conference in Norfolk.

Grand Prize, \$2,500 Paul G. Dale, Lawrence
2nd Place, \$1,000 Donald Nelson, Clay Center
3rd Place, \$500 George Moran Jr., Omaha
\$200, John T. Banks, Stella
\$200, Timothy J. Jacobs, Papillion
\$200, Stan E. Wolverson, North Platte
\$200, Donald Borowiak, Silver Creek
\$200, Richard J. Cleary, Atkinson

Special drawing for tickets purchased at the Conference.

\$100, Donald Nelson, Clay Center
\$100, Rollie Otte, Morse Bluff
\$100, Doug Frahm, Amelia
\$100, Tom Sieck, Pleasant Dale
\$100, Dave Smith, Omaha

Nebraskan's Helping Others

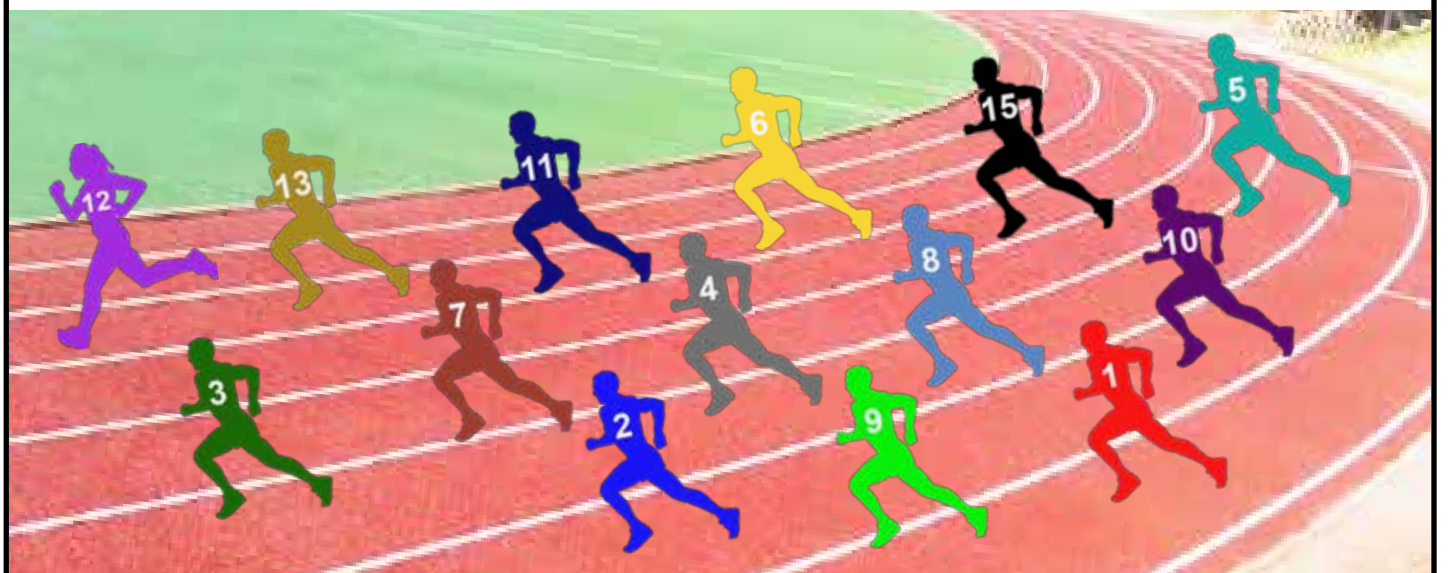


During the Mid-Year Conference held in Norfolk, Past Department Commander Jim Costello auctioned off a Nebraska football helmet signed by Head Coach Scott Frost. Gary Wooten was the highest bidder of the signed helmet. In total, \$1,550 was raised and PDC Costello donated all of the proceeds of the auction to American Legion programs. \$750 went towards sponsoring two Boys' State delegates, \$700 to the Children & Youth project Rainbow House, and \$100 went to the Temporary Financial Assistance (TFA) program. Besides these generous donations, the Nebraska American Legion Family went above and beyond during the weekend to collect donations for other projects as well. Sunday morning during the Joint Session, \$816 was collected for TFA. Thank you to everyone who donated to these great programs.

SPRINTING TOWARDS 100%

2019 MEMBERSHIP GOAL: 29,566 FEBRUARY 14TH TOTAL: 25,599 - 87.17%

DISTRICT 12—89.52%	DISTRICT 3—89.35%	DISTRICT 13—88.81%	DISTRICT 7—88.76%	DISTRICT 2—88.66%
DISTRICT 11—88.32%	DISTRICT 4—88.25%	DISTRICT 9—87.86%	DISTRICT 6—87.60%	DISTRICT 8—86.66%
DISTRICT 1—86.21%	DISTRICT 15—86.01%	DISTRICT 10—85.08%	DISTRICT 5—82.30%	





Commander's Corner

Lyle Bartels
Department Commander



As I am writing this it is a very active and busy time for The American Legion. I would like to thank all of the people who attended the Mid-Year Conference held in Norfolk. I thought that we had a very productive Department Executive Committee meeting and a very informative conference overall. The highlight of the weekend was the Department Finals of the Oratorical Contest. I would like to congratulate all four of the contestants, each one of you did an excellent job.

I was happy to see a good number of American Legion members at the state capitol for Veteran's Legislative Day. In all, there are twenty-three legislative bills that are of interest to veterans or veterans service organizations. Please stay informed and keep active and encourage your state Senator to vote for these veteran friendly bills.

Recently I have attended several county meetings and District Conventions and there seems to be a lot of interest in Resolution One, which would expand the definition of wartime veteran to include anyone who has served honorably since December 7, 1941. It will be interesting to see if Congress will approve this.

I would like to remind all American Legion Posts that they can send as many students as they wish to Cornhusker Boys State. The Boys State committee would like to have a few more boys attend this year's session than what they had last year.

On the national side of things, numerous programs such as the National Emergency Fund and the Temporary Financial Assistance program have had a huge drain on their funds. If at all possible, please donate and help support these programs.

As I travel around the state, I hope to see you and visit with you at some of the American Legion events. Don't forget that each post should be doing something to help celebrate our American Legion Centennial.

There are vacancies on the following committees: Americanism - Area C and D; Children & Youth – Area C; Publications & PR – Area D; and Scholarship – Area A. Please contact Headquarters for more information.

“Working Together to Make a Difference”



Straight Talk

Philip Dittbrenner
Department Service Officer



Happy Birthday to the American Legion, 100 years of helping veterans and their survivors. I am sure that since the beginning of warfare, the bond of those that have served together continued for many years, after their service, but 100 years, with so many accomplishments is hard to believe.

To have a group of World War veterans gather in Paris prior to coming home, and form the American Legion, is amazing to say the least, reading the history of the American Legion, those dough boys were busy during that 1st year in 1919.

In my office I have a picture of my Great Uncle Henry Kuehnemund who served in France, in the picture he is standing over his gear ready for an inspection. When I look at it, I see the beginning of the American Legion.

Over the years I have collected many uniform and equipment items from that war. I can only imagine the hell that they suffered with the items that they were provided, The American Legion provided them with a way to bond with their buddies, I can only guess at the time, the meetings were more therapy than we can imagine, and it still happens today.

If you have a chance to be involved with your Post Birthday celebration, do it, we have a year to brag about 100 years of Veterans serving Veterans, let's not let the doughboys down now.

Centennial Celebration

Does your Post have any events planned for the 100th Anniversary of The American Legion? Be sure to notify Department Headquarters with the dates and information so we can post it on our Nebraska Facebook page and give Department Officers the opportunity to attend the events.

Volunteers for Baseball Tournament



Hastings Post 11 has been selected to host the Mid-South Regional Baseball Tournament in 2019 at Duncan Field in Hastings.

Russ Kindig of Post 11 is looking for volunteers to help with the tournament. The Regional Tournament will be held August 7-11, 2019. If you are interested in helping with this event, please contact Russ at russ.kindig@5pointsbank.com for more information. Check out hastingsbaseball.org if you would like to learn more about the tournament.

NEBRASKA AMERICAN LEGION Department Headquarters Office

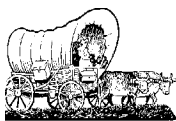
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Business Hours.....8:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m. (CST), Mon-Fri
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E-Mail Address.....dwsalak@windstream.net
Editor.....afwashburn@windstream.net

Department Officers

Commander.....Lyle D. Bartels, Tobias
Senior Vice Commander.....Gary Wooten, Wilber
Area A Vice Commander.....John Henry Percy, Papillion
Area B Vice Commander.....Doug Frahm, Amelia
Area C Vice Commander.....Wade Graft, Lincoln
Area D Vice Commander.....Bernard Heinemann, Wallace
Adjutant.....Dave Salak, Lincoln
Activities Director.....Brent Hagel-Pitt, Lincoln
Public Relations Officer.....Vacant
Chaplain.....Dr. William Jackson Jr., Lincoln
Historian.....Jennifer Salak, Omaha
Judge Advocate.....Vacant
Finance Officer.....Mark Novak, Dawson
Sergeant-At-Arms.....Rodney Rose, Roca
Asst. Sergeant-At-Arms.....Larry Kaspar, Dorchester
Service Officer.....Philip Dittbrenner, Beatrice
National Executive Committeeman.....Bill Crosier, Kearney
Alternate NECman.....Fred Craigie, Lincoln

District Commanders

Dist. 1.....Gene Von Forell, Crawford
Dist. 2.....Robert Campbell, Stuart
Dist. 3.....Daryl Harrison, Thurston
Dist. 4.....John Sanna, Dalton
Dist. 5.....Richard Colson, Paxton
Dist. 6.....Rich Lemmerman, Marquette
Dist. 7.....Dan Benes, Valparaiso
Dist. 8.....Michael Sheridan, Omaha
Dist. 9.....Mel Divis, Elwood
Dist. 10.....James Doyen, Hastings
Dist. 11.....Glenn Schwab, Beatrice
Dist. 12.....Bonnie Brewer, Elmwood
Dist. 13.....Ken Mandl, Tecumseh
Dist. 15.....Gerald Wolf, Lincoln



The NEBRASKA

Legionnaire

Official Publication of and Owned Exclusively by
The American Legion Department of Nebraska.

Amanda Washburn, Editor
Dave Salak, Publisher's Representative

First published in 1923, The Nebraska Legionnaire is in its 95th year of publication. It is published monthly except for January, April, July, and October, which are two-month issues, by The American Legion, Department of Nebraska, 5600 P St., P.O. Box 5205, Lincoln, NE 68505. Periodicals postage is paid at Lincoln, Nebraska at additional mailing offices. The Nebraska Legionnaire is a member of the Nebraska and the National American Legion Press Association.

Subscription: \$8 for non-members. Members receive the Legionnaire as part of their dues.

Advertising Rates: Contact Amanda Washburn, 402-464-6338.

Publications Committee: David Camara, Wilber and Julie Schnitzler, Kenesaw.

Postmaster: Please send address changes to The Nebraska Legionnaire, P.O. Box 5205, Lincoln, NE 68505-0205. (USPS 376-180) (ISSN 0028-1875)

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Mail this form to The American Legion, PO Box 5205, Lincoln, NE 68505 or you can email the information to afwashburn@windstream.net



It's History

Jennifer Salak
Department Historian





POW/MIA

Donald E. Nelsen
POW/MIA Liaison



American Legion Department of Nebraska History Word Search

Z Q M K L C V N R O Y Q R U C
Q Y U N M O U E H G D M C G A
S U C U A C N S T G R E E N M
X A F D A R T N Z E A C R E P
Y B T I A N G E U Q R S S L B
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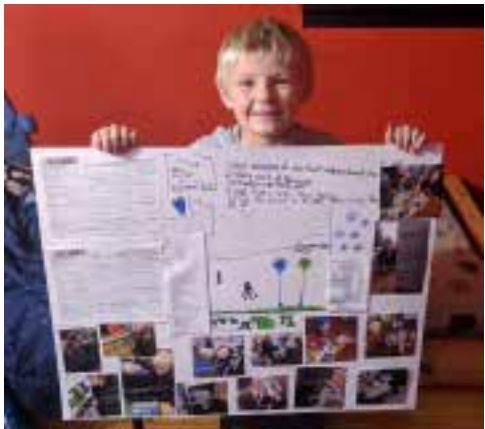
Directions: Search up, down, forward, backward, and on the diagonal to find the bolded, underlined words described below.

- March 1929 (90 years ago)**
- Following the Great War 10 years ago, Nebraska soldiers and sailors were among the very first in the country to make plans for a **VETERANS** organization. On April 5th, less than a month after the Paris **CAUCUS**, a meeting was held in Omaha to make plans for a preliminary convention. This caucus was the first step toward building the department.
 - Men, who only 10 years ago were bitter enemies seeking only to kill each other, met last month as the best of friends and fellow citizens of this city when the Grand **ISLAND** post had as its guests at a smoker and feed, six veterans of the German and Austrian armies.
 - Post 119 has been presented with a life size crayon portrait of Carl **MORGENSEN**, the first Howard County boy to die in active service “over there” and for whom the post was named.

- March 1949 (70 years ago)**
- James **GREEN**, 32-year old WWII veteran and National Americanism chairman, received the full support of The Department Executive Committee in session during the Mid-Winter Conference to the renewed efforts to elect him as the first WWII national **COMMANDER** of The American Legion.
 - Three Nebraska soldiers attended the historic caucus of the first AEF in Paris, France, March 15 to 17, 1919 at which The American Legion came into being. Those Nebraska Legionnaires were Dr. W.R. **NEUMARKER** (Lt. Col., 88th Division) of Columbus; Amos **THOMAS** (Major, 88th Division) of Omaha; and Frank A. **WARNER** (Major, 28th Division) of Norfolk.
 - **OMAHA** Post 1 remains the largest American Legion post in the world. It retained its title by virtue of mustering a final 1948 enrollment of 16,072.
 - **CAMPBELL** – It was decided at a recent meeting that each member of the local post register his blood type with the local doctor, for any emergency that may arise necessitating a blood transfusion.
 - The third term of the Department American Legion **COLLEGE** will be held March 12-15 in Hastings. Omaha Post 1 and Chadron Post 12 lead the field in individual post participation each, with four students enrolled in the program.

My Service Project

By: Connor James Yant, Winside Squadron 252



For school this year I was told we needed to complete a community service project. There were many options that I could have chosen to do, but the one I chose is a project closer to me than most. I chose the project I did because my dad served in the military, and someday I hope to be able to do so as well. My project for school was me getting various items and sending them in care packages to military personnel. I did a lot of thinking about how I was going to complete it. Here are some of the steps.

First, my parents and I went shopping at Wal-Mart where I got to pick out different items I wanted the military personnel to receive. In the package they got a lot of snacks and goodies inside them, along with a thank you card for everything they are doing. Then, I packaged them up and I took them to the post office where my mom and I found out there was more to it than just leaving the packages and leaving. We had customs paper work my mom filled out, to tell them what is inside the packages.

I know they went out right after Veteran’s Day and the first package was received right after Thanksgiving. I am very grateful for everything they are doing for us and our country and really hope to someday be able to do everything like they are and my dad did.

We are proud and encouraged by the news of more of our heroes being brought home and their remains buried with loving families. We can never forget to keep looking for our fellow service personnel who over the years and wars have become missing, killed, or lost in foreign lands. Technology keeps improving and because you continue to keep that pressure to never stop until all Veterans are returned to their families: it is the right thing to do. I would like to talk about the missing, not so much our missing in action Veterans missing over the years in wars all around the world, but our local hometown veterans who we are missing.

Two percent of US citizens are veterans. How does this compare to WWI and WWII when about half of our population were veterans or family members? We all, to a certain degree, do not like change or are slow to accept it that we become lost. I remember a crusty older Command Sergeant Major saying something like: “If you old guys would get the heck out of the way and let us younger ones do this, we could succeed!” He was talking about you old Vietnam Era Veterans, but I am sure the same sentiment happened to all those who went before them. It seems that someone or some agency or something is always trying to divide us.

In November, we were searching for a list of our local veterans so we could read their names during our Veteran’s Day programs: but it seems our military leaders are telling those currently serving not to use their rank or branch of service, because they or their families may become targets. It goes without saying that we do not want to do anything that would endanger those currently serving, but where does this end? How can you be proud of our military, put their names in the local papers as we used to, read their names off in programs when they will not let us. How are you going to find out their names when you want to build that memorial in your home county? Who are you going to go to for names, because anymore it seems that if you are trying to do the right thing, you have so many barriers to cross. I feel many of us do not want big fancy parades with crowds welcoming us back, but a small handshake and a pat on the back would help. It is thanks to the Vietnam veteran, and the way the majority were treated that those currently serving are being given preferred treatment; as it should be. I know many of you out there were not treated right, and know at this point of time it does not matter what they say now, as they missed their chance, but because of you not being thanked, it has changed the way our country treats our veterans. Realize that is a long, roundabout statement, but feel it needs said.

A special thanks to our younger veterans who have programs monthly, looking out for and after their fellow service members. We must change to help our fellow veterans and their families. We must change to help our American Legion Family. Where we used to have 3 million, we have less than 2 million nationally. Statewide we are down. Is your glass half full or half empty? Are you proud of what your Legion family does in your community? It is up to you, not the National Organization, Department, or District, it is you who will make the changes needed so our great organization can succeed for another 100 years. Thank you for all you do to make this a better world in which to live.

History has a way of showing us the right path which to go. Award winning actor David Niven of England, the movie star, attended Sandhurst Military Academy and served two years in Malta with the Highland Light Infantry. After Great Britain declared war in 1939, he was one of a few English actors to go back there and enter the service of his country. He was a member of the Army Rifle Brigade. During the war he did consent to make two films which had strong propaganda value: Spitfire 1942 and The Way Ahead 1944. In spite of a six-year absence, he returned to the screen as 2nd in popularity in 1945. On his return to Hollywood, he was made a Legionnaire of the Order of Merit (the highest American Order earned by a foreigner). This was personally presented to Lt Colonel David Niven by General Dwight D. Eisenhower.

Now comes the most important part. Although Niven had a reputation for telling good stories, he was generally silent about his war experiences. He said once: "I will, however, tell you just one thing about the war, my first story and my last. I was asked by some American friends to search out the grave of their son who had been killed during the Battle of the Bulge near Bastogne. I found it near where they told me I would, but it was among 27,000 others, and I told myself that here, Niven, were 27,000 reasons why you should keep your mouth shut after the war."

Most of us who were in the military are quiet and humble, and we all have different reasons. The most important part of your life is what you are doing now to make this a better world in which to live. Be proud of being a veteran and be proud of being fortunate to live in the best country in the world!



Chaplain's Corner

Dr. William Jackson, Jr.
Department Chaplain



“Modesty”

Being modest is one aspect of a virtuous walk of life, especially if you’re one those church people—I mean—servants of Christ—or is it, disciple of Christ? Holier-than-Thou? You know, there must be a problem here. If you ARE a modest person, then does it not follow that you are not only holy, but righteous, too?

Well...hold on there woman or man of the church. Why don’t you hitch up your horse here, swing out of the saddle, and stop in your favorite watering hole—your home---for some thought and recollection. While you’re catching your breath, let’s do that “Sunday thang” and take a gander at what the “Good Book” says about these notions. We’ll start with modesty.

By human definition, it means unassuming, moderate, or humble in the estimation of one's abilities or achievements. But our Lord and Savior says, by His Word (the Bible) our bodies are a temple for the Holy Spirit (1 Corinthians 6: 19-20), whereby He edifies us when we glorify Him. So how does that work out as an everyday Christian amid your day-to-day trails, tribulations, and possible temptations? It’s called...humility, another aspect of modesty.

Our “walk” as disciples of Christ, believers, members of the Household of Faith, or People of the Book circumscribes a specific character about us that should draw any casual observer to

He hath shewed thee, O man, what is good; and what doth the Lord require of thee, but to do justly, and to love mercy, and to walk humbly with thy God? - Micah 6:8 (KJV)

the Lord, not us. Simply put: people see the Lord because they view your personality as in keeping with His Word. One word of caution here. There IS no judgement when it comes to the degree of humility, or modesty we evidence (Romans 14:13), but the Lord expects us to exemplify the Word’s exhortation about living

the Christ-like life like Jesus did, even as we’re not perfect. Remember that notion of grace, or unmerited favor? That’s why you can try, fail, try again, fail again, and try again because of your repentant attitude (Romans 12:2).

Another realm of modesty may be seen as it applies to sharing time with others on any number of fronts, inclusive of family, work, leisure, vacations, or professional pursuits. We know that judgement against others is not for us (Matthew 7:1). But true modesty also concerns apparel, language, and work in how they separately and collectively give an account of a given person’s true Godly demeanor, whether a woman, man, or child (Proverbs 31:30).

Now let’s look at modesty from another perspective. What a person wears, eats, leaves the toilet seat up, places the roll upside down, favors jewelry, long or short hair, regular beard or the “Santa Claus” look, or even the company they keep is in the realm of the Lord’s mercy (i.e., punishment withheld). Being modest means that the love of Christ rules in your heart, with Jesus as the example.

So why do any of us have to “play nice” with people we don’t care for, or that we find to be utterly...not worth our time? Good question. Besides your behavior running contrary to God’s way of loving His creation, your obnoxious attitude doesn’t invite would-be followers to jump on the same bandwagon you’re on. God often reminds me of how I USED to be as a reminder that there are others who need to know the Lord, too.

Take this...modest...direction...from the Word: be whom the Lord has called you to be by the ministry He’s set for you (Ephesians 4:7). Humility, modesty, virtue—they’re all a part of God’s plan to help us renew our personalities in the Lord to serve Him perfectly (Philippians 2:17).

ASK THE CHAPLAIN

If you have any questions or concerns about Scripture or your life situation, don’t hesitate to email me at: wjdoc@gmail.com I will give anonymous feedback.



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S.A.L. Notes

Robert “Bud” Neel
Detachment Commander



Happy Valentine's Day.

Thank everyone who attended the Mid-Year Conference. I know we are all busy, but Detachment business needs to go forward also.

A big Thank You to the National Midwest Region Vice Commander Pete Sierminski and the Leading Candidate for National Commander Clint Bolt for attending our meetings. Both were very happy on our progress of new squadrons, membership and the tour of our Norfolk Veteran's Home.

The officers chose to attend the following District Conventions:

District - Date/time - Location			Attendee
1	Sat, Mar 30, 8am MST	- Valentine	Commander Bud Neel
2	Sun, Mar 10, 9am	- Crofton	Nat. Asst. Adj. Thompson, Jr.
3	Sat, Mar 16, 9am	- Beemer	E V-C Chris Casey
4	Sat, Mar 2, 8:30am	- Morrill	W V-C Eldon Kramer
5	Sun, Mar 10 9am MST	- Paxton	Sr. V-C Willie Foster
6	Sun, Mar 3, 9:30am	- Kearney	Sr. V-C Willie Foster
7	Sat, Mar 9, 10am	- Columbus	Alt. NEC Karl Frederickson
8	Sat, Feb 9, 9am	- Omaha	NECman George Sevick
9	Sat, Mar 16, 9am	- Eustis	Sr. V-C Willie Foster
10	Sat, Mar 16, 10am	- Nelson	Nat. Chaplain David Rippe
11	Sun, Feb 17, 9am	-Tobias	Nat. Chaplain David Rippe
12	Sat, Mar 9, 9am	- Talmage	Commander Bud Neel
13	Sat, Feb 16, 9:30am	- Shubert	Commander Bud Neel
15	Tues, Feb 12, 6:30pm	-Lincoln	NECman George Sevick

There is some traveling involved and hope to see some Sons members in attendance in their Districts. Hopefully the Post Commanders and Adjutants are passing along this information to invite you. I will be attending several other District Conventions as the driver for Madam President Beverly Neel and hope to see you there.

My raffle drawing was held at the Mid-Year Conference. The Flag Pole winner was Western Vice Commander Eldon Kramer, the \$100.00 winner was Squadron 193 Ohioa, and the \$50.00 winner was The American Legion Post 92 in Homer. Thank everyone for helping with my projects. The profits will be divided between Children & Youth and National Emergency Fund.

I also attended the Athletic Committee meeting as the Area 'A' committeeman. We picked our tournament sites for this year. I will not list them but would like to "Thank" all the towns that applied to host Area/State, Junior and Senior tournaments.

Keep up the good work and hope to see you at a District Convention. Mark your calendar for June 21-23 for State Convention in Kearney. Your vote counts at our Convention.

The following Squadrons have not recorded a member for the 2019 membership year and have zero members in good standing. District 3 - Wayne 43. District 5 - North Platte 163. District 6 - St. Paul 119, Arnold 130, Hampton 141, and Silver Creek 263. District 7 - Yutan 262. District 9 - Hayes Center 287. District 10 - Glenvil 26 and Kenesaw 268. District 11 - Wymore 25, Adams 221, Cortland 253, Dorchester 264. District 12 - Bennett 280. District 13 - Pawnee City 168.

NOW HIRING!

Director of Behavioral Health and Outreach

We are seeking an individual who will be a passionate advocate for Nebraska veterans. Duties include:

- ★ Locating, applying for, and administering grants
- ★ Developing services with community partners and service providers
- ★ Conducting educational activities
- ★ Providing outreach
- ★ Answering veterans' questions regarding behavioral health services

Apply at veterans.nebraska.gov/jobs



NEBRASKA

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VETERANS' AFFAIRS



2019 Mid-Year Conference - Norfolk



James Stephen Sweet, National Vice Commander (Midwest Region), was presented with a plaque and an Admiralty from the Nebraska Navy. Pictured (L to R) Commander Lyle Bartels, NVC James Stephen Sweet, and NECman Bill Crosier.



Americanism Committee Chairman James Scott and Department Commander Lyle Bartels awarded Officer Bradley D. Wangler of the Columbus Police Department the 2018 Nebraska American Legion Law Enforcement Officer of the Year.



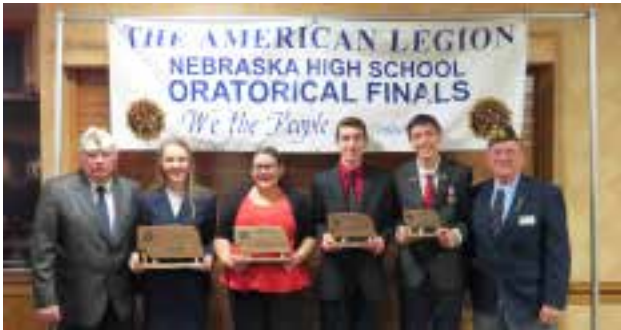
Post 339 member George Embrey and Adjutant David Coombs awarded Matthew D. Gibbons of the Offutt Air Force Base Fire & Emergency Services Department the 2018 Nebraska American Legion Firefighter/EMS of the Year.



Department Commander Lyle Bartels presented Legionnaire Editor Amanda Washburn and Star Editor Lorene Bartos with their plaque from the National American Legion Press Association for Third Place in the George W. Hooten contest with the combined Nebraska newspaper.



Nebraska American Legion Family Posts, Units, Squadrons, Chapters, Counties, and Districts were recognized for donating to the National Legacy Scholarship. To receive a coin the group had to donate a minimum of \$500.



Audrey Worthing of Arthur County High School was the winner of the 2018 Nebraska American Legion Oratorical competition and was awarded a \$1,100 scholarship and will compete at the National Competition. Second place and a \$700 scholarship went to MicKael Halverstadt of Thayer Central High School, third place and a \$500 scholarship went to Colin Thieszen of Aurora High School, and fourth place and a \$300 scholarship went to Simon Podliska of Creighton Prep High School. Pictured with the winners are Department Commander Lyle Bartels and Oratorical Chair Michael Hatfield.



Department Commander Lyle Bartels presented Past Department Commander Jim Costello with the 2017-2018 Yearbook, 2018 Department Convention minutes, and the 2017-2018 Nebraska Legionnaire newspapers to remember his year as Commander.



Past Department Commander Jim Costello presented Department Historian Jennifer Salak with a copy of the 2017-2018 Yearbook, a certificate for Second Place in the 2017-2018 National Yearbook Competition, a plaque for First Place in the 2016-2017 Yearbook Competition, and a certificate of appreciation for her year of service as President of the National Association of Department Historians of the American Legion.



Americanism Committee Chairman James Scott and Department Commander Lyle Bartels presented District 5 Commander Richard Colson a plaque for Braiden Ruffian of North Platte. He was named the 2018 Nebraska American Legion Baseball Player of the Year and a member of the nine-man National All-Academic Team.

In Memory of Edward C. Binder



Edward C. Binder was born In Omaha, NE, on August 11th, 1923, to Clarence and Myree Binder. He graduated from Omaha Central High School in 1941 and attended Kemper Military School in Booneville,

MO, graduating in 1943. General Binder began his military service when he enlisted in the US Army at Ft. Crook, NE, in June 1943. He served in the Infantry branch in the European Theater of Operations during World War II. He returned to Nebraska in 1946 where he met and married Roma Chilcott. This marriage was blessed with two children, Gary and Nancy. He was commissioned as a 2nd Lieutenant in the Colorado Army National Guard in 1948 and later served in the New Mexico National Guard. Ed and Roma returned to Nebraska where he served in the Nebraska National Guard. When he retired in 1983, he had more than 40 years of service and retired as the Adjutant General of the Nebraska National Guard.

During and after his military career, he was very active in the American Legion, serving as Commander of Lincoln's Post #3 and as State Commander of the American Legion. After retirement, Ed served as a volunteer in many activities such as Cornhusker Boys' State and assisting people with homestead exemption applications. During his later years, he served as a volunteer at the information desk in the Lincoln-Lancaster City-County Building, where he was recognized for his longtime volunteer efforts.

He is survived by his children, three grandsons; Matt, Michael (Janel) and Jonathan (Samantha) and six great grandchildren, Brooke, Kaylee, Lucas, Megan, Kenzie and Kyler. Funeral services were held Monday, January 14, at Grace Lutheran Church, Lincoln, NE with interment at Lincoln Memorial Park. Memorials are to be sent to Grace Lutheran Church or the Nebraska National Guard Museum.



Ceresco Post 244, Valparaiso Post 371, and the Valparaiso VFW Post 104-91 took part in the Veterans Day program at Raymond Central Public Schools. The National Honor Society served goodies for all veterans and their families following the program.



Edison Post 343 American Legion Family members traveled to the VA Medical Center in Grand Island in September to have a picnic with the residents.



Legionnaire in the Spotlight

Lyle Mitteis

Mitteis was drafted into the Army in February 1942 when he was 21 years of age. He took his nine weeks of basic training at Fort Robinson, Arkansas. After his basic training, he was sent to Brownsville, Texas to receive additional training at Fort Bliss. He was assigned with the 124th Cavalry at Fort Brown. The 124th Cavalry was a horse regiment and the regiment patrolled the US and Mexico border from Fort Brown past Fort

In April 1944, Mitteis's regiment was taken to Fort Riley, Kansas and they had their horses taken away. The regiment was then taken to Los Angeles and were put on a boat for 34 days to Bombay, India. From India, they traveled to Myitkyina, Burma for another four weeks of training. The regiment received 2,000 Missouri mules and they also found out that they were going to be walking through Burma with their loaded down mules. They walked 25 miles a day over a dirt path from village to village. Mitteis was in charge of a machine gun crew consisting of eight men. The men walked over 400 miles and their column of men stretched for almost seven miles, because the jungle trail was barely wide enough for one person to travel on at a time. They had to cross many rivers and the mules were good swimmers, so the men held onto their bodies and tails to get across. Many of the men, including Mitteis, were poor swimmers.

A black and white photograph showing a man in a dark uniform, identified as Sergeant Mitteis, standing next to a dark-colored horse named Onion. The horse is standing on a light-colored surface, possibly a path or a platform. In the background, there is a long, light-colored building with several windows, likely a stable or barracks. The scene is outdoors with some trees visible in the distance.

Sergeant Mittens with his horse, Onion

A special thank you to Ralph and Barbara Tichota of Clearwater for the information and pictures.

“Legionnaire in the Spotlight” is a new section each issue. Please send in submissions to Amanda at afwashburn@windstream.net or mail them to Headquarters. Please limit them to 800 words and two pictures. Please call Amanda at 402-464-6338 with any questions.

Casey Walton
Department ALR Liaison

A group of five men standing in front of a building entrance. They are wearing winter clothing, including hoodies, jackets, and hats. The man on the far left is wearing a grey hoodie and sunglasses. The man next to him is wearing a dark jacket and a hat. The man in the center is wearing a grey hoodie and a dark jacket. The man next to him is wearing a red hat and a dark jacket. The man on the far right is wearing a grey hoodie and a dark jacket. They are all smiling and looking at the camera.

stole it. When the story hit the news, people started to react. Werner Enterprise's donated two 53-foot enclosed trailers for storage and the work began.

I want to thank everyone in the entire Legion Family for all their support for this event. From the riders unloading cars, to the riders driving their vehicles on some snowy streets to folks houses to pick up furniture, the riders that tried to make it, but couldn't. I know you were with us in spirit and the prayers you gave us protected us from accidents and injury.

One story I would like to share with you is about a couple who lives in New York State and was in Omaha during the holidays. They saw the “Stolen Trailer” story on the news. Then through social media they heard about our furniture collection that was going on January 12th. They boarded a flight to Omaha, rented a SUV, and loaded it full of new dishes, towels, paper products and other goods just to be donated to Moving Veterans Forward.




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Abboud, Fred, Ralston, WWII
Abrams, Arthur, Havelock, WWII
Ahrens, Harold G., Grand Island, WWII
Albers, Robert J., Millard, WWII
Allen, Verlon E., Ralston, WWII
Anderson, Kenneth A., Millard, WWII
Anderson, Roy I., Blair, WWII
Arnold, William G., Omaha, WWII
Aten, Mardis M., Omaha, Korea
Badje, Billy G., Silver Creek
Bare, Charles F., Leigh, Vietnam
Bauman, Jeff, Schuyler, SAL
Becker, George P., Lincoln, Korea
Beckstrom, Marvin, Springfield, Korea
Bedlan, Timothy A., Shickley, SAL
Beisner, James R., Hebron, Vietnam
Bender, Marlin E., Garland, Korea
Bettger, William, Fairmont, Vietnam
Binder, Edward C., Lincoln, WWII
Blum, Roger B., York, Vietnam
Boukal, Raymond A., South Omaha, WWII
Bradley, Holbert S. Jr., Lincoln, WWII
Braymen, Kenneth M., Millard, WWII
Bstanding, Lawrence E., Table Rock, Vietnam
Busteed, George L., Elgin, Vietnam
Calvin, Jim, Saint Paul, Korea
Chevalier, Duane, Campbell, Korea
Christensen, Carlton J., Wahoo, WWII
Christensen, Lyle W., Blair
Cloyed, Norman, Syracuse, WWII
Colby, Robert E., South Omaha, SAL
Confer, Paul R., Culbertson, WWII
Cox, Edwin F., Cedar Rapids, Korea
Curry, Bernard, Elwood, Vietnam
David, Lyle E, Chambers, WWII
Davie, Howard, Benson, WWII
Dewispelare, Gerald F., David City, Korea
Dietze, Dwayne A., Lincoln, Korea
Dillman, Gerald L., Morrill, SAL
Dittrich, Jerome H., Tilden, Korea
Dix, Robert E., Gretna, Korea
Dohrman, Robert, Emerson
Drucker, Roger B., Dorchester, Vietnam
Dube, Robert W., South Omaha, SAL
Eads, Joseph D., Morrill, Vietnam
Edwards, Vergil, Boelus, Korea
Eitzmann, Loyal J., Johnson, Korea
Engel, Calvin L., Friend, Vietnam
Erickson, Keith L., Laurel, Korea
Erlandson, Warren L., Wakefield, WWII
Evert, Leslie A., Gordon, Korea
Faber, William M. Jr., Gibbon, Korea
Fehr, Milton, Sutton, Korea
Ferguson, Gene, Comstock, SAL
Fletcher, Donald D., Gibbon, Korea
Frazier, Harlan D., Neligh, WWII
Fread, Russell, Kearney, WWII
Gammell, Darwin F., Plattsmouth, WWII
Gannon, Marcus J., Greeley, Vietnam
Garnhart, Dwight F., Chadron, Vietnam
Gerdt, Arthur G., Wahoo, Korea
Godbersen, M. Brandt, Gibbon, SAL
Gould, Darwin D., Beatrice, Korea
Gregory, Freddie L., Ralston, Vietnam
Grote, Daryl M., Ralston, Korea
Haile, Robert D., Nebraska City, WWII
Hale, Billy J., Plattsmouth, Korea
Hamik, Max E., Atkinson, WWII
Hankins, Wayne W., Lyons, Korea
Harlan, Melvin D., Sidney, WWII
Harrison, Bob, Blair, WWII
Hayes, Glen J., Ralston, Korea
Heidecker, Ronald L., Lincoln, SAL
Henderson, Ivan J., Lexington
Heppner, Darwin J., Norfolk, SAL

Herzog, Edward L., Culbertson, Korea
Hiatt, Duane R., Millard, WWII
Hiegel, Robert R., Saint Paul, Korea
Hoegh, Dale E., Aurora, WWII
Hongsermeier, Ronald D., Doniphan, Vietnam
Hood, Kenneth, Rushville, Korea
Hugh, Donald D., Grand Island, Vietnam
Hupp, Harold P., Gordon, Korea
Ingwersen, Mark Q., David City, Vietnam
Jakubowski, Terry, Grand Island, Vietnam
Janda, Donald F., Papillion, Korea
Jensen, Gerald O., Morse Bluff, WWII
Jessen, Donald, Bloomfield, WWII
Jiskra, Richard D., Swanton, Korea
Johnson, Philip, Wahoo, WWII
Johnson, Ronald R., Denton, Korea
Juett, Lyle E., Grand Island, WWII
Kahl, Elvin D., Sidney, WWII
Karstens, James L., Ralston
Kassik, Thomas C., Dwight, Vietnam
Kehm, Harold, Lincoln, WWII
Keifer, Richard R., Laurel, Vietnam
Keller, Dana J., Ralston, WWII
Kenton, Jim, Minden, Vietnam
Kester, Debra S., Tilden, Vietnam
Kingsley, Hamilton S. Jr., Holdrege, Korea
Klanecky, Glen R., Lincoln, Korea
Klinginsmith, Lyle, Loup City, Korea
Knuth, Claus C., Neligh, Korea
Kohmetscher, Robert J., Lawrence, WWII
Koinzan, Walter L., Elgin, Korea
Kottas, Robert E., Milligan, SAL
Kraus, Robert A., Denton, Korea
Kuhr, Lauren H., Yutan, Korea
Lackaff, Richard, Bassett, WWII
Landreth, Vern, Rushville
Lear, Leonard L., Havelock, WWII
Legband, Wilbur D., Fremont, Korea
Leimer, Stanley E., Bancroft, Vietnam
Leth, Maxon E., North Loup, Korea
Linch, Stan, Lexington, Korea
Loontjer, Gerald H., Hebron, Vietnam
Lovell, James E., Ashland, WWII
Loxterkamp, Donald J., Lisco, Korea
Luebbe, Norman A., Beaver Crossing, Korea
Luesebrink, Steven L., South Sioux City, SAL
Machacek, Charles A., Leigh, Korea
Magwire, Dean, Lincoln, Korea
Maine, Gayle, Fort Calhoun
Manley, Paul E., Scottsbluff, WWII
Marcil, Albert, Millard, WWII
Mashino, Cecil R., Spencer, Korea
Matulka, Lawrence, Valparaiso, Korea
Maxon, Larry D., Laurel
McDermott, Paul G., Millard, WWII
McKeen, Robert C., Lincoln, WWII
Meadows, Brian W., Omaha, Vietnam
Mlinar, Dale V., Atkinson, Korea
Moraczewski, Harold, Ashton, WWII
Muhleisen, Lavern B., Blue Hill
Nelson, James, Kearney, Vietnam
Nicolas, Joseph P., Bellwood, WWII
North, William V., Omaha, WWII
O’Hare, Kenneth W., Ainsworth, WWII
Olson, Arlen A., Holdrege, Vietnam
Osborn, Frank A., Millard, WWII
Ozaki, Ronald H., Lincoln, WWII
Parker, Jay, Morrill, Korea
Penner, Lawrence E., Aurora, WWII
Piccolo, Sammy J., Millard, WWII
Pieper, Wayne E., York
Pistillo, Michael A., Omaha, Korea

Pittard, Bobby R., Bellevue, Korea
Platek, Daryl J., Saint Paul, Vietnam
Polito, August P., Millard, WWII
Pollnow, Michael E., Culbertson, Vietnam
Potter, Theodore, Saint Paul, WWII
Powell, Darrell J., Ashland, WWII
Priefert, Neil E., Fairmont, Korea
Quinn, Gerald M., Grand Island, WWII
Rath, Orlo D., Norfolk, WWII
Reicks, Roland, Elgin
Rife, Daniel J., Stratton, Korea
Riley, Roger T., Ralston
Rishel, Darrel D., Omaha, WWII
Roberts, William P., South Omaha, WWII
Rolofoon, Elwyn E., Valparaiso, Korea
Rowe, Lynn J., Sidney, Korea
Rowse, Wayne H., Chambers, WWII
Roy, Kenneth E., Millard, WWII
Runyan, Glen, Shubert
Rust, Willard M., Spencer, WWII
Sanderson, Newel K., Havelock, Vietnam
Sandstedt, Richard L., South Omaha, WWII
Schielke, Lawrence L., Columbus, Korea
Scholl, David E., Lincoln, Korea
Schwanke, Melvin H., Fremont, WWII
Seagren, Alan T., Mullen, Korea
Sever, Darian W., Alliance, Vietnam
Shelley, Larry D., Sidney, Vietnam
Sliva, Harold, South Omaha, WWII
Slocum, William, Franklin, Korea
Snyder, Ralth E. Jr., Korea, Pleasant Dale
Spencer, Gerald R., Grand Island
Spickelmier, Harvey D., Culbertson, WWII
Spilnek, Alvin R., Saint Paul, Korea
Steiner, Donald W., Millard, Vietnam
Stogner, Randall T., Millard, WWII
Stolinski, Arthur F., South Omaha, WWII
Strain, Marion L., Omaha, WWII
Sullivan, George F., Lincoln, WWII
Sullivan, Jacob L., Bellevue, Korea
Svagera, Joseph, South Omaha, Vietnam
Svoboda, Ed V., Seward, WWII
Swanson, Robert W., Lincoln, WWII
Sweeney, Michael T., Millard, Vietnam
Sykes, Howard A., Hallam, WWII
Sylvester, Maurice D., Bellwood, WWII
Tatro, Keith H., Fairmont, Vietnam
Tillema, Norman L., Madison, Korea
Toker, John, Kearney, WWII
Torczon, Clarence, Platte Center, Korea
Vannier, Kenneth E., Kearney, Korea
Vanwie, A. E., Grand Island
Vecchio, Salvatore, Omaha, WWII
Voecks, Roland L., Pierce, Korea
Waddell, James S., Indianola, WWII
Waddell, Walter K., Lincoln, Korea
Watts, Donald L., Blair, Korea
Weatherwax, Frank D., Edison, WWII
Weaver, Ted, South Sioux City, Korea
Westerbeck, Robert H., Alma, WWII
Weston, Odell, Omaha, Korea
Widman, Jerald L., Omaha, Korea
Wieden, Loren, O’Dell, Korea
Windhorst, Roy, Deshler, WWII
Winkler, Marvin J., Pierce, Vietnam
Woody, Don L., Lincoln, Korea
Wortman, Robert F., Omaha, Vietnam
Yeager, Robert D., Cody, Korea
Zumbahlen, Robert J., Alliance, Vietnam

Events Calendar

March

- 1 Eagle Scout Applications due
- 10 Daylight Savings Time
- 15 American Legion’s 100th Birthday
- 17 St. Patrick’s Day

April

- Children and Youth Month
- 5-7 National Oratorical Finals - Indianapolis
- 19 Good Friday - Office Closed
- 21 Easter

Mail Call

Dear Editor,
I want to take this opportunity to thank the entire American Legion Family for the many thoughts and prayers in the past event surrounding the sudden passing of my wife Diane Craigie. A special thank you for all the memorial donations to Cornhusker Girls’ State in Diane’s name. There were enough donations that we will be able to send five girls to Cornhusker Girls State in the future. Again, from the entire family and myself, we thank you for all the love, prayers, and support.
Fred C. Craigie and the family of Diane Craigie

The Saline County American Legion hereby endorses and supports Gary Wooten, Senior Vice Commander, for the office of The American Legion, Department of Nebraska, Department Commander. Gary is a member of the Wilber American Legion and is active in local, district, area, and state American Legion functions and activities, as well as involved in local organizations and volunteers for county and city projects.
Glen Pieper
Saline County Commander

Sons of The American Legion Membership As of February 11, 2019

District	2018 Members	2019 Members
1	274	225
2	523	511
3	218	207
4	352	282
5	131	113
6	1,399	1,130
7	680	553
8	1,036	801
9	261	172
10	279	168
11	1,024	809
12	230	188
13	148	128
15	176	151
Total	6,731	5,438



Valparaiso American Legion Family members put on the Valparaiso Community Children and Youth Annual Christmas Party on December 16 at their Post home.

TAPS correction. John Focken of Sterling Post 140, Jess B. Mellor of Valentine Post 90, Charles F. Maxwell of Bayard Post 200, and Donald L. Simpson of Orleans Post 184 are alive and well.



Department Children and Youth Chair Don Suchy and Department Auxiliary Children and Youth Chair Marge Suchy presented a check for \$584.32 to the Omaha Rainbow House. The donation came from the pop tabs that were turned in at Department Convention in Kearney.



Crofton Post 128 presented a certificate for 50 years of continuous membership to Ray Poppe at his house. Pictured (L to R) Treasurer Francis Guenther and Ray Poppe.



Eagle Post and Unit 197 held a soup fundraiser to raise money for the Lincoln VA Clinic and the Heroes Into Homes Organization. Heroes Into Homes supports the veteran residents at the Lincoln Victory Park Apartments. \$1,200 was raised from the event and it was equally split between the two organizations.



Columbus Post 84 presented a check for \$6,500 to the Higgins Memorial Committee to fulfill their \$10,000 pledge to build the Higgins Memorial on Utah Beach in France. Pictured above (L to R) Bill Flint, Whitey Walgren, Dennis Hirschbrunner, Raph Gors, K. C. Belitz, and Rick Kubler. Post 84, Chapter 84, and the Columbus 40 & 8 presented checks of \$5,000, \$3,000, and \$1,000 respectively to the Columbus Police Chief to help purchase a new police dog. Pictured below (L to R) Carroll Mohlman, 40 & 8, Jack Steiner, Post 84, and Owen Lloyd, Chapter 84.



Dodge Post and Unit 122 spoke with the St. Wenceslaus Catholic School students in Dodge about their experiences in the service and also as a family member of a military member. The students were given a flag and were taught to fold the US Flag properly. Pictured (L to R) Ellen Konsel, Norman Fendrick, Lenny Kempf, and Jerry Schulte.



Valparaiso Post 371 presented Quilts of Valor to three members. Top picture is Albert Bartek a Korean veteran. The quilt was made and presented by Auxiliary member Jean Ang. Bottom picture is Edwin Kudlacek, a World War II veteran, and Lawrence Rezac, a Korean Veteran, with their quilts.



Dakota City Post 376 presented \$500 to Sarah Petersen, Director of Support Siouxland Soldiers, to provide help and support for local military veterans and their families. Pictured (L to R) Ray Ramirez, Commander David Foreshoe, Sarah Petersen, and Larry Armbricht.



Bennington Post 266 Commander Richard Musel congratulated Marlin Cohrs for 55 years of continuous membership at their Veterans Day dinner hosted by the Auxiliary.



Palmer Post 120 and NECman Bill Crosier presented Wilma Kellogg, a WWII nurse, with a certificate for 60 years of continuous membership. Pictured (L to R) John Kellogg (Wilma's son), Wilma Kellogg, and Barbara Kellogg (Wilma's daughter-in-law).



Alliance Post 7 held a Veterans Day parade to honor all of those brave men and women who have served. Top picture (L to R) Tom Hoerler, Department Sgt-at-Arms Larry Kaspar, Post Commander Steve Stanec, Richard Foland, Don Sheldon, Department Commander Lyle Bartels, and Larry McCracken. In the bottom picture, Post 7 members Dick Foland and Don Sheldon gave a presentation on the history of the US Flag and how it should be respected to the Alliance after school program.



Beatrice Post 27 presented pins and certificates of continuous membership to their members. Top picture (L to R) Loyal Milligan 55 years, Laverne Wolken 55 years, and Adjutant Glenn Schwab. Middle picture (L to R) Ray McCall 50 years, Gerald Lamps 50 years, Alvin Huls 50 years, and Commander Jim Fralin. Not pictured but presented 50 years Allen Grell and Richard Shasteen. Bottom picture (L to R) Commander Jim Fralin, Roy Miller 60 years, and Adjutant Glenn Schwab.



The American Legion Auxiliary Department of Nebraska

The Star

March 2019



Veterans – Our Soul & Heart's Inspiration

Hello, Members.

What a great time we had at Mid-Year in Norfolk. We had 59 Units represented by 82 members. That is a pretty good turnout for the weather we experienced in northeast Nebraska. Thank you to everyone who braved the ice, snow, and wind and shared all or a portion of the weekend with us. Begin plans now to attend Department Convention June 20 – 23, 2019 in Kearney. Carpooling is a great way to travel and share ideas as you travel.

National President Kathy Dungan, Department of Mississippi, was treated to a tour and lunch at the Norfolk Veterans Home and attended the Past President's Parley luncheon, High School Oratorical Speech finals, worship services, and the final joint session before heading back home for a couple days to do laundry, rest, and travel some more. Our Department presented Madam President a \$100 check towards her project "Honoring Our Heroes" with emphasis on female Veterans. Plus, as Department President, I had the privilege of selecting a personal gift for President Kathy. She was

gifted from "Nebraska Life" the 3rd edition of the Nebraska Life Cookbook, an apron, and a one-year subscription to "Nebraska Life." Special thanks go out to Chris and Angie Amundson, Publisher/Executive Editor, for gifting these beautiful items to our National President.

While visiting with Chris Amundson, he did inquire if the Department would have an interest in having another fundraiser next year; and I have provided his contact data to our Department Vice President Elizabeth Paes to consider.

Another special guest was Sandy Gessler, from Norfolk, who is a veteran and dual member of the American Legion Family. She experienced homelessness upon discharge from the military and now participates in pageants with her focus on homelessness. Sandy had a power point which gave us insight to portions of her life and how she has adapted and overcome much. We did a voluntary donation and raised \$450 for Sandy to cover some expenses she incurs for the pageants.

Junior Activities Chair Carol Capek and 15 Junior members were unable to attend as Carol fell on the ice while loading up the van to head to Norfolk. In the absence of these gals, we held a voluntary donation and raised \$300 for Honorary Junior President Briana Capek's project, "Pets for Vets." These are robotic cats and dogs; and, if I understand correctly, will be gifted to the Norfolk Veterans Home. We

are excited for all. Thank you to the Senior members who went to the Norfolk Veterans Home for Bingo as the Juniors could not get there. Much appreciated. The real thrill of the weekend came in the form of the "Purses with Purpose" campaign spearheaded by Department Vice President Elizabeth Paes. A total of 1,307 purses were filled by our members with female hygiene products, soap, shampoo, snacks, gift cards, and a whole lot more. Elizabeth was able to arrange to have 16 agencies across Nebraska receive these items, plus Hot Springs SD VAMC. Our guest, Sandy, teared up when she saw the effort put out by our members; and she said "I would have done anything to have had one of these purses when I was homeless." Ladies, we do impact the lives of so many with our simple acts of kindness. Please be sure you report what your unit did on this project and submit to Community Service Chair Diana Langer of Osceola and to the Department.

Ladies, we had several skits during Mid-Year, and the message they delivered was important to each member in attendance. We just had a lot of fun. (Of course, that is my opinion only.) Additionally, we had breakout sessions on Saturday where assigned topics were given out and the members we assigned a specific table at which to sit. Also, the Department Officers and National President were sent out to the tables to assist. Using the topics and the "Record-as-

you-Go" forms, everyone was given 20 minutes to discuss and create a game plan to bring about a solution to their topic. I found it amazing that in 20 minutes all these members were able to discuss, create, and address these topics. And, their responses were so complete. So ladies, there is no excuse that we cannot demonstrate who we are – what we do – why we matter. By the way, the "Record-as-you-Go" forms are an aid to complete now as you do your activities/events and have them ready to compile your annual unit reports by April 20th.

We also tried something new. We asked all Department Officers, District Presidents, and Department Program Chairs to submit a report to Department. With those reports received, we created a booklet for attendees --- and we basically got away from the oral reports from everyone. I know I really enjoyed that change as it was more productive to be active with our events than to just sit and listen. We had great member participation.

Finance Chair JoAnn Sieck was the one person who did give an oral report, and that is one we cannot allow to be silent. We have budgets and all to reveal to our members, and we did. We also had a great "Photo Op" corner operated by Public Relations Chair Kari Kolts and District 11 President Vicki Ozenbaugh. Thank you, ladies. More thanks to Lorene Bartos and Barb Skillman for operating Registration and Door Prizes.

Resolutions will be addressed

at Department Convention when we have the convention delegates in place to vote. A note of interest: if a member or a district has a resolution to submit, please try to get these in final form no later than April 1st so they may be sent to the Department by April 10th. These documents must have a review by the Department Resolution Committee, be directed to the appropriate Committee or Program Chair for further review, and then returned to the Department to create the resolution packet to be sent to members of the Department Executive Committee (DEC) in advance of Department Convention so they may be addressed and acted upon at that time. Please get Resolutions to the Department early if you have them. Don't wait for the final day of April 10th.

Looking forward to attending District Conventions this spring and wrapping up this year for "Veterans – Our Soul & Heart's Inspiration." Thank you, ladies, for a wonderful journey. God Bless you all.

*Beverly A. Neel
Department President.*



Beverly A. Neel
Department of Nebraska
President
American Legion Auxiliary
2018-2019

NEBRASKA'S CENTENNIAL CELEBRATION

*Celebrating the Future by
Remembering the Past 100 Years*

Units – The America Legion's 100th birthday is March 2019. Help your unit's namesake celebrate by hosting a coffee, having a birthday dinner, or providing some other activity at The American Legion post's March meeting.



At the Festival of Trees at the St Paul Civic Center, the American Legion Auxiliary decorated a tree to honor all who have served or who are serving for our freedom. The theme was "FREEDOM IS NOT FREE," and the tree was decorated with poppies, military ornaments, and large stars with the names of the wars, number of casualties, and the years of the war.

From left to right are: Commander Chuck Schmid, Auxiliary President Char Schmid, and Auxiliary Vice President Bev Williams.

The deadline for submitting essays for the Americanism Essay Contest is quickly approaching. Any essays that you want to be judged in the Department contest must be postmarked to me by March 15th. Remember, you must judge the essays that you receive and select the 1 winner from each class, which is then sent to me for judging.

I know that most of you have a plan for how you will conduct the essay contest and

AMERICANISM

do a lot of work to make it a success. The Townsend Trophy for Americanism Essay, which is a traveling plaque, is available and awarded to the unit that sends me the best report on how the contest is promoted and conducted. This does not have to be a long report and can be sent to me on the computer or by snail mail. The award winner will be announced at the Department Convention in Kearney and the unit's name is placed on the plaque.

I will also be giving a monetary gift to the unit that sends me the best overall Americanism report on what your unit does to promote Americanism. Put your thinking cap on and send me a list of all of your activities --- along with any pictures that you may have. This may be sent to me by computer or snail mail.

Thank you for all that you do to promote Americanism.

*Sharon Scott
Americanism Chr*

AN EXPLOSION OF GENEROSITY



American Legion Auxiliary Department Vice President Elizabeth Paes of Prague promoted "Purses with Purpose," primarily for homeless women veterans. Purses were to be filled with personal care items,

toiletries, snacks, gloves, scarves, socks – anything a homeless woman might be able to use. Paes expected that each woman who attended the Mid-Year Educational Conference at Norfolk might bring one or two handbags. She had no idea her woman-to-woman project would net over 1300 purses from 78 American Legion Auxiliary units.

Purses were distributed to the Veterans Administration clinic at Hot Springs, S.D.; Hopes Center Doves and the VA Stand-down at Scottsbluff; Doves at Gering; CASA and Mid-Nebraska Community Services at McCook; Women's Resources and Debra's Legacy Recovery Center at Ogallala;

Northwest Community Action at Chadron and Alliance; The Connection Homeless Shelter at North Platte; Parent-Child Center at Lexington; Healing Hearts and Families at Broken Bow; Kearney Jubilee Center and SAFE Center at Kearney; Norfolk Rescue Mission at Norfolk; VA Medical Center and Third City Community Clinic at Grand Island; Salvation Army, Lydia House, Sienna Francis House and Omaha VAMC at Omaha; other local agencies and programs in Nebraska; and to Ms. Senior America of Norfolk. She is a former homeless woman veteran who works with currently homeless women veterans.



Betty Staal, a member of the Chadron American Legion Auxiliary Unit 12, was recently selected as The Chadron Record's 2018 Citizen of the Year. Her dedication to serving the community and ability to bring joy to others along with her willing, positive attitude and infectious smile earned her this recognition. Betty has been very active in the community and has spent countless hours volunteering through various organizations. Congratulations, Betty!



Members of Davidson-Neujahr Unit #13 of Gresham gathered December 11, 2018 for their Christmas meeting and a noon luncheon. After the luncheon and business meeting, the group made tray favors for the 15 Veterans who reside at Fairview Manor in Fairmont, Nebraska.

LEGISLATIVE DAY - 2019

On February 8th, the Nebraska Veterans Council and American Legion Auxiliary attended Legislative Day and were greeted by Governor Ricketts, Senators, the Chairmen of the NVC, and the Director and Asst. Director of the Department of Veterans Affairs, who gave overviews of legislative priorities. The senators gave a brief welcome and overview of their bills, also. Following are the senators and their bill(s) Brewer (LB-153), Scheer (LB- 297), Bostelman (LB-279 and LB-325), and Blood and Linehan (LB-138). Members who attended were introduced on the floor and were available to talk to their representatives or one they were wanting to speak with if available. The day was very well attended, interesting, and educational.

Following are legislative sites that can be checked weekly.

www.legion.org/legislative and --- you can go on this site to receive Legislative Alerts.

www.capwiz.com/legion/mim/signup.

Don't forget the ALA Legislative Group on Facebook. <https://www.facebook.com/groups/ALALegislative/> It is very important for members of your units to use these sites to follow what is happening with the bills on the state and national levels.

Units, you need to identify your Legislators on the federal, state, and local level. When communicating with your government representatives, you need to gather your facts to present and develop a plan to present to your elected official. Or it may be a bill or some question you want their

opinion about in your area. You have choices regarding the type of communication you choose --- phone calls, e-mails, or in person visits. Remember, you are taking their time; so be sure to have what you want to ask in a timely manner and thank them for their time. And, on all forms of communication, be sure to follow up on your communication with the individual.

As Legislative Chairman, I will be e-mailing a packet to your District President. Hopefully, you will be able to get a copy of the items and ideas I have received from the NW Division Legislative Chairman. Another resource is the ALA Legislative Advocacy Guide. It has many good ideas for units to discuss and to get new ideas to create new interest or make changes to make it of more interest to members. I will have this information available by e-mail soon.

Mid-year reports were very sparse. We need to step up reporting in order to help the veterans, their families, and multiple other needs for veterans. We need to have the number of veterans served, the money expended, and the time to report to the Federal government --- as well as information units want to share. The numbers we enter in our report help to demonstrate how the American Legion Auxiliary supports the veterans and their families. These reports and totals help to make decisions on where the funds are needed and will be used.

Keep up the great work, units.

Kay Ebeler
Legislative Chairman

MEMBERSHIP

Thank you to all the Nebraska Rosies who have rolled up their sleeves and promoted membership in our wonderful organization. Also, a big shout out to President Wendy Wieseler and all the District 2 Rosies who have stayed on top in the District Standings and are close to getting their Kittyhawk assembled and out of their factory first.

It's time to clean up your Unit rosters! Please fill out



On Monday, January 7th, the Hampton ALA Unit 141 met for their all-day meeting. At this meeting, they decorated 24 pillow cases for the Veterans' home in Kearney. Thank you for great job and for Betty Noffke's ideas.

Member Data Forms for each member who has passed away, changed address/email/phone, or canceled her membership. Mail the form(s) to ALA Dept. of Nebraska, PO Box 5227, Lincoln, NE 68505 or via email to: neaux@windstream.com.

Remember that all members remaining on your unit roster will count towards the figuring of your Unit's 2020 membership goal.

American Legion Auxiliary Unit 109 of Mullen presented a Quilt of Valor to Viet Nam Veteran Lee Isom during the Veteran's Day program on November 13th. The quilt was the third one made by member Doris Starr to honor those veterans.



April is Children and Youth month, as well as the month of the Military Child. Since April is right around the corner, now is the time to start planning your activities for the Children and Youth in your community.

Valparaiso Unit and Post 371 will be hosting a "Fun Day" on April 27 for our Children and Youth, and also for the children of Military families in the surrounding area. We will be having numerous activities at our Valparaiso Legion Post from 11:00 - 2:00. If you would

like to attend, you are more than welcome.

I would like to encourage all units to host your own event. Large or small, it is very rewarding. All kids love fire truck rides. Have an hour of fire truck rides and maybe some cookies and punch. You will be surprised how many children will show up. If you have any questions or need some ideas, just give me a call.

Just a friendly reminder to make sure that you report all of your Children and Youth

activities. By doing so, you will be eligible to receive the Best Overall Department Children and Youth Program Award. Your reports must be postmarked by April 20.

Thank you for all you do for our Children and Youth. Let's try to hit the 100% mark for Children and Youth reports this year.

Marge Suchy
Children and Youth
Chairman

LINCOLN SUPER CBOC NEWS
(COMMUNITY-BASED OUTPATIENT CLINIC)

First of all. I want to thank all of you for your generosity during the holidays --- honoring our veterans and supporting the giving tree. Putting smiles on the faces of less fortunate veterans and lifting their spirits is very rewarding. Thank you to those who have given to the Lincoln funds to help buy bus passes so veterans can get to their appointments, etc. or help in an emergency when another challenge tries to block their way. And thank you to the individual members, posts, and auxiliaries who remember the veterans all year long with your donations of food, cleaning supplies, personal care items, etc. etc. You can't image how appreciated and important all these items are.

The week of Valentine's Day is always the "National Salute to Hospitalized Veterans." Lincoln does not have any in-house patients, but we still take part in honoring our veterans who are coming to the clinic for

health issues, health education, and therapy. So, that week, a different organization served treats each day. I served treats one day in the name of the American Legion Auxiliary.

Remember the Coffeehaus "Serving and Healing Veterans through Music" the 3rd Friday of each month from 11:00 am -12:30 pm in the Clinic Auditorium. Plus, the giving of "Quilts of Valor" also takes place. Plans are underway for the Car Show and Art Show on Tuesday, May 14th.

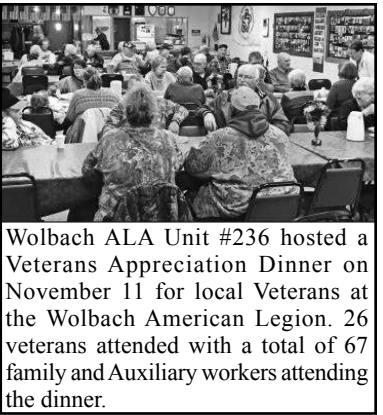
DID YOU KNOW!

Norfolk also has a CBOC "Serving the Veterans closer to that Area." But, did you know Norfolk is part of the Lincoln CBOC and is supported by voluntary services and administration. They are currently located at 710 South 13th street, Suite 1200. BUT, they will be soon be starting on the building of a NEW CBOC. They serve annually 2,500

individual veterans. They have a quality staff of approximately 16 to serve the veterans needs. The Norfolk CBOC offers: Primary Care, Mental Health, Nutrition, and a variety of other services through Telehealth technology.

Other CBOCs are located in North Platte, Holdrege, Bellevue, and Shenandoah. Grand Island is a Medical Center; and, of course, as is the Omaha Medical Center and Hospital.

Linda Varejcka, Volunteer



Wolbach ALA Unit #236 hosted a Veterans Appreciation Dinner on November 11 for local Veterans at the Wolbach American Legion. 26 veterans attended with a total of 67 family and Auxiliary workers attending the dinner.

FROM THE SECRETARY'S DESK:

February's newsletter is full of information and articles. Please take note of them all.

- A message from Department President Beverly Neel
- A message from Department Vice-Pres. Elizabeth Paes.
- A message from Department Chaplain Pat Wiseman.
- A message from Department Membership Chairman Angie Foster
 - Member Data Form
- A ten-step guide to conventions (entitled: District Conventions, which will work for any convention)
- Changes for the 2018-2019 Directory

- Calendar from the Central Nebraska Veterans Home
- Needs list from Eastern Nebraska Veterans Home
- Something from the Norfolk Veterans Home
- Wish list from Hot Springs VA MC
- Pages from our National Security Chairman, Kathy Mazur
 - National Security Reporting
 - Collaborating with the Red Cross
 - POW/MIA Service
 - Send off/Homecoming How to's
 - Disaster readiness
- Dues Change Form for 2020

- Poppy End-of-Year Reporting Form
- Centennial Celebration

Make sure you go out and check out the updated website: nebraskalegionaux.net.

Please turn in your Dues change form for 2020. Even if there are no changes, this should be turned into Department Office every year.

If you would like more information on ALAMIS, I would love to share it with you. All units should find someone that can be responsible for ALAMIS, checking for dues paid on line, paid dues roster.

Lisa Moore
Department Secretary

EDUCATION

Unit Presidents, make sure you look over the scholarships that are sent to you by students in your area for both Department and National ALA Scholarships. Be sure they arrive into Department by the due date. This makes our job easier when selecting winners of the scholarships.

Jan Steenson
Education Chairperson

2018-2019 CENTERPIECE AND TRAY FAVOR ASSIGNMENTS

	GI V.A. Med Center 10 Cntrpc	GI Veterans Home 215 Tray Fav	Bellevue Eastern NE VA Home 24 Cntrpc	Norfolk VA Home 20 Cntrpc	Western NE Home 13 Cntrpc	Western NE Home 90 Tray Fav	Omaha Med Center 75 Tray Fav
Feb.	#176 Blue Hill	# 316 Elm Creek	# 353 Louisville	# 264Sr Dorchester	# 7 Alliance	# 7 Alliance	# 354 Pleasant Dale
March	#110 Dwight	# 218 Exeter	# 171 Milford	# 283 Platte Center	# 352 Deshler	# 163 North Platte	# 1 Omaha
April	#257 Eustis	# 225 Eddyville	# 355 Denton	# 62 New Castle	# 230 Thedford	# 364 Naponee	# 232 Malmo
May	#19 York	# 193 Ohiowa	# 3 Lincoln	# 243 Plymouth	# 213 Wallace	# 213 Wallace	# 49 Utica
June	#251 Arcadia			# 302 Leigh	# 12 Chadron	# 12 Chadron	# 235 Union
July	#335 Davenport	Girl State		# 155 Howells	# 133 Culbertson	# 133 Culbertson	# 197 Eagle
Aug.	#38 Ord	Girl State		# 175 Jackson	# 36 Gering		
Sept.	#145 Bloomington	# 141 Hampton		# 302 Leigh	# 36 Gering		# 289 Tablerock
Oct.	#38 Ord	# 310 Gibbon		# 307 S Sioux City	# 36 Gering	# 166 Bruning	# 243 Plymouth
Nov.	#198 Daykin	# 225 Eddyville	# 288 Farnam	# 307 S Sioux City	# 288 Farnam	# 137 Gurley	# 20 Fremont
Dec.	#166 Bruning	# 218 Exeter		# 357 Brunswick	# 17 Sidney	# 17 Sidney	
Jan.	#198 Daykin	# 141 Hampton			# 7 Alliance		
Feb.				# 283 Platte Center			

Rising City will be doing tray favors at Omaha V A Med Center in March also. Service to Veterans Chairwoman: Vicki Colson Ph: (308) 289-4836 - Email: colson.vicki@yahoo.com

NEBRASKA AMERICAN LEGION AUXILIARY--"WE CAN DO IT"
TOP 13 DISTRICT
PLANE FACTORIES IN NEBRASKA

District	Plane Being Built:	2019 Goal	Total	% of goal
2	Curtiss Kittyhawk	2136	1768	82.77%
1	Gruman Wildcat	1502	1202	80.03%
13	Ryan FR Fireball	779	575	79.42%
11	Brewster Buccaneer	2529	1879	78.82%
7	Douglas Devastator	2210	1586	78.67%
3	Lockheed Lightning	1109	869	78.36%
12	Bell Airacobra	2016	1368	77.11%
8	Martin B26 Marauder	2178	1484	76.14%
10	Douglas A26 Invader	1589	1051	75.02%
5	Vought Vindicator	914	641	74.45%
9	Boeing Flying Fortress	711	512	73.56%
6	Boeing P26 Peashooter	2881	1919	72.44%
4	Republic Thunderbolt	817	554	71.76%
500	*Douglas Banshee*	*36	*36	*94.74%
TOTAL		21,405	15,444	77.18%
Who can get their plane built first? 100%				

CANDIDATES FOR DEPARTMENT OFFICES 2019-2020



Kathy Mazur
National Executive
Committee Woman

Kathy Mazur is seeking a second term as National Executive Committeewoman (NEC) for the coming year.

Kathy is proud to be a 43-(going on 44) -year member of the American Legion Auxiliary. She joined through the service of her father, Leonard Koch, who served in the Army during WWII. Her brother, Bill Koch, is also an Army veteran of the Vietnam War.

Throughout her years in the Auxiliary, Kathy has served as an officer, a program chairman, or a committee member at the unit, county, district, state, divisional, and national levels --- often overlapping those duties. Kathy graduated from the University of Nebraska-Lincoln with a degree in Business Education and now substitute teaches. She is an active member of St. John Vianney Catholic Church in Millard.

Each Auxiliary Department has been encouraged to make NEC a multiple-year term to improve the effectiveness of the committee as well as ensure consistency of the work performed from year to year. Nearly 50% of the Departments are now electing their NECs for multiple-year terms, and Kathy hopes to garner a second term as NEC to continue the work that she began in her first term.

EDITOR'S NOTE

Please send articles and pictures for future editions of "THE STAR" to Lorene Bartos, Editor at 7441 San Mateo Lane, Lincoln, NE 68516 or email to: ALATheStarNE@yahoo.com. Send photos as jpg attachments. Material for the next issue needs to be submitted by March 10, 2018



Vicki Ozenbaugh
Department
Historian
Candidate

Vicki Ozenbaugh is honored to announce her candidacy for Nebraska Department Historian for the 2019-2020 year. She considers it an honor to belong to the largest woman's patriotic organization and to serve the Legion family --- the veterans, those serving our country, and their families --- as well as our communities and our youth. Vicki became a member of the Ohioa American Legion Auxiliary, Franklin Unit No. 193, in 1977 through the service of her former husband.

A native of Fillmore County, Vicki was born and raised in Geneva, Nebraska. She graduated from Geneva High School in 1973 and received her Bachelor of Science in Business Education from the University of Nebraska - Lincoln in 1976.

Vicki's teaching career began at the Ohioa Public School, where she taught from 1976 until the high school closed in 1982. She then taught in the Milligan Public School system for the next two years.

Following her teaching career, Vicki began a 20-year career in 1984 as an independent



Beverly Neel
National Executive
Committee Woman
Candidate

I am Beverly Neel, current Department President. I am eligible for membership through my husband, Robert Grayson "Bud" Neel (Vietnam – Desert Storm US Marine Corps); a brother, Warren M. Gallop (Vietnam US Navy); my *father, John James Gallop, Sr. (World War II Army Air Corps); and son, John Grayson Neel (U.S. Marine Corps May 2005 - June 2013). All are members of The American Legion family; namely, Roy Reed Post No. 252 of Winside, Nebraska. *deceased

Laura (our daughter) and I are permanent members of Unit 252. Our sons, John and James, are members of the SAL Squadron # 252. John also is a Legionnaire. Our beautiful granddaughters, KayLynn and Brianna Novak (twins) and Kolbe Lorraine Neel, are Junior Members of Unit 252 --- signed up on the day of their birth.

I have served as unit and department chairman for several of our programs as well as District 3 President 1999-2001.

I have the endorsement of my Legion Family in Winside as well as the Third District.

I seek your support for the position of National Executive Committeewoman which, by tradition, is filled by the current Department President upon completion of her year as Department President. Remember, "Veterans – Our Soul & Heart's Inspiration." God Bless.

sales representative for Home Interiors and Gifts, Inc. In 1987, she became a non-career employee of the United States Postal Service (USPS). In that capacity, she served as the postmaster relief at the Ohioa Post Office for nine years.

A promotion to postmaster in August of 1996 began her career in the USPS. While serving Ohioa as postmaster, Vicki utilized her teaching degree by being a Quality of Life Facilitator with the Postal Service and a New Employee Orientation instructor. After nine years as the Postmaster in Ohioa, Vicki was promoted to the Exeter Post Office in 2005. In 2013, the Sutton Post Office became Vicki's third Postmaster assignment, where she continues her career today. In addition to managing Sutton, she is in charge of the Clay Center, Edgar, Fairfield, and Harvard offices.

Vicki has served as vice-president for four years and president for eight years for her Postmaster organizations, LEAGUE and UPMA. She was name Postmaster of the Year for Nebraska in 2008.

Vicki is actively involved in her community. She is a member of St. John's Lutheran Church in Ohioa, where she has served on the Council, was the church secretary for sixteen years, and continues as the Sunday School Superintendent --- a position she



Elizabeth Paes
Department
President
Candidate

Elizabeth Paes' eligibility for the American Legion Auxiliary comes from her husband's 21-year service in the United States Air Force. Gerald served twice in the Vietnam campaign. He served as a B-52 Navigator, Electronic Warfare Officer, and Intelligence Officer before his retirement from the Inspector General's office at San Bernardino, California 1977.

She married Jerry in August of 1975. She is a friend to his four children, grandmother of eight, and great-grandmother of five. All the children, grandchildren, and great grandchildren live in the Papillion/LaVista area.

Elizabeth has always been active as a volunteer in the community and church. As a 27-year PUFL member of the American Legion Auxiliary, she served as Unit President, County President, District Vice-President, District President, Poppy Chairman, Finance Committee, Finance Chairman, Department Chaplain, Department Historian, and Department Vice-President. She served on the Butler County Health Care Systems Future Generations Board of Directors, Saunders County Thrivent Financial Chapter, member of the Board of Edensburg Lutheran Church, and is currently serving on the Village of Prague Zoning and Planning Committee.

Elizabeth asks for your support as she runs for Department of Nebraska President.

has been in since her three sons started Sunday School.

Vicki belongs to the Ohioa Chamber of Commerce and has served as President and currently is the treasurer. She is an EMT for the community of Ohioa and has been the Captain and currently the secretary/treasurer.

As a forty-two year member of the Ohioa Franklin Unit No. 193, Vicki has served as president, vice-president, chaplain, and various program chairmen usually associated with education and children and youth for her Unit; president for Fillmore County; and has served District 11 twice as president and vice-president.

Vicki has served the Department as chairman of Americanism (twice), Education (twice), Leadership (twice), and Children and Youth. She has served as National Page in Albuquerque, Reno, and Minneapolis. She received a National award for the Most Outstanding Overall Americanism Program for the Best Overall Americanism Program in the Northwestern Division in 2016-2017.

Vicki has three married sons and ten grandchildren. Phillip and Nancy live in Hallam with Olivia, Trevor, Preston, and Leah. Mitchell and Katrina live by Ohioa with Wyatt, Carolyn, and Cynthia. Russell and Krissey live by Strang with Riggins, Rustin, and Rhyson.



Pat Wiseman
Department
Chaplain
Candidate

My name is Pat Wiseman, and I am a candidate for Department Chaplain. I am a firm believer in the "For God and Country" motto.

I belong to Buckland Unit #97 at Homer, which is in District 3. I have 47 years of membership and am a PUFL member. I applied for membership under the service of my husband during the Viet Nam era, but have several other eligible family members. My dad served in WWII and was on the USS Menard at Okinawa. My oldest son has been in the Iowa National Guard for 31 years. My youngest son has been in the Army for 14 years. My granddaughter and her husband have been in the Air Force for 13 years. Another grandson is a member of the Nebraska Army National Guard.

I have served as Unit President, Dakota County President and Vice President, and twice as District 3 Vice President and President. For Department, I have been on the County Government Committee, Americanism Chairman, Leadership Chairman, a senior counselor at Girl's State, and also Girl's State President. I currently serve as Department Chaplain. I am also an American Legion Rider and presently am Secretary/Treasurer.

I am a member of St. Luke Lutheran Church in Emerson and am on the church council. I am a 47-year member of the Homer Homemakers and a life member of the NRA and Nebraska Bowhunters. I have been a Boy Scout leader and took Woodbadge training.

TRIVIA

1. Kansas and what other state were the first two states to conduct Girls State?
2. When was Nebraska's first Girls State held?
3. Where was it held?
4. What was used to designate party (Nationalist/Federalist) affiliation?
5. Who was Nebraska's first Girls State Governor?

ANSWERS TO JAN.-FEB. TRIVIA

1. The STAR was first published in 1925. 2. Nebraska originally had six (6) Districts. 3. First Department President Minnie Penney handed in her resignation, but had it rejected by the Executive Board. 4. Originally, state dues were 50 cents and national dues were 25 cents.



Debra Albers, Chairman of the Past Presidents' Committee, surprised four ex-service women residing at the Grand Island Veterans home with gift cards. Pictured here is Betty Johnson receiving a card from Linda Garvel, the Grand Island Veterans Home Chairman. They were so excited and thankful for what the American Legion Auxiliary does. The Ex-Service Women's Fund is derived from unit contributions which are given to women veterans in each of the Nebraska Veterans Homes, the two VA Medical Centers, and the facility at Hot Springs.



Barbie Meyer
Department
Vice President
Candidate

Barbie is a 25-year member of Miller Unit 351 and resides with her husband in Riverdale, Nebraska. She is sponsored by her husband, Larry, for his service in Vietnam. He is US Army Retired. They have been married for 40 years and are parents of two children, 2 grandchildren, and 3 step grandchildren --- and are expecting the 6th step great grandchild soon.

Barbie grew up in Kearney, graduating from Kearney High and attended UNK. Radiologic Technician Assistant and Life Support instructor at Good Samaritan Hospital, manager of the Cookie Jar at Hill Top Mall, and 14 years as a proofreader for Cookbooks by Morris Press are some of her employment experiences.

Larry and Barbie raise sheep and cattle on their farm. Barbie is a 46-year member of First Presbyterian Church in Kearney, and has taught Sunday School, Bible School, Liturgist, and is now serving a 2nd term as Deacon.

As an ALA member, she has served every office except secretary/treasurer on the unit level. She has also been a deputy representative at GIVA Medical Center and served on the DEC --- 2 years each as District Vice President and President. Barbie has been Dept. Membership Chair (2 years), Dept. Chaplain (1 year), and Historian (1 year).

She is looking forward to attending her 6th National Convention in Indianapolis. She has attended Mission and Membership Workshops. Barbie is presently serving as President of Grand Island Unit, Military Order of Purple Heart Auxiliary, and is a Life Member. She also is a member of Kearney VFW Auxiliary, and a Life Member of Kearney DAVA.

Barbie enjoys being a member of the Legion family. Her husband is an American Legion member and Son. Her daughter is an Auxiliary member and current Dept. Membership Chair. Son-in-law Willy is Sr. Vice Commander of the Nebraska Sons of the American Legion. Her grandson served in the US Army and is an American Legion and SAL member. Her granddaughter is an Auxiliary member and is married to a USAF veteran who is also a Legion member.

Barbie is seeking the office of Dept. of NE., ALA Vice President --- not for the title, but for the opportunity to serve the veterans --- her passion, her promise to keep. Thank you for your support and friendship.



Marcy Upton Unit 109 of Mullen participated in the purse drive for female Veterans. Pictured are the members who helped organize and fill the 80+ purses that were donated by the town of Mullen and surrounding community. They were delivered to the Mid-Year Conference by President Eva Crawford.

CHAPLAIN'S CONNECTION

A soft answer turns away wrath, but a harsh word stirs up anger.

Proverbs 15:1

New King James Version

Part of our culture of good will is to avoid anger. Don't let yourself get carried away with a discussion and turn it into an argument. Keep kindness in your voice and in your face.

I found this poem about a smile, and I think it is a good reminder.

Smiling is infectious,
you catch it like the flu,
When someone smiled at me today,
I started smiling too.
I passed around the corner
and someone saw my grin.
When he smiled I realized
I'd passed it on to him.
I thought about that smile,
then I realized its worth.
A single smile, just like mine
could travel round the earth.
So, if you feel a smile begin,
don't leave it undetected.
Let's start an epidemic quick,
and get the world infected
Spike Milligan

Pat Wiseman
Department Chaplain



for thinking of me as a speaker for the conference. Never in my wildest dreams did I think to receive such a warm, caring donation as I did. I met so many wonderful women who supported my advocating for homeless veterans. Sometimes I feel that I am alone in this endeavor, then I have weekends like I did with you all which energizes me.

I am excited to take the purses given to me to the streets of Omaha next week to distribute, I will see if I can get pictures with the ladies. Purses with a Purpose really struck home with me. As I said not only for the much needed items inside but the thought that someone cared to do something special about did me in.

Bev, I am still rough around the edges from the many experiences in my life, but at the same time I learn every day. I have a lot to learn about being an auxiliary member but am looking forward to it. It seems like I will be relocating to Omaha where I can be more active in advocating for homeless veterans and spend time with my daughters. We have not lived by each other in 10 years so I expect I will become their favorite

doggie sitter.

Back in the 90's I had belonged to Post 1 Omaha and as of last week I transferred my membership from North Dakota to Post 1 Omaha. I really like the post and the members are very supportive. Due to Unit 16 Norfolk surprising my with a membership I will stay with them, they have been really great.

Again, thank you with all my heart for both Veterans Day at Winside and the conference speaking engagements and your friendship! Sincerely,
Sandy Gessler
Ms. Nebraska

Beverly,

Thank you so much for having me at your Mid-Winter Conference. I had a wonderful time with you and your members!

And, thank the Department for the generous donation to my special project – women Veterans. Please thank your neighbor for the beautiful scarf. I love it. And thank you for the gifts of the “Nebraska Life” cookbook, apron, magazine and subscription.

Wishing you a great year as Department President.
God Bless,
Kathy Dungan,
National President

FUND RAISER - Your Help is Needed!

Dear American Legion Family ---
For the last two years, the Lincoln/Omaha VAVS (VA Volunteer Service), which is made up of members of veterans and community organizations, has organized and held a “Veterans Appreciation Picnic” in the summer to honor all veterans. This picnic also serves to introduce veterans who are not using the CBOCs or Medical Centers to become aware of what is available to them.

This year, it has been requested that the Grand Island Medical Center and the other CBOCs in Norfolk, Holdrege, North Platte, and Bellevue also hold a picnic for the veterans in their areas. In the last two years, we were given a generous donation that covered the costs, but in order for us to continue this well-received and appreciated event, we must now ask for everyone's help. If each post, unit, squadron, and riders group --- along with the other service organizations --- would give a small reasonable donation, we could achieve the goal set before us of holding this picnic in ALL these areas this summer.

Your donations can be made payable to: “Volunteer Services.” You can put “VAVS Picnic” in the memo line. I realize it is hard to think about a picnic when it is -15 outside, but in order for us to meet our needs, we must start now. Thank you in advance for your consideration.

Donations can be sent to any of these three addresses:

Lincoln VA Clinic
Attn: Voluntary Services
600 S. 70th St.
Lincoln, NE 68510

Omaha VA Medical Center
Volunteer Services
Attn: Voluntary Services
4101 Woolworth Ave.
Omaha, NE 68105

Grand Island VA Medical Center
Volunteer Services
Attn: Voluntary Services
2201 N. Broadwell Ave.
Grand Island, NE 68803

Linda Varejcka.
Serving Veterans through
Volunteering.

VERY TENTATIVE SCHEDULE
AMERICAN LEGION AUXILIARY – DEPARTMENT OF NE.
2019 DEPARTMENT CONVENTION – KEARNEY NE – RAMADA INN
JUNE 20 – 23, 2019
ALL MEMBERS ENCOURAGED TO ATTEND

THURSDAY, JUNE 20, 2019 • 1 – 5 PM REGISTRATION

9 AM President's Meet & Greet with DEC members
President's Room TBA
10:30 AM DEPARTMENT EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE (DEC)
Pre-Convention Meeting
4 PM Pages & Color Bearers meet with Chairman of Pages
Registration Committee meets with Chairman of Registration
Election Committee meets
Rules Committee meets
6:30 PM Meet & Greet Department Program Chairs
for instructions of reporting

FRIDAY, JUNE 21, 2019 • 1 – 5 REGISTRATION

8:30 AM FORMAL OPENING OF DEPARTMENT
AUXILIARY CONVENTION
11:15 AM AUXILIARY GOLD STAR & MEMORIAL SERVICE
1-3 PM JOINT SESSION & MEMORIAL SESSION OF
AMERICAN LEGION FAMILY
3:15 PM Auxiliary Reconvenes
5 PM Recess for the day

SATURDAY, JUNE 22, 2019 • 1 – 5 PM REGISTRATION

8 AM Auxiliary Reconvenes
11:15 AM Children & Youth lunch at Kearney Post (\$10 per meal)
1:30 PM Reconvene - Reporting - District Caucuses
3– 4:15 PM Candidate Reception

SUNDAY, JUNE 23, 2019

8 AM Worship Service
9 AM SHARP - Reconvene - Election of Officers and
Delegates & Alternates to National Convention
11 AM Installation of Officers 2019-2020
Adjournment of Convention
Post-Convention DEC meeting immediately
following adjournment

MUSIC

Hello, Members.

Before too long, we will be in the season of spring where we get that “spring” in our step, “spring” into being outdoors, and “spring” into making a difference in the lives of those around us. Music is that special “spring into action” element that will get the toes tapping, fingers snapping, and the hands clapping. Does that not sound like a great “spring” event to visit your local nursing homes, pre-schools, or veteran-connected facilities and just put on the music and “spring into action”? It does me.

Music is the “spring” board to so many emotions and memories that we can ill afford not to share it with others. So, as you prepare for “spring,” remember to put a “spring” in your step and “spring

into action” with those who surround you and together enjoy it all.

Music has been proven to add to the quality of all our lives. Singing especially benefits our bodies even as we become more peaceful and calm. (Even if we aren't good singers!) Dance tunes trigger special memories, and hymns bring us all comfort and peace. When you visit care facilities, bring children. Their presence brings such joy. And the children benefit also as they become comfortable enough to relate to these precious folks. We have a veteran in our local nursing facility who was a paratrooper in the military. His stories fascinate my grandsons! God Bless.

Louise Wheeler
Music Chair



Syracuse ALA Unit 100 participated in the Unadilla Groundhog Parade on Saturday, February 2. Those pictured are Lois Johnson, Elaine Hofker, Linda Holz, Rose Dankleff, Birdean Young, and President Jenice Bates.

DATES TO REMEMBER

March

- 1 Girls State Applications due to Department
- 2 District 4 Convention - Morrill
- 2 District 6 Convention - Kearney
- 9 District 7 Convention – Columbus
- 9 District 12 Convention – Talmage
- 10 Deadline for April/May Issue of “The Star”
- 10 District 2 Convention - Crofton
- 10 District 5 Convention - Paxton
- 15 Scholarship Deadline to Dept. Headquarters (see ABC book)
- 15 Happy Birthday American Legion
- 16 District 3 Convention - Beemer
- 16 District 9 Convention - Eustis
- 16 District 10 Convention - Nelson
- 17 St. Patrick's Day
- 30 District 1 Convention - Valentine

April

- 7 District 6 Girls State Orientation – Centura High School
- 15 Military Kids Day - Wear Purple
- 21 Easter
- 28 District 2 Girls State Orientation – Neligh Legion Post
- District 3 Girls State Orientation – Emerson-Hubbard High School

FOR YOUR ADVANCED PLANING

- June 2-8, 2019 American Legion Auxiliary
Cornhusker Girls State, Lincoln
- June 20-23, 2019 Department Convention
Ramada Inn, Kearney, NE
- August 23-29, 2019 National Convention, Indianapolis, IN

In Memoriam

Received Dec. 10, 2018 to Feb. 10, 2019

Sandra J Hayes	Omaha	1
Betty Ruff	Omaha	1
Rita R Dame	Omaha	1
Kathleen Dylla	Omaha	1
Esther Busboom	Lincoln	3
Marie K Kenney	Lincoln	3
Judy O'Connor	Hemingford	7
Winifred E French	Hastings	11
Maxine Bump	Chadron	12
Judy Dau	Chadron	12
Betty Balfany	Chadron	12
Luann Hohbein	Beatrice	27
Kathryn F Wilson	Beatrice	27
Rosemary Webb	Omaha	30
Irene Jacobs	Wynot	31
Tina M Mills	Gordon	34
Marlis Vaughn	Gering	36
Jewell Caver	Wayne	43
Verna Luber	Butte	51
Esther Lloyd	Kearney	52
Patsy Reinoehl	Laurel	54
Angie A. Fallon	Valley	58
Dorothy Rabbe	Sutton	61
Arlynne M. Reece	Ainsworth	79
Loyola R McMeekin	Osceola	91
Corella Smith	Minden	94
Delores M Cloyed	Syracuse	100
Genevieve P Kumpost	Wilber	101
Esther Stone	Alma	118
Jean Schlueter	Saint Paul	119
Grace M Port-Hagedorn	Scribner	121
Brenda K. Stern	Scribner	121
Lois N Bennett	Bassett	123

Bonnie Schiebur	Sterling	140
Elaine Williams	Sterling	140
Mary A Bals	Crete	147
Lavon R Schwarting	Rushville	161
Bettymae Erb	North Platte	163
Lola A Johnson	Bruning	166
Sandra J Burns	Pawnee City	168
Madalyn M Muhleisen	Blue Hill	176
Patricia R Desh	Palmyra	195
Maxine Newcomb	Cambridge	199
Gladys L Kugler	Franklin	209
Wilma L Heath	Franklin	209
Eydie K. Mathiesen	Wallace	213
Melvina Mack	Elgin	229
Elinor Mougey	Union	235
Jean Stange	Yutan	262
Erma V Gausman	Dorchester	264
Evelyn Waltman	North Loup	285
Dorothy M Nelson	Potter	291
Patricia Kumpf	Shelby	296
Sharon J Sanders	Burwell	298
Yvonne G. Jurgensen	Burwell	298
Anna M Feik	Spalding	299
Josephine A Bauer	Spalding	299
Helen J Godbersen	Gibbon	310
Kathy S Brashears	Lebanon	313
Pat A Goeden	South Omaha	331
Mary J Boland	South Omaha	331
Mary L Lovitt	Crab Orchard	336
Frances Packett	Havelock	342
Bonnetta Jameson	Miller	351
Lois A Jameson	Miller	351
Wilma G Christian	Deshler	352
Betty Lippold	Elk Creek	370
Arlee Laue	Elk Creek	370
Blanche A Virgil	Valparaiso	371



Culbertson Unit #133 hosted a “Purse Event” on December 11. Donations of purses and feminine products were requested from the community through the local CIP and FROGs communication. An evening was spent packaging the products and filling the more than 50 purses that were then delivered in January to the Mid-Year Conference in Norfolk at the Mid-winter Conference. The purses will be given to homeless veterans in Nebraska.

