

Laying the Foundation for the Future



James W. "Bill" Oxford was elected National Commander of The American Legion on Aug. 29, 2019, in Indianapolis, during the organization's 101st national convention. He has been a member of the nation's largest veterans organization since 1986.

A native of Lenoir, N.C., Oxford is a paid-up-for-life member and past commander of Post 29 in Lenoir. He served as department (state) commander of the North Carolina American Legion from 2010 to 2011. A veteran of the U.S. Marine Corps, Oxford was an aviation electronic technician for the A-6 Intruder and served in Vietnam during his initial enlistment. After being discharged as a sergeant in 1970, Oxford joined the North Carolina National Guard. He subsequently attended officer's candidate school and transferred to the U.S. Army Reserve, where he ultimately retired as a colonel after more than 34 years of military service.

Oxford has served at every level of The American Legion. A former mayor and city council of Cajah's Mountain, N.C., he has worked since he was a high school student, with most of his career choices being in the maintenance and engineering field. He earned a bachelor's degree in environmental studies and multiple safety and environmental certificates.

Oxford has volunteered as a coach, umpire, referee and administrator in several youth athletic programs, including service as the public address announcer for the Post 29 American Legion Baseball team.

An active volunteer with several organizations, Oxford is a member of Masonic Lodge-York Scottish Rite and the North Carolina Army Retirees Council. He and his wife, Frances, have been married since 1967. They have a son, Charles (married to Deah Reid), and a daughter, Jackie (married to Mike Carr). They also have four grandsons; Isiah, Micah, Jaggar and Dawson.

His theme as national commander of The American Legion is "A Foundation for the Future," as the organization enters its second century of service.

Elected as National Vice Commanders were Northeast Region, Francis J. MacDonald Jr. (MA); Southeast Region, David L. King (KY); Western Region, Robert D. Liebenow (OR); Midwest Region, Bruce C. Feuerbach (IA); and Central Region, Richard A. Heigert (MO).

Pictured (L to R) National Auxiliary President, Nicole Clapp (IA); National Legion Commander, Bill Oxford (NC); and National Sons Commander, Clint Bolt (VA).

Hurlbert Memorial Scholarship

The Nebraska American Legion selected two recipients of the Jim Hurlbert Memorial Scholarship. The Jim Hurlbert Memorial Scholarship is named in memory of Past Department Service Officer Jim Hurlbert. Hurlbert was a strong supporter of The American Legion Baseball program and giving back to the youth who participated.

The Hurlbert Memorial Scholarship is awarded based on the players leadership, scholarship, citizenship, and financial need. Recipients are nominated by their team manager, along with additional endorsements from other community leaders. For 31 years The American Legion has awarded this scholarship.

The recipients of \$500.00 scholarships are Christian M. Timm of Eustis and Nathan F. Mensik of Denton.

Nebraska American Legion Baseball Player of the Year

The Nebraska American Legion selected Coleton Kanzmeier of Omaha as the 2019 Nebraska American Legion Baseball Player of the Year.

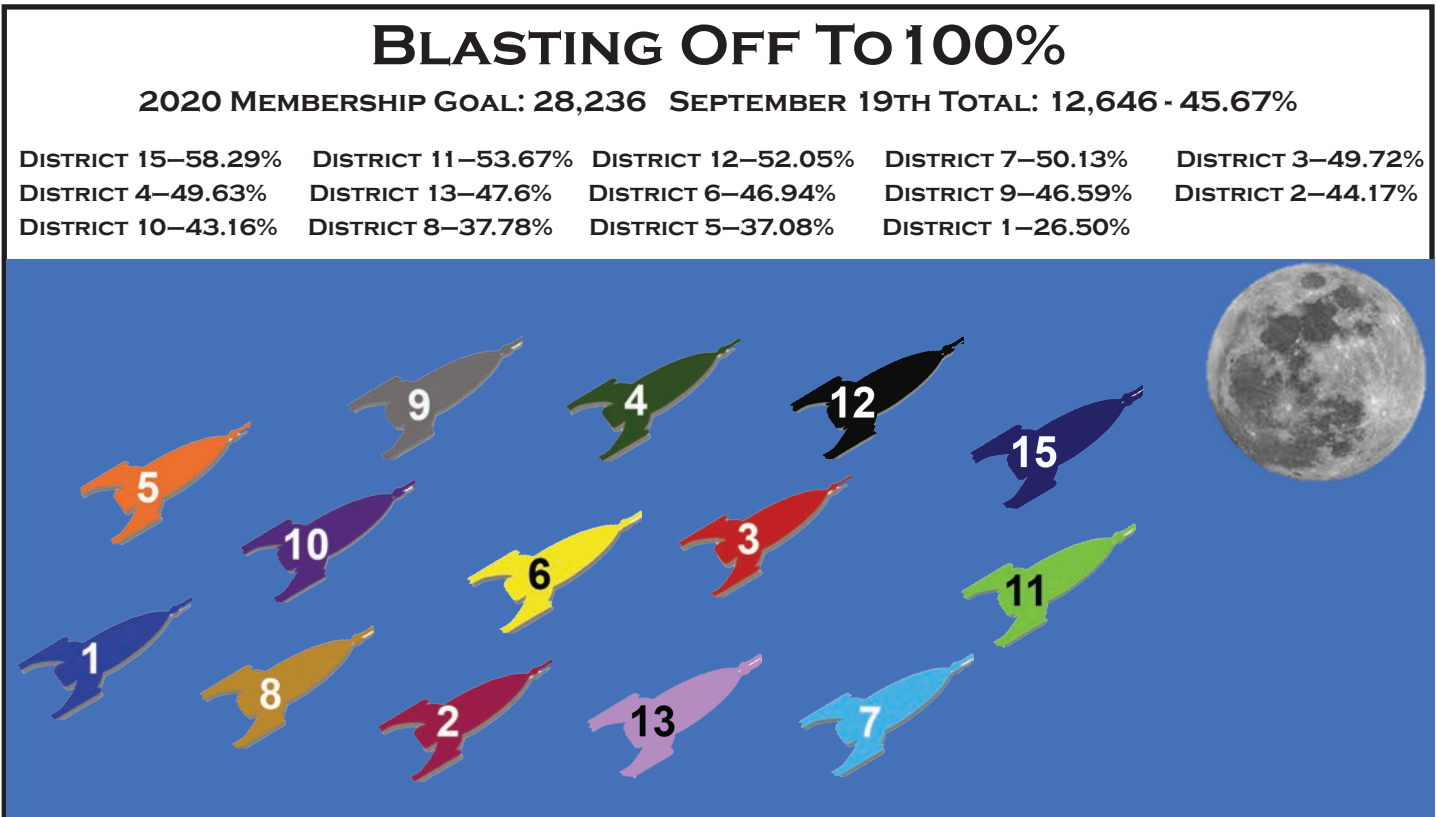
Each year, thousands of Nebraska's youth participate in American Legion Baseball across the state. One young man is then chosen as the Nebraska Player of the Year and is forwarded on to National to be considered for the George W. Rulon National Player of the Year.


Kanzmeier plays for the Burton Prosthetics Mustangs team sponsored by Omaha Post #1. He has shown extensive dedication to academics while maintaining a 4.2 GPA at Concordia High School. He is a member of the National Honor Society, performed in a play production, and attended Cornhusker Boys' State. In the community, Kanzmeier is a shining example of volunteerism. He is a Sunday School leader at his church and assists in teaching vacation bible school. He also helps with summer basketball ball camps at his school and provided assistance at the "Night to Shine" – a prom held for special needs children. Kanzmeier received All-State Class B honors in the Lincoln Journal Star in 2019 and was the captain for this basketball team for the 2018-19 season.

Kanzmeier will attend the University of Nebraska-Omaha working towards a degree in Math. Kanzmeier is the son of Adam and Heather Kanzmeier of Omaha.




The Nebraska Legionnaire
P.O. Box 5205
Lincoln, NE 68505-0205





Commander's Corner

Gary Wooten
Department Commander



NATIONAL CONVENTION A BIG SUCCESS

The 101st American Legion National Convention in Indianapolis was a big success for the American Legion family. William “Bill” Oxford of North Carolina was elected as the new National Commander. He will be visiting Nebraska in May of next year. Be sure to stay tuned for information on where we will be visiting with Commander Bill.

The biggest news to me were the changes in our National constitution and bylaws that implemented the LEGION Act. These changes were necessary because the bylaws contained the eligible periods for membership. The changes were unanimously approved by the convention. Now, that does not mean that we have to change all of our constitution and bylaws, unless they contain dates of eligibility. However, I encourage everyone to review and make necessary changes to their constitution and bylaws. This includes posts, counties, and districts. If you cannot find a copy of your constitution and bylaws, please contact Department, as they may have a copy on file to share with you.

The American Legion Auxiliary is now open to SPOUSES. That means that men can be members of the Auxiliary if their spouse is a member of The American Legion. In fact, Nebraska got our first male member of the Auxiliary during the National Convention. Congratulations Tina of Clay Center for signing up Jim Costello.

I want to thank all of you who participated in my Commander’s training and homecoming. I think, based on comments, the training was a success and we all had a good time at the homecoming. It was great to share the day with President Paes and Commander Neel. I asked the participants to recommend future training needs. They did so and we will be using these comments to plan training in the future, hopefully at Mid-Year. I hope you will consider short training sessions at your county and district meetings. If you need help, please contact the appropriate committee chair or the Department.

Well, fall is coming and with it will be District Fall Roundups. I know we use these meetings as training opportunities. My leadership team and I will be planning on attend your meetings. Please contact me or Department if you have specific requests for members of the leadership team or specific committees.

I want to close this month by encouraging you to get your paid memberships in to Department. Please do not hold paid membership, as it may cause the member to get another letter asking them to pay for the year. Also, I ask all of you to go visit those members who have not renewed and ask for their membership. Don’t forget to talk to all those Veterans who are now eligible to be members of our American Legion

“2019 and Beyond”



Straight Talk

Philip Dittbrenner
Department Service Officer



Care in the community?

I am sure that you may have heard about the court decision below.

The Department of Veterans Affairs must reimburse veterans for emergency medical care at non-VA facilities, a federal appeals court ruled September 9 in Wolfe v. Wilkie — a decision that could be worth billions of dollars to veterans. The U.S. Court of Appeals for Veterans Claims said the VA has been wrongfully denying reimbursement to veterans who sought emergency medical care at non-VA facilities, and struck down an internal VA regulation that blocked those payments. "All of this is unacceptable," said the ruling, which ordered the VA secretary to "readjudicate these reimbursement claims." Plaintiffs' lawyers say that based on past estimates by the VA, the department is now on the hook for between \$1.8 billion and \$6.5 billion in reimbursements to hundreds of thousands of veterans who have filed or will file claims between 2016 and 2025.

We will be waiting for guidance on the reimbursement claims, if you are affected by this decision keep in touch with your service officer for assistance. There are so many different situations out there that it is difficult to keep track of all of them. I am highlighting some of the items that the VA requires if you need emergency care. This is from the VA website please visit the site to see more information. <http://www.va.gov/communitycare>

During a medical emergency, Veterans should immediately seek care at the nearest medical facility. A medical emergency is an injury, illness or symptom so severe that without immediate treatment, you believe your life or health is in danger. If you believe your life or health is in danger, call 911 or go to the nearest emergency department (ED) right away.

Veterans do not need to check with VA before calling for an ambulance or going to an ED. During a medical emergency, VA encourages all Veterans to seek immediate medical attention without delay. A claim for emergency care will never be denied based solely on VA not receiving notification prior to seeking care.

It is, however, important to promptly notify VA after receiving emergency care at a community ED. Notification should be made within 72 hours of admission to a community medical facility. This allows VA to assist the Veteran in coordinating necessary care or transfer, and helps to ensure that the administrative and clinical requirements for VA to pay for the care are met.

As I said before, this is all very confusing for everyone, please see the website listed above to help out, or visit with your service officer.

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Dist. 4.....John Sanna, Dalton
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Dist. 7.....Dan Benes, Valparaiso
Dist. 8.....David Doolen, Papillion
Dist. 9.....Mel Divis, Elwood
Dist. 10.....James Doyen, Hastings
Dist. 11.....Glenn Schwab, Beatrice
Dist. 12.....David Glantz, Denton
Dist. 13.....Ken Mandl, Tecumseh
Dist. 15.....Gerald Wolf, Lincoln



Statement of Ownership, Management, and Circulation


(All Periodicals Publications Except Requester Publications)

1. Publication Title	2. Publication Number	3. Filing Date
The Nebraska Legionnaire	3 7 6 - 1 8 0	September 17, 2019
4. Issue Frequency	5. Number of Issues Published Annually	6. Annual Subscription Price
Monthly but Oct/Nov, Jan/Feb, April/May, and July/Aug	8	\$8.00
7. Complete Mailing Address of Known Office of Publication (Not printer) (Street, city, county, state, and ZIP+4®)		Contact Person
P.O. Box 5205, Lincoln, NE 68505-0205		David Salak
		Telephone (include area code)
		402-464-6338
8. Complete Mailing Address of Headquarters or General Business Office of Publisher (Not printer)		
P.O. Box 5205, Lincoln, NE 68505-0205		
9. Full Names and Complete Mailing Addresses of Publisher, Editor, and Managing Editor (Do not leave blank)		
Publisher (Name and complete mailing address)		
The Nebraska Legionnaire, Department of Nebraska, P.O. Box 5205, Lincoln, NE 68505-0205		
Editor (Name and complete mailing address)		
Amanda Washburn, P.O. Box 5205, Lincoln, NE 68505-0205		
Managing Editor (Name and complete mailing address)		
David Salak, P.O. Box 5205, Lincoln, NE 68505-0205		
10. Owner (Do not leave blank. If the publication is owned by a corporation, give the name and address of the corporation immediately followed by the names and addresses of all stockholders owning or holding 1 percent or more of the total amount of stock. If not owned by a corporation, give the names and addresses of the individual owners. If owned by a partnership or other unincorporated firm, give its name and address as well as those of each individual owner. If the publication is published by a nonprofit organization, give its name and address.)		
Full Name		Complete Mailing Address
The Nebraska Legionnaire		P.O. Box 5205, Lincoln, NE 68505-0205
13. Publication Title		
The Nebraska Legionnaire		
14. Issue Date for Circulation Data Below		
September 1, 2019		
15. Extent and Nature of Circulation		Average No. Copies Each Issue During Preceding 12 Months
Veterans Issues		No. Copies of Single Issue Published Nearest to Filing Date
a. Total Number of Copies (Net press run)		38,260
		37,666
b. Paid Circulation (By Mail and Outside the Mail)		
(1) Mailed Outside-County Paid Subscriptions Stated on PS Form 3541 (Include paid distribution above nominal rate, advertiser's proof copies, and exchange copies)		38,099
		37,505
(2) Mailed In-County Paid Subscriptions Stated on PS Form 3541 (Include paid distribution above nominal rate, advertiser's proof copies, and exchange copies)		
(3) Paid Distribution Outside the Mails Including Sales Through Dealers and Carriers, Street Vendors, Counter Sales, and Other Paid Distribution Outside USPS®		
(4) Paid Distribution by Other Classes of Mail Through the USPS (e.g., First-Class Mail®)		
c. Total Paid Distribution (Sum of 15b (1), (2), (3), and (4))		38,099
		37,505
d. Free or Nominal Rate Distribution (By Mail and Outside the Mail)		
(1) Free or Nominal Rate Outside-County Copies Included on PS Form 3541		3
		3
(2) Free or Nominal Rate In-County Copies Included on PS Form 3541		
(3) Free or Nominal Rate Copies Mailed at Other Classes Through the USPS (e.g., First-Class Mail)		
(4) Free or Nominal Rate Distribution Outside the Mail (Carriers or other means)		158
		158
e. Total Free or Nominal Rate Distribution (Sum of 15d (1), (2), (3) and (4))		161
		161
f. Total Distribution (Sum of 15c and 15e)		38,228
		37,634
g. Copies not Distributed (See Instructions to Publishers #4 (page #3))		51
		51
h. Total (Sum of 15f and g)		38,279
		37,583
i. Percent Paid (15c divided by 15f times 100)		99.66%
		99.66%
17. Publication of Statement of Ownership		
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> If the publication is a general publication, publication of this statement is required. Will be printed in the Oct/Nov 2019 issue of this publication. <input type="checkbox"/> Publication not required.		
18. Signature and Title of Editor, Publisher, Business Manager, or Owner		Date
Amanda Washburn, Editor		September 17, 2019
I certify that all information furnished on this form is true and complete. I understand that anyone who furnishes false or misleading information on this form or who omits material or information requested on the form may be subject to criminal sanctions (including fines and imprisonment) and/or civil sanctions (including civil penalties).		



It's History

Jennifer Salak
Department Historian





POW/MIA

Donald E. Nelsen
POW/MIA Liaison



American Legion Department of Nebraska History Word Search

C K E T C Z B C K N N A Y T T
A O G G B B I Z A A I O L R C
D A R W A T C M Z H U K A U I
X H O N I G L Z P T Q Y N M R
W F O Z E L T L H S U F O B T
R U E O I L E R H Z Z N I U S
G N K T P D I T O H Y T S L I
S U B J A E O U E M W M S L D
B S M L X Y R T S K M O E Z S
V Z I T P E T E R S B U R G O
T H S U B M U L O C B O G L N
P P Y U S E R V I C E G N A E
S E U D H E C P J R V E O V I
A P I W R V M I R T X N C B L
B C X E Z N F S G L T N W A L


Directions: Search up, down, forward, backward, and on the diagonal to find the bolded, underlined words described below.

- October 1929 (90 years ago)**
- **HOOPER** is now on the air map with one of the largest signs in the country. Through the efforts of members of **CORNELIUS TILLMAN** Post 8, a huge sign with letters 16 feet high and 12 feet across was painted on the top of a large shed.
 - 99 Nebraskans by birth or residence were awarded **SERVICE** decorations as a result of their work during the World War. Of this number, one (Nelson Holderman of **TRUMBULL**) received the **CONGRESSIONAL** Medal of Honor, 72 received the Distinguished Service Cross and 26 received the Distinguished Service Medal.

- October 1939 (80 years ago)**
- Two students of the Legion’s Platte County **YOUTH CITIZENS** contest were driving to the competition in **COLUMBUS** and had car trouble a mile out. Time was short and the young men played it safe. Instead of trying to fix the car in time and drive the rest of the way, they decided to “run for it.” They did, and although they arrived a few minutes late, out of breath, they still competed.

- October 1949 (70 years ago)**
- A donation campaign is being sponsored by members of the local **PETERSBURG** Post for hospitalized Lenora Scholl, an 8-year old Petersburg girl, who was severely burned nearly a year ago while playing with a jack-o-lantern. Lenora is currently at Children’s Hospital in Omaha where doctors have begun the skin grafting operations.
 - American Legion **DUES** in Omaha Post 1 and Lincoln Post 3, the two largest posts in the state, were raised to \$4.00 following the action of National Convention in **PHILADELPHIA** last month when national dues were raised 25 cents.
 - The **MORTGAGE** of the **ONEILL** American Legion Club was ceremoniously burned on September 15, at a joint meeting of local post and Auxiliary at the Legion Club.
 - Better attendance and higher interest than ever marked the first nine **DISTRICT** conventions held in the past two weeks in the 1st, 2nd, 3rd, 4th, 5th, 6th, 7th, 9th and 10th districts.

American Legion Commemorative Coin Set Raffle



The Nebraska American Legion is raffling off a set of three American Legion 100th Anniversary commemorative coins. There are only 500 tickets available and they are \$10.00 a piece. Contact your District or Area Commander for tickets. Headquarters has 20 tickets available for sale on a first come first serve basis. Anyone in welcome to purchase the tickets. The drawing will take place during January 12.

LegionCare: \$5,000.00 Accidental Death Benefit at NO COST* To You

Anyone enrolled in LegionCare will be covered for as long as they maintain their membership in the Legion Family – TAL, ALA, & SAL. The LegionCare program will continue to cover you for \$1,000 of AD&D coverage. If the accidental loss occurs when on official Legion Family Business, we will cover you for \$5,000 of AD&D coverage.

For more information, Visit www.theLIT.com or call toll-free at 1-800-235-6943.

Friday, September 20, 2019 was the official National POW/ MIA Recognition Day in the USA. It is an observance that honors those who were prisoners of war as well as those who are still missing in action. “You are not forgotten” is the central theme behind the POW/MIA movement.

I sincerely hope that you and your Legion Post took the time out to say a small prayer for those still missing or prisoners of war.

Before I go on with this article, I want everyone to know most of my information comes from articles researched on the computer. I am humbled to be writing these articles, but in no way am I an expert.

In order to comprehend the importance of this POW/ MIA movement, all you need do is see and acknowledge the numbers of Americans who have been listed as POW/MIA's.


130,201 WWII service members were imprisoned and 14,072 of those men died in prisoner of war camps. 7,140 Korean War service members were imprisoned and of those 2,701 died as prisoners in those war camps. 725 Vietnam service members were prisoners of war and 64 died in those prisons. 37 service members have been POW's in conflicts since 1991 including both Gulf Wars. None of these are still in captivity.

Of the Americans who fought in those wars 83,114 are still listed as missing. The Defense POW/MIA Accounting Agency or DPAA says about 75% of these missing Americans are somewhere in the Asian Pacific. More than 41,000 have been presumed lost at sea. Efforts to find these men, identify them and bring them home are constant. The DPAA says in the last year it has accounted for 41 men missing during the Korean War. We are all so hopeful that we and the North Koreans will continue to have talks easing the tensions between our countries so we can find and bring home more of our heroes. (The DPAA is the official US agency whose mission is to provide the fullest possible accounting for our military personnel to their families and our nation).

A note about our POW/MIA flag; which just goes to show the power of one. It is important to me, and I think everyone that this POW/MIA flag was started by one person. In 1971 Mary Hoff contacted a flag company near her home to see if a flag reminding people of our prisoners of war and the missing in action could be made. She was one of many waiting to see if her husband Navy Lieutenant Commander Michael Hoff would ever return home after his plane had been shot down over Laos.

We should never stop remembering until all our POW's and MIA's are returned to their families and our country.






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



Chaplain's Corner

Dr. William Jackson, Jr.
Department Chaplain



(“2019 & Beyond”)

What is...beyond...in the sense of what’s coming up, not what’s already been accomplished? One can not expect to move any where without some sense that there is something worth achieving. It’s so with learning about God’s Word, the Holy Bible, and with command of an American Legion Department like that in Nebraska (Ecclesiastes 8:2).

A key factor of leadership is follow-ship, or discipleship. Scripturally, discipleship refers to those special followers of Jesus who sat at His feet to learn how to minister to others, and of improving their own spiritual health (Matthew 10:1). A disciple is first, and foremost, a student, whether of God and His Word, or of a group like Nebraska Legionnaires. The Department Commander serves as the state’s initiator of the American Legion’s Four Pillars, and of mitigating their recognition, instruction, and distribution of their contents among the Legionnaires under his purview.



But what do the Word (the Holy Bible), and our Department Commander, really have in common as a Nebraska Legionnaire? First, comprehend that God is the Sovereign of the Universe as we know it (Hebrews 11:3). But it was by faith in Him that those disciples of the Bible’s Old Testament came to be worthy of God’s grace—unmerited favor—in order to carry out God’s intension for us in this present. They became a great “cloud of witnesses” in

support of our future testimonies (Hebrews 12:1).

Secondly, witnesses of God’s favor and continued discipleship allows Legionnaires here and abroad to maintain that servant attitude that so reflects Legionnaire willingness to see our Four Pillars in action within our various communities. Persons of whatever persuasion do not exact of themselves selfless services unless there is a leader—like the Department Commander—who equally shares their zealously for that service (Romans 12:1).

Thirdly, God’s grace for The American Legion is readily observed in how Nebraska Legionnaires actually carry out those Four Pillars to the satisfaction of those they have/are/will serve in their post-military mission of reintegrating back into their home country environment. Nebraska Legionnaires display their discipleship for God, country, and family by doing what needs to be done to help others, especially under the guidance of our American Legion Nebraska Department Commander (Matthew 7:16–20).

Ssssooooo...what’s in it for us with the Department Commander’s notion of “2019 and Beyond?” The American Legion is 100 years old. Legionnaires are among the premier veterans service organizations that have made a difference to America and the world. Imagine what the future may hold for Nebraska Legionnaires—yes, that means YOU, too. Are you in, or are you warming up the bench waiting to be called? I prefer to be on that “A” team with my “A”-game, alongside our Department Commander. Game on for the 2019-2020 reign of our new leader (Ecclesiastes 9:11).

Frahm Announces Candidacy for Senior Vice



Doug Frahm announces his candidacy for Senior Vice Commander Department of Nebraska with the full support of his Post, District and most importantly his wife, Mary. Doug and Mary live in the small town of Amelia, Nebraska where he manages the family ranch for his mother. He also serves as the District 5 Holt County Supervisor.


Doug is a Vietnam veteran having served in the USAF and ANG for a total of 26 ½ years. After retiring in 2005, he Joined the American Legion and has been a continuous member for 13 years. Doug has served as Chambers Post Commander for the past 11 years. Other offices he has held include Holt County Vice Commander and Commander, District 2 Vice Commander and Commander and Area

B Vice Commander for 2 terms. He has attended all Department Conventions and Mid-year conventions since 2008, serving on the Department Executive Committee for 5 years. Doug has also been a Department of Nebraska delegate to National Convention for the past 3 years and has served as a National Security Council delegate for the past 3 years. At the Department Convention in 2017 he was appointed as the Junior Shooting Sports Program Liaison. Doug also attended the National American Legion Collage and is a graduate of the class of 2017.

Doug’s goal is to make the entire Department of Nebraska American Legion Family Strong Again. He knows our Legion family strength comes through our membership in the Legion, the Auxiliary, the Sons of the American Legion and the Legion Riders. Membership is Doug’s number one concern. With the signing of the Legion Act, he sees no reason why our numbers cannot rise to, or exceed, our previous highs. He also believes that the programs we support, and sponsor, are what makes us leaders in our communities, our state and nation.


Doug will work closely with the Department Commander and Department Staff to make a difference. He asks for your support and your vote for Senior Vice Commander Department of Nebraska.

Thank you



S.A.L. Notes

Robert Neel
Detachment Commander



Hello Sons members. We had a good time at National Convention. I got my exercise on the 5 trips to the stage to receive awards. Sr. Vice Commander Casey received the award on Friday in my absence. Very interesting speakers and presenters. A lot of information was available and the vendors had information for everyone. A blood drive was set up also.

We received several awards and plaques: District 6 received the Americanism Trophy and the Veteran’s Affairs and Rehabilitation Award, CONGRATULATIONS. Benson Squadron #112 received the Children and Youth, Top in the Mid-west, OUTSTANDING achievement.

The Detachment was awarded the All-time High in membership with the 5 new Squadrons, National Legacy Scholarship Achievement, National membership renewal award and 90% membership within 30 days of the National Convention.

Now, back at home and down to earth, we missed our first target date on September 11 of 10%. Where did we go wrong? I checked the September 16 membership report. In 2 ½ months, we have 116 Squadrons in NEBRASKA with no membership turned into Detachment.

I would like to send “THANK YOU’s” to the Squadrons that turned in 50% or better membership: Gordon 85%; Ewing 114%; South Sioux City 76%; Bridgeport 66%; Venango 53%; Dannebrog 50%; Howells 50%; Colon 59%; Valparaiso 76%; Valley 66%; Blair 99%; Eustis 100%; Edison 72%; Wilber 61%; Friend 71%; Odell 100%; McCool Junction 106%; Weeping Water 100%; and Elmwood 100%. A THANK You to the Squadrons that have turned in some memberships, IT IS GREATLY APPRECIATED! I know some of you have large membership Squadrons to work and have sent in some, I don’t mean to slight you, keep up the good work.

- By Districts:
- D1, 16% (44 of 274) - D2, 4% (23 of 566)
 - D3, 19% (44 of 227) - D4, 6% (23 of 359)
 - D5, 13% (17 of 127)
 - D6, 3% (biggest membership) (43 of 1380)
 - D7, 22.6% (good job) (154 of 680)
 - D8, 14.3% (2nd biggest) (145 of 1011)
 - D9, 26.3% (good job) (83 of 315)
 - D10, what happened? (0 of 294)
 - D11, 10.38% (3rd biggest) (102 of 982)
 - D12, 19.6% (51 of 260) - D13, what happened? (0 of 144)
 - D15, what happened? (0 of 156)

Maybe I studied this a little too close, but membership is everyone’s responsibility, not just the Adjutant or membership chairman. If you haven’t paid your dues this year, help your Squadron by finding the Adjutant and getting them paid, do not wait to be asked, we are all busy. As the Adjutant of the Post and Squadron, it greatly helps when members assist me with collecting dues. Grab some membership cards if the Adjutant will let you and get to collecting. While you are at it, sign up a new member or two. ENOUGH SAID!

Squadrons need to prepare for the \$3.00 increase in dues by National, voted on at the past Convention. Detachment has been told to pay \$2.50 over what we have been paying. I hope we can hold out for another year, but Squadron’s need to start planning to increase their dues by \$5.00 to \$6.00 to cover any increase. Presently, you pay \$8.00 to Detachment. Of that, \$2.00 goes to National which has not had a dues increase for 38 years, it is time. Department of Nebraska told Detachment we will pay more, so we can absorb only so much and we have to increase Detachment dues to cover costs. Dues may go up in June of 2021 year \$3.00-\$6.00. Just a heads up. More information forthcoming.

Did you know you can read the Nebraska Legionnaire online at www.nebraskalegion.net?

If you would rather receive the Nebraska Legionnaire by email or view it online, send in this form. The email and online edition of the newspaper is usually available a week or so before the paper arrives in your mailbox. All we need from you is your email address.

☐ I no longer wish to receive a printed copy of the Nebraska Legionnaire.

Name: _____

Email Address: _____

Member ID: _____

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

2019 National Convention - Indianapolis



Past Department Commander Lyle Bartels and the Department of Nebraska received an award for having 100% Consolidated Post Reports turned in for the 2019 year.



Members of the Nebraska American Legion presented National Commander Brett Reistad with a donation for the Legacy Scholarship. Pictured (L to R) NEC Bill Crosier, Commander Brett Reistad, Rollie Otte, and Marc Soden.



Members of The Nebraska American Legion Family posed for a picture following the Legion Caucus on Sunday.



A group of people, mostly men, are marching in a parade. They are wearing red t-shirts and some are wearing hats. They are carrying a large white banner with red text that reads "NEBRASKA" and "THE AMERICAN LEGION FAMILY". There are also two flags being carried: the United States flag and a white flag. The background shows city buildings and trees.

Nebraska American Legion Family members marched in the parade at the 101st National Convention.

District 3 Fundraiser

The District 3 American Legion Family is holding a fundraiser on Saturday, October 20, 2019 at the Allen Fire Hall from 11:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m.

They will be serving hamburgers, hot dogs, potato salad, beans, chips, and desserts.

A silent auction will take place during the event. Contact District 3 Commander Dean Ennen with questions.



The Nebraska American Legion Family was honored to win three awards from the National American Legion Press Association. 1st Place George W. Hooten Department Publication over 40,000 members to the Nebraska Legionnaire and Auxiliary Star. 2nd Place Mary B. Howard Department Website to the Nebraska Legion Website. 2nd Place Robert L. Morrill Social Media District Level Award to the District 6 American Legion Family Facebook Page. Pictured top (L to R) Auxiliary Star Editor Lorene Bartos and Legionnaire Editor Amanda Washburn. Pictured middle Department Historian and Nebraska Website Administrator Jennifer Salak. Pictured bottom (L to R) District 6 Facebook Page Administrator Vicki Cyboron and NALPA President Micheal Patty.



Lincoln Post 3 members assisted their local Boy Scout troop with their flag retirement ceremony.

MEMBERSHIP MINUTE

Steve Bartos, Membership Chairman

October. The hours of daylight are shorter, but the amount of time to think about and work on membership remains the same.

As you might expect, the passage of the Legion Act has generated some membership activity. While I don't have any specific numbers for Nebraska, I can report that the national headquarters had already processed about 1,500 newly-eligible members just prior to the start of the National Convention on August 23rd. That's probably a good indication that more will follow. We just need to identify them and ASK.

At this time of year, I'm sure that a lot of us tend to let the dues notices from the national headquarters do most of the lifting. No doubt, that first mailing or two does a fairly good job of jumpstarting the new year's membership drive. But, don't rely on it entirely. Make some personal contacts to get those renewals coming in.

Also, Post 500 is a rich source of members just waiting to transfer to YOUR post. On MyLegion.org, you can identify the members of Post 500 who live near you --- or anywhere --- and also identify for which year they last paid their dues. Those whose “last year paid” was 2019 are low hanging fruit and should certainly be contacted about TRANSFERRING and RENEWING into YOUR post for 2020.

Even if those Post 500 members have already renewed to National for 2020, you can still ask them to transfer and start residing on your roster. Your district commander has been sent some additional information on doing this, so don't be afraid to follow up. One post in Nebraska took this on as a project and received about two dozen transfers within two weeks of sending out some invitation letters.

Many of these Legionnaires will transfer when asked --- especially when they learn they can renew in your post for less than the \$50 dues required of Post 500. And, those members who are considered "encumbered" to national for a year or two will count toward your post and the Department when adding up the numbers toward making goal.

As advertised in the “Membership Awards for 2020” (posted on the website), the name of Wilfred Medinger from Hampton Post 141 was drawn for the EARLY BIRD MEMBER AWARD (\$150). Congratulations, Wilfred

Also, don't forget the November 14th cut off date for the POST REBATE PROGRAM. Take a look at the 2020 Awards for details. Sign up some new members. Earn a rebate for your post.

Have a nice October!

2020 Mid-Year Conference

Make Your Reservations Now

The 2020 Mid-Year Conference will be held January 11-12, 2020 at the Ramada Inn in Kearney. The room rate is \$79.00 a night and breakfast is included with the rooms.

An agenda of the weekend's events will be in the December issue of the Legionnaire. If you would like more information or have questions, please contact Adjutant Salak at Department Headquarters.

Ramada Inn – 301 2nd Avenue, Kearney, NE 68847. Call 308-237-3141 for reservations.

Mid-Year Conference Program

It's time to start putting together our Mid-Year Conference Program and the Department is selling space in the program for individuals or businesses to advertise. Please ask around your community to garner support. All ads and payment must be received before January 7, 2019. The program is 8.5 x 5.5 in size. Please contact Amanda at Headquarters.

\$10.00 page split into eight sections

\$20.00 page split into four sections

\$30.00 page split into two sections

\$60.00 Full page




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2019 Junior Shooting Sports Report
Doug Frahm, Junior Shooting Sports Liaison



The 29th American Legion Junior Three Position Air Rifle National Championships were held at the Olympic Training Center in Colorado Springs, Colorado July 24-27, 2019. National Commander Brett Reistad and National Sons of the American legion Commander Greg “Doc” Gibbs as well as Nicole Clapp American Legion Auxiliary Vice President were all three in attendance to observe the competition, announce results and present awards.

Thirty national finalists representing 16 states and 23 clubs who competed in the Postal Match’s beginning in November of 2018 were invited to Colorado Springs, Colorado to compete in a shoulder to shoulder match to determine the winners of both categories.

Fifteen Precision finalists and fifteen Sporter finalists attended the all-expense paid competition. The two-day match consisted of 20 shots per target in all three positions prone, kneeling, and standing, twice each day for a total of 240 shots fired. The top eight competitors from both the Precision and Sporter categories then shot a ten round final match on the last day of competition to determine the final standings.

National Commander Reistad and SAL Commander Greg “Doc” Gibbs presented the two first place winners with scholarships in the amount of \$5,000.00 and the two second place winners with scholarships in the amount of \$2,000.00 at the Banquet Saturday evening. Both 1st place winners Makenzie Sheffield (Precision) and Jaden-Ann Fraser (Sporter) were invited to attend the National Convention in Indianapolis in August.

James Simpson from Wayne Nebraska (affiliated with Winside Post 252) qualified to compete in the National finals. After three days of competition James had a final standing of 7th place in the Sporter Class. Congratulations James

DO YOU KNOW ABOUT THE NSP K-9 INITIATIVE?

Daryl Harrison, Area A Commander

At this year’s annual convention, a resolution was passed authorizing the Nebraska State Patrol (NSP) K-9 Initiative. The initiative raises funds to assist the NSP in the purchase of new K-9s. The NSP approached the Nebraska American Legion at our January 2019 Mid-Year Conference in Norfolk asking us to assist them in overcoming the need for two new dogs. Each K-9 comes at a cost of approximately \$10,000. Although there was some response, it was easily seen that we the Legion Family were unable to assist our long-time partner (51 years now) in effectively addressing their needs.

The NSP needs a plan for replacement of K-9s for several reasons. K-9s have a limited service time before they must be retired. Dogs are under such high stress and activity and require an early retirement. Injury in duty can also require early retirement. Possible new medical marijuana laws will render current dogs unusable for drug searches as they would improperly hit on legal marijuana. The new hemp laws of Nebraska will possibly confound the situation even greater. Dogs are purchased through donation only. Therefore, our partner the NSP came to us. Knowing the Legion Family’s long history of supporting law enforcement and being a long-time partner in the Jr. Law Cadet Program made us a good choice.

I was the District 3 Commander at the time and District 3 has two very strong groups, the Winside Sons of the American Legion and the Beemer American Legion Riders. After meeting with them and giving them some time to brainstorm, the A.L.R. met with the S.A.L. and challenged them to match a \$500 donation and then challenge all other Nebraska S.A.L. and A.L.R. groups to put up \$50 annually to go towards the purchase of NSP K-9s.

At that time, there were enough squadrons and chapters that if 55% of the groups participated it created enough money for the purchase of a new dog every two years. If 85% of the groups participated it was enough for two dogs every three years.

It’s a simple idea and for a nominal donation from each group the relationship between the NSP and Nebraska American Legion Family continues strong. So I ask you, the Sons of the American Legion and you the American Legion Riders to join the NSP K-9 Initiative. Let’s make our NSP strong with a full complement of K-9 officers.

Here’s how! Send your checks to Department at PO Box 5205, Lincoln, NE 68505-0205. Write on the check’s memo line large and clear NSP K-9. February 14th is the annual date everyone should have their donation in by. Yep, Valentines Day. The sum of those donations will be passed on to the NSP on March 13th, National K-9 Veterans Day. Those that participate will be listed in the Legionnaire Newspaper.

An interesting thing has happened since the resolution was passed. Both Legion Posts and Auxiliary Units have asked if they can support the NSP K-9 Initiative. Well of course! That’s the way families work.

Earn Extra Income
Work Flexible Hours
VETS GET PAID TO HELP YOUR COMMUNITY
APPLY ONLINE!
2020census.gov/jobs
1-855-JOB-2020

Riders
Marty Timberlake
Department ALR Liaison

What can the riders can do for you?

Every family in the American Legion has their focus, and they are great at what they do. The Riders are made up of members from each of these families. And they bring that passion with them. Collectively we are better for it because they each bring unique ideas to the table.

But when I think of the Riders, I think of the new face of the American Legion. You see them everywhere, proudly wearing their vests, talking to people, spending time at Vet centers and homes, parades and flag lines. But what you seldom see are all the other things the riders do, not only for the Legion, but for the community as well.

Tens of Thousands of dollars have been donated to the Legacy Fund, OCW, National Emergency Fund, Girls and Boys State, Oratorical, and various other Legion Programs. And that’s just here in Nebraska. I could go on about all of the amazing things the riders do outside of the Legion.

What I really want to talk about is the stigma surrounding the riders, and try to debunk it. For starters, Riders tend to be some of the friendliest people you will ever meet. We have a built in comradery for each other. Even if we’ve never met one another before, we are immediately family, and will do anything for each other. We bring this same mentality to the Posts. And while many posts embrace Riders Chapters, I still hear grumblings and disdain for Riders. I don’t know if they equate us to Motorcycle Clubs, Hells Angels, or other MC’s. That couldn’t be further from the truth. We are a part of the American Legion Family and we are here for the same reason, support our veterans and their children.

So how can the riders help our struggling posts? Since the Riders are made up of members of the Legion Family, they bring new members into the posts. Many of the riders know others that ride. And many people that ride have eligibility to belong to one of the Legion Families. But younger potential members aren’t as interested in being inside, drinking. They want to be riding. And you have to ask yourself, the last time someone new walked into your post, did you introduce yourself and buy them a beer, or did you look at them, shrug your shoulders and turn back to your drink? Too many times, I personally have experienced the latter when I walked in with my vest on.

With the declining memberships, posts closing, and the inability to attract the younger Vets, it’s time to start looking at ways to make potentials members feel welcome. It’s time to start looking at adding a Riders Chapter to attract new and younger members. Not only will it help bring new members into the Family, but you will see how passionate and motivated they are to make a difference. Embrace new ideas, take a chance on younger members, and support your Riders Chapters. They are going to surprise you. But you have to be willing to put away your reservations, and let the Riders do what they do. Also, they are not alone, with 4 assistant Liaisons, and a State Liaison, they have a lot of resources and help to get them moving in the right direction. And if that’s not enough, your Department Adjutant is also a member of the Riders. The support for the Riders is tremendous, maybe it’s time to try something new and see what the Riders can do for you.

Sons of The American Legion Membership
As of September 15, 2019

District	2019 Members	2020 Members
1	274	44
2	566	23
3	227	44
4	359	23
5	127	17
6	1,380	43
7	680	154
8	1,011	145
9	315	83
10	294	0
11	982	102
12	260	51
13	144	0
15	156	0
Total	6,775	729



Alderman, Arthur L., Humboldt, WWII
Andersen, James F., Beatrice, Vietnam
Anderson, Clyde A., Chadron, WWII
Anderson, Earl L., Pleasanton, Korea
Applegarth, Jim L., Hyannis, Korea
Arbuck, Richard L., Fairmont, Vietnam
Aspegren, Percy, Geneva, Korea
Austin, Richard H., Omaha, Korea
Backer, Gordon, Grand Island, WWII
Bair, John E., Bassett, Korea
Ball, James E., Columbus, WWII
Barrett, Darrell F., Madison, Korea
Barrett, Sterling D., Dix
Basel, Orville H., Lincoln, WWII
Bauer, Alvin, Ravenna
Bell, Richard L., Benson, WWII
Berg, Irving E., Newman Grove, Korea
Best, Frank, Millard, SAL
Bischoff, Dale, Wauneta
Bjorklund, Dennis, Greeley, Vietnam
Blum, Roger B., York, Vietnam
Bohlen, Kenneth L., Glenvil, Korea
Bowhay, Robert D., Liberty
Brown, Ellsworth E., Trenton, WWII
Brunkhorst, Harold, Osmond, Korea
Buckman, Michael A., Fort Calhoun, Vietnam
Buresh, James R., Valparaiso
Burgett, Paul W., Humboldt, Korea
Carman, Darold L., Pleasanton
Carnahan, Jack D., Chadron, WWII
Carter, Burt L., Chappell, Korea
Christensen, Robert L., Sargent, Vietnam
Christiansen, Jeff, Blair, Vietnam
Covert, Bill F., Utica, Vietnam
Cox, George S., Gothenburg, WWII
Czaplewski, Al, Loup City, Korea
Dahlgren, Nick, Gering, Korea
De Witt, Meredith, Gering
Deboer, George, Elwood, WWII
Delisi, Sam, Pleasant Dale, Korea
Devine, Donald L., Chappell, Korea
Dirkschneider, Francis B., Dodge, Korea
Dirksen, Les R., Johnson, Korea
Dorszynski, Norbert, St. Paul, Korea
Downing, George L., Garland, Korea
Dreesen, Lawrence S., Hartington, WWII
Eastlack, Ned B. Jr., Lincoln, WWII
Eden, Lavern, Cook, Korea
Ehrke, Lloyd E., Stamford, Korea
Elliot, Richard E., Beatrice, Korea
Ellis, Randall V., Allen, Korea
Emeigh, Robert D., Hallam, Korea
Enstrom, Lyle, Oakland, Korea
Erdman, Robert A., Bayard, Vietnam
Everett, Larry D., Kearney, Vietnam
Feeser, Rodney, Gering, SAL
Ferguson, Larrie J., Cedar Bluffs, Lebanon/Grenada
Fernau, Leonard, Ainsworth, Vietnam
Fischer, Oryl L., Broken Bow, WWII
Flynn, Maurice P., Schuyler, Korea
Fox, William L., Scotia, Vietnam
Frias, Mark A., Allen, Vietnam
Frick, Kenneth R., McCook
Frohner, William E., Valparaiso, Persian Gulf
Fry, Wendell H., Plattsmouth, WWII
Furbee, Ray, Palisade, Vietnam
Genrich, Larry D., Odell, Vietnam
Gibbs, Robert M., Ainsworth, WWII
Grubbs, Wilber R., Fremont, WWII
Guard, James, Bayard, Vietnam
Haas, Donald F., Gering, Korea
Hagedorn, Leonard, West Point, WWII
Hainowski, Paul R., Omaha, Korea
Halouska, Wayne K., Callaway, Vietnam
Hanna, Robert E., Wauneta, Korea
Harrold, Dale P., Omaha, WWII

Hartnett, Henry R., South Omaha, WWI
Hayes, Robert, Deshler, Korea
Hehnke, Gerald, Grand Island
Heimbuck, Adam, Bayard, WWII
Heitz, William J., Alliance
Hemberger, Eugene, Holstein
Henning, Charles, Auburn, WWII
Hewitt, Don, Venango, Korea
Higgins, Berle L., Pierce,
Hinkel, Danny E., Hartington, Vietnam
Hinnegan, James C., Chappell, Vietnam
Hoesche, Francis A., Friend, Vietnam
Hoiekvam, Richard A., Omaha, Vietnam
Homolka, Byron, Wilber
Hove, Andrew C. Jr., Lincoln, Vietnam
Huscher, Dwaine E., Cedar Bluffs, WWII
Jaax, Quentin, Shelby, WWII
Jackson, Lester E., Riverton, Vietnam
Johannes, Gerald E., Central City, Vietnam
Johnson, John S., Fairbury, WWII
Johnson, Robert G., Omaha, WWII
Jones, Gerald, Central City, Vietnam
Kase, Joseph F., Lincoln, WWII
Kavan, Joie, Morse Bluff, WWII
Kindler, Dean, Tekamah, Lebanon/Grenada
Kircher, Gary L., Utica, Vietnam
Kirschbaum, James L., Deshler, Korea
Klein, Byron, Gering, Vietnam
Kliment, Larry L., Atkinson, Vietnam
Kogl, Clemmens L., Culbertson, Korea
Kucera, Maynard D., Litchfield, Korae
Kuhn, William H., Central City, Korea
Kvasnica, Milo, Wilber, Korea
Lasenieks, Ainavs A., Denton, Vietnam
Leonard, K. R., Bassett
Liedle, Ken, Omaha, Korea
Lueders, Michael J., Beatrice, Vietnam
Malchow, Willard A., Laurel
Maris, Harold, Wauneta, WWII
Martinez, Gregory, Gering, Vietnam
Masat, Gordon, Brunswick, Korea
Mason, Robert E., Laurel, WWII
Matousek, Marcel, Shelby, WII
Mc Guire, Frank, Bassett
McGowen, Jordan D., Utica, Vietnam
McLaughlin, Bill, Edgar, Vietnam
Meints, Paul, Wauneta, WWII
Melton, Lloyd E., Ravenna, Vietnam
Meyer, Leo E., Wisner, WWII
Meyer, Michael Jr., Benson, Korea
Micek, Richard F., Silver Creek, Korea
Micek, Ted, Columbus
Miller, Max R., Palisade
Milliken, Ralph O., Laurel, Korea
Minnick, Gerald, Riverton, WWII
Mitteis, Lyle, Clearwater, WWII
Morlang, Orville A., Ainsworth, Korea
Morrow, James T., St. Paul, Vietnam
Nealon, Thomas J., Greeley, Korea
Nelson, Louis A, Newman Grove, Korea
Neville, Dennis J., McCool Junction, Korea
Nienhueser, Eugene A., Juniata, Korea
Nissen, Gerald, Newman Grove
Norenberg, William H., Fremont, WWII
Nyffeler, Robert, Columbus, Korea
Obermiller, James A., Grand Island, Vietnam
Ohnoutka, Dwain, Lincoln, Korea
Olberding, LuVern L., Stuart, Korea
Olmsted, John I., Gothenburg, Korea
Omeara, Daniel K., Lincoln, Vietnam

Panko, Ervin M., Syracuse, Korea
Panzer, James F., Gordon, Vietnam
Parascand, Tony J., Alliance, WWII
Parkhurst, Donald L., Valentine, WWII
Pasco, Lester D., Louisville, Vietnam
Petersen, Gary N., Tekamah, Vietnam
Petersen, Gerald F., Osmond, Vietnam
Pounds, Roy B., Lyons, WWII
Pratt, Clifford L., Papillion, WWII
Prochaska, William J., Brainard, Korea
Pullen, Thomas D., Central City, Vietnam
Ramirez, Raymond, Dakota City, Vietnam
Randecker, Karl J., Farnam, Korea
Ranslem, Larry, Hooper, Vietnam
Reikofski, Ronald D., Omaha, Vietnam
Rheiner, Robert H., Geneva, Korea
Riha, Ted, Springfield, Vietnam
Rogers, Michael E., Brainard, Vietnam
Rosenberry, David, Shelby
Rutherford, Wayne, Hallam, Vietnam
Salda, Leonard, Wilber
Scheidegger, Sam, Columbus, Korea
Schmaderer, Raymond B., Atkinson, WWII
Schmitz, Robert C., Papillion, Korea
Schmucker, Ernest H., Syracuse, Korea
Schneider, Galen J., Fairbury, Vietnam
Schroedter, Bill, West Point, Vietnam
Schulz, Marvin, Utica, WWII
Schutt, Logan, Norfolk, Korea
Sheppard, Ben L., David City, Vietnam
Shull, Thomas, Central City, WWII
Simpson, Gerald L., Beatrice, Korea
Sloan, Marvin D., Rushville, Korea
Smith, Chuck G., Omaha, WWII
Sorensen, Robert R., Burwell, WWII
Sparks, Everett P., Decatur, Korea
Spier, Larry, Beatrice, Vietnam
Staab, Max D., Arcadia, Korea
Stallbaumer, Kenneth J., Oconto, Vietnam
Stephenson, James E., Humboldt, WWII
Stromp, James, Spalding, Korea
Sukstorf, Ronald, Cedar Bluffs, Vietnam
Svoboda, James J., Wahoo, Vietnam
Tedrow, Norman W., Fairbury, WWII
Tegeler, Ervin, Battle Creek, WWII
Thompson, Norman, Kearney, Korea
Thomsen, Burton L., Hardy, Vietnam
Tice, James H., Lincoln, Korea
Tippery, Glen W., Decatur, Korea
Tracy, Cherie R., Grand Island, Vietnam
Trauernicht, Howard E., Beatrice, WWII
Uhlig, Bobbie C., Omaha, Korea
Vampola, Joe, Springfield, Korea
Vise, Robert A., Wilsonville, WWII
Vogel, Elwood, Gering, Korea
Wade, Richard E., Beatrice, Vietnam
Wagers, Max R., Swanton
Walsh, Alyce Eileen, Omaha, WWII
Weber, John J., Lincoln, WWII
Webster, William R., Callaway, Vietnam
Weiss, Bill G, McCook, Korea
Wingett, Michael D., Bellevue, Vietnam
Worthington, E. W., Millard, Vietnam and SAL
Wrick, Kenneth, Wausa
Yaeger, Richard H., Sutton, WWII

Richad G. Jaeger of Norfolk Post 16 and David A. Bourn of Ponca Post 117 are alive and well.

Events Calendar

October

11-17 Fall Meetings - Indianapolis
14 Columbus Day - Office Closed
31 Halloween

November

3-8 National Legion College - Indianapolis
11 Veterans Day - Office Closed
28-29 Thanksgiving - Office Closed

December

23-25 Christmas Holiday - Office Closed
30-1 New Years Holiday - Office Closed



Curtis Post 95 members presented the colors for the flag raising at the new fire hall. Fire Chief and Sons member Tony Fink and Jim Christensen (both not pictured) raised the flag. Pictured (L to R) Dallas Petersen, Doug Widick, Bill Bryant, Harold Peterson, Gilbert Larson, Adjutant Melvin Shipman, Gerald Huntwork, and Commander Ron Wiiest.

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veterans.nebraska.gov



Norfolk Post 16 Commander Rick Kropf, right, presented Bruce Bounds with a certificate for 50 years of continuous membership.



Howells Post 155 Commander Glen Mlnarik presented Dennis Dostal with a certificate for 50 years of continuous membership.



Silver Creek Post 263 Vice Commander Dan Oppliger, right, presented Elmer Powers with a certificate and pin for 65 years of continuous membership.



Newport Post 227 members celebrated the 100th American Legion Birthday at their Post. Pictured (L to R) Gene McKenney, Jiggs McKenney, Paul Moore, Commander Dick Munk, and Adjutant Bob Doke.



Beaver City Post 28 presented Quilts of Valor made by US Army veteran Moiya Stubbs to their members. Pictured is WWII veteran Don Woodruff. Other quilts were presented to Larry Daniels, Cletus Coffey, Milan Johnson, and Michael Oliver.



Shubert Post 222 presented a certificate for 65 years of continuous membership to Marvin Dettman.



Crawford Post 138 presented 50 year certificates and pins to their members. Pictured (L to R) Floyd Serres and Gene Von Forell. Not pictured Pat Drinkwalter.



Falls City Post 102 presented awards to their local Police, Firefighter, and EMS members. Pictured (L to R) James Liming, Jim Gerweck, EMT Award; John McQueen, Kenny Simpson Award for Firefighting; Zach Radcliffe, Roger Schulenberg Award for Law Enforcement; and Shawna Bindle, Falls City Mayor.



Daykin Post 198 presented its only surviving WWII veteran with a Quilt of Valor. Pictured (L to R) Lance Hamm, Maurice Costello, Quilt Presenter Deb Ebke, and Commander David Endorf.



Stuart Post and Unit 115 celebrated The American Legion's 100th birthday with a float to show their pride in the American Legion. Pictured (L to R) Asst. Sgt-at-Arms Doug Frahm and District 2 Commander Robert Campbell.



Mason City Post 142 Commander Lyle Lovitt presented certificates and pins for 50 years of continuous membership to Edith Deuel and Eugene Burns.



Weeping Water Post 237 presented 14 certificates for continuous membership to its members. Pictured (L to R) Carl Dahl, 50 years; Ralph Hyde, 50 years; Commander William Cover II; and Richard Homan, 50 years. 50 year certificates were also given to Roger Buck, William Duff, Leroy Furry, Luther Gunnels, Wayne Lewis, Terry Mather, Steven Murphy, James Potts, Richard Stander, and Ronnie Wohlers. A 70 year certificate was given to Gerald Stander.



Orleans Post 184 color guard members marched in the Alma 4th of July Parade. Pictured (L to R) Ron Imm, Don Simpson, Duane Bantam, and Billy Schoneburg.



Petersburg Post 334 Commander Hank Thieman presented Ralph Pelster a certificate for 50 years of membership.



Valley Post 58 recognized their three Boys' State delegates with a certificate and medal. Pictured (L to R) William Marr, Jonathan Beyl, Jackson Billings, and Commander Dick Rowe.



The American Legion Auxiliary Department of Nebraska

The Star

October-November 2019



WORDS FROM THE PRESIDENT



This is the fun time of year, like Fall Roundups when we get to visit with our old friends and meet new friends. Make sure to take advantage of your District meeting. There is a lot of information to gather. Come

and meet the new and returning Chairmen and Department Officers.

Don't miss out on Dollar Days. What a treat it is to be able to visit with our veterans in our VA Homes and Medical Centers. It is nice when you can take a moment and ask their story. Each story is inspiring and gives you the reason why you are an Auxiliary member.

November is also the month for Veterans Day and Thanksgiving. How suitable that these two holidays are in the same month. Without the sacrifice of our veterans, we would not have the right to "Give Thanks" for all the blessings we have received. So, it is up to us to make sure that every veteran we meet feels honored and appreciated. It is up to us to not let any veteran

feel forgotten or neglected. They should know how grateful we are.

After all, "veterans are our soul and hearts inspiration;" and "together we can inspire and empower." Because our veterans "gave a slice with a price," it is up to us to "always remember."

*Elizabeth Paes
Department President*



HAPPY BIRTHDAY AMERICAN LEGION AUXILIARY!

LET'S CELEBRATE!!



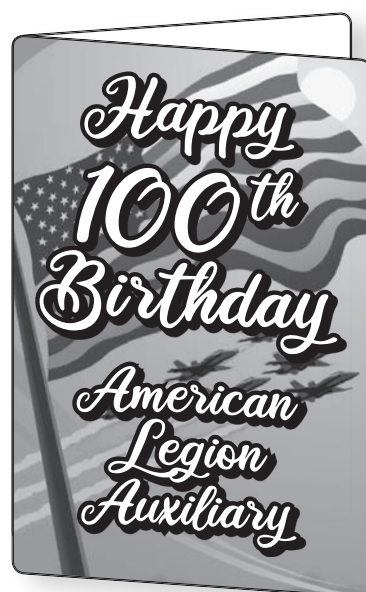
Last year was the 100th birthday of The American

Legion, and many units helped them celebrate. On November 10, 2019, the American Legion Auxiliary will celebrate 100 years of serving our veterans and their families.

There are many ideas on how to celebrate this historic event. Check the American Legion Auxiliary website at <https://www.alaforveterans.org/Resources/Marketing---Promotional-Materials/> and

download the "Centennial Media Toolkit - 100 Years of Service Not Self." This kit is 14 pages of information including a sample proclamation, press release, radio PSA, and lots of other ways to celebrate 100 years of Service Not Self.

*Donna Hatfield
100th Celebration Chr.*



Congratulations to The Nebraska Legionnaire Editor Amanda Washburn and The Auxiliary Star Editor Lorene Bartos for receiving the 1st place George W. Hooten Award for Department newspapers with a circulation over 40,000. Congratulations, also, to Vicki Cyboron for receiving the 2nd place Robert L. Morrill Award for the District 6 Facebook page. Pictured, l-r, are Lorene, Amanda, and Vicki.



Hello, Members.

The 99th National Convention of the American Legion Auxiliary was held in our headquarters city --- Indianapolis, Indiana --- August 23-29, 2019. When the credentials report was given, there were 739 registered delegates to convention. Nebraska had 26 attending. Those in attendance were Kathy Mazur, Beverly Neel, Elizabeth Paes, Barb Meyer, Vicki Ozenbaugh, Pat Wiseman, Lisa Moore, Deb Albers, Virginia Nelsen, Amanda Washburn, Barb Washburn, Donna Hatfield, Cathy

NATIONAL CONVENTION

Day, Adeline Hanel, Tina Nelson, Sharon Scott, Leatrice Doolen, Marge Suchy, Vicki Cyboron, Lorene Bartos, Judy Schwab, Lori Reimers, Lindsay Brown, Mariah Karson, Lynne Wild, and Kathryn Cyboron. Adeline and Tina served as Department Pages to National Convention.

The Nebraska Caucus was held on Friday evening, August 22nd, where our members received their tickets to various events, learned about matters coming before the NEC, and received assignments to pre-convention meetings. These meetings were held on Saturday morning, August 23rd, with each designated delegate reporting on her meeting and collecting any awards for Nebraska. Elsewhere

in this issue are the awards and recognitions given to the Department of Nebraska and/or its units and members. We did fairly well again this year, ladies. We can only succeed if we record and report what we do, who we are, and why it matters --- as that is how the Department can shine for each member's work throughout the year. So, start now and get those details recorded for 2020.

On Saturday afternoon, the delegation attended the Northwestern Division (NWD) Caucus chaired by NWD National Vice President Barb Vetter (South Dakota). Beverly Neel (Nebraska) served as Chaplain. There were 151 delegates in attendance (Colorado 14; Minnesota 44; Montana 7; Nebraska 25; North Dakota 29; South

Continued on Pg. 4...

2018-2019 NATIONAL CONVENTION AWARDS

Americanism

Northwestern Division Department Americanism Program - Nebraska
Northwestern Americanism Essay Class III - Jacob Panko
Northwestern Americanism Essay Class IV - Morissa Preister
Northwestern Americanism Essay Class V - Katie Lewis
Northwestern Americanism Essay Class VI - Nate Rask

Education

Northwestern Division Outstanding Unit Program - Pleasant Dale Unit 354

Junior Activities

Northwestern Division Outstanding Unit Junior Activities Program - Dorchester Unit 264

Leadership

Northwestern Division Outstanding Unit Leadership Program - Callaway Unit 59

Membership

Recruit-Rejoin 5 - Mary Ann Boldt and Beverly Neel

Public Relations

Northwestern Division Outstanding Public Relations Program - Melissa Steinle - Millard Unit 374

Unit that developed a new Website or Social Media - Melissa Steinle - Millard Unit 374

Poppy

Northwestern Division - Best Department Poppy Program

CELEBRATING & SHARING A CENTURY OF SERVICE

Are you ready for this? The Centennial Year of the American Legion Auxiliary has arrived. It is time for us to "celebrate" and "share" our story.

What an exciting year to serve as Historian! The 100th Anniversary of The American Legion Auxiliary! The ALA was "birthed" during the first national convention of the American Legion on November 10, 1919. During this Centennial year, we will be "Looking to the Future with Pride in the Past" (President Elizabeth Paes' theme). Our "20/20 Vision" (Membership Chairman Kimberly Gurley's theme) will provide us the opportunity to recognize our mission of "in the spirit of service, not self." This will lead us to "Celebrating a Century of Service" (National President Nicole Clapp's theme).

Per our National Program: "The heart of any organization's history is in its records --- items that officers, members, directors, staff, and volunteers have produced and compiled over the years. They provide unique testimony to the achievement of an organization."

As your unit makes plans to celebrate this Centennial year, remember to record your events. A Monthly Reporting Form will be available in the 2019-2020 ABC Book to help

you document your activities through the year. If you complete these each month at your meetings, you will have the information you need to complete the Mid-Year and End-of-Year reports with ease. The ABC Book will provide you with ideas for creating your Centennial history.

Don't forget your own story. Answer the following to begin your Auxiliary story:

1. Your name
2. The year you joined the American Legion Auxiliary
3. Your Unit Name and Number
4. How did your Unit get its name
5. When was your Unit chartered
6. Your County
7. Your County President
8. Your District Number
9. Your District President
10. Your Department President
11. How many members of your family belong to the Legion Family
12. Something special your Unit has done that stands out in your mind
13. Why do you belong

As Theodore Roosevelt said, "The more you know about the past, the better prepared you are for the future." So, this year I challenge you to read your unit's history and to write your unit's history. We will be "Celebrating and Sharing a Century of Service."

*Vicki Ozenbaugh
Department Historian*

NE - ALPA
NEBRASKA AMERICAN LEGION PRESS ASSOCIATION

In 1922, then National Adjutant Lemuel Bolles appointed William Richie, Jr., an Omaha lawyer, as chairman of a special committee to consider the organization of a National American Legion Press Association. The following year, NALPA was established with 20 department and local publications forming the initial membership. The Nebraska American Legion Press Association (NE-ALPA) started in 1965. The optimal goal of

NE-ALPA is to promote The Legion Family throughout the different media channels. To achieve this goal, our association wants to help provide educational training to help everyone at the local level through the department level and provide media promotional information. Each one of us have different skills that can help all of us to achieve promoting The American Legion Family, so I ask that you join us. Please contact the Department

American Legion Office about more information. Or, contact me, and I would be happy to answer any questions you may have. Membership for NE-ALPA is \$5.00 per year. If you would also like to join the NALPA for \$15.00 per year, the total membership cost will be \$20.00. Vicki Cyboron 2019-2020 NE-ALPA President

2019-2020 CENTERPIECE AND TRAY FAVOR ASSIGNMENTS							
Month	Grand Island VA Med Center 10 Centerpiece	Central NE Veterans Home 215 Tray Fav	Bellevue Eastern NE VA Home 24 Centerpiece	Norfolk VA Home 20 Centerpiece	Western NE VA Home 13 Centerpiece	Western NE VA Home 90 Tray Fav	Omaha VA Med Center 75 Tray Fav
Oct.	#38 Ord	#310 Gibbon	#3 Lincoln	#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	#353 Louisville	#357 Brunswick	#17 Sidney	#17 Sidney	#222 Shubert
Jan.	#198 Daykin	#141 Hampton		#183 Friend	#183 Friend		#49 Utica
Feb.	#176 Blue Hill	#316 Elm Creek	#264 Dorchester Sr.	#283 Platte Center	#133 Culbertson	#133 Culbertson	#354 Pleasant Dale
March	#126 Broken Bow	#209 Franklin		#357 Brunswick	#7 Alliance	#264 Dorchester Jrs.	#1 Omaha
April	#250 Oconto	#250 Oconto	#154 Blair	#222 Monroe		#364 Naponee	
May	#110 Dwight	Distric 6 Juniors	#303 Paxton Jr	#243 Plymouth			#232 Malmo
June		#296 Shelby	#335 Davenport	#326 Osmond		Nebraska Jrs.	#232 Malmo
July			#3 Lincoln	#302 Leigh	#12 Chadron	#12 Chadron	#222 Shubert
Aug.					#17 Sidney	#17 Sidney	
Sept.				#302 Leigh			
Service to Veterans Chairwoman: Vicki Colson Ph:(308)289-4836 Email: colson.vicki@yahoo.com							



NATIONAL EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE REPORT

The pre-convention National Executive Committee (NEC) meeting for the 2019 National Convention in Indianapolis convened on August 24. The first order of business was the consent agenda of charter cancellations of units. Although 21 new charters were granted and 6 charters reinstated, 150 charters were submitted for cancellation, including three Nebraska units – Holdrege Unit 66, Long Pine Unit 260, and Trenton Unit 337. The national governing board and leadership presented revised Strategic Planning Goals for the 2019 – 2020 year, which were adopted by the NEC. 1. Cultivate a variety of mission engagement opportunities. 2. Enhance

organizational effectiveness of departments and units. 3. Recruit and retain members through mission engagement. 4. Ensure financial stewardship of resources to maximize mission delivery. 5. Enhance and foster the family relationship with The American Legion. To achieve these goals, new and continuing projects were addressed. To encourage training at all levels, Mission Training expands from six to eight sites in order to provide more opportunity for unit members to attend. To address the sizable turn over in department secretaries, a pilot program to provide on-site, 3-day training on basic duties and use of ALA MIS at 10 sites was implemented. National

will continue to facilitate the Department Leadership National Conference (DLNC) and conduct the Department Organizational Effectiveness Training; propose joint marketing ventures with The American Legion to recruit and retain members; and build the relationship by returning to the DC Conference. At the post-convention NEC meeting on August 29, National President Nicole Clapp presented her list of 2019–2020 appointments for program chairwomen and committee members which was approved. Serving from Nebraska this year: NATIONAL: ALA Girls Nation Member - Gwen Crawford; Education Chair - Debra Albers; Education 2nd Year Member -



In a very touching moment at our August meeting of Unit 56, Plattsmouth Post 56 Legionnaire Jerry Blackwell presented Myrna Hale with a Memorial Flag in honor of her husband, Billy, who died earlier this year. Billy was a long-time Legionnaire who worked many hours for the American Legion.

AMERICANISM

Ladies, you need to be proud of Nebraska and all that you did to make the Americanism Program a success this past year. At the National Convention, Nebraska was recognized for having the “Best Americanism Program;” and this is due to you and all of the stories and pictures you sent to me so that I could include that in my yearend report. Nebraska also was a shining example of accomplishments with the Americanism Essay Contest. There are 6 levels in the contest, and Nebraska received 1st place

in 4 of the 6. Specifically, first place in class 3, 4, 5, and 6. This is due to you paying attention to the guidelines for the contest and promoting it in the schools. At the convention, I was asked to share why we were so successful --- and I was very proud to do that. I once again encourage you to send me your stories along with pictures. You do so much in the communities, so share your stories. Let’s have another banner year.

Sharon Scott
Americanism Chr.

Amanda Washburn; and Leadership Vice Chair - Beverly Neel. NORTHWESTERN DIVISION: ALA Girls Nation Chair - Kristi Nohavec; Americanism Chair - Virginia Nelsen; Community Service Chair - Donna Hatfield; Poppy Chair -Angela Foster; Public Relations Chair - Mariah Karson; and VA&R Chair - Barbara Washburn. Finance Committee Chair, Past National President Sharon Conatser, presented the general budget for the 2019 – 2020 fiscal year. Although I voiced concern over the budget as presented, it was ultimately approved by the majority. Also approved was the American Legion Auxiliary Foundation budget for the year.

With the passage of The Legion Act opening membership into The American Legion, it has also given The American Legion Auxiliary a new source for members. Also, during their Convention, The American Legion adopted a resolution to allow male spouses of female Legionnaires to join the Auxiliary which provides another new source. Too many members have been lost over the years; let’s take advantage of these opportunities! Kathy Mazur National Executive Committeewoman

ALA REPRESENTED AT NATIONAL GUARD YELLOW RIBBON EVENT

On Saturday, September 7, while the Sea of Red was gathering in Colorado and a river of the Legion family was gathering in Wilber, I got to speak with a river of green. A Welcome Home session was held for the Nebraska Air and Army Guard at the Cornhusker Marriot Hotel in Lincoln. These service personnel had recently returned from deployments. It wasn’t just the soldiers, either. While there were 81 service members, there were also 47 family members. Their spouses and their children were included because they serve during these deployments, even

if they don’t put on the uniform. Also there were representatives from financial institutions, the Department of Labor (for employment assistance), Veterans Administration departments, a Veterans Service Officer, and other civic or veteran service organizations who were available to share information during the break times. I had a great “partner in crime” that day in Chris Casey, who is the Detachment Sr Vice Commander for the SAL and a Legion Rider. We got to speak with several couples and families about the benefits of joining the American Legion

family. One couple we spoke with was particularly interested in our Youth Programs as they have a 2 ½ year old, and I think they want her to understand why Daddy’s service is so important. Another couple I talked to said they knew LITTLE TO NOTHING about the Legion Family and how important we are to service personnel and our communities. My favorite conversation was with a wife whose husband didn’t want a big “hoopla” for his return, but the Norfolk ALR made sure he had an escort into their small town that every soldier deserves. While they have not yet joined the Legion family, I gave

them more insight into what we do. Chris and I handed out around 25 packets with pamphlets covering the Legion family. Will these conversations gain membership out of every person Chris and I spoke to? Probably not, and that’s okay. The important factor was that we were there and reminded people that, as a group, we are still here and working for them. During a community event, gaining members is a great thing --- but don’t lose heart if no one says “Sign me up right now!” Sometimes, a person needs to hear about that one program that would captivate their interest. Sometimes,

they need to feel a connection to the “recruiter” they are talking to. Maybe they just had too much on their schedule before. Don’t lose faith. Keep talking about this great organization. They say it only takes an ember to start a wildfire. I hope Chris or I was that ember if only for a couple members. If not, it (as always) was an honor to bring awareness to the American Legion Auxiliary. Jody Schmale

2019-2020 DISTRICT PRESIDENTS - CORRECTED



District 1
Jean Vackiner



District 2
Wendy Wieseler



District 3
Ruth Greenough



District 4
Teri Poley



District 5
Vicki Colson



District 6
Angie Foster



District 7
Ruth Hottovy



District 8
Rosie Pringle



District 9
Liana Rich



District 10
Tammie Runions



District 11
Arlis Hohl



District 12
Cathy Day



District 13
Linda Patchen

COLLECTING POP TABS

The Children and Youth Committee would like everyone to keep collecting your pop tabs and/or cans for the Rainbow House or the new Fischer House. The only change this year is that we will not be collecting them at Department Convention in Kearney.

We are asking the units and posts to take the tabs and cans that

you have collected to your local recycling center and cash them in --- and then bring your check to the Department Convention.

A check for \$584.82 was presented to the Rainbow House this year, and they were very grateful to receive it. We encourage everyone to continue saving your aluminum cans and tabs; our donations do

make a difference. If you cannot make it to the convention, you can mail your check to the Children and Youth Chairmen.

Don and Marge Suchy
1589 Little Salt Rd
Valparaiso, NE 68065

Marge Suchy
Children & Youth Chr.

ALA GIRLS STATE - 2020



Cornhusker Girls State is coming May 31 – June 6!

January would be a good time to go to your local schools and talk to the Junior girls about what Girls State is and how it can change their lives for the better.

We will have room for a maximum of 410 girls. The cost to send a girl was \$375 last year, and the cost for 2020 will be similar --- but will most likely be increasing due to increasing facility and hospitality costs. The 2020 cost will be set after the Executive Council has their planning meeting this winter. You can do a fundraiser or ask a business or service club or Girls State Alumnus for help. Donations to help support this program may be made to an Auxiliary unit by anyone.

Girls State information will be coming to the units the first part of January. The deadline to get the

application submitted is March 1, 2020. Now, I know we are all busy, but that gives you over a month and a half to get this done. Please get them in by the deadline. This will give Roxanne some time to process the paper work and get the acceptance letters back to the units. Also, make a copy of the application and signed Pledge sheet for future reference if needed.

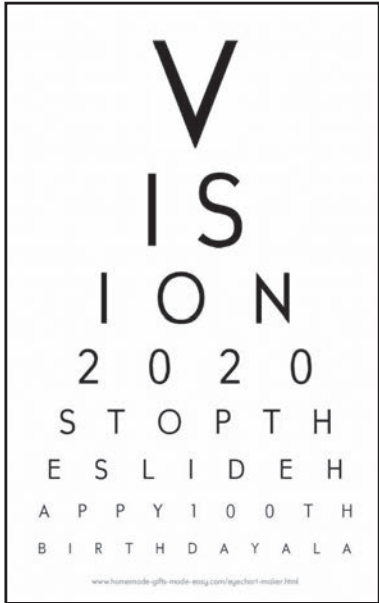
Some of the District Orientations start around April 5. If your delegate cannot make it to your District Orientation, she can go to another district's orientation. Orientations are important as this is where the girls learn more about Girls State and what is expected from them. It also gives them time to ask any questions they may have. Parents are also welcome to attend.

When you interview your girls, make sure they know that there is no leaving Girls State early --- especially for the ACT Test.

Volunteers will be needed again to help with the elections.

Nicole Vance
Girls State Chairman

VISION 2020



Do you know the “Vision Statement” for the American Legion Auxiliary? It is to support The American Legion while becoming the premier service organization and foundation of every community providing support for our veterans, our military, and their families by shaping a positive future in an atmosphere of fellowship, patriotism, peace, and security.

What better way can we support our veterans, our military, and their families than to grow our membership. Currently, the Department of Nebraska stands at 14.9% towards our vision of 100% membership. This includes 62 new members!

We have the opportunity to sign up more members than ever. Not only with the “LEGION Act, but also during the American Legion National Convention in Indianapolis in August, delegates of The American Legion voted to replace the word “wife” with

“spouse” in their constitution and bylaws, opening up membership in the American Legion Auxiliary. You can continue to use the old membership forms. Just write in “The Legion Act” where it asks “Veteran Served,” and write in “Male Spouse” in “relationship to veteran,” if applicable.

All the district presidents and their membership chairmen (it may be the District Vice president) should have shared or will be sharing soon with each unit their 2020 membership goals.

If you joined us in Wilber for Leadership School, I am sure you saw some wonderful “Elevator” speeches. Do you have your “Elevator Speech” ready to share? It does not need to be complicated, and only needs to last 2-3 minutes. If you missed it, you can find more information about elevator speeches at alaforveterans.org

Upcoming awards:

- 10 X 10: Members who recruit 10 new junior or senior Auxiliary members by November 10th, 2019, will be entered in a drawing for \$1000, specifically to attend the 2020 ALA National Convention.... plus, two States Dinner tickets. You will want to have this form to Headquarters by November 3rd to make sure it gets entered in ALAMIS.
- Units at 25% membership by November 10th (ALA Birthday) can get the “Farsighted” Vision award.

Please forward a report to me on how you are helping to “Stop the Slide” by December 15th so that I may include it in our midyear report to National.

Thank you for all you do! You, as a member, are our most valuable asset. Thank you for all your work on helping “Stop the Slide”.

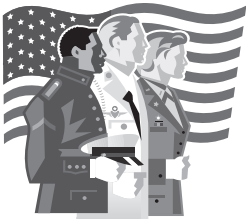
Kimberly Gurley
Membership

DIST.	DIST. NAME	DIST. PRES.	GOAL %
1	I See Clearly	Jean Vackiner	18.4%
2	Eye of the Tiger	Wendy Wieseler	31.55%
3	I Can't Take My Eyes Off of You	Ruth Greenough	20.29%
4	I Only Have Eyes for You	Teri Poley	10.36%
5	Hungry Eyes	Vicki Colson	1.74%
6	When Can I See You Again?	Angie Foster	8.76%
7	Betty Davis Eyes	Ruth Hottovy	21.73%
8	Private Eyes	Rosie Pringle	10.72%
9	I See the Light	Liana Rich	8.5%
10	Look at Us	Tammie Runions	14.49%
11	Cotton Eye Joe	Arlis Hohl	12.71%
12	My Eyes Adore You	Cathy Day	11.22%
13	Fix My Eyes	Linda Patchen	20.58%



Havelock Unit 342 is working on a comeback, revitalizing, and looking for more participation.

Officers for the 2019-2020 year are pictured (l to r) with Lancaster County President and Installing Officer Lynne Wild. Lancaster County Vice President Diane White; Lynne Wild; Unit 342 President Gloria Asch; Unit 342 Vice President Dee Bechtolt, Treasurer Karen Trautwein; and Chaplain Violet Sorensen. Not pictured is Secretary Eileen Rich.



American Legion Auxiliary Unit 147 and Post 147 members and guests gathered at Veterans and Friends in Crete for the annual covered dish picnic.

Certificates of continuous membership were presented to the following Auxiliary members. Pictured, l to r, are: Doris Galbraith (45 years); Kay Clark (25 years); Roberta Strain (45 years); Diana Pomajzl (55 years); Theresa Vernon (70 years); and Judy Bepalec (70 years). Others receiving certificates but not in attendance were Evelyn Buzek, Janice Johns, Brenda Klanderud, Sharon Kovar, Helen Kowalke, Ruth Rosecrans, and Lorrie Strufing.

FROM THE SECRETARY’S DESK

The September newsletter went out on Friday, September 6th. Inside was some very important information. Please make sure if it isn’t shared at a meeting that you ask about it. This information is not secret.

- The following were sent out.
- Veteran Home Assessment (Salmon)
 - Gift Shop Assessment (Goldenrod)
 - General Donation Sheets (Blue)
 - VA&R Donations (Green)
 - Poppy Order (Pink)
 - Gift for Yanks (Yellow)
 - ALAMIS Access Form
 - Updates to your directory.
 - Answers to some questions concerning the new membership guidelines for the Legion and how it affects the Auxiliary.
 - Membership award information.
 - A sample questionnaire to use at membership booths.
 - Gift Shop and Dollar Days Dates
 - National Security dates to remember.

If you are sent a colored paper, please send the colored paper back, keep any white copies for yourselves. Thank you.

Pay special attention to the scholarships. Let the schools in your area know about the new forms.

- Scholarship Applications
- Averyl Keriakedes
 - Career and Technical Education
 - Nurse’s
 - Roberta Marie Stretch
 - Ruby Lorraine Paul
 - Ruby Paul
 - Viola Heinrich
 - Jr Member Loyalty

Please destroy all old applications. The new ones are on the website. (ALA in Print – Forms) Old applications WILL NOT be accepted.

Please send in your State Life/Permanent members. You don’t pay for these members; the Department does. I have no way of knowing if they are alive

and well unless you send me their names. Thanks for your cooperation.

Thank you to all who donated to the quilt raffle. We made \$241 at Leadership School. There will be a raffle at mid-Year for a metal cut out of the Auxiliary Emblem --- and several others. Tickets are \$1 each. You may contact the office, send a check, or buy tickets at District Fall Meetings.

As soon as the ABC Book pages are ready, they will be sent out. I am still waiting on several chairmen to get me their pages. This year, only chairmen, officer, and new forms will be sent out. If you are needing a whole book, they are \$15 dollars each. Thanks for understanding.

Please, if you have questions, ask. Jody and I are always available at 402-466-1808 or email: neaux@windstream.net.

Lisa Moore
Department Secretary

DATES TO REMEMBER

October

- 14 Columbus Day- Department Headquarters Closed
- 26 Make-A-Difference Day
- 31 Halloween

November

- 3 Daylight Savings Time Ends
- 10 Happy 100th Birthday American Legion Auxiliary
- 11 Veterans Day
- 28 Thanksgiving Day - Department Headquarters Closed
- 29 Department Headquarters Closed

For Your Advanced Planning

- Jan. 10-12, 2020 Mid-Year Convention, Ramada, Kearney, NE
- May 31-June 6, 2020 ALA Cornhusker Girls State - UNL - Lincoln, NE
- June 25-28, 2020 Department Convention, Ramada, Kearney, NE
- Aug. 28-Sep. 3, 2020 National Convention, Louisville, KY

In Memoriam

Received August 9 to September 10, 2019

Joan S Kershner.....Creighton.....	74	Delores Short.....Gretna.....	216
Eunice BrodahlWahoo.....	82	Dee BarkleyGretna.....	216
Betty J MajorsOsceola.....	91	Glenda L KempNiobrara.....	224
Irene Pelican.....Palmer.....	120	Lola Speirs.....Hay Springs.....	239
Elenor A Santin.....Palmer.....	120	Elvera Varvel.....Hay Springs.....	239
Loris A DoncheskePalmer.....	120	Carol J RempferWinside.....	252
Evalyne M Walters.....Sterling.....	140	Deborah A RitzeWinside.....	252
Veronica Schnell.....Crete.....	147	Margaret BehrendtBennington.....	266
Hanne L Wolf.....Rushville.....	162	Rita D BishopSpalding.....	299
Evelyn V Reed.....North Platte.....	163	Marcella M Busse.....Leigh.....	302
Gloria L Hall.....Palmyra.....	195	Shirley J Carr.....Gibbon.....	310
Patricia Hoefs.....Wood Lake.....	202	Thelma Frederick.....Gretna.....	216
Thelma Frederick.....Gretna.....	216	Valetta LeftwichMorse Bluff.....	340

National Convention Continued from Pg. 1...

Dakota 21; and Wyoming 11). The 2019-2020 Department Secretaries and Presidents were introduced with the Presidents revealing their themes for the year. The newly elected NWD Vice President is Rhonda Larkowski from Colorado.

Several members attended special events such as Chaplain’s Breakfast, Woman of the Year Luncheon, Commander’s Banquet, and the States’ Dinner (which is the National President’s banquet). The traditional parade was held on Sunday afternoon, August 25th, with most delegates on the parade route in the formation or as spectators. The Tri-Stack Party (Nebraska, South Dakota, and North Dakota) was held Sunday evening following the parade with South Dakota as host and the North Dakota Legion Family Band providing entertainment.

Monday was the official opening of the Auxiliary’s National Convention. Upon recess, there were opportunities for delegates to attend one of three breakout workshops in the afternoon. This writer attended the one on ALA Foundation Grants and the importance of our donations to and our search to receive grant funds for projects within the Department. Take time to find more information on the National website regarding these grants. This particular workshop had a lot of audience participation, and the facilitators did not have to rely upon “planted questions” in the audience to keep the momentum of this workshop moving forward. This was a very informative and pro-active workshop and a good example of members stepping forward and asking that one question that perhaps another 30 or more had but did not ask.

This writer is on the National Leadership Committee in 2019-2020, and Chair Diana Sirovina held a pre-introductory session of its members. One task before this committee is to revamp the current 100-question Leadership Course – so any suggestions would be welcomed from our Nebraska members to help ease us into this process. Being a leader does not mean you have a title or serve in a capacity other than our basic

unit member --- first and foremost. We are all leaders just by being a member and getting involved. A title does not get your foot in the door any quicker or easier than just being yourself and knowing who we are, what we do, and why it matters. We are hopeful the “fear” of moving forward with ideas, questions, and answers will be eased and each member feels at home. Is that not what we all wish to see? It is doable, and this committee is hoping it can be a prime guiding point to member involvement.

Second First Lady Karen Pence was our guest on Wednesday morning, August 28th, along with a surprise visit from Vice President Mike Pence. Both were so gracious and thankful for the work of The American Legion Family. In the afternoon, Vice President Pence addressed The American Legion, and many of our Auxiliary members were able to attend.

Wednesday wrapped up the official 2019 National Convention with the installation of officers for the 2019-2020 centennial year of the American Legion Auxiliary. Our new slate of officers include National President Nicole Clapp (Iowa); Vice President Kathy Daudistel (Kentucky); Chaplain Mary Anne Casadei (New York) and Historian Peggy Monroe (Tennessee).

National President Kathy Dungan (Mississippi) had a wonderful year, and her convention was great to be a part of. She has some great memories; and yes, ladies, she did mention our “Purses with a Purpose” campaign and once again thanked all the Departments for their hospitality and having her visit the Departments.

The 2020 National Convention will be held in Louisville, Kentucky; and we are looking forward to another great convention as it will be our 100th. And, as you know, if we do the work – we record it and report it. Start today; and, once again, plan to attend a National Convention.

Beverly A. Neel
2019 National Convention
Delegation Chair

MUSIC OF THANKSGIVING



October makes us think of apple-picking and praying for a bountiful and safe harvest. It is also when we think of small hands knocking on our doors at Halloween. So, let us begin our October meetings by thanking our God for the all the blessings we receive.

November brings us to Veterans Day and Thanksgiving. Without the sacrifices of our veterans, we would not have the right to celebrate the gifts for which we give thanks. Then, let us celebrate our veterans by singing about the Flag for which they fought.

Now Thank We All Our God

Now thank we all our God,
With heart and hands and voices
Who wondrous things has done,
In whom this world rejoices;
Who from our mothers’ arms
Has blessed us on our way
With countless gifts of love,
And still is ours today.

O may this bounteous God
Through all our life be near us,
With ever joyful hearts
And blessed peace to cheer us;
And keep us still in grace,
And guide us when perplexed;
And free us from all ills,
In this world and the next.

You’re a Grand Old Flag

You’re a grand old flag,
You’re a high flying flag
And forever in peace may you wave.
You’re the emblem of
The land I love.
The home of the free and the brave.
Ev’ry heart beats true
‘neath the Red, White, and Blue,
Where there’s never a boast or brag.
Should auld acquaintance be forgot,
Keep your eye on the grand old flag.

George M. Cohan

Louise Wheeler,
Music Chairman

OMAHA VAMC PICNIC

“THANK YOU” to the American Legion family for the help they gave our veterans and everyone at the Omaha VAMC’s 3rd Annual Picnic in July. We served about 450 Veterans, their families, and staff who were veterans. Thanks to the posts and units who donated money to make this a successful day!

Our next big event is the “Giving Tree” during Veterans Week, November 5th to 7th, in the lobby at the hospital. We are asking any American Legion post, Auxiliary unit, or individual to donate a \$25 or more gift card (s) to the tree. These gift cards will be sold for \$20, and the money collected will be used for a project (TBA) for the hospital. All the organizations that serve the hospital will be contributing to this project.

Send gift cards to Rose Sheehy, 535 S 37th St., Apt 212, Omaha, NE 68105 by Oct 15th.

Rose Sheehy and Rae Woltman
VA&R Representatives



Past Department Commander Jim Costello, who served as Master of Ceremonies for the Wooten-Paes Homecoming in Wilber on September 7th, is believed to be the first male member of the Nebraska American Legion Auxiliary. He was signed up by Auxiliary member Tina Nelson in Indianapolis shortly after the American Legion Convention adopted changes to its Constitution & Bylaws to make the “spouses” of Legionnaires eligible for the Auxiliary.

CHAPLAIN’S CORNER

“For I know the plans I have for you,” declares the Lord. “Plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future.” Jeremiah 29:11 (NIV)

As we arrive home from celebrating our past at National Convention and plan for the next year of our mission, these are good words to remember. God is on our side. He wants us to be successful in sharing our time, talents, and blessings. He has given us help with our veterans, soldiers and their families, and our young people in the past. We have only to ask for His help in the future. We can go forward with hope and be committed in all we do.

Prayer ~ Heavenly Father, thank you for showering us with blessings. Guide us as we make plans for the coming year. Please help us find new members to join us and keep those members that we have. Be with our soldiers and their families. Keep them safe. We also ask for Your help to serve our veterans to the best of our ability. In Jesus name we pray. Amen

Pat Wiseman
Chaplain



The Dorchester Legion Family participated in the Wilber Czech Days parades with a float celebrating the 100th Birthday of the American Legion. Riding on the float (l to r) were: Auxiliary member Emma Kasl; Junior members Aleah, Kendal, and Quinn Kasl; SAL member Steve Ottman, and Legionnaires Roger Stehlik and Mike Stehlik.

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 November 10, 2019