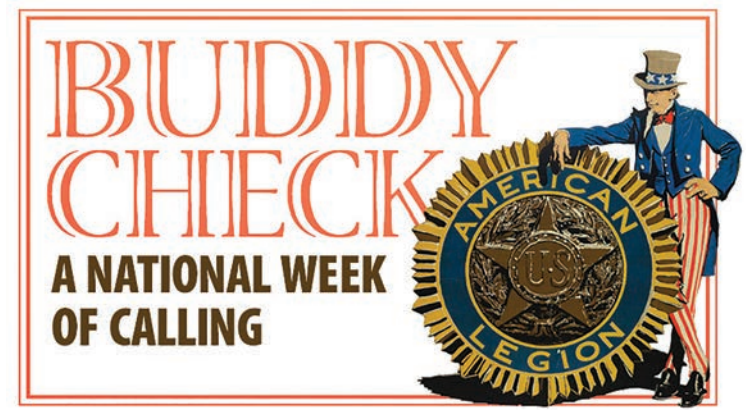




Getting Back to Basics



Since The American Legion was started back in 1919, a personal touch has always been the way our membership has continued to grow and people knew who The American Legion was in their community. Over the last few decades, that personal connection with members has tapered off and we have seen a steady decline in our membership and a less prominent role in our local communities. If this continues to happen, The American Legion may no longer be the organization people know it as today and our programs will continue to suffer. It is up to the grassroots Legionnaires to step up and get back to the basics of reconnecting with former and current members and connecting with new members through Buddy Checks.

Started by Past National Commander Brett Reistad, Buddy Check is a way for members to join together to strengthen their Post and let those members who have lapsed know that they are still wanted. For many, when their membership lapsed, they did not realize they had forgotten to renew their membership, they may not have been able to pay their dues at that time, or they didn't know what their dues were going towards and didn't think that it was important. Buddy Checks are exactly

how they sound, checking in all of your "buddies" in the community. Maybe they need assistance but don't know who to ask or were waiting for someone to make a call, visit, or send them a card to let them know they are wanted.

Organizing a Buddy Check can be done in less than ten steps. First, you need to gather up a team of Legion members to help with the project. Next, get a list of former and current members in the Post from MyLegion.org or Headquarters. After you have the list, split it up between the members in your group. Once everyone has their lists, start making connections through phone calls, door to door visits, letters, or emails. Start the conversation off with who you are and ask them how they have been doing and let the member know that they are missed at the Post, the impact their dues have on your Post programs and activities, and any events or activities that you have coming up. Next, ask the member if they are wanting to renew their dues and the steps that they can take to do so. Finally, thank them for their time and let them know that The American Legion is there if they ever need anything.

During Spring Meetings in May 2019, a Resolution was passed to make the week of Veterans Day and the week of The American Legion Birthday, March 15, "A National Week of Calling". It is the hope that making these personal connections with former and current members will help everyone know who The American Legion is and the programs that are offered to both veterans and children in the community. We encourage every Post to make those calls and connections in your community. If your Post wishes to host a Buddy Check event, contact Membership Chairman Steve Bartos, Commander Gary Wooten, or Headquarters for more information.

2020 Mid-Year Conference Make Your Reservations Now



The 2020 Mid-Year Conference will be held January 10-12, 2020 at the Ramada Inn in Kearney. Rates are \$79.00 a night with breakfast is included.

This Mid-Year will include a visit from Midwest Region National Vice Commander Bruce Feuerbach (IA) and National Sons Vice Commander Chris Cook (OK). Breakout sessions on membership, leadership, technology, and a round table discussion will be held on Saturday afternoon.

A draft agenda of the weekends events can be found to the right. If you would like more information about the conference, please contact Department Headquarters.

Ramada Inn - 301 2nd Avenue, Kearney and call 308-237-3141 for reservations. Make your reservations soon to get the Legion rate.

Mid-Year Agenda

Friday, January 18, 2019

10:00 a.m.	DEC Meeting
12:00 – 4:00 p.m.	Registration

Saturday, January 19, 2019

7:30 a.m. – 4:30 p.m.	Registration
8:00 a.m.	Joint Session
1:00 p.m.	Breakout Sessions
6:00 p.m.	Oratorical Contest

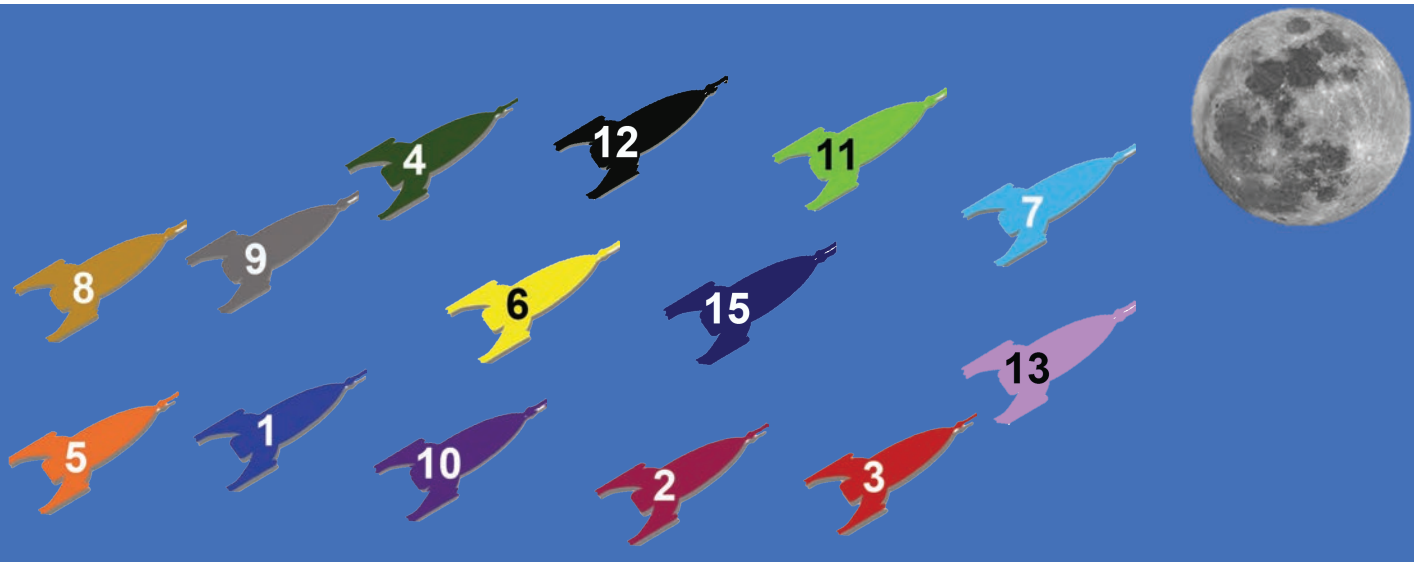
Sunday, January 20, 2019


7:30 – 11:30 a.m.	Registration
8:00 a.m.	Joint Religious Service
9:00 a.m.	Joint Session
10:20 a.m.	Lottery Drawing

BLASTING OFF TO 100%

2020 MEMBERSHIP GOAL: 28,236 NOVEMBER 18TH TOTAL: 20,005 - 72.25%


DISTRICT 7—78.55%	DISTRICT 13—76.94%	DISTRICT 11—75.49%	DISTRICT 3—74.69%	DISTRICT 15—74.47%
DISTRICT 12—74.26%	DISTRICT 2—73.88%	DISTRICT 6—72.00%	DISTRICT 4—70.69%	DISTRICT 10—70.65%
DISTRICT 9—69.37%	DISTRICT 1—69.19%	DISTRICT 8—68.41%	DISTRICT 5—64.50%	





Commander's Corner

Gary Wooten
Department Commander



A SEASON TO GIVE THANKS AND CELEBRATE

Happy Veterans Day to all of you Veterans and Veteran families!! I know, a little late, so hope you all got out and celebrated our day. Did all of you take the time to thank other Veterans for their service and sacrifice? Please do. I was really proud to be a part of the Veterans Day celebration at Wilber-Clatonia Pubic Schools. The students were great and we got to participate in presentation of four Quilts of Valor to deserving Veterans and American Legion members. Pictures are on Facebook.

Currently, Nebraska sets seventh in the nation in our efforts to meet and exceed our membership goals. I hope all Posts are contacting their members to renew, and also asking those Veterans who are now eligible to be American Legion members to join. A personal request is generally all it takes to get those Veterans involved. And don't forget to check the Post 500 lists so you can ask those American Legion members to transfer to your Post. In addition, don't forget to ask the family members of those new American Legion members to join the Sons of The American Legion and The American Auxiliary, and also be sure to mention that all our American Legion Family can be eligible to join The American Legion Riders! Please, let's all do our part to expand and grow our membership. Just so you know, I am taking a prospective member to our Post meeting tonight!! Remember all those membership awards out there just waiting for you to claim some.

Continuing with membership for a moment, I want to personally thank Steve Bartos for all his hard work as Department Membership Chair! GREAT WORK STEVE. If you need help with membership or have questions, be sure to contact the Department, myself, or Steve.

Due to the LEGION Act, the wording of the American Legion Preamble has been slightly changed. Instead of "our association in the great wars" it now reads "our association in all wars". Please make the change to all your references to the Preamble and honor all our Veterans' efforts to serve and protect our Nation.

The American Legion Family has and will continue to be involved with Dollar Days and Gift For Yanks. My chosen charities for this year are Gifts For Yanks and Operation Comfort Warrior. If your Post has made donations to either or both of these very worthwhile American Legion Charities, I personally want to thank you. If not, please make your donations now. All of the monies collected goes to care for our wounded veterans and our veterans currently in Veterans medical facilities and homes. None of the funds are used for administration, overhead, or other costs. Please help these Veterans with your donations and keep them all in your thoughts and prayers during this season of thanksgiving and celebration!

I want to wish all of you a happy and healthy holiday season. Happy Thanksgiving and Merry Christmas to each and every one of you!!

"2019 and Beyond"



Straight Talk

Philip Dittbrenner
Department Service Officer



As Veterans day passes and Thanksgiving and Christmas approaches, it is a good time to reflect and plan.

As a veteran you are entitled to some final benefits when you pass, your family will get a burial flag and you may be eligible for a government marker and some financial benefits. In some cases, your surviving spouse may be eligible for benefits after you pass.

Go to your County Veterans Service officer and talk about these benefits, and what you need to do. That way your family will know what your wishes are. If you want a certain marker, (there are several to choose from) or if you want something inscribed on the marker you need to let someone know.

So, working with your service officer and your family or funeral director will help lessen the burden your family will have to make when the time comes. This also ensures that your discharge papers will be on file. While you are at it you can check to see if you are entitled to compensation or pension benefits or are in need of an increase of your service-connected disability.

I hope that you all had a great Veterans day, from my family to yours Happy Thanksgiving and Merry Christmas.



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Area B Vice Commander.....	Boyd Yochum, Ashland
Area C Vice Commander.....	Bonnie Brewer, Elmwood
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Alternate NECman.....	Fred Craigie, Lincoln

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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



It's History

Jennifer Salak
Department Historian





POW/MIA

Donald E. Nelsen
POW/MIA Liaison





Last month many of you likely participated in a Veterans Day celebration or took advantage of “Veterans Day” sales at your favorite retail store. Whether you were honoring the veterans in your life or scoring a great deal, hopefully you took a moment to reflect on the true meaning of Veterans Day.

Veterans Day, originally known as Armistice Day, was first commemorated, by proclamation of President Woodrow Wilson, on November 11, 1919 to honor those who served in World War I. Wilson stated “To us in America, the reflections of Armistice Day will be filled with solemn pride in the heroism of those who died in the country’s service and with gratitude for the victory, both because of the thing from which it has freed us and because of the opportunity it has given America to show her sympathy with peace and justice in the councils of the nations...” On that day, two minutes of silence were observed at 11am, the time when the armistice, or temporary cessation of hostilities, went into effect between Germany and the Allied Nations. This tradition continues today.

On June 4, 1926, Congress passed a resolution calling for the President of the United States to issue an annual proclamation observing the importance of Armistice Day. Twelve years later, on May 13, 1938, Congress passed a special act making Armistice Day a Federal holiday with the expressed purpose of promoting world peace and mutual understanding between nations.

Although WWI was known as the “war to end all wars,” we know that was unfortunately not the case. Over 16 million people served in WWII and 5.7 million people served in the Korean War. In light of these two wars, veterans’ service organizations lobbied Congress to amend the 1938 act to change Armistice Day to Veterans Day in order to honor veterans of all our wars, not just WWI. That legislation was signed by President Dwight Eisenhower on June 1, 1954.

Veterans Day is not to be confused with Memorial Day—a common misunderstanding, according to the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs. Memorial Day (the fourth Monday in May) honors American service members who died in service to their country or as a result of injuries incurred during battle, while Veterans Day pays tribute to all American veterans—living or dead—but especially gives thanks to living veterans who served their country honorably during war or peacetime.

Many of these veterans continue serving their communities even after their discharge from the military. A prime example is the work being done by Legionnaires in Nebraska. Whether it’s raising money for Legion programs, serving food at shelters, mentoring children through baseball or scouting programs, or visiting the elderly or sick in our veteran’s homes and hospitals, Nebraska Legionnaires contribute positively to the health and well-being of our society. So, not only on Veterans Day, but every day of the year, I’d like to say thanks to all our veterans for everything they have done, and continue to do, for our nation.

Membership Minute

Steve Bartos, Membership Chairman

December. A time for holiday parties and a time to gather with friends and family. A time to reflect on the year to end and the year to come. On behalf of myself and the Department Membership Committee, I certainly wish you the Merriest of Christmases and the Happiest of New Years!

While we may be enjoying the holidays, there’s still some work to do on membership. As we usually do, Nebraska has been achieving its incremental national target date goals, but we need to keep the pressure on to make sure we don’t fade at the end of the race.

Renewing the dues of current members is always important. However -- please don’t rely exclusively on the renewal notices sent from Indianapolis to accomplish that piece of the puzzle. Identify the members who haven’t renewed. Follow up. Make some personal contacts. Let them know that their membership is important.

New members -- obviously -- are important, too. We have far more eligible veterans in Nebraska who are not yet members than we have members -- probably by about 2 or 3 to 1. We just need to identify them and ASK them to join. With the passage of the LEGION Act this summer, any veteran not previously eligible who has served one day of active duty since December 7, 1941 became eligible to be a Legionnaire as long as he or she meets the other normal requirements.

This fall, several posts and districts have been taking advantage (with good success) of another good source of members for your posts. Post 500. Those members joined the American Legion on-line or responded to a direct mail solicitation from the national headquarters. We can identify who they are, and we can transfer and/or renew their memberships into a local post. That’s where they belong and should want to be.

We plan to make a presentation on the Post 500 transfer process at the Mid-Year Conference in Kearney. I hope you take advantage of the opportunity to see how relatively easy it is -- and the good it can do in gaining you a member or two. I hope to see many of you there and share with you the success some other posts have already had.

Please take a look at the Department website from time to time and click on the “Membership” tab. Links have been added to give you access to two excellent publications from the national headquarters. The Membership Impact Reports and the Training Newsletters both offer a variety of interesting American Legion facts and provide some very useful information that YOU can use when someone asks, “Why should I join the American Legion?”

Let’s have a good membership turn-in at the Mid-Year Conference!

Have a nice December!

As I am working on this article on Veterans Day, November 11, 2019, I want to wish all you veterans and your extended families a wonderful day. We realize you will not receive this until later, but it is important to say thank you. Words can mean so much and be courteous and kind or nasty and hurtful. We need to ask ourselves which category we want to be in.

This POW/MIA article every month wants to emphasize what our government and we ourselves are doing to continue to work for the release and or repatriation of our missing in action.

According to the Defense POW/MIA Accounting Agency there are 83,114 Americans who fought in wars that are still missing. As of July 29, 2019, 16 are from Nebraska.

Resolution number 370: for POW/MIAs, passed during the 67th National Convention of the American Legion in August 1985, in New Orleans, Louisiana and stated that we support the Presidents pledge of highest national priority to resolve the status of Americans still missing and unaccounted for in Indochina and further resolved that we support the US Government to ensure the issue remains one of the highest national priorities and to accelerate efforts in every honorable way to obtain the immediate release of any American who may still be held captive in Indochina with the fullest possible accounting of those still missing and repatriation of the remains of those who died in service of our nation.

The president of the United States in 1985 was Ronald Reagan who served two terms from 1981 to 1989 as our Commander in Chief. At this same during the 67th American Legion National Convention, The POW/MIA Empty Chair Resolution was passed.

Adopted POW/MIA Resolution 288 calls for designating a POW/MIA Empty Chair at all official meetings of The American Legion as a physical symbol of the thousands of American POW/ MIA's still unaccounted for from all wars and conflicts involving the United States.

I am sure most of you know about these resolutions and many of you possibly voted on them. That was 34 years ago and our word is still good and will remain so as we continue to work for finding our missing and our POW's. Although POW/MIA Recognition Day is always the third Friday in September; every day these service personnel are on our minds and in our prayers. It is up to us to make this a better world in which to live.



Potter Post and Unit 291 participated in the Potter Days Celebration with a float remembering those fallen heroes with a field of poppies. Pictured are Chad Steele and Chera Gabis.

Dr. William Jackson, Jr.
Department Chaplain



Robert Neel
Detachment Commander



Hey, buddy! Hey, you. Yeah you! Come on over here 'cause I got a deal for ya. Yeah, it's a genuine deal of the century ma man, and yous got the market corned on it right now. Say, any body else 'round? Can't give out a good thing to everybody, you know what I mean, slick?

You wake up like a flash of lightning. It was a dream, right, you say to yourself, trying to convince yourself that it's all it was. You look through your bedroom window at the flag flying proudly, with a light shining on it. OK.

I hate to say it, folks, but that's about the size of it. In one direction, you have the "politically correct" crowd that is literally re-writing history—OUR American history—so as not to reveal our horrid past with slavery, gender-bias, and ethnic non-diversity. Then there's that group that wishes a changed socio-economy for all—socialism—although its failed in Venezuela, Cuba, the former U.S.S.R., the Philippines, Sweden, and the United Kingdom. And how about the group of liberalists who think nothing of touting gender equality for all, while forbidding others the right to the free expression of their faith in Jesus Christ? It must be something to play god in the lives of others (Mark 14:38).

Let's affirm that our Father God, who sent His son Jesus to bring us back to Him, then gave us His Holy Spirit, is still here with us, no matter what Lucifer, the angel of light (2 Corinthians 11:14), dishes out to us. Keeping the Lord in mind, let's put on the full armor of God to stand and resist the wiles of Satan (Ephesians 6:10-18). As a fully committed soldier for Christ, your battle gear protects you from all frontal attacks, not your backside. Why would you need your rear covered when God's got your "six" (your back)?

We're entering a season of darkness that Americans have never seen. But God has seen it from the beginning of time. He knows what, when, where, why, and how the things we are exposed to transpire (Ecclesiastes 3:1). For believers, it may be called the Coming Light, because our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ IS returning to take us home to Heaven. Let us all wait for Him with joy and hope for a world finally set aright (John 8:12).

I have had questions about the dues increase from National that was in a previous article. It is a \$3.00 increase for the National dues, voted on at the National Convention. It will start on July 1, 2020. Squadrons will submit \$11.00 to Detachment of which \$4.00 will stay at Detachment and \$7.00 will be sent to National. Again, the National organization has not had a dues increase for 38 years and as with everything, costs have went up. They are doing their part in cutting costs as staff numbers have decreased at National, fewer road trips for staff members for training and meetings, and state officers are being trained to present information. The Detachment will be looking into a dues increase in June as we were also hit last year at the Convention with an increase from The Nebraska Legion Department of \$2.50. If you are so inclined to vote for or against the dues increase, you might want to attend the Detachment Convention in June, in Kearney.

On November 9, I attended the 244th Birthday of the Marine Corps Birthday in Norfolk at Post #16, and conducted the program. On November 10, 2019, I attended the All Veteran's Flagpole dedication ceremony put on by Howells Post 155. The lighted 120' flagpole is located 1 mile East of Hwy 15/32 junction and 600' north on county road 575. It has a 30' X 50' U.S. flag, POW/MIA flag and 5-20' flag poles for the branches of the services, along with benches, two eagles and a granite monument for the late owner of the property, Donald Molacek, Sr. The family designed, erected and paid for the memorial to all Veterans. The Howells Post 155 will help take care of it. On November 11, 2019, at the Veteran's Day in Winside, at 9 AM, I presented information about the SONs and how they can help or are helping locally. At 1 PM, at the Emerson-Hubbard Veteran's Day Program, I was the guest speaker. At 5 PM, I attended the Dixon County Convention in Allen and provided information on upcoming events, the Legion Act membership dates, The Sons of The American Legion, and discussed the Medal of Honor Highway (Hwy 20 project) and NSP K-9 initiative. It has been a busy month.

District	2019 Members	2020 Members
1	274	132
2	566	149
3	229	100
4	362	192
5	128	69
6	1,390	260
7	702	252
8	1,014	331
9	315	151
10	295	53
11	1,022	407
12	260	100
13	144	25
15	156	0
Total	6,857	2,221



To each and every Legionnaire, members of the Auxiliary, Sons, Riders, and to their families, we wish you a very Merry Christmas and a joyous and prosperous New Year!

Candidate Announcements

Craigie Candidate for NECman



Fred C. Craigie has announced he is a candidate for National Executive Committeeman. He is eligible for membership in The American Legion through his service in the United States Marine Corps 1969-1971 during the Vietnam War. He served as the inventory control NCOIC at Logistics Support Unit 4, Force Logistics Command stationed in Chu Lai and later Danang. He joined Lincoln Post 3 and is now a 50-year permanent member. Lincoln Post 3 and District 15 have endorsed him as a candidate for National Executive Committeeman.

He has served Post 3 as Membership Chairman, Finance officer, Vice Commander, Post Commander, District 15 Vice Commander and Commander 1989 and 2010-12. He has served the Department as Sergeant-at-Arms, Legislative Committee member, Area C Vice Commander, Senior Vice Commander and Department Commander. He is currently serving as Alternate National Executive Committeeman.

He has attended numerous department leadership schools, Mid-Year Conferences, Department Conventions, two National Oratorical Contests, a National Membership Workshop in Indianapolis, and ten National Conventions.

He is a 27-year member of Sons of The American Legion Squadron 3, having served as Commander and Liaison Officer to the Post. A 37-year member of Voiture 103 having served as Chef de Gare and Grand Chef de Gare du Nebraska and is a life member of the VFW Post 131.

Fred is a second-generation member of The American Legion. He is a widower and has two daughters and two step daughters with six grandchildren. He is retired from Lincoln Public Schools Transportation after 26 years.

Fred would appreciate your support and vote for him for the high office of National Executive Committee for the state of Nebraska.

Costello Candidate for Alternate NECman



Jim Costello has announced his candidacy for Nebraska's National Alternate Executive Committeeman. He has been a member of Martin-Graves Post 339 in Bellevue since 1988. He earned his eligibility for The American Legion by serving in the Air Force from 1970 to 1974 as an Ear, Nose & Throat Surgical Tech.

Jim has served The American Legion as Post Commander, County Commander, District Commander, Area A Vice Commander, Department Vice Commander, and Department Commander (2017-18). He is a past committee member for the Children & Youth Committee and was on the National Children & Youth Committee as a consultant. He is also a member of the Nebraska Veterans Council and the Sarpy County Veterans Council.

Jim was the recipient of Department of Nebraska's Cody-Kerr Award and was named Person of the Year in 2014 for the City of Bellevue for his work with homeless and needy veterans and their families; which he continues to work with today.

Jim and his wife, Jeanie, live in Bellevue. Jeanie also served in the Air Force and is a member of Bellevue Post 339.

Jim is a proven leader with a wealth of knowledge of the programs and goals of The American Legion.

Jim is asking for your support and vote for Nebraska's Alternate National Executive Committee.

Nebraska Medal of Honor Highway 20

Daryl G. Harrison, Area A Vice-Commander

In early 2018, veterans from Oregon began a push to name Highway 20 from Newport, Oregon to Boston, Massachusetts, The Medal of Honor Highway. Past Department Commander (PDC) Gene Twiford picked up on the effort and began the process of renaming Highway 20 in Nebraska the Nebraska Medal of Honor Highway to honor the 73 Medal of Honor Recipients from Nebraska.

In Nebraska this is no small project. He had to obtain letters of support from every community and county along Highway 20. As he neared completion of this first phase, Ken Hanel and I joined PDC Twiford and began the second phase of gaining the political support that would be needed to run this project past the Nebraska Department of Roads Commissioners (NDoR).

Letters requesting support were garnered from Senator Bob Kerrey (Medal of Honor Recipient), the Nebraska Veterans Council (representing all registered Veteran Service Organizations), along with The American Legion passing a resolution of support for the name change. Letters were then sent to each Nebraska Senator along Highway 20 requesting any assistance they might bring to bear upon the NDoR Commissioners at their meeting on December 13, 2019 in Lincoln at 8:30 in their main building on 1500 Highway 2 across from the State Penitentiary. In those letters, we reported that this action has the support of over 30,000 Nebraska Veterans. I have received a copy of a letter sent to the commissioners by those five Senators supporting the Nebraska Medal of Honor Highway. This was great day for the project. There are two other entities attempting to have highways renamed and the commissioners are only allowed to accept one per year.

Currently we are looking at six signs, one as you enter the state from either end, two placed at the crossroads of The American Legion Memorial Highway (O'Neill) and two at the crossroads of the Veterans of Foreign Wars Memorial Highway (Valentine). The NDoR has suggested that if we are successful a spare sign for immediate replacement of a damaged or missing sign should be stored with the responsible Road Superintendent for that region. Making for a total initial need of twelve signs and the placement of six.

In Nebraska, those that have a highway renamed become responsible for putting up the signage. Thus, we are at the cusp of beginning phase 3. Phase 3 is the formation of a non-profit foundation to be named the Nebraska Medal of Honor Foundation. The Nebraska Medal of Honor Foundation is needed so that those donations needed for the signage can be tax exempt. The intention is to have a governing board of five and a minimum of three Nebraska Veteran Service Organizations would be represented with a maximum of two board members from any one NVSO.

To raise funds for the Nebraska Medal of Honor Foundation Past Area A Commander Ken Hanel and I are walking across Highway 20 much like a walk-a-thon. The details of the walk are still being formulated. It is scheduled to begin on Mothers Day, May 10th. It will end on May 22nd at Siouxland Freedom Park in South Sioux City, Nebraska.

The Nebraska Medal of Honor Highway belongs to all Nebraskans. This will be the longest named highway in the state and should be a source of pride to all Nebraska veterans, military and patriots.

Get the word out and maybe you know of a foundation, corporation, or possible private donator you can share this with. Honoring these heroes of heroes is among one of the most honorable things a veteran or patriot can do. Keep your ears open for the ability to support the Medal of Honor Highway on the website when it comes up.

What can you do? Attend the meeting on December 13th and wear your hat. Load your car with fellow vets and make it a day you'll always remember. Support the heroes of heroes, our Nebraska Medal of Honor Recipients. We need to overwhelm the commissioners at their December 13, 2019 meeting in Lincoln at 8:30 in their main building on 1500 Highway 2 across from the State Penitentiary.



Boys Town in Omaha received a grant for \$17,500 from The American Legion Child Welfare Foundation. Pictured (L to R) PDC Jim Costello, Bob Giddings, Children & Youth Chairman Don Suchy, Ginny Gohr, and Commander Gary Wooten.

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, 2020. 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

The Nebraska Children's Hospital received a grant for \$6,000 from The American Legion Child Welfare Foundation. Pictured (L to R) Denise Bohlsen, Department Commander Gary Wooten, Children & Youth Chairman Don Suchy, and ALA Children & Youth Chairwoman Marge Suchy.



Legionnaire in the Spotlight

H. Nicholas Windeshausen



H. Nicholas Windeshausen was born in Osmond, Nebraska in 1923 to a very poor family with no indoor plumbing. He was one of eleven children. He graduated from St. Mary's Catholic School in 1937 and then from Osmond High School in 1941 and he enlisted in the US Navy in August of 1942.

Windeshausen served in the US Navy as a medic from 1942-1946. During his four years in the service, he attended Hospital Corps School in San Diego, CA; was stationed at the US Naval Hospital Mare Island, CA; was the coordinator of Services Training Center at Treasure Island, CA; was stationed on a receiving ship in San Francisco, CA; was stationed on the US Naval Mobile Hospital NBo.3 in the American Samoa; was stationed on the US Fleet Hospital No. 103 in Guam; was stationed at the USN Trec Station T.I.S.F.; was stationed at the Great Lakes, IL training center; and was discharged in St. Louis, MO as a Pharmacist's Mate, First Class(T) V6. Windeshausen

received the Asiatic-Pacific, American Area Victory Medal and the Good Conduct medal.

After his discharge from the service, Windeshausen married Joyce Pilger in 1946 and at the age of 28 he started at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln in 1951. He earned his bachelors degree in Accounting in 1954, his masters degree in Finances in 1955, and PHD in Management and Marketing in 1962. Windeshausen credits The American Legion and their support of the G.I. Bill as the reason he was able to go to college. He stated, "I want to let you know how much I appreciated receiving, through the G.I. Bill, an education from a great university in order to be well prepared to help others.

Windeshausen taught at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln from 1955-1962 before moving to California and teaching at California State University at Sacramento from 1962-1992. He served as Coordinator of Graduate Studies 1965-1970, Coordinator of Undergraduate Studies 1970-1971, Chairman of the Management Department 1974-1977, and Associate Dean 1977-1980. Windeshausen was instrumental in acquiring AACSB accreditation for the College of Business Administration for both the Undergraduate and Graduate programs.

Windeshausen retired in 1992 and continued to give back to his community. He volunteered with Big Brothers/Big Sisters, Meals a LA Car, Make-A-Wish Foundation, United Way Sacramento, and Catholic Social Services. He was a US Delegate for four United Way International Conferences and served as a Senior Educational Consultant to the Main Event Management Corp.

Windeshausen has been honored for work in both education and the community with the 1986 Distinguished Community Service Award from the United Way; being named an Admiral in "The Great Navy" State of Nebraska; a certificate of Commendation from the Department of Defense, Office of Civil Defense; a Distinguished Leadership and Service Award from Consumer Credit Counselors of Sacramento; and a Lifetime Achievement Award from Delta Sigma, its highest honor, in 2011. In 2016, he received the Alumni Achievement Award from the Nebraska Alumni Association.

Windeshausen and his wife, Joyce, wanted to leave a lasting legacy of excellence that would help generations of students to come. They established sis scholarships, four at Wayne State College and two at Sacramento State College.

Windeshausen belongs to American Legion Post 326 and VFW Post 7838 in Osmond, Nebraska.

Windeshausen is very pleased to be an American who has made a difference, much of it is based on what others have done for him. His Navy experience was helpful in developing his ability to make decisions. Encouragement from his professors, his experience with The American Legion and the VFW, have been very helpful in making him the man he is today. Windeshausen says his life was been all about: learning, serving others, and exploring the world around him.



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

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.

Riders

Marty Timberlake

Department ALR Liaison



Happy Holidays from the Riders

This is the time of year where we shed a tear as we plug in our bikes and put them back in the corner of the garage until Spring, or until we get that 60 degree day in January, and the snow and ice are melted. This is also the time of year that we spend more of our weekends working on those projects we put off in order to go riding.

This is also the time of year that we take inventory of the things that matter the most to us: our friends, family, and others that we care about. As we slide into the holidays, we take a few moments to appreciate the people in our lives, and the accomplishments we have achieved. It's a time to catch your breath and get ready for a new year of doing something good.

But this isn't the time to stop doing all the great things the riders do. We aren't as visible now that our bikes are put away, but we aren't gone by any means. We don't show up at Veteran Retirement centers revving up our engines, but we still show up. We don't show up at funerals with our shiny bikes, but we still show up. This isn't the time of year that we forget who we are, and what we do. In fact, this is the time of year that we dig in and spend more face time with our veterans. We remember them on the holidays and help get gifts for those in need. Quilts of Valor, State Patrol Dog Fund, OCW, NEF and Legacy Fund donations are still being made through fundraisers. And most importantly, we still find ways to help our disadvantaged and disabled veterans in a time where many of them don't have families or feel alone.

This isn't a time for the riders to go into hibernation, this is the time where we pound the ground, make new connections, and spend more face time with those we are here to help. Continue to support your Riders, because they never stop working to improve the lives of those that have sacrificed so much, to give us these times with our loved ones.

May your holidays be filled with love and joy and take a moment to remember those that are no longer with us, and those that are separated from their families during this time.



New Media Specialist

Kristi Scaggs

The Headquarters Staff would like to welcome our newest employee to the group; Kristi Scaggs.

Kristi is very happy in her new Media Specialist position and is working with Amanda to become familiar with our newspaper, social media sites, and other aspects of The American Legion. She has completed the American Legion Basic Course and enjoyed learning more about The American Legion.

When you run into her, please tell her "thanks" for all she is doing for The American Legion and it's family.

Kristi and her husband, Richard, live in Lincoln. Richard is a Army veteran and served for 14 years. Kristi has two children, two step children, and three grandchildren.



Adams, Arthur R., Broken Bow, WWII
Allsman, Herschel, Lincoln, Korea
Almgrem, Richard D., Omaha, Vietnam
Anderson, David L., Mullen, Lebanon/Grenada
Anderson, Edward, Kearney, Vietnam
Axford, Argil L., Lincoln, WWII
Bahe, Max D., Ohiowa, Korea
Barrett, Frank J., Greeley, Korea
Baumann, Mervin, Millard, Korea
Behnke, Larry L., Norfolk,
Benjamin, Alphonso B. Sr., Benson, WWII
Bennett, Richard A., Alexandria, Vietnam
Bettger, Robert, Fairmont, WWII
Bicknase, Earl D., Hampton, Vietnam
Bieganski, Edmund, Chadron, WWII
Blecha, Morris E., Table Rock, Korea
Bors, Gary L., Dorchester
Bowman, F. Wayne, Omaha, Korea
Branson, LeRoy W, Millard, Korea
Broadway, Darletta, Grand Island, Korea
Bruns, Walter, Denton, Vietnam
Bunttemeyer, Paul W, Lincoln, WWII
Campbell, Robert E, Lincoln, Korea
Carey, Donald, Syracuse, Vietnam
Carraher, Robert P., Spalding, WWII
Caulkins, Lyle J. Lincoln, WWII
Chamberlin, Wayne T., Creston
Charling, Dean, Oakland, Korea
Cole, Donald, Denton, Korea
Conant, James, Gretna, Korea
Criswell, Don E., Oshkosh, WWII
Curtis, Donald J, Millard, Korea
Dannehl, Lavern H., Bertrand, Korea
Davidson, Glen, Syracuse, Korea
Davis, Gerald A., Lisco, Korea
Deering, Charles W, Madison, Vietnam
Delay, Robert L., Guide Rock
Demitruk, George, south Omaha, WWII
Dent, Lavern C., Mullen, WWII
Devine, Gerald P., Mullen, Korea
Diederich, Edward M., Millard, WWII
Dotzler, Raymond P., Omaha, Korea
Doyle, Dean L, Beatrice, Vietnam

Duffek, Ray L, Lincoln, Korea
Dunn, William J., Omaha, Korea
Ebeler, Marvin, Auburn, Korea
Empkey, Walter J. Jr., Pleasant Dale, Korea
Emshoff, Wilbert E., Millard, Korea
Ernest, Raymond H., Dalton, WWII
Evans, Harvey L., Grand Island, Vietnam
Frankum, Douglas W, Dwight, Vietnam
Freehling, Calvin, Indianola, Vietnam
Fry, Jack K., Crete, Vietnam
Garrow, Richard A., Ashland, Vietnam
Geier, Donald G, Columbus
Gockley, Donald L, Millard, Korea
Gondringer, Gerald F., Osceola, Vietnam
Gowlovech, Ed G, Grand Island, Vietnam
Gregoire, Robert G, Bellevue, Korea
Guenther, Norbert, Crofton, Korea
Hahn, Ray, Elm Creek, Korea
Haisch, Eldon F., Laurel
Hansen, Emerald H., Hampton, WWII
Harralson, Ronald L, Norfolk, Vietnam
Harrison, Stanley R., York, Korea
Havlovic, Raymond, Brainard, Vietnam
Henn, Maurice, Petersburg, Korea
Hite, David D, Beatrice, WWII
Hooper, Donald E., Alliance, WWII
Hope, Bob P., Loup City, SAL
House, Wayne B, Lincoln, Korea
Huettner, Ralph, Falls City, Vietnam
Huffman, Gary L., Decatur, Vietnam
Hughes, Darrell L, Fairmont, WWII
Ignowski, William S, Loup City, Vietnam
Irons, John L., David City, Vietnam
Jablonski, Laverne S., Burwell
Jakub, Rudy, Brainard, Vietnam
Jennings, Carl, Millard, SAL
Jensen, George G., Superior, Korea
Jindra, Gerald, Central City
Jodlowski, Louis T., South Omaha, WWII
Jordan, Dwain A, Herman, Korea
Jorgensen, Trevor R., Loup City, SAL

Kaiser, Harold, Palmer
Kapels, Elden H., Creston, Korea
Kavan, Louis E, Prague, Vietnam
Klaumann, Daniel M., Gretna, Vietnam
Koenig, Lawrence J, Jr, Millard, Korea
Koepp, Gary O, Norfolk, Korea
Konken, Gerald D, Hartington, Vietnam
Krejci, Gerald A., Schuyler, Vietnam
Kretchmer, Ronald G, Omaha, Vietnam
Kucera, Carl W., Litchfield, WWII
Kucera, Kenneth, Prague, WWII
Kucera, Kenneth, Prague, WWII
Kurpjuweit, Melvin R, Lincoln, Korea
Kwiatkowski, Alvin, Litchfield, WWII
Lane, Kenneth, Atkinson, Vietnam
Lange, Marvin, Crofton, Vietnam
Langer, Richard L., Guide Rock, Korea
Langseth, Ken L., South Sioux City, SAL
Lepp, Calvin C., Central City, Lebanon/Grenada
Loberg, William J., Carroll, Korea
Logan, J, S, Millard, WWII
Long, John A, Sr, Lincoln, Korea
Loseke, Norman H., Columbus, WWII
Machacek, Donald L., Weston
Marquardt, Stanley, Scribner
Marshall, Don, Neligh, Korea
Martin, John L., Valparaiso, Vietnam
Matson, David A., McCook, Vietnam
Mc Creath, James G., Ogallala
McCall, Charles A., Fairmont, Korea
McCoy, Ronald F, Cody
Messman, Earl A., Denton, WWII
Meyer, Harold C, Beatrice, Korea
Meyer, Leonard, Scribner, WWII
Miller, E, Grand Island, Korea
Mitchell, Russell G, Millard, Vietnam
Montgomery, Darwin, Omaha, WWII
Nathan, Alvin, Norfolk, Korea
Neemann, Merlin H, Talmage, WWII
Nekolite, Rick, Denton
Nelsen, Chris V., Winside, WWII
Nelson, Horace M., Thedford, Korea

Nelson, James M., Plainview, Vietnam
Newman, Gerald M., Fremont, Vietnam
Nickolote, Eugene C., Columbus, Korea
Nore, Iver, Albion
Norman, Harold J., Omaha, WWII
Nutter, Dorrel, Omaha, Vietnam
O'Neill, John E., Jackson, WWII
Olson, William S., Oshkosh
Orchard, John W, Millard, WWII
Ortiz, Louie R., McCook, Korea
Osterman, Arthur F, Grand Island, Vietnam
Osterman, R. E., Millard, Vietnam
Paro, George, Grand Island, WWII
Payne, Larry E., Omaha, Vietnam
Perkins, Harry G., Elwood, Korea
Peterson, Rudolph N, Fremont, Korea
Pettigrew, Tom, Millard, Vietnam
Pippitt, Rex E, Papillion, WWII
Poesse, Gilbert, O'Neill, WWII
Pope, Floyd E, Millard, Vietnam
Prai, Charles A, Millard
Pritchett, Lavern J, Lincoln, Vietnam
Putman, Jerry A, Madison, Panama
Quick, Vince, Herma, Vietnam
Ralph, Broadston E, Steele City, Korea
Reeder, Edward D., Millard, WWII
Remmers, Virgil, Wymore, Korea
Ritchie, Gary L, Lincoln, Korea
Rizzolo, Gerald G., Eustis, Korea
Roberts, Charles, Benson, Vietnam
Rockwell, R. D., Grand Island, WWII
Rodriquez, Francisco P, Gering, Vietnam
Roether, Dennis E., Hallam, Vietnam
Rohweder, A. W., Beaver Crossing, Korea
Rotschafer, Wayne H., Millard, WWII
Rouse, Jim F, Millard, Vietnam
Ruhge, Robert L, Syracuse, Korea
Sack, Lewis E., Osceola, Korea
Samuelson, Arnold L., Bancroft
Sanders, Duane, O'Neill, Korea
Saunders, Theodore F., South Sioux City, Persian Gulf
Schaffert, Donald L., Hampton
Schaufelberger, Don E., Columbus, WWII
Schilling, Dewey, Norfolk
Schmeling, Dean, Elkhorn, Vietnam

Schoneweis, Fred M, Lincoln, WWII
Schropfer, Louis L., Ohiowa, WWII
Scott, Tommy L, Broken Bow, Vietnam
Selmer, William R, Papillion, WWII
Seward, Scott L., Morrill, SAL
Sheehan, George F. III., Millard, Vietnam
Simmonds, Charles A. Sr., Falls City
Sims, Jessie D, Loup City, Korea
Sorensen, Harry C., Omaha, WWII
Sorge, Norman E., Deshler, Vietnam
Soukup, Donald, Brainard, Korea
Staab, Clyde E., Morrill, SAL
Stelling, Donnel L., Deshler, Korea
Stranglen, Fred Jr., South Omaha, Vietnam
Strenger, Marlan L., Omaha, Korea
Sunderman, Otis L, Lincoln, WWII
Swanson, Eugene, Wakefield, WWII
Tangeman, Dorothy A, Lincoln, Korea
Teegerstrom, Vance, Stromsburg, Korea
Thies, Louis A., Albion
Thurston, Duane R., Ralston, Vietnam
Tobin, James R., Tekamah
Vacek, Donald R. Sr., Millard, WWII
Vampola, Joseph A., Millard, Korea
Vodehnal, Donald W., Fremont, Korea
Volkmer, Ernest C, Norfolk, Vietnam
Voller, Harold E, Beatrice, Korea
Vornbrock, James E., Tekamah
Wallin, Edward L., Tryon, Vietnam
Weatherly, John F, Grand Island, WWII
Weaver, Kenneth L., McCook, Vietnam
Weber, Orville M., Adams, Korea
Weekly, John W, Omaha, Vietnam
Wennstedt, Vic L., Fremont, WWII
West, Jimmie D, Herman, Korea
Woitalewicz, Michael A., Paxton, SAL
Woodward, John H., Doniphan, Vietnam
Worden, Don, St. Edward, Vietnam
Wright, Brian, Albion, Vietnam
Young, Charles, Dakota City, Korea
Ziebarth, Wayne W., Wilcox, WWII
Ziegler, Richard C., Friend, Korea

ID Resolve From The LIT

In today’s world, identity theft is one of the fastest growing crimes in America. If you or your spouse fall victim to identity theft what would you do? Where would you turn? With Legionnaire ID Resolve you’ll have 24-hour identity theft resolution that helps protect your money, your time and your financial reputation.

If you haven’t fallen victim to identity theft yet, don’t think you’re safe. Data breaches happen every day, where thieves can steal your name, address, date of birth, credit card information, medical records, and most critically your Social Security number. That’s why Your Department of The American Legion has endorsed ID Resolve. A new program to help Legionnaires fight back — instead of being a victim and not knowing where to turn.

ID Resolve helps you eliminate the uncertainty – by putting ID experts on your side to clean up the mess and help restore your good name. You can be confident you’re getting the protection you deserve when it comes to your money, your accounts, your credit cards, your financial record and your hard-earned good name. Plus, our no-obligation money-back guarantee allows you a full 30-day examination period in case you change your mind about this identity resolution.

Remember, it doesn’t matter how careful you are ... you can’t always control where your information goes. Enroll today and gain access to a team who will help restore your identity.

Jeff Christiansen of Blair Post 154 is alive and well.

Events Calendar

December

23-25 Christmas Holiday - Office Closed
30-31 New Years Holiday - Office Closed

January

1 New Years Holiday - Office Closed
10-12 Mid-Year Conference - Kearney
20 Martin Luther King Day - Office Closed





Niobrara Post 224 presented Vietnam Veteran lapel pins to eleven of its members. Pictured back row (L to R) Wilton Johnson, Willard Tschirren, Don Hanzlik, Neil Olson, Larry Meier, and Richard Cash. Pictured front row (L to R) Robert Olson, Jim Scott, Charles Nielsen, and Stan Dryak. Not pictured is Keith Larsen.



Hooper Post 18 honored their oldest and newest Post members. Pictured (L to R) Don Hart, 97 years old WWII, and Jacob Horn, 25 years old Persian Gulf.



Saint Paul Post 119 recognized three generations of Legion members in their Post. Pictured (L to R) Anton Oeltjen, 1951-55, Douglas Oeltjen, 1979-83, Dustin Oeltjen, 2008-12, and Gage Oeltjen, 2019-current.



Hershey Post 279 presented a certificate for 50 years of continuous membership to Richard Weekly. Pictured (L to R) Robert Downs and Richard Weekly.



Bellevue Post 339 collected fourteen totes of food for homeless veterans at the Walmart Neighborhood store in Bellevue.



Central City Post 6 served as the Honor Guard for USS Oklahoma sailor Gerald L. Clayton who was laid to rest at the local cemetery.



Yutan Post 262 presented a certificate for 60 years of continuous membership to Donald Behrens. Pictured (L to R) Matt Dillon and Donald Behrens.



Falls City Post 102 presented Larry Whalen with a certificate for 50 years of service on the honor guard. Pictured (L to R) Larry Whalen and Commander Jim Inglis.



District 7 Commander Dan Benes installed the Dodge County Officers. Pictured (L to R) Dan Benes, Commander William Alsmeyer, and Vice Commander Fred Fachman.



Norfolk Squadron 16 member Thomas Landkamer presented flag etiquette programs and recited the Pledge of Allegiance to 7th graders at Christ Lutheran School in Norfolk.



Dodge Post 122 members spoke to the St. Wenceslaus students in Dodge about their military experience and flag etiquette. Pictured (L to R) District 7 Vice Commander Jerry Schulte and Adjutant Leonard Kempf.



Norfolk Post 16 presented \$500 scholarships to three local seniors. Pictured (L to R) Fox Kubes, Ryahn Rasmussen, Connor Wilcox, and Commander Rick Kropf.



Benson Squadron 112 received plaques for their donations to the Child Welfare Foundation. Pictured (L to R) James Keyes, Senior Vice Chris Casey, and Bruce Husted.



Dorchester Post 264 and the Saline County Veteran Service Office and county commissioners recognized Robert Kasl with the first "Veteran of the Month" award. Pictured (L to R) Commission Chair Marvin Kohout, PDC Lyle Bartels, and Robert Kasl.



Thurston Post 372 recognized Art Cline with a certificate for 70 years of continuous membership. Pictured top (L to R) Lyle Jasa, Art Cline, and Commander Larry Sunderman. Post 372 and the Quilt Shop Quilters presented Quilts of Valor to its members. Pictured below (L to R) Jenny Tyrrell, Leon Wichman, Howard Swanson, Norman Moeller, William Krusemark, Richard Heyne, and Dale Krusemark.



The American Legion Auxiliary Department of Nebraska

The Star

December 2019



WORDS FROM THE PRESIDENT



It's official. The American Legion Auxiliary (ALA) is 100 years old!

There is much to be proud of in our past. We have honored our Preamble, "to participate in and contribute to the accomplishment of the aims and purposes of The American Legion." Through volunteers working in the VA Medical Centers and Homes, we have made veterans' lives better. With our Cornhusker Girls State week-long program, we have taught how democracy works into the lives of countless young women. Children have enjoyed Halloween parties, Easter Egg Hunts and special parties for the children of men and women in the military. In our schools, poppy posters have been made and essays have been written. And, we have done all that while running countless fundraisers to make sure there are funds to run these programs.

What do we know about the history of The American Legion Auxiliary, Department of Nebraska?

*1.) *Where and when was the first Department Convention?*

2.) *How many organized chapters were there? (They were called chapters at that time.)*

3.) *How many paid memberships at the time of the convention?*

4.) *What were the dues at the time of the convention?*

5.) *What was the salary of the Secretary at the time of the convention?*

6.) *How was the Secretary appointed?*

The state headquarters address was 313 Richards Block, Lincoln, NE; and the Auxiliary was to pay its share of office expenses. At the time of the convention, Mrs. W.A. Prince of Grand Island was the Chairman of the Constitution Committee. The convention did adopt a new constitution.

Frank B. O'Connell, the temporary Secretary, left the Auxiliary with three recommendations:

"A statewide effort be made to place hospitals where ex-service men are confined under the jurisdiction of certain chapters, who will look after the welfare and needs of these disabled men.

That the convention goes on record to urge all local chapters of the Women's Auxiliary to take an active part in the affairs of their respective communities, especially as pertains to problems of women.

That the Women's Auxiliary use its best efforts to help take care of the graves of World War Veterans, that it discourages holding athletics on Memorial Day, and that it join hands with the American Legion and other patriotic organizations to cultivate a proper respect for our flag."

I will close with the words of the newly appointed State Secretary, Mrs. H. R. Ball --- "Now, all together ladies, shoulder to shoulder. Let the men and women of the Great War realize that their women folk are doing something definite and tangible to help them! God Bless our boys!"

Come and celebrate the Auxiliary's Mid-Year Conference in this 100th Birthday Year!

*Elizabeth Paes
Department President*



**Answers on Pg. 4*

CELEBRATING 100 YEARS OF SERVICE

In its first 100 years, Nebraska was honored to provide four national presidents to the American Legion Auxiliary. ALA Past National Presidents and the year they served are (pictured l to r) Mrs. Oscar W. (Lorene) Hahn from Wayne, 1936-1937; Mrs. Luther D. (Lucile) Johnson from Valley, 1963-1964; Mrs. Richard (Ruby) Paul from Millard, 1990-1991; and Mrs. Jack (Carol) Van Kirk from Sutton, 2005-2006.



SPOTLIGHT ON ALA MEMBER



June Linstrom, 93, of Sutherland ALA Unit 208, was presented a certificate recognizing her 70 years of continuous membership in the Auxiliary.

June's husband, Clyde, enlisted in the U.S. Navy in 1940 and served until 1946. He was a Chef Petty

Office and a Pearl Harbor survivor aboard the USS Medusa. He and June were married in 1944.

June's two brothers were also in the military. Mike Boggs served in the Pacific with the Army during World War II, and Bill Boggs was a Navy Seabee. Her son, Steve Linstrom, was in the U.S. Army from 1967-1970. Her grandson, Sean Linstrom, served in the Air Force from 2005-2009.

June was proud to be among those who helped at the Canteen during WW II when the troop trains arrived in North Platte for a brief stop and were treated with a warm welcome and delicious food.

NATIONAL VETERANS CREATIVE ARTS FESTIVAL



The National Veterans Creative Arts Festival (NVCAF) is an event held annually to showcase the talents of veterans receiving therapy at VA Medical Centers across the United States. The festival was held in Kalamazoo, Michigan from October 27 - November 3 with over 100 veterans from 65 VA facilities in attendance. In 2019, 130 VA medical facilities hosted a local festival with a total of 3,552 veterans participating. First-time participants accounted for 45% of the entries, and 23% were female veterans.

How does a veteran qualify to attend the NVCAF? A local VA facility hosts a creative arts festival in early spring, and 1st place winners in the various categories are invited to attend the national festival. The categories coincide with the recreational therapy programs offered at each local facility. Artists create paintings, pencil drawings, sculptures, and wood working during therapy programs as a means

to deal with personal stresses and struggles. Creative writers share poems, short and long stories, books, and journals about their life struggles and successes during therapy. Soloists, chorus members, dancers, pianists, and dramatic readings use the performing arts as a way to deal with their personal demons.

Leaving very few dry eyes in the house, the NVCAF culminates with gallery viewings of the works of artists and writers followed by the incredible stage show on Sunday. These festivals are life-changing for all who attend as one experiences the transformation of veterans during the week of rehearsals and workshops. I was honored and blessed to represent Nebraska as the Northwestern Division VA&R chair and share a week of my life with these amazing people.

There are grants available through the ALA Foundation for funding local creative arts festivals.



I would encourage individuals or units to consider donating to the ALA Foundation, earmarking the donation for the Veterans Creative Arts Festival. Our Department of Nebraska was recognized as a bronze donor at the sponsor reception, and I want to thank everyone who donated to this important program for our veterans. Please contact me if you would to learn more about this worthwhile endeavor.

*Barb Washburn
NW Division Veterans Affairs
& Rehabilitation (VA&R)
Chairman*

NOVEMBER 10, 2019 PROCLAIMED KICKOFF FOR AUXILIARY 100TH BIRTHDAY



Eleven members of The American Legion Auxiliary, Department of Nebraska were present November 4th, 2019 in the Warner Chamber at the State Capitol in Lincoln. The members were there to accept a Proclamation for the kickoff of The American Legion Auxiliary's 100th Birthday on November 10, 2019. Department President Elizabeth accepted the Proclamation signed by Governor Pete Ricketts on behalf of all Nebraska Auxiliary members.

The Proclamation made mention of the 1.1-Billion-dollar volunteer

impact across the nation. In her acceptance speech, President Elizabeth told of the countless volunteers in the VA facilities across the state. She also referred to the impact of ALA Cornhusker Girls State. Elizabeth also noted that the Auxiliary supports the four pillars of The American Legion. The Department President ended with the motto "Service Not Self." Elizabeth told those assembled, "the motto is not something we say, we live it." It was a great way to start the 100th year Birthday.



Caitlyn Murphy, from Exeter Nebraska, was a 2019 citizen at ALA

Cornhusker Girls State. She has been selected as a national finalist for the prestigious American Legion Samsung Scholarship. As a finalist, she will receive a \$1,250 scholarship. If chosen in early fall as a regional winner, she could receive either \$2,500, \$5,000, or \$10,000 additional scholarship monies.

Update! Caitlyn's application was one of the top ten in the nation. She is a recipient of a \$10,000 scholarship from the American Legion with funds donated by the Samsung Corporation.

CONSTITUTION & BYLAWS

As you read this article, you may ask the question... “Who is required to have a Constitution, Bylaws, and Standing Rules referred to as “governing documents?” Every level of The American Legion Auxiliary (ALA) organization beginning with National; all Departments (52 States including District of Columbia and Puerto Rico); all Districts (Nebraska has 13); all Counties, and all Units (2019 - Nebraska has 321 Units).

Updating the governing documents is an ongoing responsibility at every level of The American Legion Auxiliary. It can seem overwhelming and a daunting task to undertake. I heartily agree! It is certainly not a preferred or sought after activity. So, then, you might ask, “Why is this so important?” When reviewed, revised, and updated as needed or required by National or Department as those below, questions are easily answered by referring to the governing document. Disputes among members, problems, conflicts, and hurt feelings are likewise resolved before they become unsurmountable issues.

The following significant

changes to the American Legion Auxiliary Constitution and Bylaws have gone into effect and are to be observed. However, Departments, Districts, Counties, and Units are **NOT** to make these Constitution & Bylaws revisions until National releases approved terminology for The American Legion Auxiliary governing documents.

Preamble: The fourth clause in the American Legion Auxiliary Preamble has been changed to read; “To preserve the memories and incidents of our **associations in all Wars;**”

Great-Granddaughters: As of September 1, 2019 new applications for Great-granddaughters’ membership will no longer be accepted. Great-Granddaughters who are already members may remain members (grandfathered in) as long as annual dues are current. Should annual dues become delinquent, membership will be terminated and all further applications rejected.

Spouses: The “spouse” of a Veteran (male or female) may apply for membership to The American Legion Auxiliary. The spouse’s

application approval remains contingent on the Veteran’s eligibility and the protocols and requirements set by The American Legion and American Legion Auxiliary.

Eligibility: Eligibility dates have been changed to **April 6, 1917, to November 11, 1918 and any time after December 7, 1941.** You may still use the old applications until new applications are made available.

So, in conclusion, as the American Legion Auxiliary celebrates its Centennial, we as members “Look to the Future with pride in the Past” and by embarking on the process of reviewing, updating, and revising our Constitutions, Bylaws, and Standing Rules we ready ourselves in preparation for a new era. The Constitution and Bylaws are the enduring foundation upon which we stand as an amazing organization serving the legions of veterans who have served and the Armed Forces who are serving this great country.

Melody Sanna
Constitution & Bylaw
Chairman

NATIONAL SECURITY – WHAT HAVE YOU DONE?

Hello, Members.

What do these have in common? *Blue Star and Gold Star Banners – Active Duty Military & Families – Transition from military to civilian life – Family Readiness Group – Red Cross Forces Call Center 1 877 272 7337 – National Guard or Reserve Units – Deployment and Welcome Home events – Blood Drive – Community Donations – Troop Care Packages – Folded Pocket Flags – September Preparedness Month – Fire Prevention – Job Fair for military spouses – Scholarship Funds for Military Spouses – Legislative Action Alerts – The Dispatch – Citizen Corps Council www.ready.gov – Emergency Preparedness Kits – NEMA/ FEMA Connections – POW/MIA Recognition Day – Community Emergency Response Training (CERT) – First Aid Training – CPR – POW/MIA Empty Chair Resolution 288 – ROTC and JROTC Recognition – Operation Comfort Warriors.* They all have impact on National Security and support for or with Active Duty Military and Families. National Security does NOT account for any activities, donations, etc. for veterans. Those statistics are reported to the VA & R

Chairman.

National Security addresses the needs and wants of Active Duty Military and Families here and now. When our men and women put on the uniform of the Armed Forces, every family member connected to that service member does as well. What we can do for ourselves in many of these samples we can certainly do for service members and their families.

The holidays are quickly approaching. We can lend a day or two to the family to babysit, prepare a holiday meal, invite the family into your home, or remember the children of deployed service members with a gift of surprise. Always **Remember Everyone Deployed** – members can wear red every Friday until our service members are off deployment orders and back home. Welcome them and thank them.

One thing learned from Mission Training is that we should never ask “are you a veteran?” It is better to ask “did you serve in the military – what branch – what was your job – how did your service bring any change to your life?” These are simple questions that will break the ice, and a story evolves. Thank them and keep in touch with them.

Mid-Year Reports --- December 15, 2019? Plan – Conduct – Record – Report – Recognize. Every unit does something; take the credit. Check the November Department newsletter for a form to complete. Keep a copy for your unit.

I Look forward to having every unit reporting to me by December 15, 2019 with Volunteer hours, # of Volunteers, \$ Raised, \$ Spent, # of Military Served, # of Military Families Served, a narrative of your plan, how you implemented that plan, who was served, any community connection, and tips on how others may do the same in their area.

Even though many of our unit members are not close to a military installation, there are still many things we can do that have an impact on Active Duty Military – National Guard – Reserves – their Families. Please record – report – recognize. Thank you.

Beverly Neel
57576 847 Road,
Wayne NE 68787-7080
402 369 0152



On September 15th, Lemuel R. Wilcox Unit 160 of Polk celebrated the 100th Anniversary of the American Legion and Auxiliary. There were 10 Legion members and 10 Auxiliary members in attendance --- plus spouses. We were honored to have two World War II veterans, Noel Kealiher and Harvey McHarry, present. Thank you, Veterans, for your service! Thank you, Auxiliary members, for all that you do for the veterans!

HOLIDAY GIFTS

Holiday trees will be decorated at the Lincoln VA on Saturday, November 23; and tags for Holiday Gifts for “less fortunate veterans and families” will be available for selecting on Monday, November 25. Trees will be located in the primary care waiting room, in the 2nd floor specialty clinics waiting room, at the 1st floor information desk by the west entrance, and in the 1st floor mental health waiting room.

Please come and select a tag

and shop and help make a veteran’s holiday happier. All gifts need to be returned to Volunteer Services by December 20th for delivery. Do not wrap, but please place the gifts in holiday bags along with a tag from the tree so we can deliver them to the correct department.

Thank you for your support.

Linda Varejcka, Volunteer
Lincoln VA



Denny Kenning (plaid shirt), Terry Evans (hat), and Frank Strong (shorts)

The Eustis ALA Unit #257 held a Sendoff for three area Vietnam veterans in conjunction with the Dawson County Hero Flight Sendoff on September 25th. Honored veterans were Frank Strong of Eustis, Denny Kenning of Elwood, and Terry Evans of Elwood.

Also participating in the Sendoff were the Eustis Fire Department, the American Legion, the Sons of the American Legion, and the Eustis-Farnam School band. Jim Schmeeckle and Dan Pohl provided and drove convertibles

for the honored veterans. Jaydn Sitorius, a high school student, sang the National Anthem. Many community members from both communities attended, as well as students and teachers from Eustis-Farnam Schools and a small group of students from Elwood.

After the Sendoff, the three met up with 22 other men from Dawson County to embark on a trip to Washington, DC to tour the war memorials, Arlington Cemetery, and other sights.



Members of District One celebrated the 100th birthday of the American Legion during the Fall Membership Roundup in Cody on October 13th. The Legion members would have joined the picture, but they wouldn’t stop talking --- and the ice cream was melting. Lisa Moore was the Department representative of the day. (not pictured - also talking)

AUXILIARY EMERGENCY FUND --- WE NEED YOU!

Flooding? Fires? Loss of Income? Do YOU know a member who needs emergency funds immediately? The Auxiliary Emergency Fund (AEF) provides temporary financial assistance to eligible members during times of financial crisis, weather-related emergencies, or natural disasters.

Last year in Nebraska, we had many needs with the flooding and other emergencies; and nine (9) grants were given to Nebraska Auxiliary members totaling more than \$11,000. More money was given in grants than Nebraska donated in 2018-19. Please consider having a fundraiser in your unit for the American Legion Auxiliary Emergency Fund. One of the best ways is to have an “empty water bottle” available to collect loose change from members each month. In April, send your collected money in the form of a check to the Department Secretary. Maybe YOU

can think of a better way.

Seek out members who may need our help. They may not realize that the AEF is available to them. The AEF alone is a reason to belong. Eligibility: Persons who have been members of the American Legion Auxiliary for at least the immediate past two consecutive years and whose current membership dues are paid at the time the emergency occurs (three consecutive years’ dues) may apply for assistance. Assistance Provided: The maximum grant amount is \$2,400.00, disbursed as the Auxiliary Emergency Fund Grant Committee determines.

We need YOU to plan a project that will help with donations to this important fund. What can YOU do? YOU may be the one who may need this fund someday.

Deb Albers
AEF Chairman



Clearwater Unit 267 honored several members with Continuous Membership Certificates.

Pictured (l to r) are Elsie Wolfe --- 55 years, Rena Wattles --- 45 years, Norma Hoffman --- 67 years, Roberta Patras --- 44 years, and Carolyn Jaeke --- 66 years. Not pictured are Arlene Mathers --- 61 years and Maxine Minerich --- 54 years.



Louisville Unit 353 members Rita Nickelsen (l) and Janice Roloff (r) from District 12 served refreshments at the Lincoln VA Hospital prior to Halloween.

VISION 2020

Greetings, Visionaries ---
The vision of the American Legion Auxiliary 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. This is the Vision Statement of the American Legion Auxiliary.

Currently, the membership for the Department of Nebraska stands at 63.10% of goal. As the Department of Nebraska, we have the opportunity to earn \$1,000 from National this year. How can we do this?

First, we need to “Vision” all the good we can do for our veterans and their families with the \$1,000. Next, to earn \$250, we must meet achieve 75% of our membership goal by December 7, 2019 (Pearl Harbor Day Award). Then, to earn another \$250, we must achieve 95% of our goal by May 18, 2020 (Armed Forces Day Award). Finally, we must reach our Department goal 30 days prior to the 2020 National Convention to earn the Celebration Award and \$500.

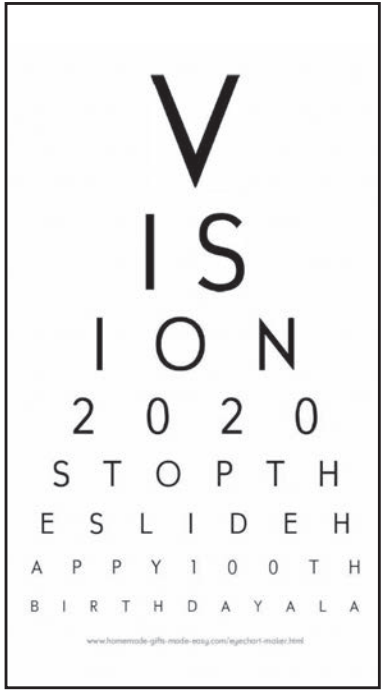
Now that you know the Vision we need to have to earn this \$1,000, all that we are asking each unit to do is to add one new member to their unit and reach 100% of your goal --- something that is realistic and attainable to help us “Stop the Slide.”

275 units are on their way to “Clear Vision” by reaching the “Far Sighted Award” (25% of membership goal). 237 units have surpassed “Blurry Vision” (50% of membership goal). 151 units have Near Vision (75% of membership goal). And, there are 16 units that have already reached 100% or more of their membership goal. What “Clear Vision” they have!

You may have heard about an IRS regulation concerning Auxiliaries. The IRS regulation concerning auxiliaries to veteran service organizations states in part:

“At least 75 percent of its members are veterans, spouses of veterans, or related to a veteran within two degrees of consanguinity (i.e., grandparent, brother, sister, grandchild represent the most distant allowable relationships).”

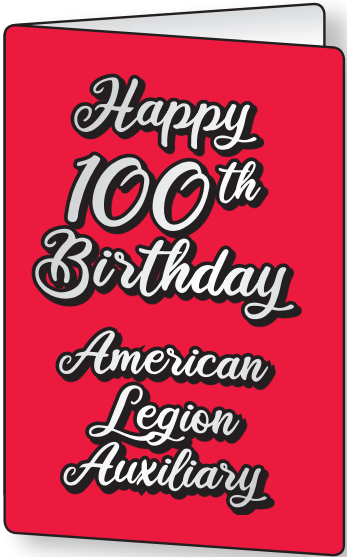
This has been a regulation for many years, and with the recent review of the Auxiliary eligibility criteria, the issue was evaluated and the decision was made to ensure the organization was compliant. This means that no great or great-great-granddaughters can join the Auxiliary. Current members whose eligibility relationship is great-granddaughter, great-great granddaughter, or direct descendent can continue being a members as long as their dues are kept current.



Have you begun to work on your units’ “One Week of Caring and Sharing for the Next Century of the ALA?” For one week this spring – April 1-7, 2020 – we are asking units to work together to contact all members of their unit. We want you to call members in good standing, members who still need to renew, and former members who need to rejoin (have not paid dues since 2017). We have handed out this Program Action Plan at Leadership school and District Fall Round Ups, and it can also be found at www.alaforveterans.com. The purpose of these calls is to let members know their membership is valued and/or they are missed.

In order to be a GREAT organization and have a GREAT vision, we need to make sure we are following through on our vision for this organization. No one can do it alone. Won’t you help us “Stop the Slide?”

Kimberly Gurley
Membership



FROM THE SECRETARY’S DESK

Your November newsletter included the following:

- The new Preamble
- A Christmas Program
- National Security Chairman’s report form
- A new membership Application (Destroy the old ones!)
- Centennial Committee page for the ABC Book
- American Essay page for the ABC Book
- Information on how to get approval for using the “American Legion”
- Information on the new membership guidelines

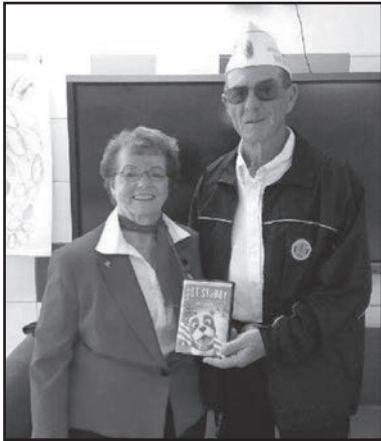
Please don’t forget to send in your SLM/PUFL/VIM members to Department. I still have many units that have not sent these names in. They do not cost your unit any money, and you could be costing your members their continuous years of membership.

Mid-Year Report deadline is December 15th. Get your reports to the chairmen so they can get their jobs done.

There have been quite a few membership transmittals, officer forms, donations sheets, and new member applications turned in lately that do not have the correct unit number or any unit number on them. Please, make sure you have the correct unit number on all your forms. It makes putting in new members and paying dues so much easier.

Enjoy the Holidays and hope to see everyone at the Mid-Year Conference in Kearney on January 10th – 12th.

Lisa Moore
Department Secretary



Culbertson Post 133 and Auxiliary Unit 133 members Dennis and Peggy Kennedy presented a special veterans program to the elementary children at Hitchcock County on Friday, November 8, 2019. They chose to honor the K9 vets after viewing a film on Sgt. Stubby, a World War I canine soldier.

After presenting 10 facts about military war dogs and viewing the animated film on Sgt. Stubby, the children enjoyed meeting a trained service dog. Joe Koetter, from the Red Willow County Sheriff’s Department, brought Luna, a Belgian Malinois, to demonstrate her ability to track down drugs. Later, the children were allowed to pet her.

Puppy chow and a gingerbread dog biscuit was their reward for the day.

CRETE AMERICAN LEGION AUXILIARY CELEBRATES 100 YEARS

On September 23, members of the Crete Unit 147 gathered at the Brew House to celebrate 100 years of the ALA. A breakfast buffet was served to the 28 members present. Red, white, and blue tablecloths and patriotic decorations adorned the tables. Special poppy napkin holders handcrafted by Diana Pomajzl represented the poppies which the organization distributes to benefit veterans programs.

Unit president Gerry Johnson welcomed everyone and introduced Deb Albers, a past department president and a recent appointee to the National Leadership Committee, as the speaker. Her power point presentation told the story of the ALA from its beginning up to the present time.

Unit 147 Secretary Paula Valenta welcomed new members

Barb Lorenz, Pat Filip, and Lorene Horky. Each was presented with an American Legion Auxiliary pin and a white carnation. Unit Vice President Diana Pomajzl gave the new members their membership cards.

Founded in 1919 during the first National Convention of The American Legion, the ALA has grown to be the world’s largest women’s patriotic service organization.



(l to r) Barb Lorenz, Pat Filip, Lorene Horky

LONGTIME LEGION AUXILIARY MEMBERS RECOGNIZED AT CEREMONY

Hay Springs Unit 239 honored five longtime members in August at the Pioneer Manor.

Unit President Patsy Futtere pointed out that the Auxiliary was celebrating its 100th birthday this year and that it was due in large part to dedicated members such as those being honored that the Auxiliary had been in existence for so long. She added that they --- along with other members --- were all volunteers dedicated to work in tandem with the American Legion to serve the best interests of the military veterans who have sacrificed so much for our country.

President Futtere thanked the five women for their dedication and service and presented them with their continuous membership certificates.

The ceremony concluded with cake and refreshments.



Pictured are Seated (L-R) are Betty Binger (65 years) and Margaret Bork (60 years). Standing (L-R) are Gladys Johnson (50 years), Helen Strotheide (55 years), and Auxiliary President Patsy Futtere. Not pictured Marcia DeHaven (50 years).



Papillion Unit 32 President Leatrice Doolen pins a 70-year member pin on Lynette Janssen at the 100th birthday Celebration held on November 10th. Congratulations, and Thank You for your years of service.



Trick or Treat on the Trail in Hickman.

Hickman American Legion Post 105 and Auxiliary Unit 105 participated in the 2019 “Trick or Treat on the Trail” in Hickman. About 1100 children were served. Participating were Legionnaires Mike Streeter, Doug Ladd, and Darrel Vermass; Jr. Auxiliary member Maesa Neal; and Auxiliary member Lori Lindgren.

Photo courtesy of Linda Varejcka.

DIST.	DIST. NAME	TOTAL %
7	Betty Davis EYES aka Betty Paes Eyes	72.07%
2	EYE of the Tiger	69.76%
1	I can SEE Clearly	68.50%
12	My EYES Adore you	65.40%
4	I only have EYES for you	63.74%
8	Private EYES	63.26%
13	Fix my EYES	62.03%
11	Cotton EYED Joe	60.69%
3	I Can’t Take my EYES off of you	60.10%
5	Hungry EYES	60.00%
10	LOOK at us	59.60%
6	When Can I SEE you again?	54.73%
9	I SEE the light	54.62%
Department Total		63.10%

Reminder:

Units --- Between now and April 20, 2020 is the time to submit your “Unit Member of the Year” or “Servicewoman of the Year” nominees. Make sure to check the ABC Book for more details.

Kathy Mazur
Past Presidents Parley Chr.

