

Legionnaire

Volume XCVIII

Number 4



Looking Back



The 2021 calendar year is almost done, and it was another fun-filled year. We started the year with our Mid-Year Conference in Columbus. We had a great conference and accomplished many tasks. The District Conventions started up next. Past Department Commander (PDC) Gary Wooten and Adjutant Dave Salak were in contact with many Posts so that we all had the best information for everyone to share. The end of the month brought in new resolutions and ideas from the multiple District Conventions.

The Washington Conference and Department Service Officer School were a little different thanks to Covid-19. We kept moving to stay warm and added to the number of resolutions we received from District Conventions. The American Legion celebrated its 102nd birthday this March, which is always something to be grateful for, and Past National Commander (PNC) Bill Oxford got to celebrate here in Nebraska! PNC Oxford stayed busy while here and Department Officers had a great time showing him around. PNC Oxford thanked the Legion members for their continued support, including collecting donations for his Commander's Project.

In April we celebrated the Child Welfare Foundation for Children and Youth Month. We were able to help Boys Town with a grant for Suicide Prevention and the Children's Hospital with another grant for newborn babies. All told the two grants combined for \$22,600. Children represent the future of our nation, and it is up to us that we help educate them for our future. May brought all of us some excitement with a new Post (Macy 139), Spring Meetings, and the rededication of the Medal of Honor Highway.

In June Adjutant Dave Salak, Amanda Washburn, and Kylea Pestel took a trip to Western Nebraska and participated in the Tractor Relay Across Nebraska (TRAN). They enjoyed the beautiful views, the stories they heard, the people of the Nebraska Antique Farming Association, and the dedicated members of TRAN. The State Convention was held in Lincoln this year. This event was one for the books, especially for newly elected Commander Dan Benes of Valparaiso Post 371. Don Suchy was elected Senior Vice Commander and many other members were elected to new leadership roles. All the fun and entertainment followed into the rest of the summer celebrating the Fourth of July, many county fairs, and parades.

During the 102nd National Convention, the state of Nebraska was involved in multiple meetings and events. Every member that went enjoyed their time in Phoenix. Our Law Enforcement Officer of the Year, Sergeant Daniel Martin of Omaha, was honored as the National Law Enforcement Officer of the Year. Our department was the only one to complete 100% Consolidated Post Reporting.

Since then, we have been appreciating everything our members do while representing this great state. We would not be able to do everything we do without the entire Legion family. We all have so much to celebrate for this year and we cannot wait to see what we all can accomplish together in 2022.

2022 Mid-Year Conference Make Your Reservations Now

The 2022 Mid-Year Conference will be held January 21 - 23, 2022 at the Ramada Inn in Columbus. The room rate is \$99.95 a night and breakfast is included with the rooms.

Headquarters asks everyone to bring canned goods with them to Mid-Year when they register. These goods will be donated to the veterans at the Victory Park Apartments in Lincoln.

A draft agenda is listed to the right. If you would like more information or have questions, please contact Adjutant Salak at Department Headquarters.

The Ramada Inn is located at 265 33rd Ave in Columbus. Call 402-564-1492 for reservations. Make your reservations soon.



Mid-Year Agenda

Friday, January 21, 2022

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

Saturday, January 22, 2022

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 23, 2022

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

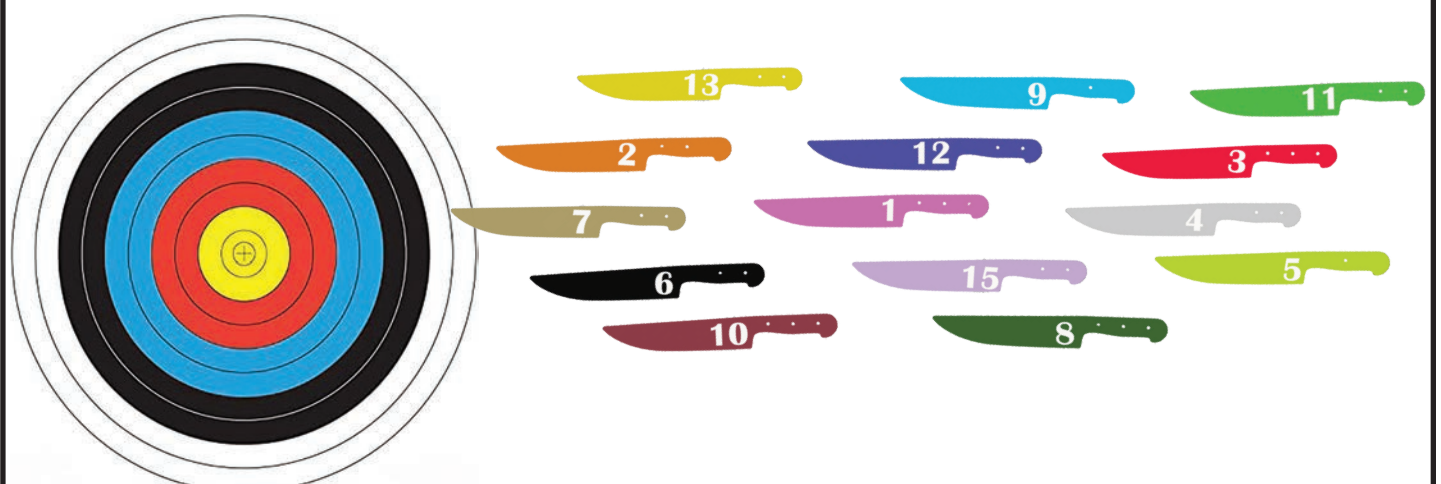
FOR GOD AND COUNTRY

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

100% FOR TARGET

2022 MEMBERSHIP GOAL: 26,097 NOVEMBER 15TH TOTAL: 17,972 – 68.87%

DISTRICT 7 - 73.56%	DISTRICT 2 - 73.19%	DISTRICT 6 - 72.50%	DISTRICT 13 - 71.48%	DISTRICT 10 - 70.81%
DISTRICT 1 - 70.22%	DISTRICT 12 - 69.91%	DISTRICT 15 - 68.82%	DISTRICT 9 - 67.99%	DISTRICT 8 - 67.76%
DISTRICT 4 - 65.81%	DISTRICT 3 - 62.83%	DISTRICT 5 - 61.48%	DISTRICT 11 - 59.06%	





Commander's Corner

Dan Benes
Department Commander




Pictured (L to R) National Commander Paul E. Dillard and Commander Dan Benes at the Fall meeting.

National Vice Commander, Angel O. Narvaez (PR), held a breakfast meeting with the Commanders from Iowa, Kansas, Minnesota, Nebraska, North Dakota, Puerto Rico, and South Dakota. This was an excellent opportunity to network and share ideas. The Conference was informative, and time was well spent with many passionate and dedicated Legion members.

October 17, I was invited to District 2 Fall Round-Up at O'Neill Post 93. It was a well-organized District meeting. Good Committee Reports were given. There was good participation and information shared. I shared Department goals and vision. We had a good membership discussion. Thank you, District 2 Commander Dave Merrick and District members, for your dedication and support of The American Legion.

November 4, Department Senior Vice Commander Don Suchy and I attended the Dollar Days Program at the Norfolk Nebraska Veterans Home. We both enjoyed participating in the program and meeting the residents. The Norfolk Veterans Home is a great facility and the people we met that work there are amazing. Thank you to the staff for all your hard work.

November 6, I attended District 9 Fall Round-Up at Post 344 Indianola, Nebraska. The meeting was well organized and informative. Good Committee reports were given. Past National Commander Mike Helm shared motivational information about retired people. Those that volunteer stay healthier, live longer, and the details were interesting. I briefed my Department goals and visions. Thank you District 9 Commander Dennis Kennedy for your hospitality.

November 11 - Veterans Day is a day we honor our Military Veterans. I was honored to



Valparaiso Elementary School hosted a Veterans Day Program with Valparaiso Post 371 members. Pictured (L to R) Senior Vice Commander Don Suchy, Post Commander Don Kobza, Celeste Johnson, Dennis Hayward, Dick Potter, Chaplain Al Bartek, Dustin Sabatka, Asst. Sergeant-At-Arms Scott Cihal, and Commander Dan Benes.

Our Legion Mid-Year is fast approaching, it will be held January 21 - 23, 2022. Make your plans to attend it in Columbus at the Ramada Inn. It will be educational and informative with great speakers.

Membership is teamwork at the Post level. Everyone is important. Everyone knows someone that is not a member. Share information about our great organization and ask them to become a member. Thank you for your dedicated support to help Nebraska meet our membership goals.

The Holidays are fast approaching. From our house to your house, my wife, Collie, and I wish you a very Merry Christmas and a Joyous New Year with Many Blessings.

For God and Country

The highlights of traveling are meeting amazing American Legion members. Early in October, I attended the Department Commanders meetings at National Headquarters in Indianapolis. We received a welcoming address from Paul E. Dillard (TX), National Commander, it was an honor to meet with him one on one later. I attended many meetings to include Legal Awareness, Washington Office Functions, Americanism, Membership and Post Activities, Marketing, Legislative, Veterans Affairs and Rehabilitation, Veteran Employment and Education, National Security, Media, and Communication. Our Midwest Region



Omaha Post 1 Veterans Day Program at Memorial Park in Omaha. Pictured (L to R) Commander Benes, Assistant Sergeant-at-Arms Scott Cihal, Membership Chairman Steve Bartos, and NECman Fred Craigie.

attend five functions that day. Valparaiso Elementary School Veterans Day Program at 8:00 AM. Veterans Day Program at Memorial Park in Omaha, organized by Post 1 Omaha – a class event that was well executed. Post 1 barbeque Luncheon. East Butler High School in Brainard Nebraska held a Veterans Day Program. Veterans Social at the Husker in Brainard, and the Brainard Legion Post 273 Annual Veterans Day Pancake and Sausage Supper. Thank you to everyone who organized events on Veterans Day and the many people that attended. It is always heartwarming to see the support of our Veterans.

November 13, I attended Sutherland Post 208 Soup Super. Great people and good food. It was an honor to meet many Legion family members and hear their stories. Thank you for a great evening. Congratulations on your new members!

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- Commander.....Dan Benes, Valparaiso
- Senior Vice Commander.....Don Suchy, Valparaiso
- Area A Vice Commander.....Michael Sheridan, Omaha
- Area B Vice Commander.....William Berney, Spalding
- Area C Vice Commander.....James Doyen, Hastings
- Area D Vice Commander.....Monte Warner, Paxton
- Adjutant.....Dave Salak, Lincoln
- Activities Director.....Brent Hagel-Pitt, Eagle
- Chaplain.....Dr. William Jackson Jr., Lincoln
- Historian.....Jennifer Salak, Omaha
- Judge Advocate.....William Harris, Omaha
- Finance Officer.....Mark Novak, Dawson
- Sergeant-At-Arms.....Michael Landkamer, Columbus
- Asst. Sergeant-At-Arms.....Scott Cihal, Valparaiso
- Service Officer.....Levi Bennett, Lincoln
- National Executive Committeeman.....Fred Craigie, Lincoln
- Alternate NECman.....Jim Costello, Bellevue

District Commanders

- Dist. 1.....Judy Walters, Ainsworth
- Dist. 2.....Dave Merrick, Creighton
- Dist. 3.....Michael Ellis, Jackson
- Dist. 4.....Beth Linn, Scottsbluff
- Dist. 5.....Marvin Donnelly, Hershey
- Dist. 6.....Julie Schnitzler, Kenesaw
- Dist. 7.....Jerry Schulte, Omaha
- Dist. 8.....Frances Shelton, Omaha
- Dist. 9.....Dennis Kennedy, Culbertson
- Dist. 10.....Roger Griffiths, Trumbull
- Dist. 11.....Rodd Paul, Western
- Dist. 12.....William Lawrence, Nehawka
- Dist. 13.....Larry Borchert, Pawnee City
- Dist. 15.....Ed Muggy, Lincoln



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Dave Salak, Publisher's Representative

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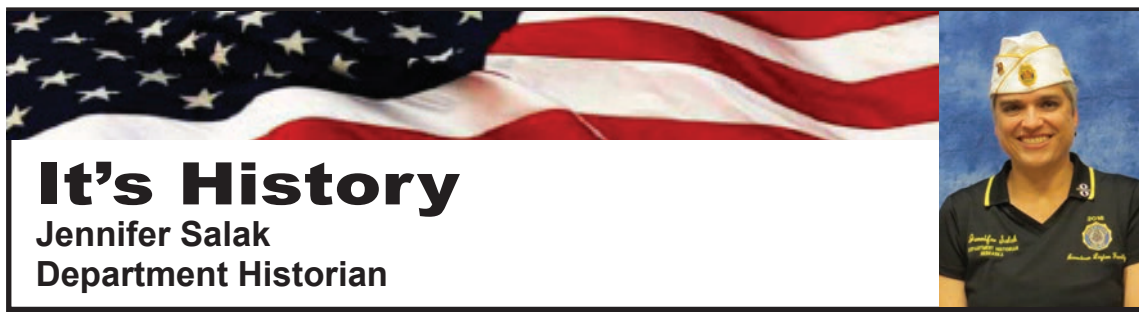
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It's History
Jennifer Salak
Department Historian



POW/MIA
Boyd Yochum
POW/MIA Liaison

American Legion Department of Nebraska History Word Search

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

December 1931 (60 years ago)

- When Legionnaires of Nebraska chose Joe **HANEY** of South Omaha as their junior vice **COMMANDER** this year, they didn't realize what a man they were picking but Joe demonstrated his championship qualities at the annual Thanksgiving Pancake Breakfast held by Martin Graves Post in Bellevue. Joe tied for first place with a record of 33 **PANCAKES** down and none up.
- RABBITS** in the **LINCOLN**, **STRATTON**, and **BEATRICE** vicinities will do well to take a holiday vacation and go visiting relatives in Australia for the Legion Posts in these places are planning to stage rabbit hunts to secure meat for needy families in Lincoln.

December 1951 (70 years ago)

- National recognition for nine members of the American Legion from Nebraska was given through **APPOINTMENTS** at the recent meeting of the National Executive Committee of the Legion in **INDIANAPOLIS**. Henry H. **DUDLEY**, a member of Omaha Post 1 and former Department Adjutant of the Legion in Nebraska, was reappointed as National **ADJUTANT**, the highest executive office in the Legion.
- American Legion posts and Auxiliary units are again participating in the **GIFTS** for **YANKS** program in Nebraska. This was once a national program which saw gifts distributed to all hospitalized soldiers during WW II. Nebraska has continued the program and now all hospitalized vets in the three veterans' hospitals and other state hospitals.

December 1941 (80 years ago)

- FAIRBURY** Post 24 and its members are showing increased activities in the Sons of the American Legion **SQUADRON**. The men are aiding the boys in every way possible and are teaching them proper use of firearms and allowing them to shoot in the Legion rifle range. The post sponsored an **ARMISTICE** Day program in the forenoon then held a banquet and dance in the evening.
- Nebraska American Legion stands **READY** to again serve the Nation, now at war, and in any possible way. This is shown by reports received from various posts throughout the state and by inquiries pouring into Department headquarters wanting to know what posts and members can do to help. Department Headquarters is prepared to keep local posts notified as rapidly as calls for **SERVICE** are made from the various government agencies.

Michael J. Bosiljevac was born October 9, 1945, in Omaha, Nebraska. He attended Creighton Prep high school and was commissioned through the U.S. Air Force Academy. He then received an Air Force Institute of Technology assignment to the University of Minnesota, where he received his master's degree in 1969. He went through undergraduate Navigator Training and Electronic Warfare Training. Bosiljevac next attended F-105G Wild Weasel upgrade training and was assigned to the 17th Wild Weasel Squadron of the 388th Tactical Fighter Wing at Korat Royal Thai AFB, Thailand.

While flying a mission over North Vietnam on September 29, 1972, he and his pilot, LtCol James W O'Neil were forced to eject. Bosiljevac was listed as MIA and reclassified to KIA in 1978. Officially he was captured but died in captivity. Major Bosiljevac's remains were returned to the United States on September 24, 1987. He was the subject of a TV movie in 1988, We Can Keep You Forever.

O'Neil and Bosiljevac were flying an F105G which was shot down by a Soviet Surface to Air missile. Both Bosiljevac and O'Neil ejected successfully, and landed 23 miles southwest of Hanoi. Radio Hanoi/Moscow/Cuba reported the capture of both pilots alive on September 29, 1972. O'Neil was subsequently transferred to Hoa Lo and repatriated March 29, 1973.

Upon his release, O'Neil stated that he had observed Bosiljevac in the parachute. On about the 5th day of confinement, he asked about Bosiljevac, and was told, "He is alive, well, uninjured, and luckier than you."

Inquiries from U.S. as well as family met with little response. The Socialist Republic of Vietnam (SRV) wrote to the family and claimed to have "no knowledge of Michael J Bosiljevac," yet on September 21, 1987, SRV provided his name, and his remains were returned to US control on September 24, 1987.

Bosiljeva was shot down at age 27, but it appeared he was closer to 33 years old when he passed away. Officially, as of 1978, Bosiljevac was a dead man, and no longer a "controversial" problem for either this country, or Vietnam.

Bosiljevac was a prize intelligence/technical catch for the Soviets. After receiving his B.S. degree, he received a Fellowship from the Atomic Energy Commission to finance his Master of Science Degree in nuclear engineering from the University of Minnesota. In 1968 he was assigned to the U.S. plutonium production plant in Aiken, South Carolina, and involved with the only "K" atomic reactor.

Soviet and Asian Communist regimes view POW/MIAs, not as a problem of humanitarian concern, but: (1) as leverage for political bargaining, (2) as an involuntary source of technical assistance, (3) as forced labor; (4) to obtain hard cash and needed goods, and (5) to turn them into human guinea pigs. It is likely that Bosiljevac fell into at least two of these five categories. A Senate report added that Communists POW/MIAs as commodities began with Vladimir Lenin.





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S.A.L. Notes

Chris Casey
Detachment Commander



Greetings from the Detachment of Nebraska! I wanted to start by thanking the Sons of The American Legion Past National Commander Danny Smith for providing training at both the Legion Family Homecoming in Valparaiso and my local Homecoming in Omaha. We had many members in attendance and received positive feedback regarding the content of the training. Please make plans to attend our Mid-year Conference at the Columbus Ramada, January 21-23, 2022. We plan to have additional training available to our members. If your time is limited, as is usually the case, please make plans to attend on Saturday. The training will be worth your time and make all of us better members!



We are quickly nearing a benchmark date for our Sons members across the Detachment. All members must renew their dues by the end of this month to stay current. You are current if your membership card says 2022. We have numerous Squadrons across the state who have not reported any membership whatsoever. Adjutants, it is your job to get membership processed as you receive it. Do not hold on to memberships and risk costing your fellow members their benefits. We also have many Squadrons who are doing an outstanding job with membership and should be commended. Membership is the lifeblood of our organization, and it is the responsibility of every member!

The National Organization has reported that they will have the "renew online" option available to every member starting January 1, 2022. They will utilize the Squadron Data Report (SDR) that was submitted this past May/June. Nebraska had very few Squadrons submit this form, and this will become very problematic. The National Organization will charge each member whatever rate was reported by your Squadron Adjutant on the SDR. Your Squadron may be shorted dues if you have not provided an updated form. Adjutants must correct this immediately!

Senior Vice Commander Eldon Kramer invited me to Gering to attend their flag education program on November 5, 2021. It was an honor to attend the program for the 5th graders of Gering Public Schools. The Gering American Legion Family Honor Guard did an outstanding job teaching flag etiquette. They covered how to raise and lower the flag, the meaning of the 13 folds, and how to fold the flag. Every 5th grader received their own 3X5 flag to practice folding and to take home with them. They also recognized a group of younger Gering boys who stopped their football practice after hearing the National Anthem being played at a nearby baseball game. Each were presented a flag to recognize them for their outstanding display of respect for the flag and the anthem. I decided to take my kids with me, and they loved walking around watching the other kids learn how to fold flags. My kids were also presented flags. Please consider bringing this type of program to the youth in your community. Eldon would love to discuss the program with you and answer any questions you may have.

Membership Minute

Steve Bartos, Membership Chairman

December 2021. For the most part, we've survived another year of the pandemic. There were disruptions, of course, but things have improved and our activities have started getting back on track. Let's hope that the improvements continue.

I'm glad to report that Nebraska met and exceeded the 65% goal on the Veterans Day target date, by several percentage points. And our renewal rate was over 70%. Those are both good signs, but we must keep our feet on the gas and be a little more relentless in our effort to win the Big 12 competition again this year.

Commander Benes has made a pledge of 91.15% of the goal by the March 2022 target date. We must reach at least that number or be disqualified from the competition. Three departments in our category have pledged more and five have pledged less. Because the two highest pledges were aggressive (94.25% and 94.00%), Nebraska has a good chance of winning first or second place if we can get our numbers up in the 92-93% range.

For us, that's aggressive, too!!! But let's do it!!! Let's shoot for 93%. If the three departments who have pledged more than we did all fail, we must make sure we get to the 91.15% mark.

I had a sense that we were slower this year in receiving the first batch of dues you all submitted. But have caught up to where we usually are at this time of year, in the top 10 or so departments. Not sure the reason for that. Troubles with the new MyLegion switchover, perhaps? I know that there were at least some posts that had dues notices that went out to their members with some errors on them.

Perhaps it's a little earlier than you usually do it, but let's think about starting to check your rosters and delinquent lists and getting every 2021 member caught up for 2022. Maybe you have some members who were somehow removed from the list of renewal notices that went out from Indianapolis by some kind of glitch in the system and we don't even know it.

Remember that you can still use MyLegion to access a list of folks who are former, existing, or current members of Post 500. I remain convinced that Post 500 is a terrific source of Legionnaires who we somehow couldn't or didn't try to identify and are now sitting there just waiting to be contacted and asked to move into YOUR local post.

Please be reminded that December 8, 2021, is the cutoff date for removing names from January 7, 2022, renewal notice from National Headquarters.

On behalf of myself and the Department Membership Committee, I certainly wish you the Merriest of Christmases and the Happiest of New Year'! I hope to see some of you at the Mid-Year Conference.

Renew! Recruit! Reinstate!
 Have a nice December!

Sons of The American Legion Membership As of November 16, 2021

District	2021 Members	2022 Members
1	309	146
2	611	96
3	224	99
4	309	115
5	133	76
6	1,327	410
7	703	199
8	838	277
9	311	111
10	344	108
11	1,070	329
12	254	62
13	153	45
15	147	129
Total	6,733	2,202



Detachment Commander Chris Casey visited Bennington Post 266 to talk about the new Squadron that was started. Pictured are Bennington members and Commander Chris Casey.

District 11 S.A.L Membership Award

Nathan Deke

The 7th annual Membership award will be presented at the District 11 Convention to the squadron having the Highest Membership Percentage out of the 21 squadrons in District 11 on December 31, 2021, for the 2022 membership year.

District 11 Convention is scheduled to be held in Crete, on Saturday, March 26, 2022. The Squadron Commander and Adjutant should both receive a letter of notification if their Squadron is the recipient of this award in January.

The following Squadrons have received this honor in the past: Milligan, Exeter, Geneva, Friend, and McCool Junction. McCool Junction received the plaque for having the highest percent of 118.75 with three more members than they had in 2020. Exeter had a plate engraved on their plaque for having an increase of eight members and 108.42%. They were the only Squadron in District 11 having over 100% membership turned in out of the 23 Squadrons in District 11 on December 31, 2020.

I wish I did not have to get into this, yes two SAL charters were pulled from Squadrons for inactivity, not responding, and no membership for multiple years. Unfortunately, there were eight Squadrons including these two had no membership turned in on the December 31, 2020, Membership Report that we used to determine the winner of the 2021 award plaque.

We would like to thank and very much appreciate District 11 American Legion for the financing of this membership project. Our goal of this award is to promote timely membership turn in and increase the membership of all branches of The American Legion Family as well. I am sure many of you are aware that when one member passes away, their shoes are not easy to fill, so if you know eligible members for one branch of the Legion Family pass it on to get them involved.

Please remember that you are eligible for membership both Sons and Junior Auxiliary Memberships on date of birth. It is a true fact that the Sons, Junior Auxiliary, and Auxiliary have members with more years of continuous membership than their age is. When your child, grandchild, niece, nephew or whatever the case may be, when they are at a young age, they are not capable to join on their own. So, if you know of a youngster, or someone, that you would like to see be awarded with a 50, 60, 70, or 80+ year Continuous-Membership Certificate someday, please remember shopping does not get much easier than purchasing them a membership.



Straight Talk

Levi Bennett
Department Service Officer



VA Acknowledges Backlog of Claims at VBA

As of second week in October 2021, the Veterans Benefit Administration (VBA) confirmed there were over 204,000 claims pending more than 125 days (VBA goal is to complete decisions in an average of 125 days). VBA is projecting over 260,000 claims will exceed 125 days “pending” in the next few weeks resulting in an increased backlog by over 50,000 claims by November 2021. VBA identified more than 70,000 claims alone stemming from the presumptive relationship between Agent Orange and Parkinsonism, bladder cancer, and hypothyroidism.

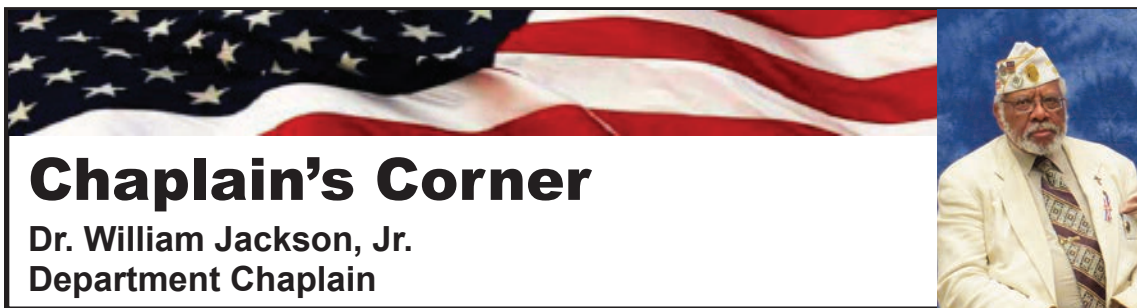


Beginning in March of 2020, the Federal Records Centers closed except for responding to emergency requests for records, this combined with the inability to schedule Compensation and Pension exams contributed to and to some extent is still contributing to the large backlog of pending claims. Veterans may be better able to have their claims processed sooner if their claim is fully developed, meaning to have the claim ready to process upon submission to VBA, this includes submitting a medical opinion and Disability Benefits Questionnaire completed by a private medical provider. To learn more about submitting a fully developed claim I recommend discussing this option with your local County Veteran Service Officer (CVSO). Although VBA has indicated they will be hiring and training 2,000 new

employees to assist in reducing the current backlog of claims for Compensation and Pension, it appears VBA may be on track to still have a backlog of claims for the next three years. VBA has also been authorizing overtime and according to recent reports the backlog has actually reduced by more than 14,000 claims since August 2021; however, based on their own data this appears to be a short-lived reduction. To learn more about the current data regarding VBA claims you may visit the Veterans Benefits Administration Reports website at https://www.benefits.va.gov/reports/detailed_claims_data.asp. This website provides several points of data of interest with regard to VBA claims.

VA extends the presumptive period for Persian Gulf War Veterans

The United States Department of Veterans Affairs has extended the presumptive period from Dec. 31, 2021, to Dec. 31, 2026, for qualifying chronic disabilities rated 10% or more resulting from undiagnosed illnesses in Persian Gulf War Veterans. Currently the presumptive list for Veterans of the Persian Gulf War are certain medically unexplained illnesses related to Persian Gulf War service without regard to cause, including, chronic fatigue syndrome, fibromyalgia, and functional gastrointestinal disorders. Also included are undiagnosed illnesses with symptoms that may include but are not limited to abnormal weight loss, cardiovascular disease, muscle and joint pain, headache, menstrual disorders, neurological and psychological problems, skin conditions, respiratory disorders, and sleep disturbances. If you have any of the conditions or symptoms listed above and served on active duty on or after August 2, 1990, in the Gulf War Theater of military operations, I encourage you to contact a CVSO to discuss filing a claim for benefits for which you may be entitled.



Chaplain's Corner

Dr. William Jackson, Jr.
Department Chaplain



One would think that after a lot of Holy Bible study, church service attendance, community activism, and daily prayers and devotionals, you'd have a handle on this life with the Lord. Apparently not, as far as this once great nation of ours.

This is not a Legion sociocultural issue as much as an example of Satan's success within the confines of a once Christian beehive of mission works and worldwide prayer. So, what exactly, has come to pass to separate mere sociopolitical inferences from God's quest to call His church to order to be that lighted "...candle, and put it [not] under a bushel, but on a candlestick; and it giveth light unto all..." (Matthew 5:15).

Satan, or Lucifer, is an archangel of light, who has full access to God but IS NOT omniscient, omnipotent, or omnipresent like God (Genesis 1:26). He IS the "...prince and power of the air..." (Ephesians 2:2). But what makes him so...well...attractive to us, God's elect (Romans 8:33)? It's our flesh, so nice and comfortable in appearance, but riddled with death that we must all maintain good hygiene with deodorants, aftershaves, fragrances, and what-have-you to remain tolerant of each other's company. Heaven will not see this corruption due to its sinful nation (Genesis 6:12). When we accept Jesus, we'll have perfect bodies for working directly with the Lord and His angels (1 Corinthians 15:42).

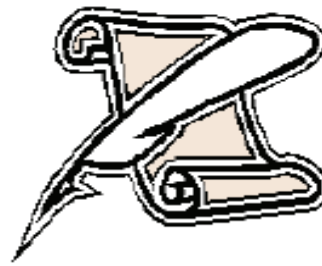
By the way, those "little anti-Christ's" are those among us who serve Satan, often without their realizing it. How is that possible? Sex, drugs, alcohol, and any other fleshly pursuit fires up human desires to be satiated beyond what even hedonists may claim as superior engagements, thus overturning common sense and reason. Sin lays at the cornerstone of fleshly preoccupations (Romans 3:20). Without God's salvation, no one can or may escape Satan's influence.

Any battle to save a nation, or the people of God, starts with your relationship with God. It's been foretold of our nation's distress (1 John 2:22), and of God's continuing victory over Satan and his wiles. The number one answer for us to offer is: where will you be during this time of trial? Will you remain Jesus' disciple, or succumb to Satan's touch, like so many of our apostate churches have done? Your future in Christ lays in your hands.

Rehabilitation and Employment Committee

Daryl Harrison, Committee Chairman

The Rehabilitation and Employment Committee (VR&EC) covers a vast spectrum of issues.



Through email exchange with the committee, we identified several areas of concern. Most of those issues, if not all, issued by The American Legion has little means of influencing. Veteran Rehabilitation and Employability Programs are well established, administrated,

and evaluated at state and federal levels. Leaving the question, what should the VR&EC address that can have a real and measurable positive impact in supporting Nebraska Veterans?

Let us give credit where credit is due while remembering that sometimes you cannot see the forest for the trees. I emailed our Department Commander Dan Benes. I just was not happy. A true and needy issue was not showing up on the radar. Commander Benes had been attending and reading about the status of our Nebraska Veterans Homes. Some could say it was a stretch to categorize this as an issue of the VR&EC. But sometimes an issue is in such immediate need of being addressed you must take that stretch as a leader to ensure the problem is acted upon ASAP. Hats off to Commander Benes, we did not miss the boat.

This is one of those issues. We the Legionnaires of Nebraska and our Legion Family must help in any way we can to alleviate the staffing problems of Nebraska Veterans Homes. There is a way for Legionnaires, Auxiliary, Sons of the American Legion, and Legion Riders to bring to the table what is needed to make a difference as quickly as possible.

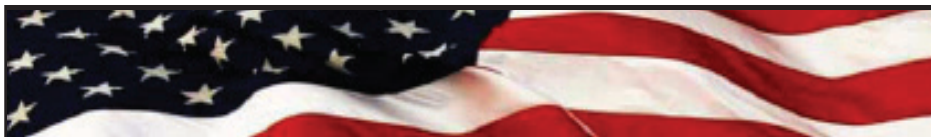
John Hilgert, Nebraska Dept. Of Veterans Affairs Director has told us about the staffing problems of our Nebraska Homes. It has not improved since our Annual Convention. This problem has resulted in Nebraska Homes are no longer receiving residents. That means that our Nebraska Veterans in need of care and eligible for care in a Nebraska Home must go somewhere else. If they can find somewhere else! I have arranged for Director Hilgert to attend the Mid-Year Convention at Columbus in January to present to us where this problem is and the vehicles by which his department is trying to solve the situation.

In the meantime, I am working to fully develop The Legion's answer. We are in direct contact with the Nebraska Veterans' Affairs. The groundwork is being laid. Please keep an eye out for communications from your District Commanders and other Department offices regarding this matter.

These are the times I know why I am a member of the Legionnaire Family. These are the times we all come together as a family to help our fellow veterans that cannot help themselves.




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!



Rider's Rally

John Arias
Department ALR Liaison



Greetings Fellow Riders!
I attended the District 6 Fall Roundup and I learned about Canine for Warriors to help Veterans with PTSD. I would like to thank the ALR who attended. It was good to see participation.



It is that time of year where the Chapters choose a Rider of the Year. Each Chapter may submit one Rider for the Robert Swanson Memorial Nebraska ALR Rider of the Year. The Criteria is 1) what the Rider has done in their lifetime, 2) at least two letters of recommendations, 3) their community service, and 4) what this person has done for the good of the American Legion Riders and the candidate must be a member in good standing with the Legion Family and Legion Riders at the time of application. All applications must be submitted by March 1, 2022. Please email the application and supporting material to me at johnpaularias32@gmail.com

So far, the Legacy Run Across Nebraska has raised \$1,400!

The Norfolk American Legion Riders Post 16 still has 2021 ROMP t-shirts available in most sizes. Even if you did not attend, you can buy a State Romp t-shirt to help them support their fundraiser. Cost: \$15, Contact: Bill Jepsen bjepsenfly@aol.com, 402-750-9993; or Pat Fisher pfisher@ptcnet.net, 402-329-8546 if you are interested in buying a 2021 State Romp t-shirt.

On Saturday, November 6, I attended the Veterans Day Parade in Kearney; the weather was great for the parade. I would like to thank the American Legion Post 52 for the

chili feed and the VFW Post 759 for hosting the parade. The ride to Kearney was cold, but we had over 40 Riders attend. Thank you to the Aurora, Grand Island, Gibbon, and Kearney ALR Chapters for attending. Thanks to all Veterans who rode in the Kearney Veterans Day parade.

Please send me the miles your Chapter has ridden and the hours of Community Service for the year by January 1, 2022, so I can report to the DEC in January. Also, please share this information with your Post so that they may include it on the Consolidated Post Report in May 2022.

During the Department Conference in Columbus this January, the Riders will be meeting on Saturday, January 22, 2022, at 4:30 p.m. after the Legion adjourns for the day. Please plan to attend our Rider Meeting; room location will be announced during the Conference.

Judge Ryan Carson of the 9th Judicial District and Sandra Miller, the VA representative who serves on the Lancaster County Veterans Treatment Court and the Central Nebraska Veterans Treatment Court, will be presenting at the Legion Conference in Columbus on January 22, 2022, at 10:05 a.m. Please attend the Mid-Winter Conference and support the Department of Nebraska.



Weeping Water Post 237 recognized six members with 50-years of continuous membership. Pictured top (L to R) Gary Petersen, Mike Bose, pictured middle (L to R) Stephen Houston, Mike Hobscheidt, pictured bottom Dennis Marland. Not Pictured Richard Moore.



A local Eagle Scout, Mikey Ropers, dedicated his Eagle Project to the Nebraska National Guard on September 11. Pictured (L to R) Nebraska Adjutant General, Major General Daryl Bohac, Eagle Scout Mikey Ropers, Department Commander Dan Benes, and Brigadier General Gary Ropers.



The Western Sandhills Legion Riders of Gordon 34 and Hay Springs 239 honored members of the McKay family with Quilts of Valor. Pictured back row the Western Sandhills Riders, front row (L to R) Richard McKay, Lloyd McKay, Jesse McKay, and James McKay.



Prague Post 254 members visited other members in local nursing homes with gift baskets put together by Unit 254. Pictured (L to R) Alf Polacek, Clarence Egr, Adjutant Larry Johnson, and Ron Paseka.

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



Alberts, Donald, Scribner, WWII
 Allacher, Bruce B., Millard, Korea
 Andrews, John W., Lincoln, Vietnam
 Applebee, Warren G., Naponee, Vietnam
 Ashmore, Arlie D., Hay Springs, Vietnam
 Attebery, Delmar K., North Platte, Korea
 Bachman, Charles S., Bertrand, WWII
 Baker, Ralph, Ashland, WWII
 Bals, Henry, Crete, WWII
 Bauer, James, Prague, WWII
 Beavers, Gardie Jr., Carleton, WWII
 Beitler, Evan, Cowles, Korea
 Bernard, Gary, Benkelman, Vietnam
 Binger, Bruce, Hay Springs, WWII
 Bixby, Larry, Gordon, Vietnam
 Blair, Leland, Brunswick, Korea
 Blecha, James, Table Rock, Korea
 Bliss, Scott, Macy, WWII
 Bloss, Dale, Lincoln, SAL
 Booker, Eldon, Edison, WWII
 Bradshaw, Robert, Bellevue, WWII
 Brown, Dave, Blair, Vietnam
 Brown, Gary, Hastings, WWII
 Buettner, Donald, Grand Island, Vietnam
 Burdick, Benjamin, Ainsworth, WWII
 Buss, Charles, Hastings, Korea
 Carlson, John, Minden, Korea
 Carr, Frank, Gibbon, WWII
 Chaney, James, Stuart, Korea
 Chase, Harold, Cortland, Korea
 Christen, Donald, Ord, Korea
 Clifton, Stan, Orchard, Vietnam
 Cox, James, Pender, WWII
 Danbom, Alan, Hemingford, WWII
 Davis, James, Millard, Vietnam
 Egger, Merlyn L., Hickman, Korea
 Ellis, Harold L., Allen, Korea
 Emde, Larry, Grand Island, SAL
 Engler, Lavern F., Atkinson, Korea
 Englund, Paul D., Holdrege, Korea
 Erickson, Stanley, Kearney, Korea
 Fisher, Dan, Tobias, Lebanon/Grenada
 Flynn, Edward, Lincoln, Vietnam
 Frahm, Thomas, Yutan, Korea
 Frank, Melfred, Creighton, Korea
 Frerichs, Walter, Juniata, Vietnam
 Frieden, Earl D., Shickley, Korea
 Frye, Gary, Rushville, Korea
 Fuchs, David V., Humphrey, Korea
 Gadway, Wesley, Hershey, Korea
 Galitz, Robert, Norfolk, Korea
 Galley, Vincent, Columbus, Korea
 Garrison, Roland, De Witt, Korea
 Gerdes, Steven L., Humboldt, SAL
 Giger, Robert A., Kenesaw, Vietnam
 Gilmore, Eugene, North Omaha, Vietnam
 Goins, Charles, Dix, Vietnam
 Gonnerman, Eugene R., Gresham, Korea
 Grady, Charles, Millard, Vietnam
 Greenwood, Dickie D., Odell, Korea
 Greer, James, Grand Island, Korea
 Gross, Ivan D., Lincoln, Korea
 Gubbels, Eugene J., Randolph, Korea
 Guthrie, Charles Sr., Omaha, WWII
 Gutschenritter, Michael, Lincoln, Vietnam
 Guy, Warner, Bennington, Vietnam
 Halladay, Jerry, Morse Bluff, Vietnam
 Hansel, Gary D., Denton, Vietnam
 Harms, James A., Sterling, Vietnam
 Harris, S. T., Alliance
 Hart, Chester, Campbell, Vietnam
 Hartman, Marvin E., Dixon, Korea

Hegner, Joseph J., Gibbon, Korea
 Heimes, Dean, Wynot, Vietnam
 Herboldsheimer, John, Potter, Vietnam
 Heyne, Ruth B., Uehling, WWII
 Hinrichs, Richard, Glenvil, Vietnam
 Hoffman, Dan G., Lynch, Korea
 Holmes, Roger, Millard, Korea
 Holstein, Robert, Rushville, WWII
 Horak, Emil T., Schuyler, Korea
 Horst, Eugene, Brewster, WWII
 Hruza, Tom E., Morse Bluff, Korea
 Huebner, Carl E., St. Paul, WWII
 Huff, Robert J., Lincoln, SAL
 Hume, Gene J., Lincoln, Vietnam
 Hunsche, Patricia, Blair, Korea
 Iverson, Charles E., Potter, WWII
 Jackson, Kenneth, Lincoln, Vietnam
 Jacobson, Eugene, Wolbach, WWII
 James, Michael, Arapahoe, Lebanon/Grenada
 Janicek, Gerald, Bellwood, Korea
 Johnson, Dayle, Ashland, Korea
 Johnson, Harold, Millard, Vietnam
 Johnson, James B., Cody, Korea
 Johnson, Larry S., Tilden, Korea
 Jones, Carl E., Ashland, Vietnam
 Joyce, George, Minden, Vietnam
 Junker, Harold, Denton, Vietnam
 Jurgensen, Jerald L., Gibbon, Vietnam
 Kamm, Frank, Blue Hill, WWII
 Kammann, Marlin, Alma, Vietnam
 Karpisek, James E., Dwight, WWII
 Karre, Theodore M., Lincoln, Vietnam
 Klassen, Merle, Albion, Vietnam
 Kleinschmidt, Richard, Shickley
 Krueger, Dana S., Gand Island, SAL
 Laffin, Harvey G., Crab Orchard, Vietnam
 Lahm, Earl L., Lincoln, Korea death report
 Lapage, Dennis Sr., Valparaiso, Lebanon/Grenada
 Letcher, Alvern, Hay Springs, Korea
 Luhn, Sherman, Kearney, Vietnam
 Lutz, Wayne, Benkelman, Vietnam
 McAhren, Larry, Wood River, Vietnam
 McDevitt, Larry A., Millard, Vietnam
 Meyer, John II., Gering, Grenada/Lebanon
 Mihulka, Vernon J., Norfolk, Korea
 Miner, Roger W., Denton, Vietnam
 Mitchell, Francis J., Sidney, Korea
 Mitchell, Larry A., Allen, Vietnam
 Monaghan, John P., Millard, WWII
 Moreland, Stephan J., Cody, Vietnam
 Moroney, Thomas, Grand Island, Korea
 Mousel, Wilbur, Schuyler, SAL
 Murphy, Frank J., Stuart, Korea
 Neely, Jesse F., Lincoln, WWII
 Nelson, Charles, Overton, Vietnam
 Newton, Gary, Laurel, Vietnam
 Norden, Pual A., Lexington, SAL
 Obermiller, Harold, Rushville, Vietnam
 Oglevie, Robert, Lincoln, Vietnam
 Oligmueller, Albert, West Point, WWII
 Oneil, Roger F., St. Paul, Vietnam
 Osborne, James M., Glenvil, Vietnam
 Otte, Fredrick D., Omaha, Vietnam
 Paes, Gerald H., Prague, Vietnam
 Palu, Bill W., Madrid, Vietnam
 Parker, John G., Paxton, Vietnam
 Paulsen, Stanley, Beaver Crossing
 Perman, Jesse C., Omaha, Vietnam
 Peter, Donald, Norfolk, Korea
 Petersen, Bradley, Millard, Vietnam

Pettinger, Raymond, Burchard, WWII
 Pfanstiel, Charles, Osmond, Korea
 Polzkill, Robert, Central City, Vietnam
 Prai, Galin, Lincoln, WWII
 Prottsman, Marlon, Venango, Vietnam
 Quist, Darvid, Blair, Korea
 Rasmussen, Dennis, Hay Springs, Vietnam
 Reed, Wayne A., Cowles, WWII
 Reilly, Jim D., Spalding, Global War
 Richards, Allen C., Miller, Korea
 Rindone, Emilio C., Omaha, Korea
 Ringle, Ronald, Fremont, Vietnam
 Rist, Ronald L., Humboldt, SAL
 Robinson, Lee, Alliance, Vietnam
 Ross, James D., Valentine, Korea
 Ross, Ralph L., Syracuse, Vietnam
 Russell, Thomas, Imperial, Vietnam
 Schere, John H., Burwell, Korea
 Schuchart, Thomas, Millard, Vietnam
 Schulz, Merle L., Garland, Korea
 Schwaninger, Ronald, Cortland, Vietnam
 Schwieger, Leonard, Grand Island, SAL
 Sears, John, Papillion, Lebanon/Grenada
 Seeley, Hal J., Pierce, Vietnam
 Seidel, Gayland, Lincoln, SAL
 Shelso, David, Fremont, Vietnam
 Smith, Gene P., Fort Calhoun, Korea
 Snell, Larry J., Kenesaw, Vietnam
 Snidow, Martin, Culbertson, Vietnam
 Steiner, Dennis, Columbus, WWII
 Stephen, Homer E., Lincoln, WWII
 Stichka, Emil, Ruskin, Korea
 Stolle, Jack E., Grand Island, SAL
 Stritt, Thomas, Indianola, Vietnam
 Strong, Joe, Wilcox, Korea
 Strunk, Richard R., Jansen, Vietnam
 Stueckrath, Marvin, Norfolk, Vietnam
 Sullivan, Robert W., Palmer
 Ternus, Kevin, Humphrey, Panama
 Tesina, John B., Dwight, Korea
 Thode, Jerry, Blair, Korea
 Thompson, E. B., Sargent, WWII
 Todd, Charles III., Millard, WWII
 Ulmer, Laurence, Sutton, Vietnam
 Vancleave, Jim, West Point, Vietnam
 Vinsonhaler, Raymond, Falls City, Vietnam
 Voecks, Norman, Norfolk, Korea
 Volquardsen, Jerry G., Gibbon, SAL
 Voss, Duane, Grand Island, Korea
 Wade, Greg, Elwood, Lebanon/Grenada
 Walker, Bob, Grand Island, Vietnam
 Walker, Gary, Loup City, Vietnam
 Way, Robert B., Ralston, WWII
 Wedekind, Donald, Newman Grove, Korea
 Welch, Neil, Millard, Vietnam
 West, Charles H. Jr., Ralston, WWII
 Westphal, Hugo, Cook, Korea
 Wieland, William A., Lincoln, Vietnam
 Wielgus, Paul R., Blair, Korea
 Wilcox, Carroll, Silver Creek, Vietnam
 Wilcox, Rex J., South Sioux City, WWII
 Wolfe, Donald A., York, Vietnam
 Woodward, Thaine, Allen, WWII
 Worster, Perry G., Lincoln, Vietnam
 Wulfekoetter, Larue, Hebron, Vietnam

Events Calendar

December

- 12-17 National American Legion College - Indianapolis
- 23-24 Christmas - Office Closed
- 31 New Year's Eve - Office Closed

January

- 14 Martin Luther King Jr. Day - Office Closed
- 21-23 Mid-Year Conference - Columbus

February

- 14 Valentines Day
- 21 Presidents Day - Office Closed

Check www.nebraskalegion.net under the meetings tab for all upcoming National, State, and District events.

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Wakefield Post 81 member Kenneth "KB" Smith was presented the Legion of Honour medal by French Consul General Alexis Andres. Pictured (L to R) KB Smith and Alexis Andres. This is France's most prestigious national honor. It dates to 1802 and has remained France's highest honor through the years and France has began giving it to World War II veterans for their role in liberating France.

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, 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.



Jim Kellner of Weston Post 308 was Saunders County Veteran of the month. Pictured (L to R) District 7 Commander Dan Benes, Jim Kellner, and Dan Kauble Saunders County CVSO.



O'Neill Post 93 member Duane Vosler received a Quilt of Valor from Alliance Post 7 Legion Riders. Pictured Legion Riders and Duane Vosler.



Atkinson Post 86 elected a new Commander. Pictured (L to R) Past Post Commander Jake Dvorak and Commander Gerry Bouska.



Bellwood Post 327 member Gerald Janicek was presented with a Quilt of Valor, he was a 68-year continuous member.



Exeter Post 218 member Larry Cudaback received a Quilt of Valor. Pictured (L to R) Bonnie Cudabeck, Dawn Welch, Larry Cudaback, Stacey Hall, and Darcy White.



Ashland Post 129 had many members receive Quilts of Valor. Pictured top is 15 members with their Quilts of Valor. Member Buster Roberts also received a Quilt of Valor. Pictured bottom (L to R) Judy Roberts, Buster Roberts, and Linda Roeber.



Ewing Post 214 had eight members receive Quilts of Valor. Pictured (L to R) Wayne Pollock, Don Ruroede, Jim Bourn, Butch Rotherham, Larry Jorgensen, Dennis Ziems, Kirk Knapp, and Jake Schindler.



Past Detachment Commander Bud and Beverly Neel went to the 2021 American Legion World Series in Shelby, N.C. Pictured (L to R) Beverly and Bud Neel.



Norfolk Post 16 gave two scholarships to two high school students. Pictured top (L to R) Ethan Pinnt and Commander Don Horn. Pictured bottom (L to R) Commander Don Horn and Gabriel Johnson.



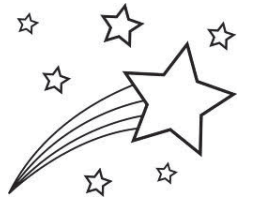
Chardon Post 12 member John Dueker chatted with Governor Ricketts during the annual Fur Trade Days. Pictured top (L to R) Gov. Ricketts and John Dueker. Member Glen Kotschwar drove in the Fur Trade Days parade. Pictured below is Glen Kotschwar.



Paxton Post 303 held a pancake feed for a fundraiser. Pictured are members and guests.



Crofton Post 128 recently installed an elevator in their building. Pictured (L to R) Jim Hames, Francis Guenther, Bob Haberer, Past Commander Ed Kleinschmit, Dennis Merkel, and Dave Donner.



FROM THE DEPARTMENT PRESIDENT



Blessings to all members of the American Legion Family of Nebraska. As we approach the season of giving, please include our heroes as we celebrate Christ's birth. Also, offer prayers for those who have lost a loved one this year.

As we move on to a new year, we recognize that 2022 is a very important milestone year for the Nebraska American Legion Auxiliary. We have been Happily Helping Heroes for 100 years,

beginning with the leadership of 1922 Department President 1922 Minnie Penny. The 100th Birthday party will begin at Midyear Conference, January 21-23, at the Ramada Inn at Columbus. Specifics and brief agenda can be found in this publication of the Star.

I would like to express my gratitude to all of you who have given me the opportunity to lead you as Department President. Thank you to all the districts who held Fall Conferences and made me and cabinet members feel so welcome. Thank you to the Committee chairmen and committee members who said "yes" and worked very hard to accomplish the tasks given them. And to all of you who have mentored, shared your expertise, and listened, I thank you!

A very, very, big thank you to my

daughter and Department Historian Angie Foster. She gets me where I need to be --- physically and emotionally --- and continues to do a wonderful job in her positions at the Department and National level. She has also taken on updating the website.

Again, thank you everyone, as we continue to be a family Happily Helping Heroes!

Barbie Meyer
Department President



HISTORY TIME CAPSULE



Bring your completed Unit Time Capsule to the Department Midyear Conference in January to display for all to see at the Cavalcade of Memories Table!

Commit to making memories this year any way you know how. The easiest way to document the passage of a significant year for your Auxiliary unit is to build a

keepsake time capsule. Creating your own time capsule doesn't have to be difficult, time-consuming, or expensive. Use your time capsule to document history, personal accomplishments, and small details of memories that will otherwise certainly fade with time.

Things to Consider Adding to Your Time Capsule: Mementos from an event, photos of your unit, newspaper, best soup recipe, list of members, poppies, etc. Get creative and have items that represent your unit!

Prizes will be awarded!

Angie Foster,
Department Historian

FROM THE DEPARTMENT SECRETARY



I am back in the office. What a long recovery. I want to thank those of you who have been patient and left messages on the answering machine. Covid took its toll, and I am still working on getting back to 100%.

If you have reached the answering machine and did not leave a message, I am very sorry I didn't get to return your call. There is only one line into the office, and I may be on the line, with someone,

post office, running errands, bank, lunch or any other personal things that come up during the day. We all know that growing older, things happen that are out of our control, but without leaving a message, I don't know that you are trying to reach me.

Membership is processed daily by Roxanne, and I am keeping up on donations. So, if your checks aren't cleared within two months, call me. We keep great records on who has paid donations. Remember, sometimes the mail can take up to two weeks to get to the office.

Thank you for turning in your donations on the correct sheets. The sheets were changed this year based on how much each facility has to use from donations. If you are

upset about your favorite facility not being on the donation sheets --- and I know some of you are --- please speak with the representatives at the facilities about spending their available funds. If they will not tell you how much they have available, call the office. I will be happy to share that information.

You are all so generous funding the facilities across the state; but, if the facilities are not using those funds, there are veterans in our state who do need them and would be happy to receive the help.

Please remember that not all veterans are in VA facilities, but they still deserve our help.

Lisa Moore
Department Secretary/Treasurer

DISTRICT 11 PRESIDENT



My name is Vicky Thompson, and I am the District 11 President for the next two years. My home unit is Milligan ALA Unit 240 in Fillmore County. I am also the current secretary for Unit 240 and have served as Fillmore County President. I also served as District 11 Secretary/Treasurer for two years. I am a retired insurance agent and currently work part-time as the village clerk for the Village of Milligan.

In 1972, I was eligible through my first husband, Dorian J. Bunker, who was in the Army during the Viet Nam War. I am also eligible through my father, Ernest L. Johnson, who served in the Navy during World War II. This year is my 50th year in the Auxiliary.

My president's theme is "Remember, Honor, & Respect our Veterans." My symbol is the Flag. Earning funds for a garden shed

for the Community Living Center or the Transitional Housing at the Grand Island VA Medical Center is my District 11 President's project this year.

I attended my first National Convention this summer in Phoenix, Arizona and learned a great deal. It was an honor to serve as a page.

I am currently married to Robert D. Thompson and have a son and a daughter and one grand-daughter that will turn one year of age this December. My daughter has been an Auxiliary member since she was born, and now her daughter is a new Junior member.

It is an honor to serve our veterans. It is important to "remember and honor" those who are no longer with us --- but especially important to "honor and respect" all living veterans of any age.

In my spare time, I enjoy reading and putting together quilts. My greatest joy now, though, is spending time with my granddaughter.

Vicky Thompson
District 11 President
2021 - 2023

WHAT HAVE YOU DONE FOR MEMBERSHIP?



A simple question. What have you done for membership?

"Oh, but I'm not the membership chairman," you might reply. That might be true, but the membership chairman's duties are to collect unit members' dues, submit them to Headquarters, issue the membership cards, contact members who have not paid, report deceased members, and keep ALAMIS data updated. In that list of duties, do you see "recruit new members?" No. Because recruiting new members is EVERY MEMBER'S responsibility!

What should be your first step? To pay your 2022 dues! Have you done that?

Currently, Nebraska is leading the Northwest Division; but we are behind where we were last year at this time by about 1,000 members. By paying your dues, you will have your current membership card to proudly show how many years you have belonged to the world's largest

patriotic organization! Remember, not everyone is eligible to belong to the ALA. That can be a selling point when recruiting. It is a privilege and honor to belong because of the military service of a family member.

Next, keep it simple. Wear our brand every day in some way. A very easy way is to have an Auxiliary emblem badge or pin that can be placed on your top, coat, purse, or cell phone. Use your imagination! Check out the American Legion Flag and Emblem catalog or website (<http://emblem.leg.org>). You will find a wide variety of "brand" items.

Most importantly, always have a membership application with you! The pamphlet with application form provides you with talking/selling points such as Who We Are, Why Join the ALA, What We Do, plus some ALA Fast Stats and Auxiliary Member Discounts and Services. Share your "why" (see my article in October's The Star) and then paraphrase from the pamphlet "Your annual membership makes a difference. Even if you're limited on time to attend unit meetings or volunteer service, your dues will support the ALA's mission outreach efforts and activities. Once you've learned more about what we do,

we hope you'll take the next step in becoming a member of the American Legion Auxiliary." Give the possible recruit the pamphlet, but make sure your name and contact information are on the application form.

So, family members of Andersons, Munsters, Brady Bunch, Waltons, Tanners, Flintstones, Cleavers, Clampetts, Cunninghams, Cartwrights, Jetsons, Bunkers, and Addams families, it's time to work membership. Remember the challenge to help The Legion Family become "stronger together." Any Legion Family member who signs up a member for EACH organization (Legion, SAL, ALA, and Legion Riders) will be eligible for a "membership prize."

Work membership and keep on singing or humming, "We are family, I got all my sisters (and brothers) with me. We are family, get up everybody and sing. Living life is fun and we've just begun to get our share of this world's delights. (High) high hopes we have for the future. And our goal's in sight."

Vicki Ozenbaugh,
Department Vice President

THE 2022 MID-YEAR CONFERENCE

When: January 21-23, 2022

Where: Ramada Inn, 265 33rd Ave, Columbus NE

Who: All members of the American Legion Auxiliary.

This is not a "just for officers event" Bring new members and prospective new members.

District Presidents or their representative are required to attend.

Program chairman are urged to attend - bring your "special booth" and information.

What: DEC meeting - 1 pm Friday, Jan 21 - Ballroom

2: 30 pm - Conference begins - Ballroom

4: 30 pm - Recess

5: 00 pm - 8 and 40 meeting - Ballroom

6: 30 pm - Birthday Party - Ballroom

SATURDAY- January 22

8: 00 am - Joint Session, Legion Family - Courtyard

10:00 am - ALA Conference reconvenes - Ballroom

11:30 am - Recess

Past Presidents' Private Luncheon - Commons area

1:30 pm - Reconvene

5:00 pm - Adjourn

6:00 pm - Oratorical Contest - Courtyard

SUNDAY- January 23

8:00 - 9:00 am - Worship - Ballroom

9:00 - Noon - Joint Session Legion family - Courtyard

Call 402-564-1492 for reservations; mention Legion rate.

POST SCRIPT to Districts!!!!!! Due to January weather conditions, Districts are asked not to bring flags. Footing may be slippery hauling them in and out. Use that extra vehicle space to carpool!

CONSTITUTION UPDATES PART 3- MORE TO FOLLOW

Section 1: (Amendment 1B) The Department of Nebraska American Legion Auxiliary Bylaws shall be automatically updated when changes are made to the National Organization governing document; thus, no formal resolution shall be required to make said changes. Updates shall be effective immediately.

The Department of Nebraska governing document shall be in compliance with the National Organization and shall not set forth any change that would be greater than that provided through the National Organization.

The Department Executive Committee shall review all changes to ensure they have been properly updated.

Notification of automatic updates shall be placed in The American Legion Auxiliary Department of Nebraska Star publication. (6/26/2021 Lincoln)

Section 2. (Amendment 4B) The Bylaws may be amended at any Department Convention by a two-thirds vote of the Department Convention delegates, provided the proposed amendments shall have been submitted through the Department Secretary to the Units and members of the Department

Executive Committee by distributing same to them at least twenty (20) days prior to the convening of the next Department Convention; and provided further that all proposed amendments shall be read at a regular meeting of the Department Convention except when Department Convention delegates will have approved suspending the reading of a specific proposal. Units shall be responsible for distributing the proposed amendments to their delegates to the Department Convention. (6/26/2021 Lincoln NE)

Section 3. Amendments proposed after distribution by the Department Secretary may be adopted by a two-thirds vote of the Department Convention delegates, provided they have been read at one meeting of the session prior to taking the vote. (6/26/2021 Lincoln NE)

Section 4. An amendment not having been previously read or distributed may be adopted by the unanimous vote of the Department Convention delegates. (6/26/2021 Lincoln NE)

Section 5. Each proposed amendment shall be in writing and shall be signed by the member or members proposing it.

GOVERNING DOCUMENTS... WHAT'S THE LATEST BUZZ??

I have a little quiz for everyone with 2 simple questions:

- When was the last time that your unit reviewed its governing documents (Constitution, Bylaws, and Standing Rules)?
- When was the last time that your unit updated its governing documents (Constitution, Bylaws, and Standing Rules)?

If you answered "I don't remember" to either question, now is the time to get started. It is recommended that the Unit President appoint a member to review governing documents on an annual basis to ensure that they are in compliance with Department and National --- as well as ensuring that the Standing Rules accurately reflect the unique work that each unit performs.

We have made it easier for everyone by providing links on the Department website to sample Uniform Unit Constitution, Bylaws, and Standing Rules. The Constitution and Bylaws sections were updated after the 2021 Department and National Conventions to align with

those documents. The Standing Rules section contains examples of items that a unit might document for its members. Every unit will likely have different standing rules, which is as it should be as every unit is unique.

It is critical that every unit update its governing documents this year to reflect membership eligibility changes and the provisions for holding electronic meetings. Those items are covered in the "Uniform" document.

District Presidents will be receiving copies of this updated document, so please contact yours to receive a paper copy if you aren't able to download an electronic copy. I would love to be able to report 100% of units have updated their governing documents. I will also be working with counties and districts to revise their governing documents.

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me at 402-521-0016 or bwashburn827@gmail.com.

Barb Washburn
Constitution & Bylaws Chr.

There's More to Christmas

There's More to Christmas...
There's more, much more to Christmas
Than candle-light and cheer;
It's the spirit of sweet friendship
That brightens all the year;
It's thoughtfulness and kindness,
It's hope reborn again,
For peace, for understanding
And for goodwill to men!

Remember to send your assignments a couple weeks before the month they are due.

2022 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
Jan.	#288 Farnam	#218 Exeter		#283 Platte Center	#133 Culbertson	#133 Culbertson	#160 Polk
Feb.	#310 Gibbon	#225 Eddyville	#264 Dorchester Sr.	#62 Newcastle	#301 Dalton	#230 Thedford	#183 Friend
March	#257 Eustis	#316 Elm Creek	#154 Blair	#127 Craig	#17 Sidney	#17 Sidney	#354 Pleasant Dale
April	#355 Davenport	#288 Farnam		#283 Platte Center	#7 Alliance	#7 Alliance	#264 Dorchester Jrs.
May	#126 Broken Bow	#316 Elm Creek	#353 Louisville	#70 West Point	#312 Broadwater	District 11 Jrs.	#49 Utica
June	#17 York	#290 Elwood		#322 Monroe	#12 Chadron	#12 Chadron	
July	#290 Elwood	#218 Exeter		#156 Howells	#7 Alliance	#7 Alliance	
Aug.				#175 Jackson			
Sept.				#64 Columbus			
Oct.							
Nov.							
Dec.							

Please check with your (Med Center) Assignments to see if they are accepting Items before you make or send them.

Service to Veterans Chairwoman: Alice Vieselmeyer Ph:(402)947-9001 Email: alicevies@aol.com

VETERANS RECEIVE QUILTS OF VALOR



Quilts of Valor were presented to three Crete veterans on October 5th at Veterans and Friends. Recipients of the quilts were (l to r): Harold Clark, Dale Rigby, and Wally Wild.

Harold Clark enlisted in the National Guard in El Campo, TX in 1954 as an Administrative Assistant. In 1958, he switched to the Regular Army and received training at Fort Carson, CO and Selfridge Air Force Base in Flint, MI. In 1959, Harold was shipped to Germany where he received top secret clearance to work in discreet missile and radar sites and received special training at the NCO Academy in Bad Toelz. He returned to the states in 1962 and was stationed at the Crete Missile Site until June 1965 when he was honorably discharged.

Dale Rigby joined the U.S. Navy in 1957 at the age of 17. He completed boot camp at the Great Lakes Naval Academy in 1958. That same year, he began serving on the USS Intrepid CVA 11. He

was the Captain's Yeoman for two years. In addition, when the sailors were in general quarters, his job was to report to a 5" gun and help with ammunition. His time at sea was spent in the Mediterranean Sea, in the Caribbean Sea, and in Guantanamo Bay. Rigby was released from active duty and honorably discharged on Sept. 21, 1960. He completed his reserve obligation and was released in March 1963.

Wally Wild joined the Army after high school in 1953. After completing basic training, he was deployed to Manheim, Germany where his unit served as members of the Early Warning Radar team. Wally spent his entire active duty in Germany.

Presenting the quilts were American Legion Auxiliary Unit 147 officers Shirley Mariska, Diana Pomajzl, and Gerry Johnson. Paula Valenta introduced the veterans and read their military achievements.



The Eustis American Legion Auxiliary Unit 257 presented a Quilt of Valor to Lloyd H. Walker of Eustis for his military service in the Army. Presenting the quilt were Nancy Laier, Melissa Thompson,

and Sharon Jack --- along with his wife, Joyce Walker. The quilt was pieced together by Renae Quandt-Kamler and quilted by "Under the Shamrock Quilting."

TURKEY CENTERPIECES

Lincoln Unit 3 made 24 turkey centerpieces for the Eastern Nebraska Veterans Home.



PLATTSMOUTH UNIT 56

Plattsmouth Unit 56 brought apples for the teachers and staff of Plattsmouth Elementary School for National Education Week.



ATTENTION, JUNIOR ACTIVITIES CHAIRMEN!

Do you have a group of Juniors who get together for ALA activities and/or meetings?

I would like to compile a statewide list of units who have an active group of Juniors. Please email me at grndmab65@gmail.com if your unit does --- and include the name of your chairman.

Two important dates for all Juniors are April 2nd and April 9th. The National Junior Meeting will be held in Omaha on April 2nd. The Nebraska Junior Convention will be held in Saint Paul on April 9th. Watch for details.

Sharon Brozovsky
Dept. Junior Activities Chr.



CHAPLAIN'S CHRISTMAS PROGRAM

O COME, ALL YE FAITHFUL

O come, all ye faithful, joyful and triumphant
 O come ye, o come ye to Bethlehem
 O come and behold Him, born the King of Angels
 O come, let us adore Him
 O come, let us adore Him
 O come, let us adore Him
 Christ the Lord

O sing, choirs of angels, sing in exultation
 O come ye, o come ye to Bethlehem
 O Come and behold Him, born the King of Angels
 O come, let us adore Him
 O come, let us adore Him
 O come, let us adore Him
 Christ the Lord

This song's rousing melody – attributed to a number of composers over the years, including Handel and Gluck – is generally credited to John Francis Wade. Printed in 1751, the text was originally written in Latin as 'Adeste Fideles', a title you'll still sometimes see printed on Christmas albums. But, the English translation, written by the English Catholic priest Frederick Oakeley in 1841, is the most commonly used version.

The angels could not keep Jesus' birth to themselves. I can hardly imagine what the shepherds must have felt when the chorus of angels shining brightly appeared in the sky. Compared to their quiet

dark night, it must have been totally terrifying. When the angel told them that the Messiah had been born, they left their sheep, went to Bethlehem, and worshipped the baby. Then they spread the word of what they had seen. We should also share the wonderful Christmas story with others.

Prayer: Lord, help us to look upon the birth of Your Son as the greatest Christmas present ever given. Let us welcome Him into our hearts and truly celebrate this Christmas. In His name we pray. Amen.

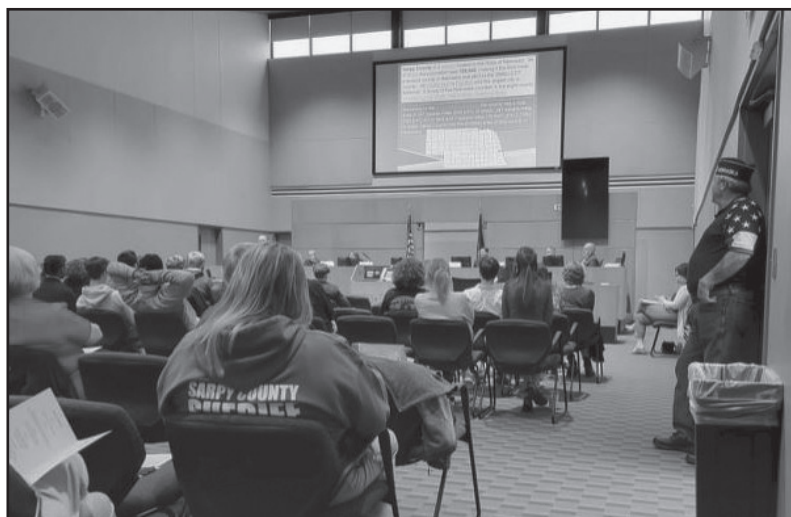
*Pat Wiseman
 Chaplain*

SARPY COUNTY GOVT. DAY

High school students from Bellevue, Gretna, LaVista, Papillion, and Springfield attended the Sarpy County Government Day on Tuesday, October 26, 2021. The morning session was held at the Sarpy County Courthouse, with

lunch and afternoon speakers at Harry Bossard American Legion Post 32 in Papillion.

The lunch was supported by the National Guard, and Sarpy County unit officers volunteered to serve.



Pictured are (l to r): Leatrice Doolen-Papillion, Pat Gottsch-Springfield, Kathy Mazur-Gretna, Staff Sgt. Neil Wesley-Nebraska Army National Guard, Sherri Bejvanceski-Gretna, and Paula Pillen, District 8.

FAMILY STRONGER TOGETHER MEMBERSHIP 2022

Our Family is a circle of strength and Love and with every birth and union it grows; every crisis faced together makes the circle stronger.

It's a natural part of life for your environment to change, your schedule to adjust, and your progress to be tested. These changes and challenges may halt our strides in the moment, but they also help us learn, grow, and push further than we ever thought we could. We have the opportunity every day to create our masterpiece, readjust, and change for the better.

Have you added change to your unit? Have you added a web site; have you tried social media to recruit new members? Have you added "Membership Mondays?" Let's not forget membership is **every member's** responsibility.

I have had a few questions about "State Life membership" (SLM) and "Paid up for Life membership" (PUFL). This is the best way I know to explain it. The SLM was the Department of Nebraska program that has been discontinued. The Department, as an organization, has been committed to honoring those who joined under this program and continues to pay the dues of those who are still with us. Each unit that has SLM members needs to turn in the names of those who are still living so Department can get National paid. Department has no way of knowing those who need to be turned in without your

help. (Hint to unit membership chairman: SEND YOUR NAMES TO DEPARTMENT TODAY! No money needs to be sent in for them --- just the names).

On to PUFL – this Paid up for Life membership is a National Program. The fee is based on the age of the person and the current unit dues. The application can be found on the national website at: <https://www.legion-aux.org/members> In the search function, just type PUFL and it will take you right to the application.

Currently, the strongest Family is District Two (the Munsters) with 75.11% of goal, and we are in first place in the Northwest Division. However, we are still behind in turning in memberships (over 1,100 members compared to last year).

Congratulations to Unit 107 of Bartlett in District 6 for being the first unit to reach 100%. Follow us on Facebook at: Nebraska American Legion Auxiliary group and watch for more 100% units.

"It is not the strongest or most intelligent that will survive but those who can best manage change." —Charles Darwin

*Kimberly Gurley
 Membership Chr.*

DIST.	DISTRICT FAMILY NAME	% TO GOAL
2	The Munsters	75.11%
9	The Cunninghams (Happy Days)	73.98%
3	The Brady Bunch	72.73%
13	The Addams Family	72.23%
7	The Cleavers (Leave It to Beaver)	70.90%
4	The Waltons	67.90%
12	The Bunkers	67.21%
11	The Jetsons	67.06%
5	The Tanners (Full House)	65.02%
10	The Cartwrights (Bonanza)	64.35%
6	The Flintstones	63.53%
1	The Andersons (Father Knows Best)	58.91%
8	The Clampetts (Beverly Hillbillies)	54.41%
Total Department		66.54%
Goal from National: Total Members needed for 2022 - 16,789 (# needed for 75% - 12,592) current paid members: 11,172		
14	Department Unit 500	60.53%

BRUNING UNIT 166



Members of Bruning Auxiliary Unit 166 helped the kindergarten class with an art project for Veterans Day.

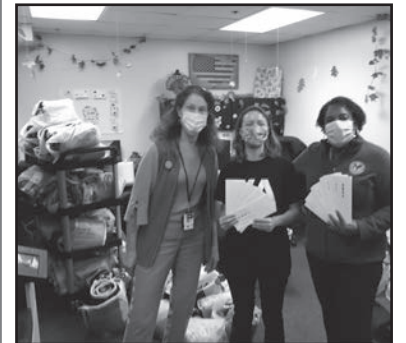
Pictured with the class are Auxiliary President Liz Rinehart and member Marilee Krehnke.

OMAHA VA MEDICAL CENTER

At the Omaha Veterans Administration (VA) Medical Center, Volunteer Services staff is busy with supply contributions provided for the 2021 Fall VA "Stand Down" for homeless veterans (see the blanket supplies pictured in their office). District 8 President Paula Pillen is shown with two staff members of this VA program, which was recently renamed the Center for Development and Civic Engagement (CDCE)

Staff also aided in distributing the American Legion Auxiliary "Veterans Dollar Days" \$10 cash gifts to inpatient veterans who were in the facility's open 70 beds during the "Dollar Days" held November 8-12, 2021.

Thank you to all units and individuals who supported Department President Barbie Meyer's "Double Dollars" campaign this year. Volunteer staff was also presented an appreciation gift: a fruit/snack gift basket for all they do to help veterans during the pandemic.



SOLDIER CHRISTMAS POEM

A Soldier is a Gift

As we celebrate Christmas, and we open our gifts, we realize what priceless gifts a soldier gives to our country—the gifts of patriotism, service, and deep dedication to our nation.

As we feast on a variety of fine Christmas delicacies, we acknowledge that a soldier personifies a variety of fine qualities: courage, good character, honor, fortitude amidst hardship, persistence in subduing evil, and bravery in the face of danger.

A soldier is a cut above the rest of us, doing jobs we could not or would not do.

While we are surrounded by Christmas comforts, we remember soldiers in places we would not want to be, bringing the gift of adaptability to any situation, no matter how harsh or difficult.

As we "ooh" and "aah" over the Christmas lights and shiny ornaments we recognize that a soldier gives us the most cherished gift of all, the shining light of freedom.

At Christmas, let us wrap our hearts and minds around our treasured soldiers. May they understand how very much service means to us. Let us send the Christmas gifts of love, respect and admiration to our steadfast, loyal, magnificent warriors and their essential civilian support staff.

They themselves are the most precious Christmas gift of all, our protectors- our soldiers.

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CORRECTION:

In the Oct-Nov issue, on page 4, the picture about distributing poppies should have been attributed to Havelock Unit 342 instead of Unit 254.

DORCHESTER UNIT 264

The Dorchester Unit 264 Junior Auxiliary took part in the Flag Raising Ceremony at the Homecoming football game on September 8th. Taking part were Kendal Kasl, Camille Nohavec, Fndley and Quinn Vrtiska, Aubrey and Lily Pracheil, and Ameilia Pracheil.

Also, Elijah and Loren Pracheil, Quinn Kasl, and Amber Kostas were in the band.

Last month, the Juniors decorated, packed, and delivered 40 "Make a Difference Day" goodie bags to elderly and shut-ins. Fall wreaths were made for a home. Leader Marva Kasl made back-to-school goodie bags and yearbooks for all.

The group's next project will be a Door to Door Collection for UNICEF.



Thank you

If you sent a message, thank you. If you sent a text, thank you. If you made a phone call, thank you. If you sent a memorial, thank you. If you were at the service, lunch, or cemetery, thank you. If you visited with us at home, we say thank you. We saw you, and we want you to know we appreciate everything you did. Words do not seem adequate to tell you what it meant to us to have you take time out of busy schedules to think about us and to pray with and for us. Jerry would have loved to have shared a moment with each of you. So, on behalf of Gerald H. Paes, Lt. Colonel, Retired United States Air Force, thank you all for your kindness.

Elizabeth Paes, Past Department President, Richard Paes, Kathy Paes, Donna (Paes) Engberg, Val (Paes) Summers.

CHAPLAIN'S CORNER

28 And He said to the human race, "The fear of the Lord --- That is wisdom, and to shun evil is understanding." Job 28:28 NIV

One of the things that I pray for often is wisdom. There is a huge difference between the wisdom of man and the wisdom from God. Humans do lots of studying and reading of many subjects and collect degrees from colleges and universities. Some of them seem to

think they know everything there is to know.

God is telling us that trusting in Him is wisdom. He knows everything and is the only one who can truly help us when we need it the most. If we understand what God can do, we will do our best to stay away from evil. It is the direct opposite of God.

Prayer: Lord, please give us the wisdom to listen to what you have

told us. Give us the desire and the strength to stay away from evil. We know that You forgive and still love us when we fail. Renew our spirit and resolve to keep on trying. Thank You for sending your Son as our special gift on the first Christmas. In Jesus name we pray. Amen.

Pat Wiseman
Dept. Chaplain

HAVELOCK UNIT 342



Havelock Unit 342 joined Havelock Post 342 in the Lincoln Veterans Parade on November 7th. Our bus theme was a tribute to the Vietnam era.

Pictured (l to r) are Auxiliary members Kathy Scholl, Luanne Schwartzkopf, and Gloria Asch.



DATES TO REMEMBER

DECEMBER

- 7 Pearl Harbor Day
- 10 Articles due for the January/February issue
- 25 Membership Goal 75%
- 23-26 Department Headquarters Closed- Christmas Holiday
- 31 Department Headquarters Closed - New Year's Holiday

JANUARY

- 1 New Year's Day
- 17 Martin Luther King, Jr. Day - Department Office closed
- 21-23 Mid-Year Education Conference - Columbus

FOR YOUR ADVANCED PLANNING

June 23-26, 2022 Department Convention, Columbus, NE
Aug. 26-Sept. 1, 2022 National Convention, Milwaukee, Wisconsin

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 DECEMBER 10, 2021