

Over a Century of Remembrance

National Poppy Day®




Starting in 1920 the poppy became the official flower of The American Legion Family. The flower was to memorialize the soldiers who fought and died during the war. The distribution of poppies became a national program in 1924. This holiday was started from a poem released in 1915 by a Canadian physician, John McCrae after he witnessed the death of his friend and a fellow soldier. Moina Michael, who had taken leave from her professorship to be a volunteer worker for the American YMCA Overseas War Secretaries Organization, was inspired by the poem. She published a poem of her own called “We Shall Keep the Faith” in 1918. In tribute to McCrae’s

poem, she vowed to always wear a red poppy as a symbol of remembrance for those who fought in and assisted with the war. At a November 1918 YMCA Overseas War Secretaries’ conference, she appeared with a silk poppy pinned to her coat and distributed others to attendees.

A French woman named Madame Guerin addressed The American Legion delegates in 1920 in Cleveland at a convention for “Inter-Allied Poppy Day.” Guerin, also known as “The Poppy Lady from France,” was supported by the U.S. and successfully organized the U.S.’s first nationwide Poppy Day in 1921. The poppies distributed were made of silk that the widows and children of the devastated regions of France had created.

National Poppy Day (or Remembrance Day) is celebrated in over 10 countries. The most notable countries include Australia, Canada, New Zealand, the United Kingdom, and the United States of America. Today the American Legion Auxiliary (ALA) members take charge in celebrating the holiday, supporting the current and future veterans, active-duty military personnel, and their families with medical and financial needs.

The ALA has reported that they raise roughly \$20 million a year during this holiday. It is an important holiday to celebrate as it helps many military families but also helps us remember the past events that have taken part in creating this country, and others around the world. Please keep this tradition fresh in everyone’s minds on May 27, 2022. Help educate those around you who may not know the significance of a red poppy.



In Flanders Fields

In Flanders fields the poppies blow
Between the crosses, row on row,
That mark our place; and in the sky
The larks, still bravely singing, fly
Scarce heard amid the guns below.

We are the Dead. Short days ago
We lived, felt dawn, saw sunset glow,
Loved and were loved, and now we lie
In Flanders fields.

Take up our quarrel with the foe:
To you from failing hands we throw
The torch; be yours to hold it high.
If ye break faith with us who die
We shall not sleep, though poppies grow
In Flanders fields.

- Lieutenant Colonel John McCrae

Events Calendar

April

- 13 95% Membership Target Date
- 15 Good Friday - Office Closed
- 22-24 National Oratorical Contest - Indianapolis

May

- 1-5 Spring Meetings - Indianapolis
- 11 100% Membership Target Date
- 30 Memorial Day - Office Closed

June

- 5-11 Cornhusker Boys’ State - Lincoln
- 20 Juneteenth - Office Closed
- 21-24 Junior Law Cadet - Grand Island
- 23-26 Department Convention - Columbus

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

Something New



The National American Legion recently released a branding logo for Legion members to use. This is not replacing the emblem that has been in use since the beginning. The branding logo is for the public to use and can be used in marketing. This information was released in a Training Tuesday’s session on the national website by National Judge Advocate Mark Seavey. These training sessions are aimed at Post commanders and adjutants but are available for every member to view. For more information about these trainings, you can go to the website <https://www.legion.org/training/training-tuesdays>. In the February session, legal questions were addressed along with the structure of The American Legion.

National Judge Advocate Mark Seavey also discussed how it is important to start your questions and concerns at your local Post level and then to work your way to Department Headquarters. This does not mean you cannot reach out to the National level with questions or concerns. He said that it is important to double-check your Constitution and By-Laws before addressing any situation. A variety of topics will be discussed in these pieces of training and can be reviewed easily on the National website.

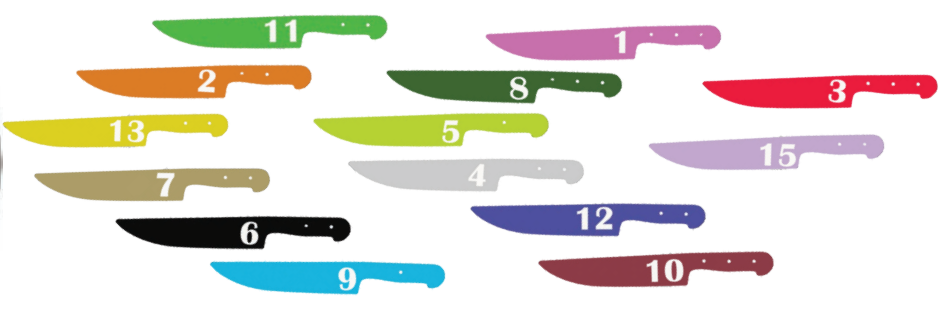
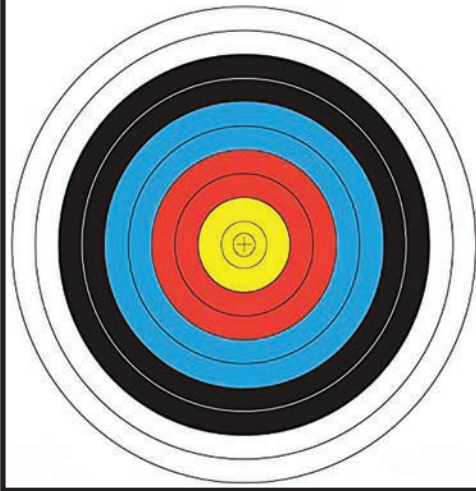
FOR GOD AND COUNTRY

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

100% FOR TARGET

2022 MEMBERSHIP GOAL: 26,097 MARCH 10TH TOTAL: 22,497 – 86.21%

DISTRICT 13 - 89.05%	DISTRICT 7 - 88.35%	DISTRICT 2 - 87.84%	DISTRICT 6 - 87.71%	DISTRICT 11 - 86.16%
DISTRICT 9 - 86.11%	DISTRICT 5 - 86.03%	DISTRICT 4 - 85.75%	DISTRICT 8 - 85.23%	DISTRICT 12 - 85.20%
DISTRICT 1 - 85.11%	DISTRICT 10 - 85.05%	DISTRICT 15 - 84.38%	DISTRICT 3 - 80.34%	





Commander's Corner

Dan Benes
Department Commander



The President Abraham Lincoln Pilgrimage in Springfield, Illinois was held February 12, 2022, to honor the President on his birthday. Department Auxiliary President Barbie Meyer and I represented the Nebraska American Legion Family at the wreath-laying ceremony at the tomb of President Lincoln. The other various program events that we participated in that weekend will forever be remembered. This was an experience of a lifetime.

During travels to various Legion events and District Conventions, I am continually impressed with the dedication and professionalism of our members. I will highlight a few events: District 15 in Lincoln conducted a productive Convention on Tuesday, February 8. Thank you Commander Eddy Muggy for your leadership and members for your hospitality. On February 19, District



Pictured (L to R) Senator Julie Slama and Commander Dan Benes.

13 held its Convention at Sterling Post 140. A nice Post building. The guest speaker at the noon lunch was State Senator Julie Slama. She shared her experiences about growing up and attending Girls State. She was selected to attend Girls Nation in Washington D.C. That unique experience translated her desire to get involved in politics. Senator Slama verified the importance of the program. Thank you, District 13 Commander Larry Borchert, for a well-organized Convention and hospitality. February 26, I attended the District 10 Convention at Edgar Post 248. Great Post home, good participation, and orderly Convention. Thank you Commander Roger Griffiths for your hospitality. Later that evening Assistant Sergeant-at-Arms Scott Cihal and I attended Columbus Post 84 Honor Guard Awards Banquet. A special Thank-You to all the dedicated Honor Guard Members representing the American Legion in all the ceremonial and funeral duties. You conduct the missions in all adverse weather conditions including snow, rain, wind, extreme cold, extreme heat, etc. Keep up the good work.

March 5, I attended the District 6 Convention at Grand Island Post 53. Another great facility. The event was well organized and enjoyable to witness the new ideas and challenges shared. Thank you District 6 Commander Julie Schnitzler for your leadership and members for your hospitality. I enjoy the District Conventions and events as an opportunity to meet more members. The stories of dedication to our great organization are rewarding. Share the programs of our great organization and what we do. Success at the Post level is a result of teamwork and membership.

Don't be afraid to ask someone to become a member. You might get a new friend.
For God and Country

Remembering Those Before Us

On February 22nd, Commander Dan Benes, National Executive Committeeman Fred Craigie, Assistant Adjutant Brent Hagel-Pitt, and Senior Vice Commander Don Suchy were invited to the State Capitol to represent the Nebraska American Legion being honored by State Senator Robert Clements. Senator Clements represents Legislature District 2 in Nebraska which includes his hometown of Elmwood. The Clements name is known in the area from the three generations of lawyers that have helped their community (Guy, Dwight, and Robert). Dwight L. Clements served in WWII from 1943 to 1946 and was an Army Combat Engineer. Dwight was a 76-year continuous member of Elmwood Post 247. His patriotism has continued through his son. Robert belongs to Elmwood Squadron 247 through his father and is the Adjutant for his squadron. While at the capitol both Senator Jeff Fortenberry and Senator Clements discussed their respect for those who have and are serving their country. Past Department Adjutant Burdette Burkhart helped arrange this event.



Pictured (L to R) NECman Fred Craigie, Commander Dan Benes, Senior Vice Commander Don Suchy, and Assistant Adjutant Brent Hagel-Pitt.

2022 Department Convention Make Your Reservations Now

It is time to begin planning for attendance at Department Convention in Columbus at the Ramada. The DEC will meet on June 23 and the Convention will meet on June 24 - 26. Business sessions of the American Legion, Auxiliary, SAL, and ALR will all be held in the Columbus Ramada. Phone 402-564-1492 for reservations. Rooms are \$99.95. The last date to get reservations at the Legion rate is June 1, 2022. The Convention Registration fee is \$10. For more information, please contact Adjutant Dave Salak at Headquarters.

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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.....Fr. Alexander Borzych, St. Paul
Historian.....Jennifer Laux, 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.....Ron Riley, 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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www.nebraskalegion.net?

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


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

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



It's History

Jennifer Laux
Department Historian





POW/MIA

Boyd Yochum
POW/MIA Liaison



American Legion Department of Nebraska History Word Search

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

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

May 1942 (80 years ago)

- **MEMBERSHIP** of the Department of Nebraska for 1942 is the fifth largest in the 23-year history of the organization. As of May 18, the Department had 19,314 members.
- The question of whether the American Legion will open its ranks to veterans of the present World War will come before the Department **CONVENTION** at Omaha August 24-25. The **NATIONAL** Executive Committee, meeting in Indianapolis May 1, ordered the proposal submitted to the entire membership for discussion and **DECISION** at Post meetings and Department conventions.
- A lecture on various types of **GASES** was given by Colonel West of the Seventh Corps area at the South Omaha Post Legion Hall on Sunday, April 26. This was part of the post’s civilian **DEFENSE** program.

April/May 1952 (70 years ago)

- Craig **SWOBODA**, a 16-year-old high school **JUNIOR** from Norfolk, is the 1952 American Legion champion **ORATOR** for Nebraska. Nebraska Legion’s champion orator won a \$75 savings bond for placing first. Swoboda will compete against state winners from Iowa, Missouri, and Kansas on April 16 at Omaha.
- It’s the same old story – Boys’ State has been **OVERSUBSCRIBED** for 1952. With facilities to accommodate 300 boys, there were quite a few applications that had to be turned down. Some of these came in before the deadline but as the Legislative District quota was filled, the boys had to go on a surplus list. As the surplus list was quite long, there were boys who could not be accepted.
- As the **MUDDY** old **MISSOURI** River returned to its banks and once more became just a river instead of material for number one news stories the nation over, thousands of Legionnaires and members of The American Legion Auxiliary returned to their normal daily tasks. Legionnaires all along the **RIVER** had pitched in with their time, energy, and machinery in the battle against whipping torrents of a river suddenly gone mad with power.

Donald C. Grella

On December 28, 1965, a UH-1D helicopter, often referred to as a Huey, tail number 808, from the 229th Attack helicopter a battalion departed from An Khe on a resupply mission to 1st BN, 7th Cavalry, 1st Cavalry Division. The 808 was conducting a combat support mission that should have taken only 30 minutes. In the predawn hours, radio transmissions revealed that the flight was difficult because of weather and darkness. When the aircraft was about 10 minutes flying time from An Khe, radio contact was suspended, and no further word was received from the 808. When the 808 failed to return, an intensive search was conducted with no sign of either the lost aircraft or its crew. At the time formal search was suspended, and because the military felt the men’s chances of survival were poor, the crew was listed as Killed in Action-Body Not Recovered.

The Crew Chief of the four-man crew was Specialist 5, Donald C. Grella, from Laurel, Nebraska. The mission was part



of a battle immortalized by Hollywood in the 2002 film, We Were Soldiers Once. . . And Young, starring Mel Gibson as infantry Lieutenant Colonel Hal Moore. One of the centerpiece lines was “leave no man behind.” The Huey 808 was lost during the Battle of Ia Drang, and four men were left behind. Using government lingo SP5 Grella was “off the scope.”

When Vietnam re-established diplomatic relations with the United States in the 1990s, family members of the lost crew and fellow veterans started lobbying for a search. Major Bruce Crandall and Captain Ed Freeman returned to Vietnam in 1993 to find out what had happened to the crew they had commanded. They were troubled by the loss and the mystery of what happened and concerned by the families’ waiting decades for resolution. They asked every North Vietnamese veteran they met for help finding the missing 808. Some of the veterans were helpful.

Hopes were raised in 1999 when a refugee reported seeing a crashed helicopter in the jungle with a horse painted on the tail, which sounded like Huey 808. In 2006, a mission from the American military’s Joint POW/MIA Accounting Command (JPAC) found a villager who had shot down a helicopter in late 1965 and described where it was. In March 2006, another joint team excavated the area and recovered human remains and other artifacts, including an identification tag from Grella. JPAC’s excavations resemble archaeological digs, with teams sifting through jungle soil in search of dog tags, personal effects, and bones. JPAC’s scientists employed traditional forensic techniques in making these identifications.

April 8, 2010, the Defense POW/MIA Accounting Agency announced that the remains of all four US Servicemen from Huey 808 were identified and returned to their respective families for burial with full military honors.

Serving those who served just got better at our veterans’ homes.

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★ GREAT BENEFITS!

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S.A.L. Notes

Chris Casey
Detachment Commander




Greetings from the Detachment of Nebraska! We have finished up most of the district conventions at this point in the year. I was honored to represent the Detachment at several conventions over the last couple of months. The Sons membership was lacking at many of these meetings, but the information was still shared with the Nebraska American Legion Family. We asked the Legion and Auxiliary members in attendance to please share information back to their Squadrons. We continue to work on updating Squadron Data Reports and securing updated Officer information from across the state.



The American Legion has celebrated "April is Children & Youth Month" for the past 84 years. During this month of celebration, American Legion Family members are encouraged to show their local communities the Legion's commitment to children and youth by hosting activities or by becoming involved in programs and organizations that support young people. The Benson Sons of The American Legion Squadron 112 is hosting a Children & Youth Month Breakfast in Omaha at the end of April. Children eat for free and can view, climb in, and explore vehicles from area law enforcement, fire and rescue, and the Nebraska Army National Guard. This will be the second year of the event, and it is a huge hit with kids and adults. What will your Sons of The American Legion Squadron plan to celebrate Children & Youth Month? The entire Legion Family can and should get involved in this Pillar of The American Legion.


The Detachment continues to meet our membership target dates that are set by the national organization. We have now surpassed 6,000 Sons of The American Legion members in Nebraska. Our goal for the 2022 membership year is to surpass 7,000 members. We are struggling to get the last fifteen percent of our membership renewed. We cannot leave members behind and need to make the extra effort to get our brothers renewed. Every member is valued and helps to contribute to our mission.


Does your Post have a Sons of The American Legion Squadron? If not, why not? Please reach out to the Detachment leadership regarding how to get a Squadron started in your community. Please make sure that your sons, grandsons, and great-grandsons are members. Many of the Squadrons have junior rates and welcome youth members to participate as equals. The Sons of The American Legion was started in 1932, so the intent was to have youth involved in carrying out the mission of The American Legion. We have a place in our organization for everyone, regardless of age. I personally have my 7-year-old and 11-year-old active in everything that we do. They attend meetings, serve in flag lines, help during events, and even actively participate in the POW-MIA ceremony by placing the chair cover. Please help get our youth involved in Nebraska!



Chaplain's Corner

Father Alexander Borzych
Department Chaplain





It seems that the school year has flown by, out of control with just over a month left before our graduating seniors, will be walking with their sheepskin across the stage into the next phase of life. Ceremonies for these graduates start in Nebraska from the first of May through mid-June. It is estimated that 4.1 million seniors to graduate from public and private schools this year in the United States. Out of the 4.1 million seniors to graduate this country, around 24,225 will be from the state of Nebraska. These young adults are your sons, daughters, grandsons, granddaughters, nieces, nephews, and cousins. Out of this year's graduating class 150,000 graduates, will be entering the armed forces. These young men and women will continue to carry the torch that you carried while serving in the United States Military.

It is amazing the young people that come from the many walks of life that enter the military. As being a chaplain for 20 years, I was able to work beside these hard chargers in both the Navy and Marine Corps, in the field, on ships, and during their schooling for their various rates. The one thing that I found in dealing with the person is the element of loneliness. Being away from family and friends. Finding themselves in new surroundings, chapel opportunities were the one thing that tied them into a familiar environment, that is for the ones that took that advantage. Communities of all faiths gave them the one thing that was not different from their home life. They were getting support from veterans who came to worship on the base of chapels to families that are involved in the military. This is the one tie they have that really doesn't change.

The one thing I ask is that you support these young men and women that have chosen the military way of life out of high school. Send them cards and letters, or even care packages which are always a morale booster to these young adults. They don't need to hear about the times you got drunk or the trouble you got yourself into during your time in the service. They need positive encouragement; the military isn't the same as when you were in. The military is looking for good wholesome leaders that stay out of trouble and can be good influences on the people they are working with.

My challenge to you is to encourage and support these new members to the armed forces before they go in and after they are in. Let them know that you care and are proud of what they are doing in furthering the cause for peace in the world.

For God and Country.

Sons of The American Legion Membership As of March 16, 2022		
District	2021 Members	2022 Members
1	313	286
2	628	561
3	227	195
4	316	309
5	133	126
6	1,332	1,203
7	731	597
8	865	727
9	312	326
10	352	315
11	1,087	998
12	254	191
13	153	130
15	148	145
Total	6,851	6,109

Children & Youth Month

Bruce Gubser, C&Y Comittee Member

Since its founding in 1919, The American Legion has been a staunch supporter of Children & Youth. The American Legion continues that commitment today, as it seeks to improve the well-being of all children. The key to the future of a free and prosperous country, expressed by every generation of veterans, is held by the children & youth of today.

The Legion supports traditional family values, assistance for at-risk children, and activities that promote their healthy and wholesome development. While there is no way of knowing what issues will face our youth tomorrow. Our survival may well depend on the quality of care, education, and training that we, as parents and citizens, provide for the young people of today.

Today's young people face an array of societal pressures, such as the dissolution of the traditional American family and illegal drug use, to name a few. There is an alarming increase in bullying, aided by the spread of technology and social media. Gone are the carefree days when children spent their summers playing baseball on vacant lots, lounging in tree houses, and riding bikes around town.

The American Legion's National Commission on Children & Youth, and by extension the Children & Youth Committee of Nebraska, is guided by three main objectives: to strengthen the family unit, work with quality organizations that provide services for children, and provide communities with well-rounded programs that meet the needs of young people.

The Legion's Children & Youth pillar's most critical issues are: Child Pornography, Catastrophic Illness, Intellectual Disabilities, Immunization for Needy Children, Family Integrity, Media Violence, Drug Abuse, and Child Sexual Exploitation.

Temporary Financial Assistance

The American Legion's Family Support Network is ready to provide immediate assistance to U.S. military personnel and their families whose lives have been directly affected by the war on terrorism. For example, when National Guardsmen and reservists are mobilized, their families often find themselves unable to meet normal monthly expenses, and in need of assistance for a variety of everyday chores such as grocery shopping, childcare, mowing the grass, fixing the car, and other routine household jobs. To address these issues, the Legion has a nationwide toll-free telephone number (800) 504-4098, for servicemembers and their families to call for assistance. Requests also can be made online at www.legion.org/fsn. All inquiries are referred to The American Legion department in which the call originated. Departments relay the collected information to a local American Legion Post. The post then contacts the servicemember or family to see how assistance can be provided. Since the creation of the Family Support Network during the Gulf War, thousands of posts have responded to meet military families' needs.

The American Legion Child Welfare Foundation
The foremost philanthropic priority of The American Legion Child Welfare Foundation is to provide other nonprofit organizations with grants to educate the public about the needs of children across the nation. By the end of 2021, The American Legion Child Welfare Foundation provided more than \$18 million in grants to nonprofit organizations that work to improve the lives of young people. Such grants have benefited organ-donor campaigns, supported efforts to help military children cope with deployments or loss of a parent, and funded projects that increased public awareness of Huntington's disease, autism, Reyes syndrome, diabetes, and other debilitating conditions.

Cornhusker Boy's State

By: kRandy Kaliff

The American Legion Nebraska Cornhusker Boys' State program has been going on since 1938, this year will be the 84th year. This seven-day event is designed for High School students who graduated from the 11th grade (juniors) to learn how government works by setting up a '51st' state, complete with city, county, and state offices including governor, lieutenant governor, secretary of state, state treasurer, attorney general, Supreme Court justices, state senators, town mayors, and other political offices found in our state. Thousands of Nebraskans have careers because they graduated from this program.

We are in our third year of dealing with the COVID-19 pandemic; January was not looking good as the cases were on the rise and new variants were being found. As I write this, we have seen a great improvement in our fight with this virus and we are planning on once again being on the UNL campus! Contractual agreements with the university and our insurance company must be dealt with by March 1, 2022, and this years' attendance will be dictated by the UNL COVID-19 guidelines. Masking, vaccinations, and quarantining preparation are part of what we are still dealing with for a successful program. By this publishing time, these decisions will have been completed.

Every year we have many legionnaires, speakers, and others volunteer their time to help with this American Legion program. We deeply appreciate our counselors, previous graduates, who come back to help make the program a success. Those who have volunteered in our past programs have been impressed with the quality of the American Legion Cornhusker Boys' State program and what is accomplished in just one week! Thank You for your help and support!!



By: Doug Boldt, Interim President

During the 2004 annual meeting of Cornhusker Boys' State Corporation, I was elected 1st Vice President. The position came open when Randy Kaliff moved to President of Cornhusker Boys' State Corporation from the 1st Vice President position. Randy has worked hard to see that Cornhusker Boys' State continues to be a top-of-the-line, educational program for our youth.

Cornhusker Boys' State requires many volunteers to pull off a quality weeklong, experience for those youth attending the program. The leadership, Randy has provided, has helped make that experience something the citizens of Boys State will never forget!

It has been a pleasure and an honor to have served with Randy on the Nebraska American Legion Boys' State committee, as well as the Cornhusker Boys' State Corporation for the past 18 years. I believe we all owe Randy a big show of appreciation and a hardy thank you for a job well done.

I'm looking forward to carrying on the traditions that were established in 1938. If the good Lord is willing and the boys keep attending, we will move on, to a successful future. I'm looking forward to seeing everybody, in Lincoln on June 5-11, 2022.

Membership Minute

Steve Bartos, Membership Chairman

Spring has arrived, but there certainly hasn't been much spring in our step when it comes to membership. We failed to achieve our 85% goal in February, and we failed to achieve the 90% goal on March 9th. We met both of those goals in 2021.

Much to our surprise and disappointment we recently learned the reason why the membership turn-ins have probably been lagging so far behind last year's performance. I can only surmise that continuing problems with the new MyLegion software were the cause, but the renewal notice from the national headquarters that was scheduled to be mailed on November 12, 2021, did not get mailed until late December, some even into early January. Because of the late mailing of the November notice, the mailing scheduled for January was then canceled.

Unfortunately, nobody from the national headquarters let us know what was happening. If they had, we could have and would have taken some action on our own to make sure all of our posts were aware of the problem.

It's my understanding now that national did send out some "email blasts" to unpaid members for whom they had an email address, but I don't really have much in the way of details. We have now been told that the renewal notices scheduled to be mailed about February 25th began rolling out on or about that date. Let us hope that our unpaid members respond well and help us get caught up to where we ought to be. There is another target date on April 13th (95%), and that is a lofty goal for sure. But let's not give up. Let's do what we can to achieve it. For sure, it's very important that we get our renewal rate up to at least 90%.

I urge every post to contact its delinquent members now if you haven't already done so. It just might help. Individual Legionnaires can also check with their unpaid friends and fellow members to make sure they received the February renewal notice. Please let me know if you conclude that the unpaid members of your post did not receive the February renewal notice. I really need to know.

Also available is a renewal postcard you might want to try. Shown is a link to a fillable form that you can use to tailor the card to your post. The generic renewal postcard is available at Department Headquarters by contacting Amanda, or if you would like the one that is fillable, they can go to https://www.legion.org/documents/pdf/Renewal_Postcard_Forever_Custom_Fillable.pdf on the national website. You will need to provide the card stock and print it yourself.

Even though I know there are still some problems to be worked out with the new MyLegion software, I continue to believe that there is merit in getting familiar with it and using it to your advantage. For example, the "Find Members in My Area" function allows you to locate Legionnaires near you who belong to Post 500, Nebraska's headquarters holding post. Those members may want to transfer to your post or "renew and transfer" if they have not yet renewed for 2022.

As important as it is to keep working on 2022 membership, don't lose sight of the fact that the Department Convention is just around the corner and that will mean it's time to also start formulating a plan to pursue a successful membership campaign for the 2023 year.

Have a nice April!



McCook Post 203 took part in a Buddy Check in their community that was sponsored by Farm Credit Services of America. All veterans were invited for camaraderie and well-being.



Prague Post 254 member Myron Coufal was presented a certificate for 75 years of continuous membership. Pictured (L to R) Myron Coufal and Senior Vice Commander Don Suchy.



Humphrey Post 80 members received Quilts of Valor from the Pins & Needles Quilt Club at the Veterans Day program at St. Francis High School. Pictured (L to R) Donald Brockhaus, Myron Baumgart, Marvin Classen, Richard Wemhoff, Paul Beiermann, Paul Ramaekers, and Michael Korth.



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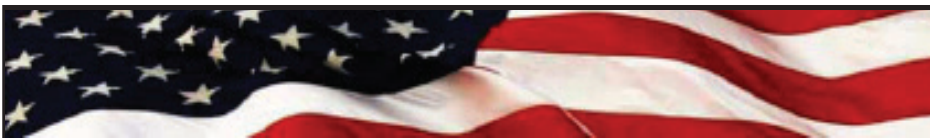
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Rider's Rally


John Arias
Department ALR Liaison





Straight Talk

Levi Bennett
Department Service Officer





I'd like to welcome Louisville Chapter 353 to our ALR family. We now have 45 American Legion Riders Chapters. Louisville will join the Southeast Region.

Thank you to the 16 Riders who attended the District 6 Convention on March 4th, in Grand Island at the United Veterans Club. It was a good convention and District 6 Commander Julie Schnitzler challenged us to write down two action steps that we would commit to completing following the meeting. Her message was basically, stop talking and start doing. I do agree; we can talk about having Poker Runs and Fundraisers, but unless we put in the work, this will not get done. I realize that COVID-19 has been the

excuse or reason for not being completely involved, but I believe it is time to stop hiding from it and start helping our Community and Legion Posts and Veterans even more.

Or at the very least, help other Chapters as they plan, and host Poker Runs and other fundraisers for their Chapters. I hope that we can start communicating with our ALR Chapters across the State. Some may be too far to attend, but let's communicate more with the other Chapters. March was full of District Conventions, and I am hoping our ALR attended their District Conventions.

Keep April 22 and 23, 2022, marked on your calendar. At our Mid-Winter Conference, Fred Tisdale had spoken to us about the 101st Airborne KIA's of Nebraska and about their family members needing escorts.

Ashland will be hosting the 2022 State Romp so I am sure they will need assistance as they plan and prepare for the State Romp. Those of you who have experience, reach out to the Chapter and see if they need assistance in the preparation of and execution of the State Romp.

I received several good nominations for the American Legion Rider of the Year and will be sending those to my Assistant Liaisons to read and judge so that we can have a Rider of the Year before the Summer Convention in Columbus.

In looking at my Google Calendar, Benson Chapter 112 will be the first Run on May 14, 2022, with the "Thank a Veteran Tour-South."

As the weather warms up, I will be planning the Legacy Run Across Nebraska, which will tour Southern Nebraska. Any thoughts and ideas are welcome and appreciated.

Candidate Announcement

Fred Craigie - National Executive Committeeman



Fred Craigie is a 52-year permanent member of Lincoln Post 3. He earned his eligibility into The American Legion as a Vietnam-war veteran serving in the Marine Corps as an Ammunition Technician.

Craigie has served as Post Commander, District Vice Commander, District Commander, Department Sergeant-at-Arms, Department Area Vice Commander, Department Senior Vice Commander, Department Commander, and Alternate National Executive Committeeman. He is currently serving as the National Executive Committeeman.

He is also involved with several other community organizations such as the 40&8, Lincoln Voiture #103, Grand Voiture du Nebraska, and the Veterans of Foreign Wars.

Craigie is a widower and lives in Lincoln, Nebraska. He has two daughters, two stepdaughters, and six grandchildren. He retired

from the Lincoln Public Schools Transportation. He will be dedicated to his position and the Department.



Pictured (L to R) Congressman Don Bacon and Commander Dan Benes.

Ashland Post 129 has officially moved into their new Post Home. The American Legion Event Center is where the Ashland VFW Post 9776 used to hold its events. VFW Quartermaster Richard Ott helped with the transition of the Legion Post moving in. It was an easier transition thanks to the VFW and Legion working together for the gun shows that take place in Ashland. Squadron Commander Darren Siemers and Commander Jim Graham agreed to move the Legion Post but also continue to work with the VFW. The Legion Post appreciates all the work that VFW members have done to the building in the last 30 years. The American Legion Event Center will still host the Ashland Food Pantry that has operated out of the building. When the recent celebration took place, many people attended the event to celebrate the growth in the community. Congressman Don Bacon and Commander Dan Benes both celebrated at the event.

USDVA Proposes Changing Disability Evaluations for Mental Health Conditions, Sleep Apnea, and Tinnitus

The United States Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) plans to update its Schedule for Rating Disabilities, the guide used by VA to determine how disabilities are evaluated for benefits for service-connected disabilities. A notice published on February 15, 2022, to the Federal Register, identifies changes in the way VA evaluates mental health conditions, sleep apnea, and tinnitus. VA indicates the changes, which would go into effect after a period for the public to comment and a final version is published, will most likely result in higher disability ratings for veterans with mental health conditions. However, fewer veterans will qualify for disability compensation for tinnitus and sleep apnea.

VA proposes to include mental health symptoms on the impact of veterans' lives when evaluating mental health conditions for rating purposes and will remove the "0%" disability rating for service-connected mental health diagnosis and establish a 10% minimum.

VA is proposing to rate sleep apnea based on the effectiveness of treatment and the condition's impact on "earning impairment." VA officials indicate it is important to consider lost wages or productivity to ensure VA compensates veterans appropriately. Previously, VA rated sleep apnea by assessing the number and severity of symptoms as done with most conditions.

The proposed change to remove tinnitus as a stand-alone disability and consider tinnitus as a symptom of other primary disabilities will result in a negative impact on future veterans. Veterans with a 10% service-connected disability rating are eligible for vision exams, glasses, hearing exams, and hearing aids at no cost to the veteran. On the surface, the proposed change for tinnitus appears to be an attempt to save money at the expense of future veterans. By removing the stand-alone tinnitus disability rating, it will remove the most common avenue of service connection and by extension, the method for which allows many veterans to become eligible for healthcare benefits through VA. As a veteran service officer, I am keenly aware the Veterans Benefits Administration (VBA) has an extensive history of awarding service connection for tinnitus while denying hearing loss due to their own recognition, acoustic trauma can cause tinnitus without causing the full 20db shift in hearing loss necessary for a veteran to be service-connected for hearing loss.

I encourage all veterans who have not already submitted comments on these proposed changes by VA to the Schedule for Rating Disabilities, to do so immediately as time is now running short, the last day to submit comments is April 18, 2022. To make comments you may log on to the Federal Register and submit a formal comment. This is our opportunity to have our voices heard in the Federal decision-making process. You may locate the Mental Health proposed rule change at <https://www.regulations.gov/document/VA-2022-VBA-0010-0001> and the sleep apnea and tinnitus proposed rule changes at <https://www.regulations.gov/document/VA-2022-VBA-0009-0001>.

78th ANNIVERSARY of D-DAY

13-day WWII tour departs June 2, 2022 from Minneapolis or Chicago.

FRANCE: Paris tour, all sights on Normandy, festivities on June 6, SHAF headquarters in Reims.
BELGIUM: Battle of the Bulge sites.
GERMANY: Remagen Bridge, Rhine cruise, Nurnberg rally grounds & courtroom, Dachau and Hitler's Eagles Nest. Great hotels, many meals, professional guides, & Vi Ranney, escort

Deadline for airline seats is March 18 - CALL TODAY!
 To sign up, call Vi Ranney: 605-665-3596 or email: viranney@vyn.midco.net

Our other upcoming tours:
Exclusive Norway - July 23, 2022
England, Scotland, Wales, & Ireland - Aug. 20, 2022
Two-part Europe - September 22, 2022
(Part one: Oktoberfest, Passion Play, Switzerland, France, Monaco. Part two: Spain and Portugal.)
Tours sponsored by GRHS. Everyone Welcome!!



Wymore Post 25 bought 60 new flags to be flown at the Wymore Cemeteries. Pictured (L to R) Gloria Henderson (Auxiliary), Ron Hohensee, and Neil VanBoening.



Bennington Post 266 member Melvin Teidje was presented a Quilt of Valor. Pictured (L to R) Commander Richard Musel, Don Laaker, Melvin Teidje, Les Brauer, and Larry Witt.



Omaha Post 1 member Jack Payne was honored at the Husker football game against Ohio State which honored veterans and active-duty military. Pictured (L to R) Fred Tisdale, Jack Payne, and Alt. NECman Jim Costello.



Lincoln Chapter 3 Riders hosted a Giving Tree for donations to the VA clinic. Pictured (L to R) Secretary Mike Streeter and Linda Varejcka.



Bellevue Post 339 held their quarterly fundraiser at the Bellevue Applebee's. Pictured (L to R) Alt. NECman Jim Costello, Post Adjutant Dave Coombs, David Wickwire, and Lisa (Applebee manager).



Cordova Post 359 member Arnie Krasser was presented with a Quilt of Valor from the Nebraska Piecemakers. Pictured back row Krasser siblings and front row, Arnie Krasser.



Holt Country American Legion judged their Government Day essay contest. Pictured (L to R) Commander Ken Stenka, Alexis Stracke (1st), Hanna Miller (2nd), and Emma Winkelbauer (3rd).



Wilber Post 101 had members presented with Quilts of Valor. Pictured clockwise (starting top left) Kenneth Ripa, Lovelle Deke, Larry Homolka, Lorine and Robert Mares, Leonard Freeouf, and Fred Kozak.



Morse Bluff Post 340 presented certificates for 50 years of continuous memberships. Pictured (L to R) Commander Galen Johnson, Doug Wamberg, Bill Chromy, and Mike Brabec.



Allen Post 131 members presented David Uldrich with the 2019 American Legion Teacher-of-the-Year award. Pictured top (L to R) Lyle Carlson, Scott Morgan, Richie Monteith, David Uldrich, and Commander Brad Gonzales. Allen Post 131 presented a certificate for 50 years of continuous membership to Dennis Mitchell. Pictured bottom back row (L to R) Jerry Smith, Bob Kumm, Tom Osbahr, Richie Monteith, and Scott Morgan; front row Adjutant Lyle Carlson, Richard Puckett, Dennis Mitchell, and Commander Brad Gonzales.



Multiple Posts had members presented with Quilts of Valor at Meridian School in Daykin from Daykin Post 198. Pictured (L to R) Elroy Bartels (Post 311), Gary Mau (Post 194), David Apking (Post 18), Carl Shore (Post 101), Hugh Hosack (Post 3), and Roger Rada (Post 311).



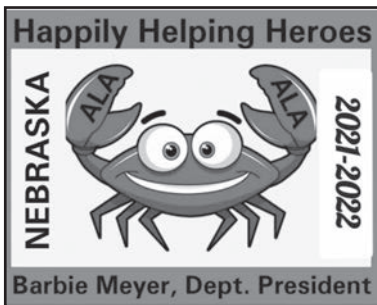
Hickman Post 105 members were presented with Quilts of Valor from their Auxiliary. Pictured (L to R) Harold Hoge, Thomas Kohn, and Robert Leatherman.



Cody Post 319 presented certificates for continuous memberships. Pictured (L to R) Gary Eberly (60 years) and Buster Hand (50 years).



FROM THE DEPARTMENT PRESIDENT



Hello, Spring!!

Spring is a time of renewal. Time to reflect on the past --- and make plans for the future.

Your unit and district may have new leadership. Support and mentor them; don't compare and critique. Embrace new ideas, new members, and new ways of getting the job done.

Does your unit have any Juniors? It doesn't have to be a defined group

that requires a leader, but you can incorporate that young help at meetings and events. They have great technology skills; ask them to help.

Renewal means renew! Dues must be renewed to be current! They are due every July. Put that on your calendar. So much time and, yes, money has been spent to have members pay those dues. It is a simple thing. Pay your unit membership chair (Secretary/Treasurer?), pay online, or acquire a PUFL membership.

Did you forget if you paid? Check your current card. It should say 2022. In July, it will say 2023. I want our funds to go to veterans' projects, not toward constant reminders to pay dues --- and I am sure you do, also.

Looking forward to seeing you in June at the Ramada Inn in Columbus for our 100th Department Convention. Make reservations now; and mention "Legion" when you do. We will have fun and be hosting National President Kathy Daudistel. Let's show her how we love our Nebraska veterans by attending and sharing our ideas.

*Barbie Meyer
Department President
Happily Helping Heroes!
No Crabby Attitudes!*



YOU CAN HELP!



We are fast approaching the time of the Auxiliary year when every unit should be ready to share what they have done for our veterans, the military, their families, and our communities. From the District Conventions that I have attended thus far, often I hear "oh, we just do the same thing." Well, that's okay; but we still need to share "that same thing" because we are doing it for our veterans, our military, their families, and our communities. How many of you attending those conventions come away with a new idea for your unit to do? I know I often do.

Every unit across our great state "shines" in their own way by what they do. Reporting your activities just might give another unit a boost by providing something "new" for them to try. And your unit might discover a different way to do "the same thing" you've been doing. But, there is one aspect of every Auxiliary unit about which most members probably don't know exactly what has been done. And that is membership!

So, let me ask you. Do you know how many members of your unit have not yet paid their 2022 dues? Do you know what your unit's goal is for membership? Have you paid your 2022 dues?

As I have shared before, membership is every member's responsibility --- not just the membership chairman's. What can you do to help? Contact your membership chairman, or me, or Beverly Neel (our Department Membership Chairman) and ask which members from your unit have not yet paid their 2022 dues. Often, if two or three members divide that list among themselves and personally contact the unpaid members, your unit will increase your percentage of paid members. This, also, helps Nebraska reach our next goal of 90 percent.

"But what do I say to them," you might be thinking. That's easy! Share with them why you belong --- whether it is because of your father, uncle, or spouse who served their country for us. I have always said that I feel privileged to belong to The American Legion Auxiliary because NOT everyone can be a member. And I'm sure we all know someone who wants to belong but can't because of no eligibility. It is a privilege and honor to belong because of the military service of a family member. Remember, we are one of the nation's most prominent supporters of our veterans, military, and their families.

Another excellent point to share is one of the benefits we have --- the Auxiliary Emergency Fund (AEF). Any member who suffers a disaster or has an emergency is eligible to apply for a grant through the AEF. But, your dues must be paid (and for the last three years) to qualify for the relief. It would be a shame if one your Auxiliary friends missed out on this opportunity because they didn't pay their dues.

Do your part! Reach out to members within your unit to encourage them to pay their dues. And don't forget to ask your neighbors, friends, store clerks, and just about anyone you encounter to join this great organization! It is a privilege and honor!

One last thing. I hope you are planning on attending the Department Convention in Columbus. Our National President, Kathy Daudistel, and Northwestern Vice President Dee Dee Buckley will be our special guests. And here is an incentive. For every member who brings a first-time ALA member, I will donate \$2 to the AEF. And I'll donate \$1 for anyone who comes themselves and it is your first-time at a Department Convention. That's a win-win deal! You will benefit, and the AEF will benefit from you attending!

*Vicki Ozenbaugh,
Department Vice President*

SECRETARY



Office Notes:

In your March Newsletter, you should have received:

- Unit Data Form
- Unit Dues Change Form
- ALAMIS access Form
- Membership Card Pick-up form
- Century of Smiles Form

Please return them as soon as possible.

Your unit taxes for the IRS are filed. I will be sending 8822Bs to some units that have not updated their information and have had their 990N returned to the office.

Stay Warm and Stay Safe.

*Lisa Moore
Department Secretary/Treasurer*

REMEMBERING CHARLEEN



Past Department President Charlene Kay (Thoren) Walters, 76, of Bastrop, Texas, was born October 14, 1945 and passed away Tuesday, February 15, 2022. Charlene served as Department President 2010-2011.

Charlene was a VIM member of Weeping Water Unit 237. Charlene's eligibility was through the service of her husband, Donovan K. Walters, an Air Force pilot during the Vietnam War. She was a Gold Star member due to his sacrifice.

Charlene served on the unit, county, and district level. On the Department level she served as Legislative Chairman, Chaplain, Historian and Vice President.

Charlene served as ALA

Department President 2010-2011. Her theme was "Freedom Always Has a Price," and it recognized the veterans who paid the ultimate price, as well as wounded, homeless, and those who are continuing their efforts for the country they have kept FREE.

Charlene's symbol was the Gold Star which honors ALL veterans who have served our country. Her project was the Veterans Affairs and Rehabilitation Program.

Charlene was a partner of 8&40 and served on the salon, area, and Departmental levels. She served as Departmental Chapeau in 2011.

Charlene was a life member of the Ladies Auxiliary of the Military Order of Purple Heart and a life-long member of the Disabled American Veterans Auxiliary. She was a member of the First Lutheran Church of Avoca, Nebraska.

Charlene is survived by son Devin and daughter Christine and their families. A private family service was held.

Charlene will be honored at a memorial service in Columbus.

APPLYING FOR COMMUNITY SERVICE AWARDS

There are two awards available for Community Service. One is the Most Outstanding Unit Community Service Program, and the other is for the Most Outstanding Unit Member. Please consider them.

Unit Award: Most Outstanding Unit Community Service Program. Department entries must be sent to Deb Albers dalbers727@gmail.com by **May 15, 2022**. Narratives should be less than 500 words and give an overview of Community Service for the year. Remember, Blood Drives are included in Community Service. Be sure to include your Community Service hours, money spent, and the number of people served. Pictures should be included. Be sure to include a National Community Service Report and Award Coversheet. It may be found on the alaforveterans.org Community Service page.

Individual Award: Most Outstanding Unit Member. Each

unit may nominate one Unit Member for Community Service by submitting a narrative to the Department Community Service chairman by **May 15, 2022**. **The Candidate must be a unit member in good standing.** Include the nominee's name, contact information, unit name and number, Department and Chairman information. Include a narrative with less than 500 words. It is recommended that you obtain a Certificate of Appreciation from the alaforveterans.org Community Service page and present it to your nominee.

Please send Award submissions to Debra Albers, 1759 Rd 5200, Davenport, NE 68335 or email them to dalbers727@gmail.com. Feel free to email your questions.

*Debra Albers,
Community Service Chr.*

VALENTINE'S DAY LUNCH

On Valentine's day, Margaret Southworth and Lea Doolen went to the Eastern Nebraska Veterans Home to help with their special lunch of prime rib, shrimp, and green bean casserole --- along with a beer or glass of wine to go with it. They also took pictures of members in a special arch of balloons.

Others who helped were Pam and Amanda Sevick, who handed out long stem roses to each member. John Wenninghoff cleared tables. We also purchased boxed candy hearts to pass out to the members and staff.

It was a fun day for all.



Pictured (l-r) are: Lea Doolen and Margaret Southworth.

HISTORIAN



Here are some things you didn't know about the first ALA Dept. of Nebraska President, Minnie Penney-Freeman:

1 --- Minnie became not only a local hero for saving her schoolchildren during the Blizzard of 1888, but she became a state and national hero as well. Her image was rendered in wax and exhibited throughout the nation.

2 --- Lyon & Healy, a Chicago music publisher, released a song about her heroic deed: "Song of the Great Blizzard 1888, Thirteen Were Saved or Nebraska's Fearless Maid."

3 --- She and her husband remained active in Nebraska politics although they split their time between Nebraska and Chicago.

4 --- Minnie was one member of a committee of three that selected the new Nebraska state seal.

5 --- Minnie and her husband's legal residence was in Fullerton, Nebraska.

*Angie Foster,
Department Historian*

CHILDREN AND YOUTH

Recognizing kids who go above and beyond is a great way to support positive behaviors and recognize those who display values that reflect kindness and compassion. Do you have children and youth who have performed a heroic act or have done a good deed for your community? Nominate them for a Youth Hero/ Good Deed Award.

The national president is promoting a Youth Caregiver Award to recognize a youth providing care, comfort, assistance, and support to loved ones, friends, or family members without being paid. A certificate will be available for download from the ALA national website www.ALAforVeterans.org for units to present.

Our Department would like to offer a new award for a youth who creates something that benefits a school, disabled friend, family, or community. The focus is on a helpful item or idea that they develop. Send your nominee to this Chairman. Include a narrative about the youth and the creation. Pictures are welcome. At this time, this is a one year award during our current administrative year.

April is Children and Youth Month. What are you doing to promote Children and Youth programs?

Vicki Colson
Chr.

CHILDREN AND YOUTH LUNCHEON

SATURDAY, JUNE 25, 2022, 12:00 PM – 2:00 PM
KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS HALL
3115 6th Street
Columbus, NE

Roast Beef Dinner
\$15.00

Name_____ Unit_____

Total Reservations_____ Total Enclosed \$_____

Make checks payable to: Vicki Colson

Please return to: **Children and Youth Chairman before June 5, 2022**
Vicki Colson
PO Box 61
Paxton, NE 69155

Tickets will be at the Auxiliary Registration Table at Department Convention

NATIONAL SECURITY

Fort Stewart soldiers deploying to Europe will draw heavy weapons from the Army’s stockpile on the Continent for the first time. I would venture a guess there are no military who do not have their bags packed and are ready to leave. That is the reality in which we find ourselves.

The advancement of Resolution 1: Statement on Ukraine, was the result of an urgent meeting of The American Legion National Security Commission. Some of the key points in that resolution were: (Taken from Legion.org)

The American Legion believes in a “rules-based international order where the territorial boundaries of any sovereign nation should not be changed by force.”

-NATO is an essential element of global and U.S. security “in an increasingly multi-polar world where rising powers have become increasingly adversarial...”

-Russia has no role in the “security architecture” of NATO.

-The Article 5 “mutual defense clause” does not extend to non-NATO countries.

“Peaceful conflict resolution in Ukraine, in conjunction with the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) and the Russian Federation;”

-A European “security architecture that takes into account the national security interests of all parties;”

-Non-support for “the deployment of troops for combat operations in defense of non-NATO member countries in connection with the ongoing Ukraine-Russia conflict;”

-Urging “the administration to continue the supply of lethal and non-lethal aid to Ukrainian forces.”

As Auxiliary members, what does this mean to us? National Security is one of the Pillars of The American Legion. We support the American Legion. We support the Military. This means the Auxiliary has work to do. For every military member who is deployed, there are families left behind. It is up to us to show our support to these families, so our young men and women do not worry about those they left at home.

We do what we do best. We listen. Listen to what the families may need. Are they having trouble getting groceries? Ask them if you can make that trip for them. How about making a meal-dessert-cookies? Maybe someone can handle some chores around the house? Make the yard ready for spring. It is usually the simple things we do for people that have the largest impact. Look around and listen. I bet there is some way to help. (Make sure to see the list of resources for helping our Military in the Department Newsletter.)

What has you unit done for our military and their families this year? It is time to celebrate our impact on our military. Reports are due April 20. Also, due April 20th are the submissions for Outstanding Unit National Security Program and Salute to Servicemember Award. As always, it is important to report what you have done. Make our voices heard by our national leaders.

National Security
Elizabeth Paes, Chr.

Remember to send your assignments a couple weeks before the month they are due.							
2022-23 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
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	#11 Hastings
July	#290 Elwood	#218 Exeter	#27 Beatrice	#156 Howells	#7 Alliance	#312 Broadwater	#27 Beatrice
Aug.	#141 Hampton	#209 Franklin		#175 Jackson	#213 Wallace	#213 Wallace	#199 Cambridge
Sept.	#145 Bloomington	#141 Hampton		#64 Columbus	#133 Culbertson	#133 Culbertson	#160 Polk
Oct.	#257 Eustis	#52 Kearney		#283 Platte Center	#10 Morrill	#364 Naponee	#222 Shubert
Nov.	#251 Arcadia	#209 Franklin			#10 Morrill	#301 Dalton	Dept. Jrs.
Dec.	#283 Platte Center	#377 Wilcox	#245 Plymouth		#7 Alliance	#7 Alliance	#183 Friend
Jan.							
Feb.							
March							
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							
NOTE: Grand Island is still unable to take Centerpieces. Please call the Med Center for an update before delivery.							

QUILTS OF VALOR PRESENTED

Sam Aughe and Bill Murphy, Vietnam veterans are covered by their Quilts of Valor received on March 1 at Veterans and Friends in Crete during the Birthday Party for Legion Post 147. Also in the picture are (far left) Delores Aughe, wife of Sam and (far right) Bill’s wife, Carol Murphy.

Aughe is an Army veteran (1969-71) and received his basic training in Louisiana before being sent to Vietnam. He was hospitalized in Japan for a month with malaria and injured during a contact fire mission on his 105 Howitzer. Returning to the states, he was stationed at Fort Carson, Colorado until December 1971. Murphy is a veteran of the U.S. Army and joined the 295th Ordinance Company of the U.S.

Army Ready Reserve in York, NE in 1966. His unit was activated in 1968 and after basic training at Fort Carson, CO, he served at a base near Chu Lia, South Vietnam assigned to receiving, storing and issuing ammunition to the military of I-Corps. The entire Company was called home one month short of their projected one year tour.



Eileen Petit, a member of Auxiliary Unit 81 had a proud moment at the Veterans Day Program in Wakefield on November 11, 2021.

All three of her children --- Kristen Blattert, William Miller, and Dean Miller --- received their Quilts of Valor. They each served over 6 years with the Army National Guard. They went into the service right out of high school.



Pictured (l-r) are Kenneth Petit, Dean Miller, Kristen Blattert, William Miller, and Eileen Petit.

Six Legionnaires from the Hallam Post #294 were honored and awarded Quilts of Valor in October and December of 2021 by the Hallam Legion Auxiliary Unit #294.

Pictured, L-R, are: Frederick “Freddy” Weidner – US Army, Marvin Meinke – Army and Marines, Dean Rocke – US Air Force, Wayne Schuerman – Air



National Guard and Army National Guard, and LaVern Thomas – US Army. Standing behind the veterans are Secretary/Treasurer Kathryn Kerns and Unit President Doreen Vokoun Cole.

Dean Albers is pictured with Kathryn and Doreen.

Thank you to these veterans for their service.



Pfeiffer-Morgan Post/Unit #290 OF Elwood met March 7, 2022 for their annual American Legion Birthday and Continuous Membership recognition dinner. Auxiliary members honored were, front row L-R: Gwen Stoll(65 years), Lola I. Debban (45 years), Kathy Jones (50 years) --- and holding her mother Illa Mae Anders’ award for 55 years, new member Charlene Nott! In the back row is Unit President Maria Atterberry and Vice Commander Bill Weismann (50 years).



DIST. 11 JRS.

The Dorchester Junior Auxiliary hosted the District 11 Junior Meeting on February 26th. Special guest was National Junior Activities Chairman Debra Albers.

President Quinn Kastl presided; Vice President Kiley Oldehoeft gave the response. Secretary Natelli Meyer read the minutes, and Chaplain Kenda Kastl offered prayer. Pages were Amber Kotas, Chloe Raines, and Camilla Nohavec.

Quinn and Findley Vrtiska led the pledge of allegiance, Ameilia Prachail sang the National Anthem, and Amber Kotas read the preamble. Department Vice President Carly Raines Chloe Raines did the POW observance.

Carly, Amber, and Chloe did a flag-folding demonstration. All Dorchester Juniors presented a skit on Quinn’s Junior Life, narrated by Carly Raines. Crafts were made for veterans. All officers moved up, with Chloe Raines now being the Chaplain.

A raffle was held for the Meyer family for their house fire. All enjoyed supper later.

Marva Kastl



Pictured at the District 11 Junior Meeting in Dorchester are (l-r): Department Vice President Carly Raines, Vice President Kiley Oldchoeft, President Quinn Kastl, Historian Emma Meyer, and Chaplain Kendal Kasl.



Juniors attending the District Meeting in Dorchester.



CANDIDATES FOR DEPARTMENT OFFICES - 2022-2023

BARBIE MEYER NATIONAL EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE WOMAN



BARBIE MEYER BIO

Barbie Meyer is seeking the office for the National Executive Committee, 2022-2023. She resides on a farm in Riverdale, NE. Her sponsor is Larry Meyer, Retired Army Vietnam veteran. They are the parents of 2 grown children and 2 grandchildren. Their grandson is an Army veteran serving as a medic in Korea. Their granddaughter is an Auxiliary member. Barbie's grandfather served in WWI, father WWII, both brothers Vietnam.

Barbie's unit is 351 of Miller, serving as President several years and has served all offices except secretary/treasurer. She has been a member of the American Legion Auxiliary for 22 years. She served as District 6 Vice President 2 years, and District 6 President, 2012 and 2013. On the Department level, Barbie served as Deputy Representative at the GIVA Med Center, and Department Membership Chairman 2015-16. She received the Northwestern Division Membership Chairman of the Year award at National Convention from National President Mary Davis. She has served as Department Chaplain, Historian, Vice President (2) yrs. and Department President 2021-22. She has attended (3) National Mission Workshops and (3) National Leadership and Membership Training Conferences. She is planning on attending her ninth National Convention in Milwaukee in August 2022. She has served as Delegate or Alternate at all of those conventions. At the Preconvention meetings, she has served as Recording Secretary and Sgt. of Arms.

Barbie is a 1969 graduate of Kearney High School and attended UNK. She is a 49-year member of First Presbyterian Church in Kearney, where she has served 3 terms as Deacon, 14 years as Sunday School teacher and Usher and Liturgist, and on various committees.

Significant jobs; Radiologic Technologist Assistant and Basic Life Support Instructor.

Business Manager (6 yrs.) Cookie Jar, Cookbooks by Morris Press, Proofreader (14 yrs.) Averaging 44,000 recipes annually.

Barbie has, having attended several National events, become familiar with many leaders who serve at that level and would feel comfortable serving beside them on the National Executive Committee. She thanks everyone for

BEVERLY NEEL NATIONAL EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE WOMAN



BEVERLY NEEL BIO

Members, my eligibility for the ALA is through the Veterans in my family; namely, Father (WWII, Army Air Corps), brother (Vietnam, Navy Corpsman), husband, (Vietnam – Persian Gulf, USMC), and son (Persian Gulf/Iraq, USMC). I am a PUFL (Paid Up For Life) member of Roy Reed Unit 252, Winside NE in District 3. I have held many positions over my 41 years as an ALA member. I once heard that one does not brag on oneself as there are plenty others who know of your successes/failures; let them speak on your behalf.

I am best known as a very conservative member as one who feels if we ask for a dues increase we should also be willing and able to demonstrate restraint in our spending.

Personally, I feel our mileage and per diem are too excessive and too broad. We should make allowance for our Department President and Secretary. Beyond that, are we not volunteers?

Ladies, do a real close review of our Department governing document. It is all out there on where your dues are headed. The document is available on the Department website, or I can email it as well.

We have varied avenues of interest in our personal life. We incur travel and meal costs on our other volunteer missions. No member of the ALA should profit from the volunteer work we do. This is a standard I have stood by in my 41 years in the ALA.

Our greatest reward in our work in the ALA is the face of appreciation from those whom we serve, a tear down the cheek, a hardy or weak handshake or a simple nod of the head. There is no amount of money that can beat those personal signs of appreciation.

So, ladies, you have time to decide and you have time to ask questions. I am serving as a unit member first and foremost; and, yes, I want my dues to be spent on those whom we serve, not on me. I will carry that same philosophy as a member of the NEC.

Hope to see you in June at the Department Convention in Columbus NE. Blessings to all.

VICKI OZENBAUGH BIO

ALA greetings to my fellow Auxiliary members! As I have

VICKI OZENBAUGH DEPARTMENT PRESIDENT



indicated my candidacy for Nebraska's Department President, there might be some things you would like to know about me:

What is my Auxiliary background?

- I'm a 45-year member of this awesome organization!

- I belong to the Franklin Unit No. 193 in Ohio, Nebraska.

- I was able to join ALA through the service of my former husband.

- Unit President, Vice-President, Chaplain, Membership Chairman, and various program chairmen usually associated with Education and Children & Youth.

- Fillmore County President and Vice-President.

- Dist. 11 President (twice) and Vice Pres.

- Department Americanism (twice), Education (twice), Leadership (twice), and Children and Youth

What is my personal background?

- Born and raised in Nebraska.
- Graduate of University of Nebraska.
- Eight years as a high school teacher.
- Self-employed career in "making a house a home" for many individuals (for those who might remember Home Interiors and Gifts) for 20 years.

- Twenty-five years as a postmaster with the United States Postal Service (plus nine years as a non-career USPS employee).

- Previous council member for St. John's Lutheran Church.

- Current St. John's administrative secretary, Sunday School superintendent, and teacher.

- Member of the Ohio, Rescue as an EMT, serving as a previous captain and current secretary/treasurer.

- Member of the Ohio, Chamber of Commerce, serving previously as president and currently as treasurer.

Whether in day-to-day life or in the workplace, a leader is someone who provides example, guidance, and direction. I believe I can provide that for the American Legion Auxiliary as your Department President. It would be my honor to work together with my fellow Auxiliary members in serving our veterans, their families, as well as our communities and youth.

ANGIE FOSTER BIO

I have been an American Legion Auxiliary member for over 16 years and am eligible through my dad, both grandpas, and my son. I live in Osceola, Nebraska with my husband, Willy, and our dog, BellaMae. We have 5 kids and 8 grandsons.

ANGIE FOSTER DEPARTMENT VICE PRESIDENT



For the 2021-2022 year, I am serving as Department of Nebraska Historian as well as NW Division AEF Chairman. I have served as an officer on the Unit, County, and District levels. This is my third time serving as a Northwestern Division Chairman.

My favorite part of being in this organization is getting to meet new people and spending time with my Legion family while supporting our veterans.

I am a retired traveling nurse. Here's a little bit of info that you may not know about me: I have studied law, Para legalism, business administration, and nursing. I have been an office manager, blood drive coordinator, corn pollinator, dabbled in e-commerce, graphic designer, raised goats, been a Red Cross Disaster Relief Response team member, and a Girl Scout leader. Currently, I work from home running my online e-retail business "MamaFosterFinds," trading stocks and trading cryptocurrency.

In January 2022, I was nominated as one of the Top 150 Notable Alumni from Kearney High School in 150 years for my endeavors in philanthropy. I also serve as the Nebraska State Secretary of the Military Order of the Purple Heart Auxiliary, President of the MOPHA Grand Island Unit, and manage the state MOPHA Facebook page. Also, I am a member of 8&40 Madison County Salon and am a DAV Auxiliary Member.

I look forward to serving our Auxiliary members in the leadership role as Department of Nebraska Vice President and moving this great organization forward.

RUTH HIETBRINK BIO

I have been a member of the ALA for 49 years. My eligibility is through my father, Paul Straube, who was a WWII veteran. Even though he passed several years ago, his passion for our country has kept me engaged in continuing to be an active member of the American Legion Auxiliary.

Currently, I serve as the President of Sterling Unit 140. I have also held the position of Department Legislative Chairperson for the last 3 years.

Past Positions within ALA include:

- Past District 13 President
- Past District 13 Vice President
- Past District 13 Chaplain
- Johnson County President

Positions outside of the ALA include:

- Current Executive Board of

RUTH HIETBRINK DEPARTMENT CHAPLAIN



PAT WISEMAN DEPARTMENT CHAPLAIN



Directors for Energy Solution Center, Washington DC

- Past Board member of Home Builders of Lincoln

- Past Board member for Friendship Home of Lincoln

I graduated from Sterling High School and I hold an A.A.S. in Business and an A.A.S. in Event Planning.

I am a member of Hope Lutheran Church in Burr, Nebraska. I have been employed by Black Hills Energy for the last 26 years, and my current position is Account Manager for Southeast Nebraska. I plan to retire in July of 2022.

I would love to act as your Department Chaplain for the next year.

PAT WISEMAN BIO

Pat belongs to Buckland Unit #97 at Homer in District 3. She has 49 years of membership and is a PUFL member. She applied for membership under the service of her husband during the Viet Nam era, but has several other eligible family members. Her dad served in WWII and was on the USS Menard at Okinawa. Her oldest son just retired after belonging to the Iowa Air National Guard for 33 years. Her youngest son was in the Army for 14 years. Her granddaughter and her husband have been in the Air Force for 15 years and are serving 4 years in Germany at present. Another grandson is a member of the Nebraska Army National Guard and is deployed to Qatar at present.

Pat has served as Unit President, Dakota County President, and Vice President many times --- a total of 4 years as District 3 Vice President and 4 years as District 3 President. On the Department level, she has been on the County Government Committee, Americanism Chairman, Leadership Chairman, a senior counselor at Girl's State, and also Girl's State President. She is also an American Legion Rider and presently serves as their Secretary/Treasurer.

Pat is a member of St. Luke Lutheran Church in Emerson and has been on the church council. She is a 47-year member of the Homer Homemakers and a life member of the NRA and Nebraska Bowhunters. She has been a Cub Scout leader and took Boy Scout Adult Woodbadge training. She is also a member of the Dakota County Historical Society.

LINCOLN VA

Department of Nebraska American Legion Family ---

Once again, I would like to thank you for your generous donations to the Lincoln VA CBOC (Community Based Outpatient Clinic). Your generosity has helped and continues to help less fortunate veterans who need help with daily living, especially now with costs continuing to increase.

Your generosity during the holidays allowed us to help at least 160 veterans and assists us in continuing to help. But,

the needs don't just stop at the holidays. The social workers have expressed their thanks many times and tell of the emotions that are expressed because they are not forgotten. These veterans relate that they never expected to be in these situations and are so thankful for the help.

Just some information and trivia for you.

March 1, 2021 ---- a little over one year ago --- was the "Official First Day" at the new clinic. 420 Victory Park Drive.

1. On day 1, the only scheduled

appointments were for Covid Vaccine. They gave 43 shots.

2. From March 1, 2021 thru February 28, 2022, the team at the Lincoln VA has completed 88,522 appointments.

3. A lot of days, evenings, and weekends were spent supporting the COVID Vaccine efforts. As a team, they administered 8,637 shots.

4. Veterans have picked up at the pharmacy window located in the VA Clinic 23,030 prescriptions.

Linda Varejcka
Lincoln VA CBOC Volunteer

GIRLS STATE

Girls State is fast approaching, and it will be here before we know it!

Reminder: Girls State is June 5-11, 2022 --- in Lincoln --- at the University of Nebraska campus.

Orientations will take place virtually again this year. There will be a video for the delegates to watch, and then they will be given 3 opportunities to ask questions with the Vice Chairmen. The video and the Zoom links will be posted on

the Girls State website under the orientation tab.

The dates for the question-and-answer sessions are:

Sat, April 9, 2022, at 1-1:30 CDT
Sun, April 10, 2022, at 4-4:30 CDT
Mon, April 11, 2022, at 7-7:30 CDT

Nicole Vance
Girls State Chr.

CHAPLAIN'S CORNER

“Show me Your ways, O Lord; teach me Your paths. Lead me in Your truth and teach me, for You are the God of my salvation ...” (Psalm 25:4)

We spend most of our lives learning. The first things we learn are eating, talking, walking, and other skills necessary to live. The longer we are around, the more talents we develop. Much depends on where we live and what surrounds us. We are taught by family, friends, and others that we meet. We see, hear, smell, and touch to learn.

In this verse, we are asking God to teach us His ways. He has made a path for us and has a plan, but we need to let Him lead us by His truth and mercy. These paths we need to try our best to follow, and they

are what we need to complete our mission to help veterans and their families in every way that we can. We must ask Him to give us the strength and knowledge to get our hopes and dreams done.

Prayer ~ Heavenly Father, Help us to learn Your ways and follow Your paths to accomplish the work that we are doing. Please give us minds that keep finding ways to do our projects and renew our strength when we grow weary. We ask You to please send peace to our troubled world. Bless our children and youth and teach them Your ways. Through Your son, Amen.

Pat Wiseman
Dept. Chaplain

SPRING IS A TIME TO CULTIVATE OUR YOUTH

Now that the songbirds are returning and the bulbs are peeking through the snow, everyone’s thoughts turn to getting outside. Imagine what it is like for a teacher trying to corral a roomful of wiggly kids. I had a teacher tell me it’s like trying to pop popcorn with the lid off! Kids need to move, to make noise, to express themselves --- particularly in the spring. What a perfect time to introduce some music!

For the younger bunch, think how much a teacher would appreciate you spending some time teaching them to march to patriotic tunes, to drum the drums, and pretend to play the fife.

For the older kids, with the clouds of world war swirling, now may be the perfect time to instill in them just what sacrifices our own ancestors endured to keep our

country safe and free. You may be able to reach a few as they see the millions of refugees fleeing the bombs on TV to get them to understand the debt we owe our own veterans. Songs such as Keep the Home Fires Burning and The Empty Chair could help them to feel the pain and longing of those sacrifices.

Also, with Honors programs in schools just around the corner, please take the time to give certificates to recognize those who perform the National Anthem at school events. They need to know it matters. Be sure to add to your April Reports what you have done to promote and support music in your school and communities.

Keep Singing!

Jean Vackiner
Music Chr.

MEMBERSHIP

In the Membership program, each District has the opportunity to recognize a unit in the District that has the highest percentage of Goal on September 1st annually. Some Districts continue with the “traveling gavel,” and others have opted to presenting a certificate. Here are the District units recognized for this achievement:

District 1 – Wood Lake 0202	75.00%
District 2 – Bloomfield 0249	96.74%
District 3 – Winnebago 0363	96.30%
District 4 – Dalton 0301	35.29%
District 5 – Sutherland 0208	39.39%
District 6 – Dannebrog 0241	62.00%
District 7 – Dwight 0110	87.50%
District 8 – Valley 0058	91.89%
District 9 – Cambridge 0199	76.92%
District 10 – Edgar 0248	94.59%
District 11 – Shickley 0164	87.18%
District 12 – Pleasant Dale 0354	72.90%
District 13 – Burchard 0156	95.35%

CONGRATULATIONS TO ALL – JOB WELL DONE!

Beverly A. Neel, Membership Chairman
402 369 0152
bbneel1912@gmail.com

DATES TO REMEMBER

- APRIL**
- 2 National Mission and Junior Training in Omaha
 - 9 Dept. Juniors Convention, St. Paul.
 - 9-11 Virtual Girls State Orientation Available
 - 15 Military Kids Day - Wear Purple
 - 17 Easter
 - 20 Poppy Posters due to Chairman
 - 20 Narrative & History Books due to Historian

- MAY**
- 10 Articles due for the June issue of “The Star”
 - 8 Mothers' Day
 - 27 National Poppy Day
 - 30 Memorial Day - Department Headquarters Closed

FOR YOUR ADVANCED PLANNING

- | | |
|-----------------------|---|
| June 5-11, 2022 | ALA Cornhusker Girls State - in person or virtual |
| June 23-26, 2022 | Department Convention, Columbus, NE |
| Aug. 26-Sept. 1, 2022 | National Convention, Milwaukee, Wisconsin |

THANK YOU

When our personal "Family" said goodbye to a loved one, it is proven that our "Legion Family" steps forward with expressions of care, love, and sympathy. Your expressions in person, over the phone, by email, and USPS are all are much appreciated. Thank you so much for being there for our family in the loss of my mother, Phyllis Gallop.

Beverly & Bud Neel

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 MAY 10, 2022

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NEBRASKA DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS' AFFAIRS
EASTERN NEBRASKA VETERANS' HOME

12505 Harrison Tull Drive, Bellevue NE 68123
OFFICE: 402-591-4852 FRONT DESK: 402-595-2180
Patti.Howe@nebraska.gov
This is the new address of the Eastern Nebraska Veterans Home and contact info.

AUXILIARY EMERGENCY FUND (AEF)

It is never too late to help others. The Auxiliary Emergency Fund (AEF) provides financial assistance to members in need. Job loss, tornadoes, floods, fires, unexpected bills --- members affected by natural

disasters or economic setbacks and meeting eligibility requirements may apply.

Units and members, please support this ongoing program through fundraising or personal

donations. No one can predict when their time of need may arise.

Kathy Mazur
AEF Chr.

THE VALUE OF LONG-DISTANCE MEMBERS

Membership reaches far and wide. Many times, we take on the concept that --- unless we reside within the community where our unit of membership is located --- we cannot be involved, cannot be appreciated, or be active. That is not true. No matter where we reside, we can be an ALA member. We do not need to be limited to the unit location. We can spread our wings and give of ourselves from where we are.

Have you heard “we are right where we need to be”? Well, that defines you and me. Membership is not limited to the unit locale. Membership is dedication, involvement, and investment from where we are.

Any ALA member can volunteer within their neighborhood or community and still be a valuable member of the local unit. We simply have to continue to use our skills and talents in service to others and take the time to record it all down and report it back to the unit in April. Why? Because our unit of membership will be able to use our volunteer work from a block away or a thousand miles away.

Another avenue our long-

distance members have is making monetary donations to the programs the unit sponsors throughout the year. A simple \$5.00 donation each to the unit’s Poppy Distribution Day, to its annual Bingo game at a Veteran-connected facility, or its Girls State delegate to purchase a special item in the program. It all makes the unit viable and active no matter where its members may live.

Establish an annual “No Bake, Bake Sale” when collecting dues renewals each year and ask all members to send an extra \$5.00 with their dues. This simple gesture will enhance the work the local unit can achieve or be able to donate to a youth program within the community. It is amazing the impact that simple \$5.00 can have on the unit’s success throughout the year.

Long-distance members are the silent partner of the unit’s success. We appreciate all members who continue to renew their membership --- no matter where they reside. Distance makes the heart grow fonder, and that is very true with our long-distance members. They desire to participate, and we need to find innovative ways to make that happen. Your unit would welcome

suggestions.

If you have NOT renewed for 2022, there is no time like the present to get it done. Please let us wrap up our renewals before May 1st. That will give your Unit Membership Clerk a couple month’s rest before starting the membership renewal campaign for 2023 dues. Keep in mind that Membership is every member’s responsibility.

So, for the 2023 dues, mark your calendar today for JULY 1st “PAY MY ALA DUES” and get that dues check to the unit by July 15th. This message applies to those members close to their unit and those long-distance. Paying your dues is the greatest gift you can continue to give to the unit. Yes, your membership is a gift. First, a beloved veteran(s) gave you the eligibility to join. Secondly, you chose to keep your membership intact. If able, add that extra \$5.00 to the unit.

THANKS TO ALL MEMBERS!

Blessings to all.

Beverly A. Neel,
Dept. Membership Chr.
402-369-0152
bbneel1912@gmail.com

DEPARTMENT OF NEBRASKA - AMERICAN LEGION AUXILIARY - 2021-2022
PO Box 5227 - Lincoln NE 68505 - Email: neaux@windstream.net - Phone: 402-466-1808

Report Date: 3/16/22		Paid Numbers			Goal	Needed	%
Dist.	22 Dist. Pres.	Sr. Paid	Jr. Paid	Total Paid			
1	Mary Krause	1001	141	1142	1290	148	88.53%
2	Crys Bauermeister	1403	194	1597	1784	187	89.52%
3	Vicky Gullicksen	720	78	798	902	104	88.47%
4	Bonita Dickinson	514	70	584	620	36	94.19%
5	Terrie Haworth	574	57	631	689	58	91.58%
6	Nancy Harrold	1790	208	1998	2235	237	89.40%
7	Janie Nelson	1356	169	1525	1732	207	88.05%
8	Paula Pillen	1205	141	1346	1555	209	86.56%
9	Peggy Kennedy	439	65	504	561	57	89.84%
10	Tina Nelson	808	108	916	1066	150	85.93%
11	Vicky Thompson	1739	294	2033	2189	156	92.87%
12	Charlene Hobelman	1143	92	1235	1400	165	88.21%
13	Amanda Washburn	518	92	610	659	49	92.56%
HQ	Department 500	83	0	83	76	-7	109.21%
TOTALS		13293	1709	15002	16758	1756	89.52%