

# Springing Ahead



National Vice Commander Angel Narvaez spoke during the Joint Session on Saturday, January 22nd. Pictured (L to R) National Executive Committeeman Fred Craigie, National Vice Commander (Midwest Region) Angel Narvaez, Auxiliary President Barbie Meyer, Sons Commander Chris Casey, Sons National Executive Committeeman David Rippe, Sons National Vice Commander (Midwest Region) Juan Torres, and Department ALR Liaison John Arias.

It is almost time for spring! I’m sure we are all excited about warmer weather and to see things blooming. But we did accomplish a lot over the last couple of months. In January everyone was planning for the 89th Annual Mid-Year Conference that took place in Columbus. Everyone was happy to socialize and catch up in person to see what had happened since June. The Legion family was introduced to some new faces from New York, Puerto Rico, Texas, and Kansas. The Leading Candidate for National Commander, Vincent “Jim” Troiola, visited and learned some strange laws that only exist in Nebraska, and he had a great time. The National Vice Commander (Midwest Region), Angel Narvaez, shared many stories while visiting and helped us remember how much we enjoy this organization and the many ways it can benefit our lives. The Sons of The American Legion also invited their National Vice Commander (Midwest Region), Juan Torres, to the conference. It was exciting to see him enjoying the cold weather while visiting our great state. The Kansas State Commander, Marri Krupco, was invited to our conference and brought along the Auxiliary President, Marcia Cottrell, to see what the neighboring state was up to. There were many ideas, stories and memories shared with all the dignified guests.

During the conference, many awards were given out for an array of reasons. We celebrated the Police Officer, Firefighter, and Baseball Player of the Year, the Oratorical Contest participants, and former department positions. There are so many good people in this state that represent us well around the entire country. While we celebrated all the good, we did remind everyone that the Big 12 Membership competition will be ending on March 9th. The higher our membership renewal rate is, the better the chance to bring home awards from the National level! We all need



to keep working on renewing memberships and recruiting new members.

This year Department will be having Boys State. All information can be found on the Department website or by contacting Adjutant Dave Salak at 402-464-6338. This is an important program that helps shape the future peoples of our state and country. This program touches on two of our pillars; Americanism and Children & Youth. It is our duty to help children improve their lives. Junior Law Cadet, another important program, will be taking this place this summer too. For any questions, you can contact Brent Hagel-Pitt at 402-464-6338.

While some district meetings have already taken place, some are yet to come this month. These are important meetings for you, your post, and surrounding posts. This will be the time to learn new things, catch up on what has happened the last few months, and brainstorm some new ideas. Yes, this is a great program but there is always room for improvement at any level. A new idea may bring a big change for us, improving everything we do. Every member is important, you belong to this program and are welcome to get involved whether it is doing Buddy Calls, helping at blood drives, or participating in your local County Government Day activities.

On March 15th, The American Legion will be turning 103-years old. This will be a perfect time to celebrate continuous memberships and to look back at everything that has been accomplished in Nebraska and the country. With all the good that has been created, remember that you can help create more memories for future members of your Post.

Here’s to a new season of serving the ones who served.



The Legion family celebrated the Law Enforcement Officer and Firefighter of the Year recipients. Pictured (L to R) Officer Christopher Goley (Papillion), Commander Dan Benes, and Firefighter James Liptrott (Omaha).

FOR GOD AND COUNTRY

The Nebraska Legionnaire


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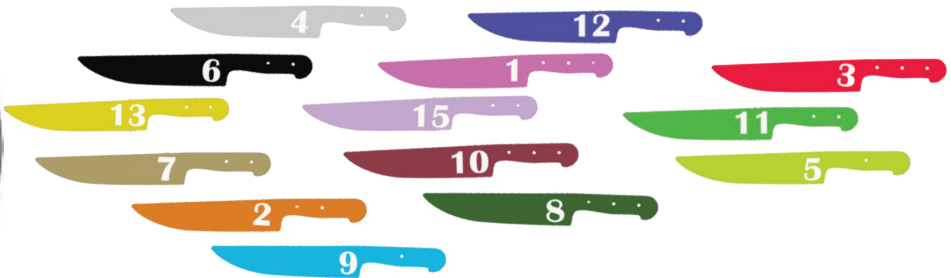
Lincoln, NE 68505-0205

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2022 MEMBERSHIP GOAL: 26,097    FEBRUARY 17TH TOTAL: 22,073 – 84.58%

DISTRICT 13 - 88.06%	DISTRICT 7 - 87.63%	DISTRICT 6 - 86.48%	DISTRICT 2 - 86.43%	DISTRICT 4 - 84.41%
DISTRICT 9 - 84.26%	DISTRICT 15 - 83.78%	DISTRICT 10 - 83.63%	DISTRICT 1 - 83.51%	DISTRICT 8 - 83.38%
DISTRICT 12 - 83.32%	DISTRICT 11 - 83.31%	DISTRICT 5 - 82.14%	DISTRICT 3 - 78.57%	










# Commander's Corner

**Dan Benes**  
Department Commander



This past December, it was a great experience to attend the National American Legion College in Indianapolis. The Legion College course curriculum centers on self-taught, small-group sessions supervised by graduate facilitators, staff members, contracted professional speakers, and national officers. We reviewed The American Legion’s core values, developed new ideas, and considered the future. Emphasis is placed on programs, management techniques, and leadership skills necessary to increase the visibility of programs, membership growth, and public awareness of The American Legion. Various sessions and lectures focused on mentoring and building leadership traits. Throughout the week it was intense with a huge amount of information to process, combined with workshops and hands-on exercises. This was time well spent and I achieved a deeper understanding and appreciation of The American Legion.



**Commander Benes and Daryl Harrison went together on bidding for the Children & Youth Foundation Poppy-themed winter accessories. Pictured (L to R) Commander Dan Benes and Daryl Harrison.**

you to Post 84 for hosting the Commanders Staff Meeting Saturday evening and supporting the Mid-Year in various ways.

The Oratorical contest showcased four young, talented contestants. Their speeches were incredible, and I am sure they made the judge’s job very difficult. Congratulations. While the judges tabulated the results, we held an impromptu forum of questions with our invited dignitaries. Judging by the number of questions, the crowd enjoyed the opportunity. Good information and touching stories were shared.

Our Department staff did an exemplary job coordinating and organizing the Mid-Year Conference. There was a great deal of work and effort on their part that lead to the success of the event. I thank them and encourage you to do the same if you see them. Our attendance was good, and your presence demonstrated your dedication to learning more about Legion programs that support our veterans. Posts that are represented at each level of Conferences, Conventions, and Round-Ups are successful because of the extra information they acquire.

The weekend of January 28-30, 2022, I attended the Kansas Mid-Winter Forum at Post 62 in Salina, Kansas. National Vice Commander Angel Narvaez also attended. The Mid-Winter Forum was well organized and attendance was good. Their committee reports were well done. The evening reception for visiting Officers had numerous questions from their members. My wife, Collie, and I met wonderful people and made good friends. Thank you Department Kansas Commander Marri Krupco and members for your hospitality.

I am looking forward to the upcoming travels to the District Conventions. This will be an opportunity to meet more members, make new friends, and hear your stories of support for our great organization. The blue hats at the Post level make things happen. Membership and teamwork at the Post level result in a solid foundation.

For God and Country.

Our 89th Annual Mid-Year Conference of The American Legion Department of Nebraska was held at the Ramada Inn in Columbus, January 21-23, 2022. Our special guests were Leading Candidate for National Commander Jim Troiola (NY), National Vice Commander (Midwest Region) Angel Narvaez (PR), Sons National Vice Commander Juan Torres (TX), and Kansas State Commander Marri Krupco. They all traveled great distances and each shared amazing stories. There were an additional nine guest speakers that shared information on various topics. We thank all of the special guests and speakers for sharing information that helps us make this fine organization better. Our committees gave their reports, and we thank them for their work and support. Post 84 Honor Guard performed a class job Posting and Retiring the Colors at the Mid-Year. Post 84 Commander Don Patras gave a warm welcome at the Joint Session. A special thank




**The Department staff gave Commander Dan Benes a gift for Christmas. They appreciate Benes and his dedication to the organization.**

## Nebraska American Legion 2021-2022 Lottery Winners

Thank you to all that participated in this year’s lottery. The drawing was held during the Sunday Joint Session of the Mid-Year Conference in Columbus. The winners were:

Grand Prize:	\$2,500, Boyd Roberts, Chadron
2nd Place:	\$1,000, Daniel Wagner, La Vista
3rd Place:	\$500, Donald Fortkamp, Palisade
4th Place:	\$200, Roger Fallon, Elkhorn
5th Place:	\$200, Howard Davis, Arapahoe
6th Place:	\$200, Kevin Hanneman, Utica
7th Place:	\$200, Clay Sheets, Blair
8th Place:	\$200, Anthony Morena, Plattsmouth.

A special drawing for tickets purchased at the Conference. Each of the following won \$100: Judy Walters, Ainsworth; Don Nelson, Clay Center (twice); Stan Vyhldal, Fremont; and Bud Neel, Wayne (Neel forfeited his winnings to be placed in the drawing for the larger cash prize).



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

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

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

March 1932 (90 years ago)

- Four Civil War veterans and one Spanish-American War soldier were honored by the **TRENTON** Legion post in the annual “Old Soldiers” banquet on February 22. After a brief talk by PDC Wade Martin of Stratton, and by the Civil War veterans, the assemblage went to the high school to enjoy a Washington program that had been prepared by the school folks.
- Because the American Legion has set itself to the task of relieving **UNEMPLOYMENT**, 1,118 men in Nebraska have been given work since the drive opened on February 15, according to figures received from National Headquarters of the War on **DEPRESSION** on March 18.

March 1942 (80 years ago)

- In January, William Eagle Post No. 281 of **STRATTON**, gave a **PANCAKE** feed for young men ready to leave for camp. On February 24, an **OYSTER** feed was given to another group. Some **ADVICE** and wishes for the “best of luck” were given by the “old soldiers” in both cases.
- GRANT Post No. 40 pledged its membership 100% in support of the defense **BONDS** and **STAMPS** sales. The post is active in the **SALVAGE** campaign. First collection was of wastepaper for defense but March 14 the post turned to collection of scrap **IRON** and other items needed in the **DEFENSE** program.

March 1952 (70 years ago)

- Nebraska’s youngest American Legion member received his 1952 membership card in early February at the Lincoln Veterans Hospital – Billy Joe **DAVIS**, who was not yet 18. Davis, who hails from West Culman, Alabama was with the Second Infantry Division in **KOREA** for four months as a machine **GUNNER**. He had been discharged from the Army when officials found out that he had enlisted at the age of 15.
- Boys State will again be oversubscribed by April 15 if the present trend continues, according to Department Adjutant R.C. Patterson. Applications are far ahead of where they were last year at this time. This means that posts who wait until the last minute may not have their boy accepted for the 7-day **GOVERNMENT** training session.

In the Great War (WWI) the allies, (USA, Britain, France, and Russia incognito as an ally), fought Germans on the Western Front of Europe until the Brest-Litovsk Treaty of 1918 pulled Russia out of the war with Germany. This treaty was engineered by Vladimir Lenin, the first President of the Soviet Union. One result of the treaty was an Allied Expeditionary Force being sent to protect the Russian ports of Murmansk and Archangel from Germans. As a result, in 1918 the US entered the Russian Civil War on the side of the so-called “Whites,” anti-Bolshevik counterrevolutionaries. Bolsheviks were considered the Communist “Reds.” The decision to intervene at Murmansk and Archangel started US policy regarding the young Soviet Union.



This is a campaign little known except to historians. Americans fought Soviet Bolshevik forces in the Archangel area of Northern Russia. Archangel extends from Finland to Siberia and is partly within the Arctic Circle. The capital city of the area is also named Archangel.

In a Senate Report at the time, as a result of fighting against Soviet Bolshevik forces around Archangel in 1918 – 1919, there were many eyewitness accounts of hundreds of US, British, and French personnel who disappeared. They just disappeared without any explanation.

The United States Government knew what had become of the missing. In the Great War, it was official US policy that all missing in action (MIAs) were on the very day they went missing, considered Killed in Action / Body Not Recovered, (KIA/BNR). By administrative order, no soldiers were MIA very long, they were simply written off the books as dead, no matter what their actual status. Being dead of course, they could no longer be a delicate problem for the United States Government. It was the administrative murder of MIAs.

After two years of indifference by the Woodrow Wilson administration, on April 18, 1921, the New York Times confirmed that American POW/MIAs were being held for ransom by the Soviet Union. The article title was “Captives Release Reportedly Sought.” Later, the policy of the Warren G Harding administration was the same as the Wilson administration when dealing with the Soviet Government.

September 1, 1921, about three years after their capture and the cessation of hostilities; authorities negotiated the release of 25 POWs and were surprised when instead of 25 expected 100 POWs were repatriated. The Americans managed to free 100 of its wrongly imprisoned citizens. In return, the Soviets obtained food and other aid that they needed.

Other Americans were held prisoner by the Soviets following The Great War. The Twentieth Century quid pro quo trafficking of Americans had begun. The issue did not become prominent again until World War II, but it came back when the following wars were fought across the world.

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# S.A.L. Notes

**Chris Casey**  
**Detachment Commander**



Greetings from the Detachment of Nebraska! The Detachment of Nebraska hosted Sons of The American Legion Midwest National Vice Commander, Juan Torres, during our Mid-Year Conference in Columbus. I had the pleasure of escorting Juan to and from the airport and spending a lot of time with him during the weekend. The Sons placed a wreath at the Andrew Jackson Higgins National Memorial on Saturday during a break in leadership training. The Detachment had a brick placed on the memorial wall in honor of the service of Juan’s father, Juan Torres Jr. We also photographed Juan after he discovered the brick and had a canvas created as a gift. We were honored to have Juan visit Nebraska and wish him well during the rest of his term as National Vice Commander.


The Detachment wants to thank Past National Commander Danny Smith for supplying excellent training during our leadership workshop. This is the third time that Smith has supplied training to Sons of The American Legion members during the 2021-22 program year. We encourage every member to take advantage of training when it is available. Our organization is strengthened by members who understand the processes, programs, and traditions.

I look forward to visiting several Districts for their upcoming conventions. I have asked Sons members to consider attending the meetings in better numbers throughout the state. It would be helpful to have a shared message of involvement from the rest of The American Legion Family at the local level. These meetings are a way to network with other members outside of your own Post home. The information shared is valuable and only helps to improve the work that each Squadron carries out. This is a perfect time to share programs that the Legion Family at your Post may have had success with and that may be used in communities across Nebraska.

The Sons of The American Legion National Commander, Michael Fox, is asking for the help of the entire Legion Family to reach the goal of placing one million American flags in honor of those who have served. The program is called Flying Flags for Heroes and there have already been over 183,000 flags placed since the beginning of the Commander’s term in office. That leaves considerable work to carry out prior to the National Convention in Milwaukee. The Detachment of Nebraska’s representative for this project is East Area Vice Commander, Thomas Landkamer. Please visit [www.flyingflagsforheroes.com](http://www.flyingflagsforheroes.com) for more information or feel free to contact Thomas with any questions you may have by email, [tlandkamer@gmail.com](mailto:tlandkamer@gmail.com). Ask your Sons Squadron when they plan to host their Flying Flags for Heroes event and how you can get involved. Honor the service of our veterans, inspire patriotism within our communities, and promote national pride!


“Sacrifice is meaningless without remembrance.”





# Chaplain’s Corner

**Father Alexander Borzych**  
**Department Chaplain**



By the time this goes to print, spring should be just a couple of weeks away. Not that we had a terrible winter so far, but you never know what’s ahead with Mother Nature.

Talking about spring, it’s the time of renewal and rebirth. Trees start to bud, tulips and crocuses start to force their way out of the ground, animals are generating offspring and in general, the world comes alive after the dead of winter. It’s a perfect moment for us to take some time and enjoy the surroundings and take some time to reflect on our own lives. Christians enter a time of looking into their lives and seeing what needs to change for the good. We call this time when we try to correct our faults, Lent. We set aside 40 days for this season. Things like fasting, sacrifice, and almsgiving are emphasized at this time. Sometimes, I say it would be nice to be Jewish because they wrap this up in one day called Yom Kippur. Yom Kippur is a Day of Atonement and Repentance on which the Jewish people focus on seeking forgiveness and forgiving others. No matter how one undertakes this reflection and correction, it is good for one’s spiritual, mental, and physical self. Hopefully, you will have an awakening during this time.

The conclusion of this period is the celebration of Easter. For Christians, it is the celebration of Christ’s resurrection from the dead after his death on the cross and burial. This is the greatest of all the celebrations for Christians.

My challenge to you during this time is to take a good look at your life, see what can be changed for the better, and try to substitute some good things in the areas that we are trying to weed out. Make some sacrifices, such as spending more time with family, rather than doing your own thing. Maybe undertaking some works of charity, like working at a soup kitchen, or a food pantry, volunteering at the Veterans Home, hospital, or nursing home where you live. How about choosing a charity and taking the money you would spend for a coffee break, or on that soda or snack, and put it towards that charity?

All these things not only make one feel good about themselves, but they put a smile on those people’s faces that we reach out to. As a veteran, we know what sacrifice is all about. We know what charity and giving involves while we were in the military. Just because we are out of the military we can’t stop being involved in continuing to lend a helping hand to make our neighborhood, city, state, and country a better place for those living around us.

For God and Country.

Sons of The American Legion Membership As of February 13, 2022		
District	2021 Members	2022 Members
1	309	247
2	623	410
3	226	172
4	313	286
5	133	126
6	1,330	1,129
7	731	454
8	861	657
9	312	325
10	352	280
11	1,087	970
12	254	180
13	153	120
15	148	143
Total	6,832	3,112



Syracuse Post 100 members held a flag retirement ceremony with their local Boy Scouts and other guests.



Commander Benes presented Past Detachment Commander Neel with his plaques for achieving over 90% membership renewals in the 2020-2021 year and the Arthur D. Houghton award for 2020. Pictured (L to R) Commander Dan Benes and Alt. NECman Bud Neel.



Benson Squadron 112 hosted a “SALoween” for children in the area. Pictured (L to R) Commander James Foster and Anthony Eggers.



Kearney Squadron 52 members donated to their club. Pictured (L to R) Mike Fegter, Shane Buehler, Commander Rich Weiss, Myron Kouba, and Bob Harpst.



## Candidate Announcement

### Don Suchy - Department Commander



Don Suchy, a Department Life Member of Valparaiso Post 371 has been endorsed by his home Post, Saunders County, and District 7 for the office of Department Commander.

Suchy has served on many committees at the Post, County, District, and State levels of The American Legion, including Post Vice Commander, Post Commander 8 years, Post Finance Officer at present, Saunders County Commander and Vice Commander, Saunders County Finance Officer, District 7 Vice Commander and Commander, and is currently the Department Senior Vice Commander.

He was the Department Children and Youth Chairman for 24 years and Junior Shooting Sports Chairman for four years. Nationally, he has been a Children and Youth Commission member for 16 years, Vice Chairman of Children and Youth, three years, served on the Child Welfare Foundation

Board of Directors for four years. He was an Aide to National Commander Michael Helm, 2014-15.

Suchy is a retired member of the Raymond Volunteer Fire Department with 25 years of service. He served as fire chief, training officer, scuba diver, search and rescue. He also served his community on the Raymond Town Board for eight years. Don retired from Goodyear Tire and Rubber Company with 32 years of service.

Don and his wife, Marge, were married on February 12, 1972. They have two children; daughter Jennifer and son-in-law Matthew Mosser of Omaha, and son Kyle and daughter-in-law Maggie of Valparaiso; and four grandsons, Max and Dane Mosser, Wyatt and Chance Suchy.

Suchy is retired and has extra time to fulfill the high office of Department Commander and would appreciate your vote in June.

### John-Henry Percy - Department Senior Vice-Commander



I have announced my candidacy for the Department Senior Vice-Commander for 2022 - 2023 at our Mid-Winter Conference. I am eligible for membership in The American Legion through my service in the United States Air Force where I enlisted in 1974 and served 29 years until my retirement in 2003. I am a 48-year legion member, a Paid-Up-For-Life member, and my membership is with Post 32 in Papillion. I have proven leadership at the Post, County, District, and Department levels.

I graduated from the American Legion College in residency in 2009 and completed the correspondence course in 2006, 2012, and 2017. I completed the online Basic Training Course in 2019. In addition, I have attended 12 national conventions and served on the Aerospace Committee for 10 years.

I am a dual member with 60-years as a member of the Sons of The American Legion. I am a member of Squadron 32 in Papillion. I have held

many leadership positions at the Squadron, District, and Detachment levels.

I am fully retired and can dedicate the necessary time and energy to The American Legion and its four pillars. I look forward to seeing you all at the June 2022 Department Convention in Columbus and would truly appreciate all my fellow legionnaire's support to take on the role as your Department Senior Vice-Commander. It would be both my honor and privilege to serve Nebraska Legionnaires as your new Department Senior Vice-Commander.

### Daryl Harrison

Harrison is withdrawing his candidacy for the high office of Department Senior Vice Commander.

### Membership Minute Steve Bartos, Membership Chairman

It was just two years ago when the pandemic got serious with us. We had surpassed our 80% goal by 1,100 members and surpassed the mid-February 85% goal by at least 500 members. This membership year, however, we struggled to just achieve 75% in December, just made the 80% in January, and have now failed to make the 85% target date on February 16th. Very disappointing.

Next up is the 90% target date on March 9th, and there should have been another renewal notice from national dropped in the mail on February 25th. The January 7th mailing didn't seem to do much good, but we must hope that this one does better. Let's not give up. Instead, let's make a little extra effort if you haven't already tried a few things you haven't done before.

For those unpaid members with email addresses shown on their MyLegion data, send them an electronic reminder. Drop them a postcard to reinforce the reminder from Indianapolis. Give them a call. Visit them. We just don't want it said that collectively we failed to try.

The 90% Target Date goal on March 9th is doubly important to us because the winners of the "Big 12" competition are determined then. At current levels, we don't look like winners, but with the extra effort, we could be. In addition to being "winners," there is the possibility of earning some very valuable awards from National. Let's not let Commander Benes down. Please try to help.

I continue to encourage everyone to get familiar with the new MyLegion and use it as best you can to manage your membership and search for new members who you can ask to transfer from Post 500, our headquarters holding post. You can identify who they are by using the "Find Members in My Area" function. You can search by the "last paid year" to determine whether to approach them as a "straight transfer" (which puts them on your renewal list for the following year) or approach them as a "renew and transfer" (which also puts them on your renewal list for the following year, but also allows you to count them toward your goal for the current year).

Timing, some say, is everything. I think it's true with working the Post 500 roster. Veterans are joining The American Legion online or through the Direct Mail Solicitation program all through the year. I think that if you check the list of new Post 500 members regularly to see who the newest members are, you have a much better chance of getting them to transfer if you contact them promptly. Being on the list shows they were eager to join, and a quick contact might find them more eager to transfer than if they don't hear from anyone for years.

Thank you for all you do in the continuing effort to maintain and GROW our American Legion. Have a nice March!



## Mid - Year Conference



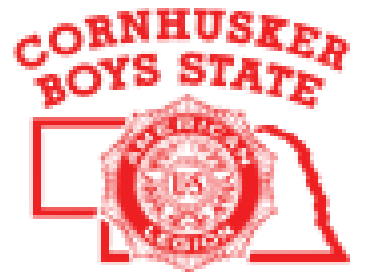
Commander Benes presented awards for years of dedication to former Department Officers. Pictured top (L to R) Commander Dan Benes and Past National Executive Committeeman William Crosier. Pictured bottom (L to R) Commander Dan Benes and Past Chaplin Dr. William Jackson Jr.



Commander Benes presented Historian Jennifer Laux with her award for the National Yearbook Contest from 2021. Pictured (L to R) Commander Dan Benes and Jennifer Laux.


## Cornhusker Boys State in Need of Medic

Cornhusker Boys' State is looking for a new medic to replace outgoing (retiring) medic; Bill Montz. Anyone interested should have formal training as a nurse, EMT, doctor, etc. The medic must be available 24/7 so the week of Boys State the medic must remain with the group for the entire week on the UNL campus. Room and meals are provided throughout the week plus a small stipend. The typical duty includes checking in all boys at registration, first-line triage of injuries, administering medications, and transporting sick and injured to Urgent Care and/or hospitals (vehicle provided).




The 2022 Boys State session starts on Sunday, June 5, and concludes on Saturday, June 11, 2022. Anyone interested should contact the Cornhusker Boys' State Program Director, Dave Salak at 402-464-6338 or email [dwsalak@windstream.net](mailto:dwsalak@windstream.net)





# Rider's Rally

**John Arias**  
Department ALR Liaison



The Nebraska American Legion Riders met at the Mid-Winter Conference on Saturday, January 22. Fourteen of the 45 Chapters were represented with 30 members attending. It was a good meeting with lots of discussions being held on various topics.

Department Commander Dan Benes thanked the Legion Riders for all the work they have done this year; Department Adjutant Dave Salak spoke to the group; Past National Commander Mike Helms spoke about the 1919 Society Pledge and plaque by the National Commander's office in Indianapolis, Indiana, and asked for donations. Helm also thanked the Legion Riders for changing the face of The American Legion; Senior Vice Commander Don Suchy and Alternate NEC Jim Costello spoke and thanked the Nebraska ALR; Fred Tisdale spoke to the group about the 101st Airborne Killed in Action from Nebraska and the escort needed, and celebration being held on April 22-23, 2022, in Omaha.

During the Mid-Year Conference some events were discussed, and the following are the dates: Benson Chapter 112 4th Annual Remembrance Run September 18, 2022; Thank A Veteran Tour South Route May 14, 2022; and Thank a Veteran Tour North Route June 11, 2022; Lincoln Chapter 3 Poker Run September 24, 2022; Grand Island Chapter 53 2nd annual Freedom and Independence Run July 16, 2022. After the meeting, Paul Nielson volunteered to lead Ashland Chapter 129 to host the 2022 State Romp on June 17-19, 2022. Flyers and more information are forthcoming.

In December 2021, Assistant Liaison for the South Central Region, Greg Martin, and the ALR Chapter 53 worked 12-13 hour shifts from December 16th - 23rd in Grand Island, along with the Legion Family of Post 53 and the Veterans Club to gather donations of food, water, diapers, Enfamil baby formula, paper towels, clothing, hygiene products, disinfectant cleaners, coats, gloves, hats, cleaning supplies, tools, extension cords to run tools, dog food, cat food, and toys. The group filled a 53-foot trailer donated by Sunrise Express of Grand Island. Vice Commander David Morrison then drove the tractor-trailer to Kentucky and delivered the donation valued at around \$150,000 to Crosspoint Church where Pastor Mike Mark coordinated the distribution of the donation to the victims of the Kentucky Tornado.

Congratulations and a job well done to Greg Martin, ALR Chapter and Legion Family 53, David Morrison, Pastor Mike Mark, and all those who donated items and their time. This huge undertaking is a prime example of the Legion Pillar of Serving our community, state, and Nation.

I have sent a Google Calendar to my Assistant Liaisons, if I've done it correctly, they will be able to post their Chapters' poker runs and events on it so that everyone across Nebraska will be able to see it. They may also share the calendar with their Chapters. The idea is for each Chapter to have their Road Captain add their poker runs to this calendar.

## Hope and Life Restored, My Veterans Treatment Court Experience

Jason Lybarger

My marriage was over, my children were staying with relatives, I had no support structure, no means to survive, and worst of all I had no idea how to fix any of the mess my life had become. When I entered the Veterans Treatment Court (VTC), I had a whole range of issues to confront. Adding to the chaos was the barrage of rules that I suddenly had to follow and 24-hour tracking. It was hard to miss the fact that I wasn't trusted at all.

What I didn't know was that I had stepped into a rigidly structured environment that was designed to limit my decision-making process until I had successfully addressed the underlying issues that led me to be in the program. When discharged, I lost all sense of belonging to a team and I lived in complete isolation. I had never assimilated back into society and instead used alcohol and drugs to mask the feelings of pain and resentment that eventually turned to anger. Attending Intensive Outpatient Treatment (IOP) at the VA four days a week for four months not only allowed me to identify these issues but also how to cope with them in a constructive manner.

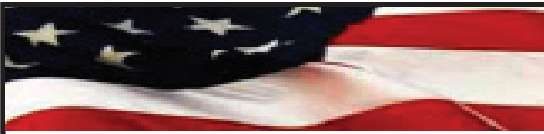
This was also the first time in my life that the VA showed that they cared about me. Twenty years before I was told there was nothing they could do for me as I watched my claims summarily denied. It was at the VA that I experienced a rebirth of hope that I might be able to live a full life. On my first day at IOP, a World War II Veteran crossed the waiting room to where I was filling my coffee cup and handed me a coin with a cross on one side and Mark 10:27 written on the other. Not a day has passed that I haven't carried that coin everywhere I go.

After hope, I came to sense that I could indeed be successful. I had court once a week to start with, but it wasn't a time to remind me of the trouble I was in but to check on how I was progressing and provide positive reassurance that I was doing well. If I was lacking in a requirement, the judge reminded me, but he also made sure to maintain an environment within the courtroom that was conducive to sharing my feelings and thoughts freely. Above all, there was the familiar sense of teamwork and camaraderie that pervaded every aspect of the proceedings.

I received training in victim impact and the ripple effect that our actions cause to so many people within the community that I had never considered before. I was rewarded for positive actions, and I found that my most powerful tool was simply talking to others instead of suppressing emotions. I finally figured out how to set personal boundaries and maintain them. I have found that people respect me when they understand that to associate with me is to understand and accept these boundaries. Life has become much simpler, and I try to teach my sons this lesson as well. They live with me full time now.


Graduating from the program brought on a sense of loss but this time I was prepared and trained to deal with it. Thankfully, the team and the mentors allow me to be with them as often as my schedule allows and I hope to become a mentor in time so that I may pass on the lessons I have learned and try to help others as people have helped me. No one gets left behind!

*\*This article by Jason Lybarger was submitted to go with the January-February issue of the Legionnaire but was left out due to space issues. Lybarger was asked to share his story in hopes of helping another Veteran in need. If you would like more information, contact Sandra Miller at [sandra.miller14@va.gov](mailto:sandra.miller14@va.gov)*



# Straight Talk

**Levi Bennett**  
Department Service Officer



## Two veteran questions about service-connected disability calculations have rather convoluted answers.



Q1) How is my service-connected disability compensation calculated by Veterans Benefits Administration (VBA)?

A1) This is a question that is often asked of Veteran Service Officers (VSO) when veterans new to "VA math" receive a rating. Since we were in grade school, we all learned that  $10 + 10 = 20$ . However, when VBA adds 10% with 10%, VA math results in 19%, not 20%. VBA takes the view that one should not add whole numbers together to come up with a veteran's disability rating, VBA takes percentages of percentages. VA math begins with a person as being whole (100%), then deducts from the highest rating descending through the veteran's lowest rating. Meaning if one were rated at 30% disabled, VA math contends the veteran is 70% healthy. If a veteran receives a 30% disability rating for their back and a 10% rating for tinnitus, the overall service-connected rating will be 37%, which is rounded up to 40%. VBA rounds up or down to the nearest ten percent. Same veteran scenario as above, who has a combined rating of 40% based on a 30% and a 10% rating, then submits another claim which VBA rates at 10%, now VBA combines the disability ratings from largest percentage to smallest percentage ( $30\% + 10\% + 10\%$ ), resulting in the veteran's new combined rating of 43% which is then rounded down to 40%. Thus, as a veteran's combined rating increases, the "VA math" system seems to work against the veteran. An example of how it becomes harder for a veteran to receive a higher rating, is a veteran who receives a 50% rating for PTSD, 40% rating for diabetes mellitus, 20% for lower back issue, 10% for temporomandibular (TMJ), 10% for bilateral hearing loss, and 10% for tinnitus, resulting in a service-connected disability rating of 80% based on VA math ( $50\% + 40\% = 70\% + 20\% = 76\% + 10\% = 78\% + 10\% = 80\% + 10\% = 82\%$ , which is rounded down to 80%).

Q2) Are there other factors VBA will consider for disability?

A2) The short answer is yes; however, a veteran should not just count on VBA to correctly apply "other factors," thus the reason it is important for veterans to work with a trained Veteran Service Officer (VSO) to ensure every factor is calculated correctly and every benefit due the veteran is identified. An example of an "other factor" is a veteran having a rating on each leg or each arm, then those ratings are combined with the added benefit of a "bilateral factor," providing for an increase in the overall combined rating for the veteran. If a veteran has a 10% rating for their left knee and a 10% rating for their right knee, VA math would add a bilateral factor resulting in a combined rating of 21% versus 19% (without bilateral factors). Then there are Special Monthly Compensation (SMC) benefits, which is something for another article.

# 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](mailto: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!!*





Aegerter, Jack, Seward, Korea  
Ahrens, Charles, Leigh, Korea  
Aldrich, Roger, Grand Island, Vietnam  
Anderson, Leonard R., York, Vietnam  
Anderson, Roger L., Pleasant Dale, Vietnam  
Arends, David, Petersburg, Vietnam  
Barenburg, Eldon F., McCook, WWII  
Barker, Daniel B., Gordon, WWII  
Bausch, Don J., Burchard, Vietnam  
Beason, Kenneth G., Lincoln, Korea  
Behrends, Ron, Auburn, SAL  
Belknap, Lee V., Chadron, Vietnam  
Bernt, Kenneth E., Columbus, Vietnam  
Bethune, Clifford, North Platte, Korea  
Blahak, Frank J., Columbus, Korea  
Bockholdt, Marvin, Hardy, Korea  
Boersen, Earl H., Grand Island, Korea  
Brookover, Michael, Millard, Vietnam  
Brooks, Orrin, North Platte, Vietnam  
Bucher, Gary, Auburn, Persian Gulf  
Buchta, Dale G., Osceola, WWII  
Burkink, Lee Jr., Scribner, WWII  
Butt, Jeffery J., Denton, Vietnam  
Carey, Harry O., Grand Island, Korea  
Carlson, Phillip, Craig, Vietnam  
Carlson, Richard J., Lincoln, Vietnam  
Carr, John J., Mullen, Vietnam  
Chrisman, Richard L., Franklin, Vietnam  
Christie, Stephan, Gresham, Vietnam  
Clang, Nels, North Platte, Korea  
Coatney, Charles C., Auburn, Korea  
Conroy, John C., Oconto, Korea  
Cooper, Alvin G., Uehling, WWII  
Coyle, James, Millard, Vietnam  
Decker, Tim,, Ashland, Vietnam  
Deichmann, Gordon G., Central City, Korea  
Dejung, Steve, Clay Center, SAL  
Delisle, William, Hyannis, Korea  
Dettmer, Marion E., Aurora, Vietnam  
Doernemann, Vincent, Dodge, WWII  
Dowell, Edward D., North Platte, Vietnam  
Eckard, Ernst H., McCool Junction, Vietnam  
Egle, Dwight W., Wauneta, WWII  
Ethofer, Frank J., Ralston, WWII  
Evans, Henry J., Bennington, Korea  
Fagerberg, Egon W. Jr., Lincoln, Vietnam  
Fink, Ron, Laurel, Persian Gulf  
Flesner, Ray L., Pierce, Korea  
Fornoff, Ray W., Springfield, Vietnam  
Forsman, Wilt, Aurora, Vietnam  
Fossum, Andrew, Loomis, Vietnam  
French, Gordon D., Lincoln, Vietnam  
Furlong, Jimmie L., Plattsmouth, Vietnam  
Garcia, Stephen L., Columbus, Vietnam  
Garrelts, Richard, Miller, Vietnam  
Gates, Dillard H., Broken Bow, WWII  
Gebauer, Robert G., Kenesaw, Korea  
Gerken, John, Omaha, Vietnam  
Giebler, Dale H., Millard, Korea  
Godtel, Dean, Clay Center, Korea  
Golden, Billy E., North Platte, Korea  
Green, Duane, McCool Junction  
Gross, Donald G., Lincoln, Persian Gulf  
Hagemeister, Roger G., Callaway, Korea  
Hahn, Dwight, Johnson, WWII  
Hajny, Robert J., Clay Center, Korea

Haldeman, Marion W., Ashland, Korea  
Hansen, Gordon, Bennington, Korea  
Hartz, Eugene, Lincoln, Vietnam  
Havorka, Vincent, Sidney, WWII  
Hemje, Melvin, Hildreth, Korea  
Hild, Roy C., North Platte, WWII  
Hill, Sedgefield D., Plattsmouth, WWII  
Holmes, Charles C., Hershey, Vietnam  
Horner, Eugene, Lincoln, Korea  
Hostetter, Kenneth W., Louisville, Vietnam  
House, James J., Fremont, Vietnam  
Howard, Fred, Sargent, Korea  
Hultquist, Harold H., Fremont, WWII  
Hunter, Gordon, Valley, Vietnam  
Huston, Tedd C., Broken Bow, WWII  
Jacobsen, Wayne, Tecumseh, Vietnam  
Jarvis, Terry, Auburn, SAL  
Jensen, Douglas, Boelus, Korea  
Jones, Leroy A., Central City, Vietnam  
Karschner, Albert C., Grand Island, WWII  
Kennedy, Paul, Yutan, Vietnam  
Kenny, Harlan, Milford, Vietnam  
Kingsbury, Francis A., Ponca, WWII  
Klein, Melvin S., Madison, WWII  
Knisely, James, Beatrice, WWII  
Knowlton, Robert R., Monroe, Korea  
Kohler, Mahlon, Norfolk, WWII  
Kotrous, Leo, Verdigre, Korea  
Kowal, Richard C., Papillion, Korea  
Krall, Robert, Grand Island, Vietnam  
Krueger, Dale D., St Paul, Korea  
Kuenning, Donald W., Auburn, WWII  
Kuglar, Elmer D., Gothenburg, Korea  
Kurmel, Charles, Omaha, Korea  
Kuska, Ronald J., Exeter, SAL  
Land, Wendell M., Central City, Korea  
Lee, Ray K., Shelton, Vietnam  
Lengemann, Marvin D., Papillion, Korea  
Leschinsky, Warren, St. Paul, Vietnam  
Lukowski, Ray J., South Omaha, Vietnam  
Maahs, Willis G., Aurora, Korea  
Madalik, Marmo, Grand Island, SAL  
Maestas, Leo, Lincoln, Vietnam  
Magnuson, Glenn E., Omaha, Korea  
Mahler, Willie, Beemer, Korea  
Marks, Duane L., Norfolk, Korea  
Martin, Robert C., Millard, WWII  
May, Darrell, Papillion, Vietnam  
Mayberry, Kenneth L., Niobrara, Vietnam  
McBride, Robert G., Indianola, WWII  
McGowan, James Jr., McCool Junction, Korea  
McHargue, David M., Central City, Vietnam  
Meadows, Donald L., Niobrara, Vietnam  
Meinzer, Paul, Falls City, WWII  
Meyer, Wayne, Nebraska City, Vietnam  
Miller, Gary L., Norfolk, Vietnam  
Miller, Ronald A., Silver Creek  
Moe, Sidney, Grand Island, SAL  
Morrell, Richard, North Platte, WWII  
Myers, James D., York, WWII  
Newquist, Harold E., Belgrade, Korea  
Niemeier, Gary, Plymouth, Vietnam  
Nowakowski, Paul A., Seward, Korea  
Nye, Boyd, Hay Springs, Korea  
Nyquist, Merwyn, Lincoln, WWII  
O’Brien, Robert, Omaha, Korea

Olsen, Christopher J., Plattsmouth, Korea  
Olson, Laddie D., Broken Bow, Korea  
Patterson, Carl R., Bennington, Vietnam  
Paul, Loren L., Gordon, Vietnam  
Pearman, Gary, Mullen, Vietnam  
Pease, Billy L., Lincoln, WWII  
Penne, John, Columbus, WWII  
Perlinger, Robert S., North Omaha, WWII  
Perrin, Jan R., Lincoln, Korea  
Peterson, Loren D., Arnold, Vietnam  
Petrini, John, Millard, Korea  
Pickett, Clyde, Arnold, Vietnam  
Player, Raymond C., Plattsmouth, Vietnam  
Post, Harold, Syracuse, Korea  
Powers, Elmer, Silver Creek, WWII  
Prothman, Ray, Albion, WWII  
Reed, Berthal S., York, Korea  
Reetz, Gerald, Hallam, Vietnam  
Reighard, Jack, Lincoln, Korea  
Reil, Laverne F., Hildreth, Korea  
Reiman, Kade, Virginia, SAL  
Rhoadarmer, Clyde V., Overton, WWII  
Riddle, Robert, Havelock, Korea  
Rodgers, Warren D., Grand Island, Korea  
Rooney, John T., Millard, Korea  
Roth, Marvin, Gordon, Korea  
Saathoff, Dewayne, Grand Island, Vietnam  
Sabatka, John J., Havelock, Vietnam  
Scheele, Fred H., Utica, Vietnam  
Scheideler, Dale, Wymore, WWII  
Schleeman, Ron, Maxwell, Vietnam  
Schmidt, Larrie H., Valparaiso, Korea  
Schneider, James, North Platte, Korea  
Schuster, Louis, Callaway, Korea  
Shaner, Dale, Maxwell, WWII  
Shields, Leo G., Lincoln, WWII  
Sinner, Steve, Gretna, Persian Gulf  
Sloup, Len, Dwight, SAL  
Smith, Lloyd T., Chadron, Korea  
Smith, Merlyn P., Pender, Korea  
Stanislav, Maxon E., Grand Island, Vietnam  
Stenberg, Kenneth G., Ralston, Korea  
Stewart, Galen R., Bloomfield, Korea  
Stoakes, Clair, Winside, WWII  
Stoltenberg, Donald E., Grand Island, Korea  
Stuhr, Lavern, Utica, Vietnam  
Svoboda, Ivan, Pender, Korea  
Thomas, Dale, Auburn, SAL  
Thomas, Kenneth W., South Omaha, WWII  
Todsens, Steve, Ord, SAL  
Tracy, Thomas, Omaha, Korea  
Truhlsen, Lyle, Blair, Korea  
Vollersen, Herman, Laurel, Korea  
Vollmer, Harold E., Grand Island, Korea  
Volzke, Deroyce, Utica, Vietnam  
Voss, Donald, Deshler, Korea  
Watts, Donald J., Osceola, Vietnam  
Wells, Pat M., Odell, Vietnam  
Werkmeister, Fred M., Callaway, Vietnam  
Werkmeister, Larry, Neligh, Vietnam  
Werner, Richard, Falls City, WWII  
Wichman, Jeffery, Grand Island, Lebanon/Grenada  
Williams, Michael A., Seward, Vietnam  
Wisdom, Dugan, Edison, SAL  
Witherspoon, Michael E., Ralston, Vietnam  
Wright, Charles E., Scottsbluff, Korea  
Young, Allan, Syracuse, Korea  
Young, Eugene, Cambridge, WWII  
Zwiener, Weldon D., Pleasanton, Vietnam

# Events Calendar

### March

- 2-4 Department Service Officer School - D.C.
- 9 90% Membership Target Date
- 15 American Legion Birthday

### 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

Check [www.nebraskalegion.net](http://www.nebraskalegion.net) under the meetings tab for all upcoming National, State, and District events.



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**Laurel Post 54 presented a member with a Quilt of Valor. Pictured Back row (L to R) Keith Clarkson and Gene Twiford, middle row (L to R) Harry Knudsen, Jon Thompson, Dick Carlson, Regg Ward, and Dwayne Freeman, and front row Herman Vollersen.**

## Mail Call

**We would like to thank all of our American Legion Family and friends, for the texts, facebook messages, cards and phone calls for our 50th wedding anniversary. You all made our day extra special, thanks again. Senior Vice Commander Don and Marge Suchy**

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

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

For more information, Visit [www.theLIT.com](http://www.theLIT.com) or call toll-free at 1-800-235-6943.





Atkinson Post 86 had three members presented with Quilts of Valor. Pictured (L to R) Jerry Tasler, Jim Ninas, and Ed Siebert.



Lincoln Post 3 held a flag retirement ceremony. Pictured (L to R) Steve Bartos, Past Commander Dave Timmerman, and Commander Gerry Wolf.



The Holt County Legion recently received a donation from the Stuart Public Schools FFA program. Pictured (center right) CVSO Ken Stenka accepting the donation.



Crete Post 147 Members were presented with Quilts of Valor from Crete Unit 147. Pictured (L to R) Gail Henning, Dawn McKnight, Kathy Barber, and Marilyn Hatcliff.



Hampton Post 141 member Marlin Seeman spoke about "Building a Soldier" at a Veteran's Day program at Twin River High School.



Chambers Post 302 member Larry Ackles was presented a Quilt of Valor during the Veterans Day service at Chambers Public Schools.



Table Rock Post 289 gave a donation to their Head Start for Christmas time. Pictured (L to R) Jerry Vrtiska, Headteacher Brianna Voegel, and Adjutant Gregg Clement.



Polk Post 160 presented certificates of continuous membership. Pictured (L to R) Noel Kealiher (75 years) and Brad Sundberg (50 years).



Wallace Post 213 presented certificates of for 50 years of continuous membership. Pictured top (L to R) Adjutant Gary McConnell and Lynn Swanson. Pictured bottom (L to R) Ron Rowan and Commander Jim Smith.



Dix Post 292 presented a certificate for 45 years of continuous membership. Pictured (L to R) Commander Joe Singleton, F. Bert Linn, and Adjutant Larry Engstrom.



O'Neill Post 93 presented certificates for 50 years continuous memberships. Pictured back row (L to R) Stuart McDonald, John Hammerlan, James Reicks (wife Beverly accepting), and Ron Walters, front row (L to R) Francis Grenier, Donald Chohon, and David Sidak. Pictured bottom is post members receiving a donation from Pat Herring of Christensen Farms. Pictured (L to R) Gordon Fox, Commander George Mumm, Pat Herring, and John Hammerlan.



McCook Post 203 presented a certificate for 50 years of continuous membership. Pictured (L to R) Charles Stritt and Adjutant Chris Mehringer.

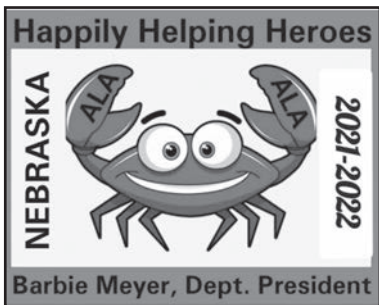


Burwell Post 298 held a raffle to raise money for their post. Pictured left (L to R) Marshall Smith, Alan Gross (first-place winner of 1941 John Deere 'B'), and Bill Warren. Pictured right (L to R) Vince Hulinsky (second-place winner of Savage rifle) and Billy Weber.





## FROM THE DEPARTMENT PRESIDENT



Thank you! Thank you! Thank you! Those two words can never express enough my gratitude to our American Legion Family for making our Mid-Year Conference a huge success. Special thanks to the Columbus Unit 84 for being such gracious and generous hosts. District Presidents, Department Officers, Chairman, Past Department Presidents, and each and every member played an important part --- Happily Helping Heroes!

We also thank Elizabeth Paes for the donation through Thrivent Financial in honor of her late husband, Jerry. The veterans enjoyed the picnic!

Announcements for candidates seeking Department offices for 2022-2023 were presented.

Chaplain - Pat Wiseman  
Historian - Amanda Washburn  
Vice President - Angie Foster  
President - Vicki Ozenbaugh  
NEC - Barbie Meyer  
NEC - Beverly Neel

Elections will take place at our Department Convention in June, also to be held at Columbus.

At this writing, Districts are holding their conventions. I look forward to visiting the wonderful members of our organization, as do the officers chosen to represent me. It is a busy time. Please continue to seek new members and pay those dues. Veterans need our help and support now.

A year-end report booklet will be given at Convention in June. Keep track of what you do as you enter this busy time.

Due to the resignation of Membership Chairman Kim Gurley, PDP Beverly Neel, with an affirmative vote by the DEC, is now serving as Membership Chair.

I attended the Zoom NEC meeting on February 7, 2022 concerning proposals to increase dues. It was an informative meeting, with inquiries answered and discussed.

Thank you for what you do every day for our military, veterans, and youth. Thank Them for Their Sacrifice!!

*Barbie Meyer  
Department President  
Happily Helping Heroes!*



## JR. PRESIDENT

I am excited to invite all of you to my Junior Convention, which will be held in St. Paul on April 9, 2022.

As Honorary Jr. Department President, I have chosen "Giving Back to Our Veterans One Book at a Time" as my theme for this year. For my project, I have been working to raise money to buy large print and audio books to donate to various veteran homes across Nebraska.

At my convention I will be having two raffles, one for senior members as well as one for junior members. The money raised from these raffles will go towards my project. As an avid reader, I am excited to give back to our veterans by providing them books to read.

*Ellie Thede  
Honorary Junior Dept. President*

## HISTORIAN



I'm sorry I missed all of you at the Midyear Conference, but Covid struck our household.

Thank you to all of the units that brought Time Capsules. They looked great! I will be sending a special gift to those units soon. Reminder:

The Feelin' Lucky Challenge drawing will be held on St. Patrick's Day. I have received 50+ entries. It's amazing to see all of the activities that units do in their communities.

I am starting a new project

that I'm calling the Century of Smiles Project. To celebrate the ALA Department of Nebraska's 100 years of being chartered, I am making a slide-show video with pictures of Nebraska Auxiliary members in action! My goal is to have at least 1 photo from each unit in Nebraska. Snap a picture of your unit members or look through your archives for pictures.

I will take as many as you want to send to me. The video will be played at Columbus during the Department Convention in June.

*Angie Foster,  
Department Historian*

## WHO ARE CAREGIVERS?



Let's begin with the definition from merriam-webster.com: caregiver (noun): a person who provides care (as for children, elderly people, or the chronically ill). Pretty simple. Now let's expand that to include "military caregivers" per National President Kathy Daudistel's focus for 2022-2023.

Many caregivers don't identify themselves as caregivers because they are taking care of family members. Yet, they are!

The ALA's mission includes honoring the sacrifice of those who serve by enhancing the lives of our veterans, military, and their families. According to a Rand Corp military caregiver research study, there are approximately 5.5 million military and veteran caregivers in the United States. Of that number, approximately 1.1 million are caring for veterans and servicemembers who served after 9/11. (Information from our National Website, [alaforveterans.org](http://alaforveterans.org).) So, it is no surprise that many of these caregivers are ALA members.

I'm sharing the story I read at Mid-Year as I feel it relates to caregiving as well as the "buddy check" that The American Legion promotes.

It occurred to Pooh and Piglet that they hadn't heard from Eeyore for several days, so they put on their hats and coats and trotted across the Hundred Acre Wood to Eeyore's stick house. Inside the house was Eeyore.

"Hello Eeyore," said Pooh.

"Hello Pooh. Hello Piglet," said Eeyore, in a Glum Sounding Voice.

"We just thought we'd check in on you," said Piglet, "because we hadn't heard from you, and so we wanted to know if you were okay."

Eeyore was silent for a moment. "Am I okay?" he asked, eventually. "Well, I don't know, to be honest. Are any of us really okay? That's what I ask myself. All I can tell you, Pooh and Piglet, is that right now I feel really rather Sad, and Alone, and Not Much Fun To Be Around At All. Which is why I haven't bothered you. Because you wouldn't want to waste your time hanging out with someone who is Sad, and Alone, and Not Much Fun To Be Around At All, would you now?"

Pooh looked at Piglet, and Piglet looked at Pooh, and they both sat down, one on either side of Eeyore in his stick house.

Eeyore looked at them in surprise. "What are you doing?"

"We're sitting here with you," said Pooh, "because we are your friends. And true friends don't care if someone is feeling Sad, or Alone, or Not Much Fun To Be Around At All. True friends are there for you anyway. And so here we are."

"Oh," said Eeyore. "Oh." And the three of them sat there in silence, and while Pooh and Piglet said nothing at all; somehow, almost imperceptibly, Eeyore started to feel a very tiny little bit better.

Because Pooh and Piglet were There.

No more; no less.

*Source: A.A. Milne creator of Pooh, E.H. Shepard the original artist. Story from the Facebook page "I Know, I Need To Stop Talking" #mentalhealth #Friends #Friendship #winniethepooh*

Thank you, caregivers!

*Vicki Ozenbaugh,  
Department Vice President*

## LEGISLATIVE NEWS!

**As Auxiliary members, let's keep up with the latest bills that affect our veterans!**

### Things to do:

- Subscribe to the Legion's Legislative Update to remain informed about current legislation activities 'on Capitol Hill. Visit [www.legion.org/enewsletters](http://www.legion.org/enewsletters) to subscribe. Also [www.legion.org/legislative](http://www.legion.org/legislative) (The American Legion's Legislative Center)

- Encourage and empower members to be more knowledgeable to take action on the American Legion's legislative priorities.

- Contact Info for Questions: [legislative@ALAforVeterans.org](mailto:legislative@ALAforVeterans.org)

- Keep up with Facebook at Nebraska American Legion Auxiliary for the latest information

### Legislative Reporting Mid-Year Reports

Mid-Year reports reflect the program work of units in the department and are intended as an opportunity for mid-year correction. Each department Legislative

chairman is required to submit a narrative report to the division Legislative chairman, plus a copy to the national Legislative chairman.

### Year-End Reports

Annual reports reflect the program work of units in the department and may result in a national award for participants if award requirements are met. Each department Legislative chairman is required to submit a narrative report to the division Legislative chairman, plus a copy to the national Legislative chairman. Members and units should follow their department's protocol and deadlines. See [www.ALAforVeterans.org](http://www.ALAforVeterans.org).

**As part of your narrative report, please include answers to the following questions:**

- How did you educate members in the legislative issues promoted by The American Legion and how did your members employ those methods?

- What legislative activities (town hall meetings, legislative

receptions} did members attend in their communities and departments? What suggestions did members have to improve those activities? Please describe how did members develop relationships with their elected officials? .

- Please describe how members were able to connect with their local and state officials and what their successes were.

### Legislative Awards

**Taking the time to share a favorite story about the positive impact you or someone you know has had on our mission is worth doing! It helps us tell the world who we are, what we do, and why we matter. Just three simple steps to add your part to our national success story:**

- 1) Please follow instructions as you fill out the National Report and Awards Cover Sheet found in the awards section of the Programs Action Plan.

- 2) Provide details/examples about the activity as outlined in the

award's materials and guidelines section.

- 3) Submit as indicated in the Annual Supplement to the Programs Action Plan.

**National Report and Awards Cover Sheet, deadlines, and Legislative committee contact information may be found on the Legislative committee page on the national website:**

[www.ALAforVeterans.org](http://www.ALAforVeterans.org).

**Unit Award: Most Outstanding Unit Legislative Program**

- Award: Citation Plaque
- Presented to: One unit in each division (5)
- Materials and Guidelines:
- Entries must be typewritten in narrative form.
- Include pictures and newspaper articles.

**Please contact me with any questions at 402.239.6371**

*Ruth Hietbrink  
Department Legislative Chr.*

## SECRETARY



Look for the Birthday Fundraiser mailing. It should be in your mailboxes soon.

Send in your ALAMIS access form if you haven't already done so.

It is time to think about what your dues will be in 2023. I know 2022 just started, but business is business.

It will cost the unit \$10 to have the membership cards sent to the Membership Chair. If you would like to avoid that, you can assign someone to pick them up at convention or at the office. \$10 is the cost of one representative to Department Convention. We are in Columbus this year. We would really rather see you than mail ALL those packets.

*Lisa Moore  
Department Secretary/Treasurer*



# VALENTINES FOR VETERANS

A total of thirteen energetic youth from a preschooler through a senior in high school remembered our veterans with Valentines. Junior ALA members of Ohiowa Unit #193, along with some of the SAL Squadron members and a couple community youngsters, met together to make 815 Valentines for veterans. The Valentines were shared with the Western Nebraska Veterans Home, Central Nebraska Veterans Home, Grand Island VA

Medical Center, Norfolk Veterans Home, Lincoln VA Clinic, Omaha VA Medical Center, Victory Apartments, Eastern Nebraska Veterans Home, Heritage Crossings Nursing Home in Geneva, Fairview Manor Nursing Home in Fairmont, and our local American Legion Post #193 members. This has been an annual activity of the Ohiowa Unit #193 Children and Youth program for several years.



# QUILTS OF VALOR



Airman Larry Paul, who served with the Nebraska Air National Guard, is presented a Quilt of Valor by his granddaughter, Sara Kresser, and his great-grandson, Brooks Kresser. Larry, a member of Shickley American Legion Post 164, was one of seven veterans to receive a Quilt of Valor at the post's Veterans Day program in 2021.



Pictured are Quilts of Valor awaiting presentation to veterans at the Shickley Public School with SAL Commander Pat Kamler as emcee. Members of Shickley American Legion Auxiliary Unit 164 are on stage ready to advance one flag for each veteran Killed in Action. The Kindergarten Class stands in front of Legionnaires who are ready to lead the audience in the Pledge of Allegiance.

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
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	#27 Beatrice	#156 Howells	#7 Alliance	#312 Broadwater	#27 Beatrice
Aug.	#141 Hampton	#209 Franklin		#175 Jackson			
Sept.	#145 Bloomington	#141 Hampton		#64 Columbus	#133 Culbertson	#133 Culbertson	
Oct.	#257 Eustis	#52 Kearney		#283 Platte Center	#10 Morrill	#364 Naponee	
Nov.	#251 Arcadia	#209 Franklin			#10 Morrill		Dept. Jrs.
Dec.	#283 Platte Center	#377 Wilcox	#245 Plymouth		#7 Alliance	#7 Alliance	#183 Friend
Jan.							
Feb.							

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.

## Century of Smiles Project



1922



2022

To celebrate the ALA Department of Nebraska's 100 years of being Chartered, I am making a slide-show video with pictures of Nebraska Auxiliary members in action! My goal is to have at least 1 photo from each Unit in Nebraska. Snap a picture of your Unit members or look through your archives for pictures. I will take as many as you want to send to me.

The video will be played during the Department Convention in June in Columbus. The National President will be there!

As an added incentive, for every **Unit** that sends me a picture, I will donate \$1 to the Auxiliary Emergency Fund. For every **District** that sends in a group picture from their 2022 Spring District Convention, I will donate \$2 to the Auxiliary Emergency Fund.

**Preferred method of sending pictures is to my email at [angiefoster214@gmail.com](mailto:angiefoster214@gmail.com) or via text to 308-520-5791.**

Can also be sent regular mail to: Angie Foster, PO Box 93, Osceola, NE 68651



Deadline: May 15th

---Angie Foster, ALA Dept. of Nebraska Historian



Unit or District #:

## 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](mailto:ALATheStarNE@yahoo.com). Send photos as jpg attachments. Material for the next issue needs to be submitted by MARCH 10, 2021



Seven Quilts of Valor made by Piecemakers QOV Sewing Group of the Bruning – Ohiowa area were presented at Shickley's Veterans Day program. Pictured are Scott Shipley, USMC; Leroy Garman, US Army; Larry Paul, Air NG; Gerald Stengel, US Army Reserve; Gene Bedlan, USN; James Sliva, US Army; and Brock Domeier, Army NG.



2021-2022 MEMBERSHIP AWARDS REMINDERS

NATIONAL AWARDS:  
95% Award – National will award \$250 to Departments that reach 95% of their 2022 Department Membership Goal by National Poppy Day – May 27, 2022. The award is to be used to advance the ALA’s mission. Team Nebraska. we can do this. We are at 83.52% today.  
100% Award – National will award \$500 to Departments that reach 100% of their 2022 Department Membership Goal by 30 days prior to the 2022 National Convention – JULY 30, 2022. The award is to be used to advance the ALA’s mission. Nebraska Family, we can do this. We are at 83.52% today.

DEPARTMENT AWARDS:  
1 – Top two Junior Members who recruit the most new members by December 7, 2021 – \$50 each  
2 – Top two Senior Members who recruit the most new members by December 7, 2021 – \$50 each  
3 – Top two Junior Members who recruit the most new members by

April 15, 2022 - \$50 each  
4 – Top two Senior Members who recruit the most new members by April 15, 2022 - \$50 each  
5 – The Legion Family Member who recruits the most new members by February 14,  
2022 – Must include one member from each the Legion, the Auxiliary and the SONS. \$100 to top recruiter. This is open to all current Legion Family Members (Auxiliary, Junior members, SONS, and Legionnaires. Recruit for all family groups. To apply for this award, simply recruit your friends and family. When their application and dues are paid, simply add their name to the entry form. All submissions will be verified at Department Headquarters. Entry form can be found in your inserts to the 2021-2022 ABC Book.

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

Guess who turns 100 years young in 2022.

Nebraska American Legion Auxiliary

That’s who!!

Help us make it a banner year!

No fancy fundraisers, No raffles, Nothing to buy, Just a simple gift of cash.

Consider a “Birthday Present” to the Auxiliary:

\$2.00 \_\_\_\_\_ \$20.00 \_\_\_\_\_

\$200 \_\_\_\_\_ Other \_\_\_\_\_

Remember, we don’t have an AUXILIARY without YOU!!!

Remit to: ALA  
PO Box 5227  
Lincoln, NE 68505

GIRLS STATE 22

Girls State is continuing to plan for our 2022 session, which will be held on the University of Nebraska-Lincoln campus June 5-11, 2022. We are still planning on having an in-person session. However, we know that things can change. We are looking forward to having our session back on campus this year.

Orientations will look a little different, as we are going to do them in an online format. Vice Chairmen Brittany Masak and Shelby Luettel have been working on putting

together the online orientations. They will be held on April 9, 10, and 11, 2022. They will be reaching out to the District Presidents when they have the information ready to share. Delegates will receive information prior to the April dates.

Please reach out if you have any questions. We look forward to seeing the delegates back on campus for our session in June!!


Nicole Vance  
Girls State Chr.

PAST PRESIDENTS PARLEY (PPP)

CORRECTION TO PREVIOUS “STAR” ARTICLE:  
The Department PPP continues to provide gifts (value \$20) to female veterans residing in the four Nebraska Veterans Homes and/or long-term patients at the Omaha and Grand Island VA Medical Centers. These gifts are provided twice during an administrative year; namely, between Thanksgiving and Christmas and again in the Spring. These gifts are funded through the PPP Ex-Servicewoman Fund (NOT the Department PPP Courtesy Fund, as previously published), and donations are welcomed from all

sources including units, districts, individuals, and special fundraisers. The next gifts will be provided before Armed Forces Day, Saturday, May 21, 2022.

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



GIVE MEMBERSHIP A BOOST!

When was the last time you gave a “Boost” of encouragement to your fellow unit members for the work each of you do year after year? When was the last time you gave a “Boost” to your unit officers for the time they spend keeping you informed, involved, and hopefully inspired? When was the last time you gave your Unit Membership Clerk a “Boost” with collecting renewals and signing up new members? When was the last time you gave yourself a “Boost” for joining the American Legion Auxiliary in honor of a beloved veteran(s) and shared your “Why”?

These are some thought-provoking exchanges you could be having in your unit, county, district, and department. But, have we lost that “Boost” over the years and become just mediocre with our membership? You know it happens to each one of us, and now is the time for us to get out of the drudgery of slacking off, letting someone else do it, believing there are others more qualified, and much more.

Each member has worth and merit, and your unit needs your knowledge, experience, fortitude, and drive to keep it afloat. It is a terrible disservice to our units and our members to think that one person can do it all. Every officer position should have a different name affixed to its nameplate, and every member should be willing to give something throughout the year. We do not have to be there all the time, or volunteer at each event; but we certainly can make ourselves available when the call goes out that your unit needs help.

The greatest need of every unit is Membership. Whether it is gathering those last renewals, signing up new members, or just calling up a member you have not seen in a while to see if everything is okay. Many times, our members are

unable to get to the meetings --- it is not their first choice, but life requires they stay at home. A simple phone call or a quick note of “Thinking of You” can add that “Boost” to your fellow ALA members.

An increase in membership dues on all levels may be on the horizon. Nothing can go into effect until 2024, so now may be the time when you may consider becoming a PUFL (Paid Up For Life) ALA member. Here is the website where you can find the application and instructions. [https://www.legion-aux.org/cmsdesk/ALA/media/PDF/Brochures/PUFL\\_application.pdf](https://www.legion-aux.org/cmsdesk/ALA/media/PDF/Brochures/PUFL_application.pdf)

Take time this month and give a “Boost” for the ALA. The rewards are greater than you can expect!

Blessings,  
Beverly A. Neel  
Membership Chairman

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

Report Date: 2/16/22		Paid Numbers					
Dist.	22 Dist. Pres.	Sr. Paid	Jr. Paid	Total Paid	Goal	Needed	%
1	Mary Krause	941	127	1068	1290	222	82.79%
2	Crys Bauermeister	1369	191	1560	1784	224	87.44%
3	Vicky Gullicksen	694	77	771	913	142	84.45%
4	Bonita Dickinson	456	58	514	620	106	82.90%
5	Terrie Haworth	551	57	608	709	101	85.75%
6	Nancy Harrold	1670	188	1858	2235	377	83.13%
7	Janie Nelson	1310	165	1475	1732	257	85.16%
8	Paula Pillen	1144	137	1281	1555	274	82.38%
9	Peggy Kennedy	419	64	483	561	78	86.10%
10	Tina Nelson	775	105	880	1066	186	82.55%
11	Vicky Thompson	1672	271	1943	2189	246	88.76%
12	Charlene Hobelman	1093	87	1180	1400	220	84.29%
13	Amanda Washburn	503	91	594	659	65	90.14%
HQ	Department 500	77	0	77	76	-1	101.32%
TOTALS		12674	1618	14292	16789	2497	85.13%

ALA JUNIOR CONVENTION

Saint Paul Unit #119 will be hosting the ALA Junior Convention on April 9, 2022 in their new American Legion building. Registration (\$6) is from 9:00 – 9:30 AM with rolls, juice, and coffee. The meeting and activities will follow.

After lunch, installation of new officers will be held and awards presented for the various competitions. The day will conclude at 3:00 PM. An RSVP would be appreciated. Please email ([grndmab65@gmail.com](mailto:grndmab65@gmail.com)) the number of Juniors and Seniors your unit will be bringing to convention by April 1st.

Encourage your Junior members to create one of the Poppy Crafts within their age group for display and competition. The Poppy Craft directions, new this year, can be found in the ABC book. Competition entries need to be entered by 9:00 AM the day of convention with the exception of the Publicity, Prayer, and History books. They will be judged prior to convention. The books need to be sent to Sharon Brozovsky – P.O. Box 86 – Wilber, NE 68465 by March 19, 2022.

Sharon Brozovsky  
Jr. Activities Chr.

MEMBERSHIP CARD DELIVERY

Postage has increased everywhere. The cost of sending out Membership Card Packets is astronomical. It cost the Department approximately \$1,100 to send out the membership cards that were not picked up at Department Convention in 2021. That is just the tip of the iceberg, as it also took 16-man hours to put postage on all those packets. To save money for the Department, it will now cost a unit \$10 to have their cards mailed to them. (This is the same cost as one registration for Convention, and you get more than just your membership cards.)

**Want to save that fee?** Here is how.

Unit: \_\_\_\_\_ Unit Location: \_\_\_\_\_

☐ I will pick up my cards at Department Convention. \_\_\_\_\_  
Name of the person picking up the packet (Please print legibly)

☐ I will pick up my cards at the Department Office. \_\_\_\_\_  
Name of the person picking up the packet (Please print legibly)

☐ I will pick up my Membership Cards at Convention. \_\_\_\_\_  
Name of the person picking up membership cards at convention (Please print legibly)

☐ I will pick up my Membership Cards at Department. \_\_\_\_\_  
Name of the person picking up membership cards at convention (Please print legibly)

☐ Here is my \$10. Please send them to me.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

You can send this to the Department any time prior to Department Convention. No packet will be distributed without this form being turned in. Thank you for helping the Department serve our Veterans and their families.



CHAPLAIN'S CORNER

15 See that none of you repays evil for evil, but always seek to do good to one another and to all. 16 Rejoice always, 17 Pray without ceasing, 18 Give thanks in all circumstances; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you. 1 Thessalonians 5:16-18 NKJV

This is another reminder from our Lord to be kind to each other and a few other things that He wants us to remember. Trying to pay back someone who has hurt you or your feelings never helps. Forgive them and let them see that God’s love is in your heart. Don’t be discouraged, but keep a smile on your face and be happy. Then, pray without ceasing

for what you need help with and thanking Him for the things God has blessed you with.

Prayer ~ Heavenly Father, please help us to remember Jesus’ words and to ask the Holy Spirit to guide and teach us the things we need to know. May we always talk to you when we are lonely, thankful, or in need of help. He will help us come up with what we need if we have faith and ask. In Jesus name we pray. Amen

Pat Wiseman  
Dept. Chaplain

THANK YOU

Thank you to everyone who purchased tickets for the 8/40 Basket Fund Raiser for the 8/40 Nurse’s Scholarship and the American Legion Child Welfare Foundation at Mid-Year. Due to your generous support, \$300 will be donated to each cause. This is Chapeau Deb Albers’ project for the 2021-2022 year. Your generosity is greatly appreciated, and many will benefit from your support.

Debra Albers  
8/40 Departemental Chapeau

LINCOLN PILGRIMAGE



Department President Bartbie Meyer and Department Commander Dan Benes represented the Nebraska American Legion Family at the Lincoln Pilgrimage in Springfield, Illinois to honor President Abraham Lincoln’s birthday on February 12, 2022. They participated in a wreath-laying ceremony at the tomb of our 16th President.



Department Historian Angie Foster also attended the Lincoln Pilgrimage.

THINK ETERNITY, LIVE BACKWARDS

“When peace, like a river attendeth my way,  
When sorrows like sea billows roll;  
Whatever my lot, thou hast taught me to say,  
It is well, it is well with my soul”

Whether it be the China virus, the after effects, the isolation, or just plain life, we seem to be saying goodbye to loved ones at an alarming rate lately. As a result, there is a marked uptick of depression, violence, suicides, and elderly despair deaths in our normally content little state. Time and time again, I am being asked “what does this all mean?”

Simple answer – no clue. We are to trust that God is in control and that all our questions will one day be answered. In my Hospice career, this can be easier said than done to be sure. But, the only thing that helps me do my job was aptly described by a very wise young lady:

We must think about Eternity and live our lives toward it. The simple knowledge that we are one day going to be without pain, where there will be no more death – ever, is hard to grasp. But, it’s there! Until then, hold firm to the foundation that keeps you grounded. Dig out your old hymnal or song book and read, don’t sing, the songs! Most were borne from the well of desolation worse than anything we can imagine. Hold tight to each other and know that eternity is waiting. Let it be well with your soul.

Keep Singing!  
Jean Vackiner  
Music Chair



In Memoriam

Received November 10 to December 10, 2021

Zetta Sweeney.....Omaha.....	1	Merna Hagstrom.....Ashland .....	129
Doris Otte .....Omaha.....	1	Pat Parks .....Arnold.....	130
Rose M Prochaska .....Omaha.....	1	Donita L Mitchell .....Springfield .....	143
Joan M Bryant .....Lincoln.....	3	Judy K Milfs .....Bloomington .....	145
Louise Morava.....Hemingford.....	9	Peggy Albin.....Plainview .....	148
Janet Kirby.....Chadron.....	12	Amsel L Rosenbaum .....Albion .....	162
Glendene Martens .....Chadron.....	12	Loretta B Stutz.....Hebron.....	180
Lyla G Mendenhall.....Chadron.....	12	Connie Sutton.....Friend .....	183
Lois Tuepker .....Gresham.....	13	Marcella Thompson .....Greeley.....	186
Joan K Brown .....Wymore.....	25	Darlene Swanson .....Greeley.....	186
Betty Kucera.....Lawrence.....	45	Hazel McDonald .....Aurthur.....	207
Marian Soucek.....Lawrence.....	45	Alta M Chilson .....Thedford.....	230
Ardath Hayes.....Osceola .....	91	Ethelyn M Hoins .....Ruskin .....	242
Elaine P Umstead.....Osceola .....	91	Bonnie Fifer .....Ceresco.....	244
Kathryn M Hansen.....Curtis.....	95	Ruth Decker.....Bartley .....	245
Emily Lyskin.....Wilber .....	101	Georgia C Williams.....Elwood.....	290
Linda M Beam .....Coleridge.....	114	Helen Mays.....Doniphan .....	300
Marcella Eikmeier.....Dodge.....	122	Isla Drinkwalter .....Cody .....	319
Genevieve Lackaff .....Bassett .....	123	Donna W Lahoda.....Omaha.....	331
Bonnie Sanger.....Bassett .....	123	Ula L Luth .....Ravenna.....	332
Faye Saar .....Bassett .....	123	Lillian Vargason .....Bassett .....	123
Lillian Vargason .....Bassett .....	123	Eva McKeeman .....Nebraska.....	500

In Memoriam

Received December 10 to February 10, 2022

Blanche Essay.....Alliance.....	7	Lois M Jensen .....Allen .....	131
Josephine R Roland .....Hemingford.....	9	Bonna "Jean" Driewer ..Hampton.....	141
Shirley Needs.....Morrill.....	10	Patricia E. Frahm.....Plainview .....	148
Dolores Boldon .....Chadron.....	12	Nancy Wardyn.....North Platte .....	163
Geraldine E Waltman ....Chadron.....	12	R Elaine E Goodrich.....Blue Hill .....	176
Frances J. Witt.....Norfolk.....	16	Sharon Goeking.....Hebron.....	180
Esher Schimenti .....Beatrice .....	27	Ramona K. Jones.....Oxford.....	219
Beverly A Johnson.....Omaha.....	30	Sandra J Dawson .....Oxford.....	219
Leola Schaad.....Callaway.....	59	Donna M Meier .....Niobrara.....	224
Donna J Bowne .....Sutton.....	61	Janice L Teadtke.....Niobrara.....	224
Kimberly A. Wilson.....Sutton.....	61	Nora E Dyer.....Eddyville.....	225
Selma L Breslin .....Newcastle.....	62	Catherine M Black .....Lynch.....	228
Judith C. Peterson.....Newcastle.....	62	Arlene Kassik.....Milligan .....	240
Bernice M Miller.....West point .....	70	Joann R Hill .....Elmwood.....	247
Doris Buckendahl .....Pierce .....	72	Esther M Erhart .....Elmwood.....	247
Eunice Wragge .....Pierce .....	72	Leona Prochaska.....Prague.....	254
Mildred Zimmer.....Pierce .....	72	Diane M. Kraft.....Clearwater .....	267
Theresa M Voecks.....Pierce .....	72	Ramona E Wulf .....Guide Rock.....	278
Reta Dillon .....Ainsworth.....	79	Betty J Ronnau .....Elwood.....	290
Shirley A Burger.....Ainsworth.....	79	Jeanette Gabel .....Shelby .....	96
Marcella Kuhn.....David City.....	84	Agnes Liggett.....Shelton .....	297
Marie Hansen .....Atkinson.....	86	Laura A German .....Spalding .....	299
Adelia F Davis .....Atkinson.....	86	Evelyn Behrends .....Doniphan .....	300
Sandra S Duntz .....Clay Center .....	87	Dorothy Lutkemeier .....Holstein .....	305
Mary L Stallings.....Osceola .....	91	Constance Hand.....Cody .....	319
Betty Zahn .....Syracuse .....	100	Bonnie M. Thompson ....Deshler.....	352
Evelyn Hutt.....Lexington.....	111	Joyce F Beachamp.....Pleasant Dale...354	
Jane Weiss.....Benson .....	112	Beverly Lindholm .....Valparaiso.....	371
Marjorie A Peters .....Alma .....	118	Linda R Pecoraro.....Millard.....	374
Sharron T Arens .....Crofton.....	128	Eula O Finley.....Department.....	500
Brenda A. Foxhoven.....Crofton.....	128		

DATES TO REMEMBER

MARCH

- 1 Girls State Applications due to Department
- 10 Deadline for April/May Issue of “The Star”
- 13 Daylight Savings time begins – Spring Forward
- 15 Scholarship Deadline to Dept. Headquarters (see ABC book or website)
- 15 Americanism Essays due to Chairman
- 15 Happy Birthday American Legion
- 17 St. Patrick’s Day

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

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

DISTRICT CONVENTIONS

District	Date	Time	Place
1	April 9	9:00 am	Ainsworth
2	March 13	9:00 am	Atkinson
3	March 19	9:00 am	Pender
4	April 2	10:00 am	Morrill
5	March 12	10:00 pm	Lexington
6	March 5	9:30 am	Grand Island
7	March 12	10:00 am	Howells
8	February 12	9:00 am	Papillion
9	March 19	9:30 am	McCook
10	February 26	11:00 am	Edgar
11	March 26	10:00 am	Crete
12	March 12	9:00 am	Hickman
13	February 19	9:30 am	Sterling