

V.E.T.S

Veterans, Education, Teamwork, and Sponsor



National Commander Jim Troiola being sworn into his new position during the 103rd National Convention.

driver for the Falmouth School District and part-time motor coach operator.

Jim served in many offices at every level of The American Legion. He was elected department commander of New York for 2010-2011 and chaired several national commissions including the Legislative Commission, Veterans Employment and Education Commission, and the Membership and Post Activity Committee. He served on the National Security Commission and was elected national vice commander for 2016-2017.

He married his wife Saveria (pronounced Sa-Vare-ee-ah) in 1973. They have two daughters, Laura and Jeanette; a son-in-law, Michael; and three grandchildren, Alexander, Abigail, and Natalia. The Troiola family includes three generations of American Legion, American Legion Auxiliary, or Sons of The American Legion membership.

National Sons Commander Christopher Carlton is a 16-year member of Leo F. Welch Jr. Squadron 495 in Indianapolis Indiana. He is eligible through his Grandfather Edna M. Carlton, a WWII Army Veteran, and his Father, Mirron A. Carlton, a Vietnam Army Veteran. He is a Journeyman Sheet Metal Worker with Altec Industries. His wife, Veronica, is a 35-year member of Unit 495.

National Auxiliary President Vickie Koutz is a 48-year PUFL in her Boonville Unit 200 in Indiana. She is eligible through her husband, Jim, who served in the US Army, with service in-country Vietnam. Her son, Michael, is a charter member of Squadron 200. Koutz retired from Fox and Lutz Law office as a legal assistant.

Vincent J. “Jim” Troiola (pronounced Tree-Ola) was elected national commander of the nation’s largest veteran service organization on Sept. 1, 2022, in Milwaukee during The American Legion’s 103rd national convention. His theme as national commander is “V.E.T.S., Veterans, Education, Teamwork, and Sponsor.”

A life member of American Legion Post 1682 in Rockland County, N.Y, he served in the U.S. Navy and Navy Reserves from 1969 to 1974. He completed a tour aboard the USS Nitro, an auxiliary ammunition ship with the Sixth Fleet. He was honorably discharged as a boatswain’s mate third class. He is also a member of Sons of The American Legion Squadron 1682 based on the World War II service of Jim’s father.

Jim spent his entire working career in the automotive service industry, where he began as a parts manager at a local Chevrolet dealership and went to serve in many capacities of management. At the time of his retirement in 2017, he was director of service and parts at a New York Metro Mercedes Benz dealership. After a brief time at home, he began an entirely new career as a school bus



The 2022–2023 National American Legion Family. Pictured (L to R) Sons National Commander Christopher Carlton, National Commander Jim Troiola, and National President Vickie Koutz.

BE THE ONE

getting them the help they need. You are in a position to not only see the risk but have the trust of the veteran in his or her time of crisis. For fellow veterans, friends, and other civilians, it also means being proactive to get the veteran the help they need. Don’t assume someone else will act. Take the initiative. Be the One.

Troiola’s number 1 priority for his year as the national commander will be tackling the toughest challenge facing veterans, veteran suicide. The American Legion is asking you to ‘Be the One.’ This includes everyone, military and civilian alike. We need to begin thinking, talking, and acting to save just one life.

How can you Be the One? For a veteran, it means reaching out for help to assist a loved one or calling a helpline in times of crisis. The new 988 emergency suicide hotline is a valuable resource. You can also text 838255. For a spouse, family member, or caretaker, it means recognizing when the veteran is struggling and

FOR GOD AND COUNTRY

The Nebraska Legionnaire

P.O. Box 5205

Lincoln, NE 68505-0205

THE ROAD TO SUCCESS

2023 MEMBERSHIP GOAL: 24,835 SEPTEMBER 14TH TOTAL: 12,723 – 51.23%

DISTRICT 15 - 56.78%	DISTRICT 8 - 55.93%	DISTRICT 7 - 55.13%	DISTRICT 13 - 53.43%	DISTRICT 6 - 53.36%
DISTRICT 2 - 351.65%	DISTRICT 12 - 50.28%	DISTRICT 10 - 48.15%	DISTRICT 3 - 47.32%	DISTRICT 11 - 46.06%
DISTRICT 9 - 44.98%	DISTRICT 5 - 44.61%	DISTRICT 1 - 43.62%	DISTRICT 4 - 38.56%	



Commander's Corner

Don Suchy
Department Commander



The 103rd National Convention has come and gone. What a great convention we all enjoyed in Milwaukee, WI at the Milwaukee Convention Center. We attended the National Memorial Service on Sunday morning at the Convention center, always an impressive service.

There were 41 Department of Nebraska Legionnaires, 28 Auxiliary members, and 10 SAL members in attendance. Twenty-three of these Legionnaires were appointed to various Committee meetings held prior to the opening of the convention. Our Nebraska Caucus was held on Sunday afternoon, at this time the Legionnaires that were appointed to the committees reported on the committees that they attended. Sunday evening we attended the Tri Stack party at the Hilton Hotel. The Tri Stack party consists of the Departments of Nebraska, South Dakota, and North Dakota. North Dakota was host this year, the department adjutants introduced the 2022-2023 Department Commanders as well as the alternate NEC and the NEC from their department. The newly appointed National Vice Commander for our area is Glenn Wahus from North Dakota, he will be attending our Mid-Year Conference in Norfolk in January. It was a great evening of fellowship with our neighboring Departments.

It was an honor for me, Past Department Commander Dan Benes, Alternate NEC Jim Costello, and NEC Fred Craige of the Nebraska delegation to go on stage and present a check for \$3,046.41 to the Child Welfare Foundation, thank you to our American Legion Family from across Nebraska for your generous donations. Some of these funds may or may not have come from getting caught eating with your Legion cover on.

The newly elected National Commander for 2022-2023 is Jim Troiola from New York. His theme for this year is V.E.T.S, Veterans, Education, Teamwork, and Sponsor.

My Commander's project this year is Veterans and Children's Foundation and the Child Welfare Foundation, both of these projects help Veteran's children in need. Your donations are appreciated, and just a reminder to turn in all your CWF piggy banks, it all adds up for a good cause.

I am looking forward to attending as many District Fall Round-ups my schedule will allow. I would like to thank everyone that took the time to attend the Leadership Training session and also our Homecoming banquet. Your presence and presents were all very much appreciated. As our Legion Family works together, I know we will accomplish many things and have a great year.



Straight Talk

Levi Bennett
Department Service Officer



**Camp Lejeune Lawsuits:
What To Make of the Advertisements by Law Firms.**

First and foremost, I am always concerned when an advertisement is made to veterans by a for-profit organization. I recommend using caution whenever you receive information that seems too good to be true or the advertisement is telling you that there is limited time to apply for the benefits. I believe one needs to reach out to local veteran's service organizations and or speak with a veteran service officer who is following what the Veterans Administration is doing or not doing and what advice may be available to veterans. I have seen ads by "pro-veteran law firms" that do not even have the dates of eligibility correct, which should sound the alarm, that may not be the best law firm to consider for counsel.

Most veteran service organizations are recommending not officially sign anything regarding lawsuits until VA clarifies how the settlements will affect service-connected benefits and care. Though filing with the/a lawsuit may be the right choice for some veterans, it is too early in the process to sign with an attorney concerning Camp LeJeune lawsuits. Talk with a veteran service officer about filing a disability claim and also obtaining healthcare if you as a veteran are not currently receiving VA healthcare. The service officer will also be able to advise you as to if you are eligible for a disability claim or if members of your family may be eligible for medical care reimbursement.

How does a veteran know if their eligible under the Camp Lejeune presumptive claim process for a disability compensation claim or VA healthcare? First, the veteran must have served at Camp Lejeune between August 1, 1953, and December 31, 1987, for at least 30 days. Second, the veteran must have a character of service of honorable or general under honorable conditions. Third, the veteran must be diagnosed with one of the eight presumptive conditions for those stationed at Camp Lejeune. The current eight presumptive conditions are adult leukemia, aplastic anemia and other myelodysplastic syndromes, bladder cancer, kidney cancer, liver cancer, multiple myeloma, non-Hodgkin's lymphoma, and Parkinson's disease. For more VA information on Camp Lejeune Veteran and family health and disability benefits please visit, https://www.publichealth.va.gov/docs/exposures/camp_lejeune_brochure.pdf.

Family members of veterans who lived in base housing for at least 30 days between August 1, 1953, and December 31, 1987, may be eligible for healthcare reimbursement for healthcare expenses for 15 specific illnesses or conditions. The 15 conditions currently covered under Public Law 112-154 are bladder cancer, breast cancer, esophageal cancer, female infertility, hepatic steatosis, kidney cancer, leukemia, lung cancer, miscarriage, multiple myeloma, myelodysplastic syndromes, neurobehavioral effects, non-Hodgkin's lymphoma, renal toxicity, and scleroderma. For information on the Camp Lejeune Family Member Program (CLFM) visit the following VA webpage, <https://www.clfamilymembers.fsc.va.gov/>.

Service officers will never have all the answers to what is going on with the VA; however, they assist you in finding the answer. It is up to you to ask the questions.

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Legionnaires in the Spotlight

Albrecht Family

An Air Force Tradition



Frank and his three ‘Cubs’ in their uniforms. Pictured (L to R) Grant, Easton, Frank, and Mitch Albrecht.

Frank Albrecht was the youngest of nine children raised in the Valparaiso area. During his senior year of high school, his father (Floyd Albrecht a Korean Veteran) said, “Frank if you are going to college you may want to check into the National Guard, cause I ain’t paying for it.” He was a good father and a hard-working provider for his family. His father served in the Army-Airborne before it was renamed the Air Force in 1947.

Albrecht joined the 155th in Lincoln and he soon grew to love the mission and his colleagues. The patriotic part of him came out and he never looked back. He started out as a Fuel System Mechanic on the RF-4C Phantoms. After 7 or 8 years he switched to working on the KC-135’s which led to a worldwide mission. He went on to become a First Sergeant and finished his career as a Human Resources Advisor. A simple farm kid made it to an E9 Chief Master Sergeant and said, “Even a blind sow finds an acorn once in a while.” He was deployed a handful of times, some of his memorable times were at Andersen Air Force Base Guam. After serving his country for 29 years he retired in 2015.

While serving the Albrechts (Frank and Jody) had three boys, Easton the eldest, Grant, and Mitch the youngest. Those boys had always liked the uniforms they saw their dad in, along with the many stories they heard about serving. Around the time Easton was in his junior year, he shared that he wanted to join the Air Guard. Albrecht was so proud of his son’s decision; he watched Easton keep his word. Easton was able to get one of his desired roles and became a Crew Chief in the 155th. When Grant was wrestling at Chadron State, he realized he wanted to be closer to home. He considered walking on the University of Nebraska-Lincoln wrestling team. During that time, he talked to his father about the pros and cons of joining the Air Guard with his brother. Grant decided to join and interviewed for a Boom Operator position. Albrecht helped prepare him for his interview and may have helped with getting the position. During the summer of 2022, Easton and Grant were deployed to Qatar for two months.

Albrecht was happy to have two of his cubs in the Air Guard. The two shared stories with their father about basic training and tech schools. During this time Mitch took interest in joining, there was no need for arm twisting. Mitch was offered a slot as a Boom Operator and will finish his training this October. Albrecht beams with pride having all three of his cubs in the Air Guard, following in his footsteps. The Albrecht cubs all live in Lincoln and attend the University. The brothers are great friends and rely on each other for support. Their bond had strengthened over the years through sports but serving together has solidified that bond. Albrecht has so much joy when he gets to hear about what his three cubs have been up to. The four Albrechts all belong to Valparaiso Post 371.



While in Qatar, Grant and Easton took a picture in their hanger showing support for the Huskers. Pictured (L to R) Easton and Grant Albrecht.



Members of the Twiford family attended the wreath-laying ceremony on August 21st held at the Siouxland Freedom Park in South Sioux City. Photo was taken by Starla Landkamer.

Nebraska Legion Family,
Words are still so difficult, but we are very grateful for the outpouring of love and support from the Legionnaire community. Our parents and sister touched so many lives in such generous ways, they were examples of kindness and will be remembered for the countless good things they did for so many. We thank you for lifting us up with the multitude of memories and good stories and helping us honor and celebrate the lives they lived.
Sincerely,
Todd, Jill, Gail & the family of Gene, Jan, and Dana Twiford.



POW/MIA

Boyd Yochum POW/MIA Liaison

Larry G. Kier

Larry Gene Kier from Omaha was assigned to A Company, 2d Battalion, 501st Infantry, 101st Airborne Division. On May 6, 1970, Kier’s Company was assigned to defend an ammunition storage facility near Henderson Hill Artillery Fire Support Base in the forested hills on the south side of Highway 9, coordinates 163840N 1065600E (YD081411), 18 miles South of the demilitarized zone, Quang Tri Province, South Vietnam.

At roughly 0500 hours, North Vietnamese regulars (NVA) overran a guard station and American defensive positions. US troops stationed in the main part of the base were loaded on helicopters and transported to the ammo dump to aid its defenses. During the brutal battle that began in the predawn and continued for hours, the napalm stores and over 1,000 rounds of 155mm artillery shells “cooked off.” Private First Class (PFC) Kier was last seen running toward a barricade close to the storage area and was believed to safely reach a firing position.

PFC Kier moved from the barricade to a bunker with two other soldiers. Shortly, NVA soldiers threw a satchel charge against the bunker. When it exploded, one of the Americans was killed and a second soldier wounded. The wounded soldier was rescued but was unable to accurately report what happened to PFC Kier. The ammunition storage area was located within 20 meters of the bunker. Later that day, American forces regained control of Henderson Hill and the adjacent ammunition dump.

The next day Search and Recovery (SAR) began the grizzly task of collecting bodies of the dead and separating the American bodies from the enemies. While the team found no trace of Kier, they did find five other soldiers who were believed killed during the fierce fighting. All five men had been seriously wounded but were alive. In addition to the wounded, SAR recovered the remains of 33 soldiers killed in the battle. At that time, Kier was reported as Missing in Action.

After Operation Homecoming in 1973, all returned POWs were debriefed about other prisoners. One of the returnees reported that he thought Kier was the prisoner he saw the day prior to release. That man was being held in isolation in Building 33 at the prison camp known as the Hanoi Hilton.


The Joint Task Force for Full Accounting traveled to Quang Tri Province to investigate the loss of PFC Kier on September 11, 1993, January 29, 1996, and January 27, 1998. Remains of two femur sections matched the DNA sample provided by the Kier family, as well as other artifacts including dog tags for Kier, a zippo lighter, a toothbrush, and a razor.

Promoted while missing, Staff Sergeant Kier is memorialized in the Courts of the Missing at the National Memorial Cemetery of the Pacific. His remains were buried in Owingsville, Kentucky, on April 2, 2002, 30 some years after he was killed in Vietnam.

To see the crash location on a map, go to <https://legallandconverter.com/p50.html> and search 163840N 1065600E (YD081411), Grid Reference.





Members of the Ashland 129 Legion Family donated a vehicle to the Ashland Police Department to use for their D.A.R.E program. Pictured (L to R) Squadron Commander Darren Siemers, Ron Styskal, Senior Vice Commander John-Henry Percy, Police Chief Ryan Brady, Commander Pat Williams, and Dusty Siemers.



It's History


Jennifer Laux
Department Historian





Rider's Rally

John Arias
Department ALR Liaison



American Legion Department of Nebraska History Word Search

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

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

October 1932 (90 years ago)

- A **MEMBERSHIP** meeting will be held in Lincoln on Saturday, November 12th. At that time, it is believed that 10,000 members can be reported. A banquet will be held in the evening – other events of the day include an executive committee meeting in the morning followed by attendance at the Nebraska-Pittsburgh **FOOTBALL** game in the afternoon. A big block of seats will be reserved for Legionnaires. Ticket prices are \$2.50 plus tax.
- Any Legion member in Nebraska who has an argument with the Missus about going to a Legion meeting, or any wife of a Legion member who wants to make sure her husband goes to the meeting he says he is going to, can well envy Mr. and Mrs. Frank **MCNEELEY** of **NORFOLK**. The McNeeleys are one of several pairs in Nebraska where both husband and wife served during the war.
- One of the ceremonies at the recent national convention in Portland was the planting of a **TREE** in **SOIL** brought from the Nebraska City home of J. Sterling **MORTON**. Mrs. Lottie Rosencrans, Department **AUXILIARY** President, took with her to the national convention some soil from around a tree at the Morton home which had been planted by President **CLEVELAND**.

October 1942 (80 years ago)



- SCOTTSBLUFF** Post 5 recently voted that **DUES** of members in the armed services be paid by the post. It is estimated that about 12 members are now in the service.
- The American Legion **BILL** for the amendment of its 1919 charter to open membership to veterans of the second world war has cleared the first hurdle. On October 14, the House passed **SPRINGER** Bill (H.R. 7675) and sent it to the Senate.
- The **SEVENTH** District continues in the lead on 1943 membership standings, with more than three-fourths of its **QUOTA** already in.



Sons of The American Legion East Vice Commander Thomas Landkamer along with the South Sioux City Squadron 307 organized a special wreath-laying ceremony to honor the memory of the Twiford family members Gene, Janet, and Dana. Multiple Honor Guards helped in this ceremony, including South Sioux City Post 307, Sioux City (IA), North Sioux City (SD), Jackson Post 175, and Homer Post 97. Members of the Twiford family attended the ceremony at Siouxland Freedom Park in South Sioux City NE. Pictured Honor Guard Members who participated in the ceremony.



Multiple Nebraska Chapters participated in the Nation of Patriots Tour, including North Platte, Grand Island, Central Sandhills, St. Paul, Lincoln, Omaha, Benson, and others. This coast-to-coast motorcycle ride carries one flag through all 48 continental U.S. states to raise money for disabled veterans and their families over 115 days. Nebraska Riders picked up the flag in Sterling, CO, and delivered it to Grand Island. Pictured are Riders at different stops on the tour.



S.A.L. Notes

Chris Casey
Detachment Commander



Greetings from the Detachment of Nebraska! The Nebraska delegation attended the 50th Sons of The American Legion National Convention in Milwaukee, Wisconsin. Our newly elected National Commander is Christopher Carlton from the Detachment of Indiana. Our newly elected Midwest National Vice Commander is Michael Kirschner from the Detachment of Colorado. The Detachment received the following recognition for the 2021-22 program year: 2022 National Child Welfare Foundation certificate for achieving and exceeding the \$1 per capita donation level, a certificate for Blair Squadron 154 providing the donation that pushed the Sons of The American Legion past the nine-million-dollar mark in donations to the CWF, and the 2022 National 90% Renewal Membership Award.

Are you registered for VoterVoice through The American Legion Grassroots Action Center? If not, please consider doing this ASAP. There is no easier way to advocate for veterans, through legislation, than VoterVoice. Take a few minutes and register at <https://www.votervoice.net/AmericanLegion/home>. This is a painless way to contact your representatives to share The American Legion legislative agenda and request their action on specific priorities. VoterVoice was instrumental in the passage of the PACT Act after The American Legion Family flooded their representatives with email through the website. The VoterVoice program sends emails on your behalf without the need to come up with the wording yourself. Getting members registered is a priority of the Legislative Committee of the Detachment of Nebraska. Feel free to reach out to me with any questions you may have.

The Detachment is focusing on renewals for the 2023 membership year. We reached nearly 93% in renewals for the 2022 membership year and will continue to process through the end of 2022. We have yet to reach 100% in membership but could easily push past that mark with additional renewals. We ask for your assistance in retaining members. Please offer them involvement in programs at the Post and in your communities. Members that are engaged maintain their memberships and help recruit additional members. Please consider signing up your sons, grandsons, and great-grandsons if they are not already members. The Sons find strength in numbers and shared purpose and the result will be a stronger American Legion!

As a reminder, October/November is the season for District Fall Roundups. I encourage all members to attend these events and network with The Legion Family within their home District. These events are a way to share what is working at your Squadron and learn about successes others have found regarding fundraisers, membership, and outreach into the community. Detachment leadership will be asked to attend their home Roundups if their schedule allows. Feel free to reach out to me with any questions or concerns you may have regarding the Detachment of Nebraska.



Chaplain's Thoughts

Father Alexander Borzych
Department Chaplain

It is hard to believe that November is just around the corner. November recalls the fourth Thursday when Americans set aside the day, to give thanks to their creator. The passage that always comes to mind is Luke 17:12-19

Ten lepers along the road call out to Jesus asking to be healed from that ugly disease that kept them from being able to associate with family and friends. That would be a terrible life having to walk around with a walking stick with a bell attached, ringing out unclean, unclean. As the story goes, Jesus does not heal them right away. He tells them to go and present themselves to the priest. On their way there they are healed. The priest would then give them the clearance of being healed and again rejoin society. One out of the ten comes back to Jesus and thanks him for being healed. One out of 10 acknowledges that he was healed and goes back and gives thanks.

Thanksgiving is a day to give thanks for all the blessings that we have received. The problem with this important holiday is that it is overshadowed by football games, big meals, turkey trots, and one of the biggest travel weekends of the year. How many see the day as a day of giving thanks? How many people take for granted the many blessings one receives?

What do we have to be thankful for? Living in a country that grants your personal freedom, being alive, our health, and the health care we receive. Being thankful for family and friends, jobs, a roof over your head, and food to sustain your life. Do you ever think about being for the military that protects our country? How about our first responders, medical personnel, educators, religious leaders, and veterans?

How many times when a person notices that you are a veteran, they thank you for your service, but how many times do you thank a fireman, law enforcement officer, doctor, or nurse, these people, and many others, are individuals that assist us in our lives, but we seldomly let them know their impact by saying “thank you” to acknowledge for what they do for society.

My challenge to you not only during this season of Thanksgiving but all year long is to make a great effort to thank these people for what they do for you. Make them feel special and appreciated for the impact that they have on your life and society.



Sons of The American Legion Membership As of September 15, 2022


District	2021 Members	2022 Members
1	329	25
2	637	38
3	222	53
4	349	9
5	134	13
6	1,313	96
7	722	29
8	849	97
9	342	40
10	363	48
11	1,078	75
12	255	3
13	130	0
15	145	111
Total	6,868	637

Department Assistant Adjutant Is Retiring

Brent Hagel-Pitt is retiring on November 30, 2022, after 13 years of faithful service to the Department.

We are looking for his replacement to start in September. The majority of time is spent managing Department Programs like Legion Baseball, Junior Law Cadet, Oratorical, Scholarships, and County Government Day. But as Assistant Adjutant, he assumes other duties as directed by the Department Adjutant. The job is full-time with very good benefits.

If interested, contact Adjutant Salak to begin the interview process.

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	(4) Paid Distribution by Other Classes of Mail Through the USPS (e.g., First-Class Mail®)		
c. Total Paid Distribution (Sum of 15b (1), (2), (3), and (4))		34,142	33,114
d. Free or Nominal Rate Distribution (By Mail and Outside the Mail)	(1) Free or Nominal Rate Outside-County Copies included on PS Form 3541	2	2
	(2) Free or Nominal Rate In-County Copies Included on PS Form 3541		
	(3) Free or Nominal Rate Copies Mailed at Other Classes Through the USPS (e.g., First-Class Mail)		
	(4) Free or Nominal Rate Distribution Outside the Mail (Carriers or other means)	160	160
e. Total Free or Nominal Rate Distribution (Sum of 15d (1), (2), (3), and (4))		162	162
f. Total Distribution (Sum of 15c and 15e)		34,304	33,276
g. Copies not Distributed (See Instructions to Publishers #4 (page #3))		51	51
h. Total (Sum of 15f and g)		34,355	33,327
i. Percent Paid (15c divided by 15f times 100)		99.53	99.51

16. Electronic Copy Circulation

		Average No. Copies Each Issue During	No. Copies of Single Issue Published
a. Paid Electronic Copies		0	0
b. Total Paid Print Copies (Line 15c) + Paid Electronic Copies (Line 16a)		34,142	0
c. Total Print Distribution (Line 15f) + Paid Electronic Copies (Line 16a)		34,304	33,276
d. Percent Paid (Both Print & Electronic Copies) (16b divided by 16c × 100)		99.53	99.51

☐ I certify that 95% of all my distributed copies (electronic and print) are paid above a nominal price.

17. Publication of Statement of Ownership

☐ If the publication is a general publication, publication of this statement is required. Will be printed in the Oct/Nov 2022 issue of this publication.

☐ Publication not required.

18. Signature and Title of Editor, Publisher, Business Manager, or Owner
Rylee Z. Pitt
Date
09/19/2022

I certify that all information furnished on this form is true and complete. I understand that anyone who furnishes false or misleading information on this form or who omits material or information requested on the form may be subject to criminal sanctions (including fines and imprisonment) and/or civil sanctions (including civil penalties).

Junior Shooting Sports

Doug Frahm, JSSP Chairman

The 31st American Legion Air Rifle National Championship was conducted July 20-23, 2022, at the Olympic Training Center USA Shooting Range in Colorado Springs, Colorado. The purpose of this match was to determine through a shoulder-to-shoulder competition, the 2022 American Legion Junior Air Rifle Champions in the Sporter and Precision categories. Thirty individuals who competed in the Second Round Qualification Postal Match were invited to compete based on the top 15 scores in both the Sporter and Precision categories.

Competitors had two days of intense competition on Thursday and Friday, consisting of four rounds of competition in all three positions, prone, kneeling, and standing, shooting 240 competition shots each. The top eight competitors with the highest scores in both the Sporter and Precision categories were then invited to compete in a final ten-round match on Saturday to determine the National Champions.

The final standings were:

Sporter: In 1st Place Samantha Zermeno, 2nd Place Taylar Crane, and 3rd Place Austin Rahmig of Nebraska.

Precision: In 1st Place Mikole Hogan, 2nd Place Camryn Camp, and 3rd Place Elizabeth Probst.

National American Legion Commander Paul Dillard, National American Auxiliary President Kathy Daudistel, and National Sons of The American Legion Commander Michael Fox were in attendance to observe the competition and announce scores and present awards at the banquet.

Nebraska was well represented at the National Finals with three contestants participating in the Sporter category. Austin Rahmig (Gering) with the Western Nebraska Shooting Sports Club qualified 7th in the Nation and was invited to attend the National Finals where he shot a score of 2,283.9 placing him in third place. Congratulations Austin JOB WELL DONE!



Nebraska Junior Shooting Sports Program sent three competitors to Colorado for the Air Rifle National Championship. Pictured (L to R) Austin Rahmig, Chairman Doug Frahm, Gavin Carrizales, and Julia Winstrom.



Gavin Carrizales (Mitchell) also with the Western Nebraska Shooting Sports Club qualified 17th in the Nation and was also invited to attend the National Finals. Gavin shot a score of 2,253.1 and ended up in 5th place. Way to go Gavin!

Julia Winstrom (Kimball) of The Nebraska Dead Eye Shooters Club qualified 9th in the Nation and was also invited to attend the National Finals. Julia shot a score of 2,238.9 and ended up in 6th place. Way to go Julia!

Nebraska is proud to have each one of you represent our State and the Department of Nebraska American Legion.

Membership Minute

Steve Bartos, Membership Chairman

The September target date has passed, and I’m glad to report that, as we usually do, Nebraska surpassed the 50% milestone. Next up are the 55% target on October 13th and the 65% target on November 9th.

To the more than half of you whose 2023 dues are paid, Thank You!!! As promoted in the “Membership Awards for 2023” (posted on <http://www.nebraskalegion.net/Membership/Membership.html> toward the bottom of the page) and the last issue of the Nebraska Legionnaire, a special drawing for \$500 was held this year to promote early membership transmittals for our “regular” members, those who pay their dues annually. I hope that it encouraged a few more folks to pay early.

The name of 50-year member Douglas Smith from Carleton Post 329 was drawn for the \$500 EARLY BIRD MEMBER AWARD for regular members. Congratulations, Douglas.

Please be reminded that any Nebraska “Permanent” or “PUFL” member on the Department membership roster on January 1, 2023, shall be in a drawing for \$150.

And don’t forget the POST REBATE PROGRAM. A post that signs up a new member who has never belonged to The American Legion before and has that membership transmitted to Department Headquarters by the cut-off date shall receive \$5 from Department Headquarters. The postmark date is November 9, 2022.

At the recently concluded national convention in Milwaukee, a resolution was adopted that may change the way we do membership business in the future. While the resolution did not implement any specific changes, the adoption of the resolution did amend the constitution and by-laws to allow for some changes.

One of the possible changes to be studied is rather straightforward and would be the ability to join or renew for multiple years at a time, three years or five years appear to be the likely choices.

The second change to be considered would be the creation of what has commonly been referred to as a “rolling” membership. If this idea is adopted, a new Legionnaire’s membership would begin on the date he or she joins, continue for a full year, and then be renewable on the same date one year later.

I suspect that if this idea does become a reality, it will take considerable thought and study to work out the details. I envision its greatest impact to be on the way we look at and measure annual goals. They might even go away and lead to the adoption of some other performance measures.

Please use MyLegion to identify the Post 500 members who reside near you and ask them to transfer to your post. Members who “renew and transfer” at the same time can count toward your post’s annual goal. My understanding is that national has a way to track and will count first-year members of Post 500 toward your post’s goal if you get them transferred during that first year.

And never stop trying to sign up a new member!!!

RENEW. REINSTATE. RECRUIT. Transmit dues regularly and often. And thank you for all your efforts.

Have a nice October!



Why Nebraska American Legion Baseball Is Special

Jody Moeller, Athletic Chairman

In 2025, we will be celebrating the 100th Anniversary of American Legion Baseball. I cannot imagine what the 1925 South Dakota Department Commander, Frank G. McCormick, might say a century later about the summer baseball program their department discussed and proposed via resolution to the national organization. That fall of 1925, The National American Legion convention was held in Omaha where the resolution was adopted. The very first national baseball program for high school boys had its roots here in middle America and the discussions about the early details of such an undertaking by the national organization were held on Nebraska soil.

In the 97th year of this program, Nebraska registered 273 total Junior and Senior American Legion Baseball teams in the 2022 season, the second-most teams in the country. Only Minnesota registers more teams than we do. If we were to calculate the number of teams per capita, we would be far and away number one. Nebraska can boast one of the strongest American Legion Baseball programs in the United States. The baseball here is top notch as seen by the number of Nebraska teams that have advanced to the World Series over the years. We are tied with North Carolina at 6th with the number of appearances by the state at the ALWS (22).

Summers here in Nebraska have always included American Legion Baseball games at hundreds of fields and towns around the state. Many of us, including Legionnaires, Sons, Riders, and maybe even some Auxiliary members have played or been somehow involved with American Legion Baseball and have fond memories of those days on the dirt in the heat and humidity of Nebraska.

Nebraska American Legion Baseball (NALB) conducts 49 post-season tournaments each year. Junior and Senior teams in each of Classes A, B, and C will participate in one of 42 Area Tournaments. The champions of the seven Area Tournaments for each division advance to one of nine state tournaments. Because of the number of teams, we register each year, Nebraska is one of the states that get to send two Class A Senior teams to the Regional Tournament.

As we inch closer to 100 years of American Legion Baseball, we Nebraskans can reflect proudly on the history of our program. NALB touches more youth across the state than any other American Legion youth program. When you consider that over 2,500 Nebraska youth wear our American Legion Baseball patch each year, you get an idea of the vast opportunity we have to influence young men and women who participate. We cannot forget what our program was originally intended to do, “to develop within themselves a feeling of CITIZENSHIP, SPORTSMANSHIP, LOYALTY, and TEAM SPIRIT.” If you are part of this organization, it is our job to oversee and guide our coaches, sponsors, volunteers, and players toward these principles. That is what makes our program special, and anything less is to drop the ball.



Events Calendar

October

- 10 Columbus Day - Office Closed
- 10-13 Fall Meetings - Indianapolis
- 13 55% Membership Target Date

November

- 9 65% Membership Target Date
- 11 Veterans Day - Office Closed
- 24-25 Thanksgiving - Office Closed

December

- 11-16 National Legion College - Indy
- 14 75% Membership Target Date
- 23-26 Christmas Holiday - Office Closed
- 30 New Years Holiday - Office Closed

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



Adams, David A., Bellevue, WWII
Albright, John P., Greeley, Persian Gulf
Antrim, Keith M., Omaha, WWII
Applebee, Vachel, Naponee, Korea
Arington, Richard D., Humboldt, Korea
Ashby, Gary H., Newman Grove, Korea
Bailey, Dale, Callaway, Korea
Bamesberger, Ervin, Bartley, WWII
Bamesberger, Roger, Hampton, Vietnam
Barritt, K.E., Stuart, Korea
Beckman, Ronald L., Millard, Vietnam
Bedinger, William J., Hampton, Korea
Beernink, Donald, Omaha, Korea
Bialas, Daniel L., Silver Creek, Korea
Bierman, Dale E., Hastings, Korea
Blase, Clarence W., Central City, Korea
Bongers, Allen, Brainard, Vietnam
Bourn, Don D., Ponca, Vietnam
Brester, John, Howells, Korea
Brockhoff, Dean, Lincoln, WWII
Brush, Roger L., Bartley, Vietnam
Buss, Allen D., Wymore, Korea
Butler, Duane R., Havelock, Korea
Carlsen, Dean A., Millard, SAL
Carlson, Larry R., Wausa, Vietnam
Clark, Tom, Auburn, SAL
Coolidge, John E., Bayard, Korea
Dahl, John E., Davenport, Korea
Davis, Gary W., Tekamah, Vietnam
Delaney, Tom, Belgrade, Vietnam
Dethlefs, George, Dannebrog, Vietnam
Duffield, Charlie J., McCook, Korea
Dyer, Donnie, Hastings, Korea
Eicke, Henry A., Kennard, Korea
Fennell, Joseph P., South Omaha, WWII
Focken, Robert, Palmyra, Vietnam
Forbes, Ralph T., Omaha, WWII
Fowler, Donald L., Gering, Vietnam
Frandsen, Larry L., Minden, Korea
Frass, Genn D., Lodgepole, Korea
Fredrickson, Gene, Wayne, WWII
Fuller, Donald D., Grand Island, Kearney
Gable, Donald Jr., Gering, Vietnam
Gaertig, Roger A., Hickman, Vietnam
Gaffney, William D., Omaha, WWII
Gall, Clark S., Eustis, Vietnam
Gehring, Melvin J., Platte Center, Korea
Gerdes, John, Keaney, Korea
Giehler, Francis W., Tilden, Korea
Gillespie, Joel, Norfolk, Korea
Going, Larry R., Hooper, Korea
Greco, Michael M., Papillion, WWII
Green, Richard Sr., Grand Island, Korea
Gunther, Gabriel, Crete, Korea
Hamersky, Albert C., Lincoln, WWII
Hamrick, Joseph E., McCook, Vietnam
Hanson, Max A., Elsie, WWII

Harms, Willie, Sterling, WWII
Hashberger, John V., Dodge, Vietnam
Hauver, Robert D., Kearney, WWII
Havlate, Adolph A., Lincoln, WWII
Headrick, Allen M., Geneva, WWII
Heath, Marion E., Lisco, Vietnam
Hemberger, Albert Jr., Juniata, Korea
Heurtz, Darrell A., Juniata, WWII
Hohlfled, Robert W., Juniata, Korea
Holeka, Gary, Brainard, Vietnam
Hollopeter, Willard G., Wood Lake, Vietnam
Holst, Donald A., Grand Island, WWII
Huaracha, Andrew J., Chappell, Lebanon/ Grenada
Humphrey, Calvin R., Omaha, WWII
Inman, Calvin, Wolbach, Lebanon/ Grenada
Jarecki, Donald F., Monroe, Vietnam
Jones, Lyle M., Lincoln, Korea
Jordan, Curtis L., Millard, SAL
Kallhoff, Jerome E., Norfolk, Vietnam
Kealiher, Noel, Polk, WWII
Keim, Michael Sr., Sterling, Vietnam
Kelley, Donald H., Wallace, Korea
Ketler, Bill L., Benkelman, Vietnam
Kissler, Dean A., Sutton, Korea
Koehler, Marvin L., Osmond, Korea
Koenig, Robert D., Beatrice, Vietnam
Korth, Robert J., Greeley, Korea
Kotrc, Donald R., Millard, Vietnam
Kuncl, Charles J., Alliance, Korea
Lambrecht, Laverne, Red Cloud, WWII
Lavelle, John A., Hickman, Vietnam
Lawson, Vernon L., Beatrice, WWII
Leonard, Esch L., Beatrice, Korea
Lindgren, Rolland, Kearney, Vietnam
Long, Kenneth, Ponca, Vietnam
Lunkwitz, Derl, North Platte, Korea
Mackeprang, Dean, Bloomfield, Vietnam
Marchese, Alfred J., Omaha, Korea
Marks, Carl G., Hickman, Korea
Marshall, Gaylord J., Omaha, WWII
Maughn, Richard, Denton, WWII
Maxson, Bernard, Kearney, Vietnam
Maytes, Mike, Gretna, Vietnam
McAuliff, Douglas, Ravenna, Vietnam
McBride, Ernest, Beatrice, Korea
McKee, Larry D., Beatrice, Korea
Messman, Duane, Bruning, WWII
Michels, Tom O., Kearney, WWII
Mihane, Thomas R., Lincoln, WWII
Milburn, Dennis P., Wymore, Vietnam
Milone, Jesse S., Millard, WWII
Moranville, Howard F., Mitchell, WWII
Morton, Clyde D., Fremont, Korea
Narjes, George, Lodgepole, Korea

Nelsen, Don A., Blair, WWII
Norquest, Don A., McCool Junction, Korea
Ostendorf, Ron, Stapleton, Vietnam
Pelster, Donald, Petersburg, WWII
Penfield, Alan K., Chappell, Lebanon/ Grenada
Peterson, Vincent, Chappell, Kore
Phillips, Jon, South Sioux City, SAL
Pinkerton, Gary E., Benkelman, Vietnam
Porterfield, Francis, Hastings, Korea
Powell, Allen, Lebanon, Vietnam
Pressler, Roy C., North Platte, WWII
Reece, Margaret K., Benson, WWII
Reichenecker, Eugene, Kearney, Korea
Rempp, Franklin, Spencer, Korea
Reynolds, Frances, Brunswick, WWII
Ridgway, William, Fairfield, Korea
Rippen, Robert L., Glenvil, WWII
Risch, Robert F., Emerson, WWII
Ross, James H., Kearney, WWII
Saathoff, Leroy L., Beatrice, Vietnam
Sasich, Metro J., South Omaha, WWII
Scheider, Carl F., Bridgeport, WWII
Schmierer, Ronald E., Omaha, Korea
Schneberger, Donald, Shelby, Korea
Schreiner, Eugene E., Hastings, WWII
Shasteen, Richard H., Beatrice, Vietnam
Shownen, Albert D., Beatrice, WWII
Smejkal, Robert, Crete, WWII
Smith, Dick E., Sargent
Smith, Francis M., Millard, WWII
Snover, Clayton S., Morse Bluff, Korea
Spencer, George, Hastings, WWII
Stentz, Norman L., Lincoln, Korea
Still, Randy, Wakefield, Vietnam
Stokes, Walter, Petersburg, Vietnam
Swanson, Duane, Denton, WWII
Tachovsky, Lumir D., Wilber, SAL
Tharnish, John B., Lincoln, Korea
Thenhaus, Bill, Spencer, Korea
Tooker, Robert Sr., Atkinson, WWII
Tyler, Frank M., Lisco, Korea
Uden, Kenneth E., Hastings, WWII
Ueckert, Curtis R., Valley, Vietnam
Vanderkuur, Norm L., Talmage, Vietnam
Vincent, Peterson, Chappell, Korea
Wacker, Arnold, Ponca, Vietnam
Waltke, Willard, Beatrice, WWII
Walz, Richard F., Hartington, WWII
Warner, Chuck, Exeter, Vietnam
Welch, Donald D., Millard, WWII
Wellman, James, Norfolk, Korea
Wilson, Gerald L., Stapleton, Vietnam
Wilson, Kenneth E., Plainview, Vietnam



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Millard Riders Chapter 374 participated in the Millard Days Parade and were recognized with the Adult Division Special Award. Pictured are some of the 16 Riders in the parade.



Members of the Beatrice Chapter 27 Riders participated in the Czech Days Parade. Photo taken by Trimm Photo.



O'Neill Post 93 Member John Schmidt was honored with a two-star challenge coin for the time he served in WWII on his 101st birthday. Pictured above John Schmidt.



Past Department Commander Lyle Bartels participated in the Wilber Czech Day's parade, representing Tobias Post 311. Pictured PDC Bartels in front of his float.

Auburn Post 23 participated in the Brownville 4th of July parade, with multiple members on their float.

Cairo Post 333 presented certificates for 50 years of continuous membership to its members. Pictured top (L to R) Commander Allan Osburn, Roger Wooden, and Adjutant Rick Leth. The Post was presented with certificates from District 6 Commander Julie Schnitzler for exceeding the 100% membership goal and a Membership Retention Award.



Members of the David City combined honor guard participated in the State Fair Veterans Day Parade. Pictured (L to R) Dennis Houska (Post 52), President Ann Sabata President (VFW 5814), Ben Yates (Post 125), Brian Scribner (VFW 5814), Bill Scribner (Post 84), and Commander Larry Sabata Commander (Post 125).

McCook Post 203, Boy Scout Troop 1147, and Cub Scout Pack 147 presented an American Flag at McCook High School's first home football game.

Thea Wahl participated in the Jr Law Cadet Program representing Hastings Post 11 and received an award for marksmanship and a certificate of merit. Pictured (L to R) Commander Clark Williams and Thea Wahl.



Neligh Post 172 presented a certificate for 75 years of continuous membership to Richard Sanne. Pictured (L to R) Commander Daryl Booth and Richard Sanne.

South Omaha Post 331 Member Terry Jones was Presented with a Quilt of Valor by Ohioa Unit 193 member Jackie Mach and Bruning Unit 166 member Ruby Hinrichs. Pictured (L to R) Jackie Mach, Terry Jones, and Ruby Hinrichs.

The 2022-2023 Governor Vikram Menon picked up his Bob Riddle Traveling Governor's Trophy at Millard Post 374.



The Department of Nebraska donated over \$3,000 to The American Legion Child Welfare Foundation during National Convention. Pictured (L to R) Alternate NECman Jim Costello, Delegation Chair Dan Benes, National Commander Paul E. Dillard, Commander Donald Suchy, and NECman Fred Craigie.

Former Department Chaplin Brian Kane (Morse Bluff Post 340) was promoted to Colonel in the Nebraska Army National Guard. Pictured (L to R) Past Department Adjutant Burdette Burkhardt and Colonel Brian P. Kane.

Plattsmouth Post 56 representatives presented certificates of appreciation to their Junior Legion Baseball Team that placed second in the Class B Junior Legion State Tournament. Pictured front row left, Kermit Reisdorph. Pictured in back row Assistant Coach Jacob Davis, member Jerry Blackwell, Commander Candace Korman, Coach Tim Winters, and member Mike Pauly. Photo Credit Fremont Tribune.



The American Legion Auxiliary Department of Nebraska

The Star

October - November 2022



SO MANY OPPORTUNITIES!



The Auxiliary calendar for the months of October and November have so many opportunities for us to fulfill our mission of “service, not self.” What are you and your unit doing to carry out that mission?

October is a great time to participate in the “Give 10 to Education.” This is one of the easiest activities to do for the Education program. A variety of items could be donated in quantities of ten to your local schools. Use your imaginations! For the communities that have parochial schools, do you include them?

Now is the time (if you have not yet done so) to promote the Americanism essay and the ALA Scholarships. Check the ABC Book for the information regarding the essay (theme and format). The scholarship forms have been “revamped” and are available on our website as well as in the ABC Book. Please, please, please

make sure that the schools have the current form to use. Each scholarship has three pages, and the scholarship name and year (2023) is on the top left of each page.

What are you planning for Make A Difference Day on October 22? Although this is not an ALA program, it fits in perfectly with our “service, not self” and Community Service. Make a Difference Day began in 1992 thanks to the American weekend newspaper magazine “USA Weekend.” The leap day in February 1992 fell on a Saturday, so the magazine asked its readers to use the extra day to make a positive impact on somebody’s life. This campaign initiated the start of “Make a Difference Day,” leading to many individuals, groups, and companies endorsing the event by partaking in charity work, community service, and random acts of kindness.

The 41st U.S. president, George H.W. Bush, sponsored Make a Difference Day through his non-profit organization “Points Of Light,” which brought more awareness and popularity to the day. Make A Difference Day is one of the largest single days of service worldwide and stateside. So, go out and “make a difference” by being kind, compassionate, and empathetic to all who cross your path. I can’t wait

to see on your annual reports what you did.

Let’s move into November. It is the month to work your Public Relations. There are many ways to utilize public relations through different forms of media. Does your unit have a Facebook page? Do you use Twitter? And, for us “seasoned” members, there always is your local newspaper. Both the Auxiliary’s national website and The American Legion’s national website have a multitude of information on Public Relations. And, of course, we have our own Department Chairman Kim Gurley to assist you. Let’s promote what we do through all lines of communication!

Dollar Days is held across the state the first two weeks of November. This is a perfect chance for you to volunteer and experience the joy it brings to the veterans (and yourself).

Don’t forget to celebrate the American Legion Auxiliary’s 103rd Birthday on November 10 (and publicize what you do). And most important is to recognize our veterans on November 11 for Veterans Day. Work with your schools to host a Veterans Day Program at school. If you do not have a school in your community, then plan a Veterans Day Program for the public to attend. Remember, Veterans Day is to honor

our living veterans.

American Education Week is November 14 – 18. Make it a special week for the teachers and students. And, when you do, publicize it so your community knows about The American Legion Auxiliary (ALA) and what we do!

Did you know that the Department of Defense supports the National Veteran and Military Families Month, which is the month of November? It was established in 1996 by the Armed Services YMCA. The United States Government has recognized it ever since. It is a time to acknowledge the sacrifices our military families make. There are many organizations and resources available for our military families. Check out the websites (www.defense.gov and www.mymilitarybenefits.com). Find what your unit can do to help the nearly three million family members who serve alongside their veteran on the home front. (This information is from the websites mentioned.)

And, let us not forget our own families and communities during the holiday season of Thanksgiving. Another opportunity for Community Service.

As you can see, there are many opportunities during October and November for you to fulfill our mission of “service, not self.” ALA

is made up of many individuals who have a meaningful “why” they belong. The responsibility for the success of our patriotic organization lies within each of us in our individual units. Communication and cooperation between our units, counties, districts, department, and our American Legion Family is the key to fulfilling our mission.

May your blessings be abundant, your troubles be few. May your heart be filled with peace and gratitude. And, above all, may each of you know how grateful I am for your dedication to our veterans, our communities, and our children and youth. Happy Thanksgiving!

Never Forget, Ever Honor.

*Vicki Ozenbaugh
Department President '22-'23*



NATIONAL PRESIDENT



Vickie Koutz
Department of Indiana: Boonville Unit 200

Eligibility: Through husband, Jim, who served in the U.S. Army with service in-country Vietnam.

Offices held: Served several unit-, district-, and department-level positions. National: served as chair of the Auxiliary Emergency Fund, Poppy, Legislative, ALA Girls Nation, Membership, Constitution

& Bylaws, Education, National Security, Children & Youth, and Veterans Affairs & Rehabilitation committees, and served as vice chair of Leadership, Community Service, and Junior Activities committees; member of Future Focus Committee, Strategic Planning Committee Ex-Officio member, and American Legion Auxiliary Foundation Board of Directors designated director. Served as national vice president and National Executive Committee member.

Professional/personal background: Vickie is a 48-year PUFL member of her unit. Her husband, Jim, is a member of Post 200, and son, Michael, is a charter member of Squadron 200. She graduated from Boonville High School and is a member of Baker Chapel United Methodist Church. Vickie retired from Fox and Lutz Law office as a legal assistant.

JR. PRESIDENT



Busy, Busy is the word for now. Ball games, State Fair, school activities and more.

But we still need to plan activities for our Veterans. Here are some ideas from our Juniors: Help with the Color Guard at a football game for the flag raising; participate in the schools special 911 program outside by the flag; take up a special

collection on Halloween for a special event for Veterans and take part in Quilts of Valor ceremonies with Senior members. We also will be making Veterans Day favors for a school and Education Week favors for the faculty.

I will try to attend our Department President and Commanders Homecoming in Seward.

So enough now, Juniors remember Veterans are what we are about and that “Games and Food make A Happy Veteran”. – So plan something special for them.

*Carly Rains
Honorary Jr. President*

DISTRICT LEADERSHIP

DISTRICT 4 PRESIDENT



My name is Luayne Kaye Weisgerber. I have been a member of The American Legion Auxiliary Alliance Unit 7 for about 34 years --- and a Paid Up For Life (PUFL) member since 2002. I am eligible through my father, Ray O. Andersen (US Army, World War II) and my

husband, Raymond J. Weisgerber (US Marine Corps, Vietnam).

This is my third round as District President, and I am a Past Department President (2002-2003). I also am the Alliance Unit 7 President and Treasurer.

I was born and raised mostly in the Northport/Bridgeport/Dalton area, with the exception of three years in Oregon. I am a 1967 graduate of Bridgeport High School and a 1988 graduate of Chadron State College with a Bachelor of Arts Business Comprehensive degree with majors in accounting, management, and real estate.

I have two sons, a daughter, and six grandsons. Morgan, Jakob, and all six grandsons are members of Sons of The American Legion Squadron 7, and Brandy is a PUFL member of Unit 7. My husband is a member of Post 7 and serves regularly on Honor Guards for funerals.

My reason for membership is to honor my father and husband and those with whom they served, and in gratefulness that my children and grandchildren enjoy their freedoms due to the service of others.

*Luayne Kaye Weisgerber
District 4 President*

DISTRICT 5 PRESIDENT



Greetings from the 2022-2023 American Legion Auxiliary District 5 President Donna Hatfield. I live in Lexington, Nebraska and am a member of Unit 111. My eligibility for this great organization is through husband Mike’s Army service. I have been employed by Dawson County Weed Control for 28 plus years.

It is my honor to serve ALA District 5 as their president (again!!). In the late 1980s, I served as ALA District 5 President. I have held many Department Chairmanships and served as ALA Department President in 2011-2012 (which is

why I may be familiar to many of you).

American Legion Auxiliary (ALA) District 5 consists of eighteen units (Arthur, Lexington, Eddyville, Overton, Farnam, Mullen, Paxton, North Platte, Maxwell, Sutherland, Wallace, Hershey, Tryon, Grant, Venango, Madrid, and Thedford) in nine counties - Arthur, Dawson, Hooker, Keith, Lincoln, Logan*, McPherson, Perkins, and Thomas Counties. (*Note: Stapleton, in Logan County, is turning in its charter --- which means there are now no units in Logan County.)

District 5 covers 9,172 square miles. Highway 92 is the north border; Highway 23 is the south border. And, on Interstate 80, Overton is the east edge; and Ogallala is the west edge. The district is a little bit west of the middle of Nebraska and on each side of Interstate 80. This is a lot of miles to cover the

whole district --- and there are two time zones in the district – Central and Mountain time zones.

District 5 was without a Vice President for ALA District 5 President Terrie Hayworth’s first year. When no one stepped up for her second year, I agreed to serve as her vice president. I am now without someone to serve as District Vice President and am hoping someone from District 5 will step up to serve as my vice president.

I look forward to working with the Unit Presidents and members of District 5, all Department Officers, as well as American Legion District 5 Commander Scott Bell and Vice Commander Jeff Morris.

I hope to see many of you at the District 5 Fall meeting in Sutherland on October 15th.

*Donna Hatfield
District 5 President*

QUILT OF VALOR - UNIT 257

The Eustis American Legion Auxiliary Unit #257 presented a Quilt of Valor to Charles Deharty of Eustis. Charles is an Army veteran of the Vietnam War. Charlie was awarded 3 Purple Hearts, the Silver Star, and the Bronze Star --- among

other awards. He served for a little over 12 months from 1969-1970.



LINCOLN VA CBOC (COMMUNITY BASED OUTPATIENT CLINIC)

Thank you to the individuals and units who contributed donations for the veterans at the Victory Park Apartments. Gift cards were purchased for the social workers that work closely with the residents and assist these veterans in that facility with their needs as they become necessary.

Also, I want to thank those who contributed to the Lincoln Stand Down account. The Lincoln Stand Down was held in conjunction with the Lincoln Homeless Coalition on Tuesday, September 27th at the Pinnacle Bank Arena. This was not held the last couple years with the fear of the COVID infection. The organizers expected approximately 50 veterans. Your donations were used for items for these veterans --- clothing, personal care, non perishable food items etc.

We are once again beginning to plan for the holidays and to work closely with the social workers and staff to make the holidays happier

for the less fortunate veterans and their families. With costs going up, the social workers have noticed an increase in their case load. Last year, we helped out approximately 150 veterans, and this year we are expecting this number to increase.

I don't know if we will be able to put up a giving tree, but we will be asking for donations of specific items needed for the veterans or gift cards to local stores for food, gas, and miscellaneous items.

So, as you begin thinking about your many blessings and getting ready for your families for the holidays, please think about a veteran you can help, also.

Any questions? Please stop in or call volunteer services at the Lincoln VA to get more details.

Please remember to "Thank the Veterans."

*Linda Varejcka
Volunteer*

QUILT OF VALOR - UNIT 351

On August 10, 2022, Honor Quilts were presented to Fred Daake and Martin Cox by Past Nebraska ALA President Barb Meyer. Kay Anderson, Past President of Miller ALA Post 351, made the quilts and assisted in the presentation. L. Dean Fisher, Vance Jones, Don Kreutzer, and Jim Whitsal will receive their Honor

Quilts at a later time.

The quilts were presented after a delicious feast provided by Post 351 Auxiliary and American Legion members.



Photo courtesy of Robin Billings. (Pictured L to R): Fred Daake, Kay Anderson, Martin Cox, and Barb Meyer.

WHO NEEDS A PARLIAMENTARIAN? YOU DO!

A Parliamentarian's role is often described as a "scary one," and one which many members do not feel qualified to hold. However, the president of every unit, county, and district should appoint someone to fill that role. Let's pull back the curtain and learn more about the role of a Parliamentarian.

What are the duties of a Parliamentarian?

- Advises the presiding officer and other officers, committees, and members on matters of parliamentary procedure. A Parliamentarian does not make rulings, only advises when asked
- Utilizes Robert's Rules of Order, Newly Revised to form opinions and advice
- Understands the governing documents of the organization
- Assists with revisions to governing documents (Constitution, Bylaws, Standing Rules)
- Assists with preparation/review of presiding officer agendas and scripts
- Remains impartial and does not make motions, participate in the discussion, or vote unless there is a ballot vote
- Who can serve as a Parliamentarian?
- Someone familiar with parliamentary procedure

- Someone who can remain impartial during a discussion
- Does not need to be a member of the American Legion Auxiliary
- Does not need to be a registered parliamentarian

During meetings, the Parliamentarian should be seated adjacent to the presiding officer to unobtrusively offer help and guidance during a meeting. The presiding officer is not required to follow the advice of the Parliamentarian. However, in most cases, the advice was requested because the presiding officer was unsure of how to rule.

Many members are qualified to serve in this role based on their extensive experience in our organization --- and their knowledge of parliamentary procedure. I am happy to assist in any way that I can, and the National Parliamentarian for the American Legion Auxiliary is also available as a resource.

*Barb Washburn
Parliamentarian*

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
Oct.	#257 Eustis	#52 Kearney	#95 Curtis	#283 Platte Center	#10 Morrill	#364 Naponee	#222 Shubert
Nov.	#251 Arcadia	#209 Franklin	#109 Mullen	#95 Curtis	#10 Morrill	#301 Dalton	Dept. Jrs.
Dec.	#283 Platte Center	#377 Wilcox	#245 Plymouth	#302 Leigh	#7 Alliance	#7 Alliance	#183 Friend
Jan.	#305 Hostein	#199 Cambridge	#353 Louisville	#62 Newcastle	#17 Sidney	#17 Sidney	#49 Utica
Feb.	#288 Farnam	#11 Hastings	#154 Blair	#264 Dorchester	#200 Bayard	#200 Bayard	#354 Pleasant Dale
March	#310 Gibbon	#141 Hampton	#156 Burchard	#127 Crete	#301 Dalton	#218 Exeter	#146 Rising City
April		#225 Eddyville		#253 Platte Center	#133 Culbertson	#133 Culbertson	Dept. Jrs.
May	#126 Broken Bow	#288 Farnam		#307 S. Souix City	#213 Wallace	#213 Wallace	#264 Dorchester Jrs.
June		#193 Ohiowa		#70 West Point			#20 Fremont
July	#141 Hampton	#52 Kearney		#302 Leigh			
Aug.	#365 Davenport	#52 Kearney					
Sept.							
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 cannot accept Centerpieces but would take 40 Door Hangers.							

NATIONAL EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Welcome Members,
I am Beverly A. Neel and will be serving as a member on the National Executive Committee (NEC) for the 2022-2023 administrative year. This position is one by which I will be your Department liaison with the National organization. As information is received from the Committee, it shall be shared with the Department for dissemination.

As the Department's member on the NEC, I will serve as the escort for the visiting National President or Vice President and/or Northwestern Division National Vice Chairman when either makes an official visit to the Department.

Note that I have a separate email address for my duties as the NEC member. Thank you.

DEPT. DISTINGUISHED GUEST COMMITTEE (DGC)

The current Department Distinguished Guest Committee is comprised of two Past Department Presidents (PDP). The Chair of the Committee also serves as Nebraska's member on the National Executive Committee (NEC). The second member is appointed by the Department President. The Department President has the ability to appoint additional members to the Committee if it is determined more would be better.

COMMITTEE MEMBERS
PDP Beverly A. Neel 2018-2019
PDP Elizabeth Paes 2019-2021
PURPOSE OF THE

DISTINGUISHED GUEST COMMITTEE (DGC)

The Committee has the special duty to ensure visitors to the Department events are comfortable, do our best to meet their preferences, establish with the guest those events most important to the guest, allowing members an opportunity to meet and visit with the guest and ensure the guest's preferences are met as best as possible.

Coordinate with the special guest the program for the conference, convention, or other special occasion occurring at the time of the official visit to the Department of Nebraska. Ensuring when, where, and to whom the guest will be asked to speak --- such as general session, joint session, and/or gathering of Department Officers and those members having a National appointment.

Coordinate with local media that a special guest will be in Nebraska and should time allow seek an opportunity to do a personal interview with the guest and document the visit.

Coordinate with the special guest those members who have held National and Divisional offices and will be present. Special mention of those members by the guest is always an honor to the members and for the guest.

Coordinate preferences of the guest as to any special needs, special snacks, and non-alcoholic beverages for the guest room. Determine

schedule of the guest as to how much time is available during a multi-event visit so arrivals and departures are well met.

Coordinate with the guest a special time to visit with the members in a very casual, relaxing manner; thus, not allowing any "business talk" as the guest has these visits.

Coordinate down time for the guest so plenty of rest is given and the guest has ample time to relax and have special time to oneself.

During official visits of a National Officer (President or Vice President) or Northwestern Division Vice President, the Committee coordinates airport arrivals/departures, transportation to and from the event, meals during the visit, personal gift to be in the guest room, availability of a poppy corsage, and a contact list of the DGC members should the special guest have a need or question that the Committee can address in a timely manner.

The coordination of the guest visit is with the Department President and Department Secretary and the DGC members. We are here to be of assistance to our guest during the official visit to the Department and to meet all preferences to the best of our ability.

*Beverly A. Neel
Nebraska Member*

KEEPING OUR MEMBERS INFORMED

Communication within our organization is vital and one of my goals for this year. There are many ways to communicate, from in-person to phone calls, text messages, or emails. Nebraska ALA is also utilizing monthly newsletters, THE STAR, and Facebook.

Communication is vital in keeping our organization informed. Therefore, to inform all members of a recent change in our Department Officers, this media is being utilized.

On September 25, a resignation letter was received from our Department Vice President. I consulted with our Department Parliamentarian to ensure that the proper protocol was followed in handling the vacancy. A meeting with the Advisory Committee was held to "advise the Department President" per our Bylaws, Article II, Section 5.

Based on the options available and advice provided by the Advisory Committee, it was my decision to leave the position of Department Vice President vacant at this time. However, the position can be filled at any time by appointment and DEC approval.

A reminder that any member in good standing may be an officer; and, per our Standing Rules, Section A #4, "No candidates for Department office shall announce candidacy prior to Mid-Year Conference."

*Vicki Ozenbaugh
Department President*



Nebraska American Legion and Auxiliary conventioners attended the States Dinner at the National Convention in Milwaukee. Pictured, left to right, are: Commander Don Suchy, Marge Suchy, Lorene Bartos, President Vicki Ozenbaugh, Bud Neel, Beverly Neel and Lynne Wild.



Pictured are National Junior Activities Chairman Debra Albers and National ALA Junior of the Year Ava Groth in Milwaukee for the national convention.

AUXILIARY EMERGENCY FUND (AEF)

The purpose of the Auxiliary Emergency Fund (AEF) is to provide temporary financial assistance to eligible Auxiliary members during times of financial crisis or weather-related emergencies and natural disasters and to promote awareness and knowledge of the AEF program. This is the “Member Helping Member” program we can all get behind and lend that extra change in our purse or perhaps a \$5.00 bill. No matter the contribution, it will grow. In Nebraska, we all know that our weather changes constantly and quickly many times. It is during these times we as members need to be aware of our fellow members and keep in touch to ensure we can account for each other and we can help meet their immediate need. If we will simply do this, it will fully define “Who we Are,” “What we Do,” and “Why we Matter.” Thank you, members.

This year I am challenging all District Presidents to visit each of

your units and have a little bit of fun as you donate to the AEF. As stated before, donations of any amount are welcome because the AEF fund grows no matter what.

What can the unit and unit members do to participate in the AEF campaign? Anything you want to. Remember, these funds go towards our other members’ needs and perhaps our own. We never know what any one is dealing with day-by-day, so it is always prudent to be prepared to lend that helping hand. Thank you.

Various AEF resources you can access on the National website: www.alaforveterans.org

- AEF Brochure
 - AEF Roles & Responsibilities
 - AEF Contribution Form
 - AEF Application for Assistance
 - AEF Certificates of Appreciation
 - Plan a local AEF fundraiser
 - Give a personal donation
 - Support your Dist. President’s effort
- AEF Reporting Guidelines:**

- Use the Dept. reporting form
- Begin to write your narrative today
- How did you keep your members informed of this assistance resource
- What did your unit do to assist in raising funds for AEF
- How much did your unit raise for AEF
- Recognition of members/units who donated \$50 or more by National organization
- Best Unit AEF Narrative Report due to this Chair by April 20th – photos help

National organization will recognize:

- Department Award to the Department with the largest AEF contribution
- Unit Award to local unit contributing the largest amount per member
- Department Award to the Department contributing the largest AEF contribution per member

Beverly A. Neel
AEF Chair

SERVING YOUTH

The Gretna American Legion served as a drop off site for the Back-to-School drive. Numerous items were collected. Moreover, the American Legion Auxiliary Leonard Conley Unit 216 of Gretna donated \$300 to the Dragon’s Closet



Cindy Iske Moore (right), President of The American Legion Auxiliary Unit 216 in Gretna, presented a check to Rachel Eastman (left) from The Dragon’s Closet to purchase needed school supplies for the Back-to-School drive.

back-to-school supply drive for Gretna students. The donation enabled the purchase of the following items from their wish list:

- 24 packages loose leaf paper
- 10 pencil cases
- 10 boxes (72 pack) of Kleenex
- 4 boxes of sandwich bags
- 40 pairs of Fiskar scissors
- 84 single subject notebooks
- 10 8-tab dividers
- 10 5-tab dividers
- 12 pencil sharpeners
- 6 6-pack scotch tape
- 10 6-pack dry eraser markers
- 24 erasers for dry erase boards

2023 MEMBERSHIP – REV UP YOUR ENGINES!

Why “racing in membership” you may ask? Because we are still on the raceway and have yet to secure the checkered flag on the downward slope in membership and the number of units choosing to call it quits. Who do we believe will take the place of those units/members in the community to continue to do what the ALA has been doing for over a century? We cannot answer that question. It all comes back to knowing our “WHY,” demonstrating our “WHY,” and sharing our “WHY” so others would know this is the organization to become invested in.

Our over-all Objective/Goal for the Department of Nebraska is 17,091 members. This figure is 1,293 members away from the membership total of 15,798 on July 31, 2022. Where do we begin? Renewals are the most valuable asset to all units. When we fail to collect renewal dues each year, we continue to slide down the slippery slope of membership. We must put the brakes on that process here in Nebraska. We are better than that. We value our “WHY” and our community. We need to get ready in 2023 and be visible in the community and let others know you are a proud ALA member even when we ALA members are volunteering with other organizations. Just because we are ALA members does not bar us from being community service volunteers where the need is known and we have the ability and talents to get the job

done. That is one area we need to pay more attention to. How many non-ALA volunteers are working this event and are they eligible to be an ALA member? Have you asked? Be ready with your “WHY” and have an application at hand.

With the \$2.00 Department dues increase and \$6.00 National dues increase in 2024, we need to make sure we do not lose members. Plan ahead and develop a method to ease the impact in 2024. In my local Winside Unit 0252, we created a postcard to the members advising them of the dues increase and would they donate \$10.00 to the unit NOW and it will be earmarked for 2024 dues when they come around. We are trying to lessen the impact of it all at once. We have had very good response to our request. A lesson to point: if we simply ask, our members are willing to listen and act. What more could we ask for? Share your ideas on prepping your unit for the \$8.00 dues increase in 2024. All members reading this article, you are important to your veteran who earned you the eligibility to be an ALA member, to the unit to which you belong, and to this Chair as every member is a unit member first and foremost and we all have worth and merit. Make your membership work for you and your unit and your beloved Veteran(s). Thank you.

Beverly A. Neel
Membership Chair

NEBRASKA AMERICAN LEGION FAMILY VA&R 2022 SCHEDULE

DOLLAR DAYS, GIFT SHOP AND GIFTS FOR YANKS EVENTS

Please plan to arrive at all events one-half hour before the event time.

VETERANS DOLLAR DAY DISTRIBUTIONS

Wednesday, November 2, 2022	10:00 a.m.	Lincoln NE Regional Center
Thursday, November 3, 2022	2:00 p.m.	Norfolk NE Veterans Home
Monday, November 7, 2022	10:00 a.m.	Omaha VA Medical Center
	2:00 p.m.	Eastern NE VA Home, Bellevue
Tuesday, November 8, 2022	10:00 a.m.	Grand Island NE VAMC
	2:30 p.m.	Central NE VA Home, Kearney
Sunday, November 13, 2022	2:00 p.m.	Western NE VA Home, Scottsbluff

STANDDOWN:

VETERANS MEDICAL CENTER GIFT SHOPS

Set up - Monday, December 5, 2022	10:00 a.m. -3:00 p.m.	Omaha VA Medical Center
Gift Shop dates: December 6, 7,8,9, 2022		
Set up - Monday, December 5, 2022	10:00 a.m.	Grand Island Medical Center
Gift Shop date: Tuesday, December 6, 2022		

GIFT FOR YANKS WHO GAVE

Saturday, December 3, 2022	1:30 p.m.	Hot Springs, SD, VA Medical Center
Sunday, December 4, 2022	2:00 p.m.	Western NE VA Home, Scottsbluff
Wednesday, December 7, 2022	10:00 a.m.	Lincoln NE Regional Center
Friday, December 9, 2022	2:00 p.m.	Norfolk NE Veterans Home
		Norfolk Regional Center
Monday, December 12, 2022	10:00 a.m.	Omaha VA Medical Center
	2:00 p.m.	Eastern NE Veterans Home, Bellevue
Tuesday, December 13, 2022	10:00 a.m.	Grand Island VA Medical Center
	2:30 p.m.	Central NE VA Home, Kearney

NATIONAL CONVENTION

Another American Legion Family National Convention is in the books. Milwaukee, Wisconsin was the host city for the August 26 –September 1 event. Pictured is the Nebraska delegation.

The Department of Nebraska ALA was fortunate to have 22 members in attendance. Our pre-convention meetings were conducted virtually the week before our Nebraska caucus, which was held in Milwaukee. With Lorene Bartos serving as secretary and I as delegation chairperson, the meeting was productive and informative. PDP and NEC Kathy Mazur shared the information about the Constitution and Bylaws which was simplified, understandable, and easy to follow when we were required to vote. A few members, due to travel schedules, could not attend the Friday Caucus.

On Saturday, the Northwestern Division caucus was held. Due to an illness, Vice President Dee Dee Buckley assigned Minnesota Department President Patti Coleman to preside. I was asked to be Parliamentarian and announce our Incoming President, Vicki Ozenbaugh. Our delegation had the 2nd highest attendance for the division.

On Sunday evening, the

Department of North Dakota hosted the traditional Tri-Stack Party with South Dakota and Nebraska. It was a fun-filled evening.

On Sunday, a patriotic memorial service for the American Legion Family began the day. Some members attended Octoberfest events, while others explored the River Walk, shopping and dining, and even going to the beach on Lake Michigan.

Monday featured the opening session with President Daudistel presiding and included committee reports, including one by our own National Junior Activities Chairman Deb Albers. Taking the podium, she and the Department of Nebraska were highlighted on the Big Screen.

Department Historian Angie Foster’s history projects were also highlighted. Awards and commendations were given or announced and will be covered in a report in this publication.

Tuesday brought National Officer Reports and Constitution and Bylaws Committee reports. They were followed by the ALA Public Spirit Award Luncheon and The American Legion National Commander’s Banquet.

The Wednesday Session brought nominating and election of National

Officers, more program reports including the National President’s Award of Excellence and her report before closing the convention. After lunch, the Installation of National Officers and Department Presidents, including our Incoming Department President Vicki Ozenbaugh took place. The Incoming National President is Vickie Koutz from the Department of Indiana. After the installation, the 2022 National ALA Convention was adjourned.

The ALA States Dinner was held that evening with a Kentucky Derby theme. Reunions, new friends, great music, and dancing made for a wonderful evening --- everyone sharing the same passion of taking care of our veterans!

Amanda Washburn and Angie Foster served as Department pages and are to be commended for all their hard work. Thank you, everyone who attended and to each member who made this experience possible.

Barbie Meyer
PDP, National Convention
Delegation Chairperson,
and Dept. National Security
Chairperson

AWARDS PRESENTED AT THE 2022 NATIONAL CONVENTION IN MILWAUKEE, WISCONSIN

Citation plaque -Most Outstanding Unit Education program in the Northwestern Division - **Pleasant Dale Unit 354**

Citation plaque - Most Outstanding Unit Junior Activities program in the Northwestern Division – **Marva Kasl**

Citation - Northwestern Division member who volunteers to help someone in the community or is the first to step up for a community project - **Marion Melcher**

Citation - Most outstanding overall department Community Service program in the Division – **Nebraska**

New Unit Award - \$25 Gift Certificate to Emblem Sales – **McCook 203**

Units reaching 100% by November 10, 2021 - \$100 award

Morrill 10, Bristow 76, Bartlett 107, Dwight 110, Alexandria 194, Sutherland 208, Oshkosh 210, Bloomfield 249, Litchfield 293 and Elk Creek 370.



CHAPLAIN'S CORNER

We Support our Veterans.

“Have I not commanded you? Be strong and courageous. Do not be frightened, and do not be dismayed, for the LORD your God is with you wherever you go.” Joshua 1:9

“And I heard the voice of the Lord saying, “Whom shall I send, and who will go for us?” Then I said, “Here I am! Send me.” Isaiah 6:8

I asked some random questions to a few people. The first question asked was to “Describe a veteran.” Here are some of the responses I received:

“A person who has served in the armed forces”

“Someone who is bold, brave, and courageous”

“Someone who is strong, caring, and willing to protect our country”

The second question I asked was, “What are some reasons we should honor our veterans?” The responses I received:

“Our veterans have risked their lives to protect ours.”

“Even though they knew there were threats, they still decided to join the military.”

These are excellent responses to some tough questions.

Many veterans deal with the side effects of war. One side effect is PTSD (Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder). Soldiers deal with death and injuries on a regular basis, and this is difficult for the human mind and heart to

handle. Veterans also may be dealing with the side effects of being exposed to burn pits and suffer hearing loss. Physical and emotional ailments can make it difficult for the soldier to return easily to life as it was before their war experience. PTSD may not be obvious to family and friends of the veteran, which makes it harder for others to help and understand. When the soldier internalizes these side effects, it can leave the veteran stressed, troubled, and emotionally drained.

Daily, an average of 22 veterans will choose to take their own lives. These numbers are staggering! Our veterans need our support and prayers for strength and peace. Help our veterans get the care that is needed.

Help us “never to forget, ever honor” our military and veterans.

PRAYER: Heavenly Father, please turn your regard to those men and women who in the military service have sacrificed time, comfort, strength, ambition, health, and prosperity for the peace and safety of family and friends and others they’ve never even known. Please reward them a hundredfold for all their sacrifice and service. Bless them far beyond all their expectations. Reward them richly for all they have given. Amen.

Ruth Hietbrink
Dept. Chaplain

CORRECTION

These ladies were previously listed in the “In Memoriam” as being from Beaver City. They were both from Papillion.

Ruby CroftPapillion..... 32
Ellen Brokofsky.....Papillion..... 32

**EXETER AVENUE
HOLIDAY SAMPLER
CRAFT/VENDER SHOW**

Sponsored by
American Legion Auxiliary
Unit 218

**Saturday, October 15, 2022
9 a.m. to 2 p.m.
Exeter Legion Hall
Exeter, Nebraska**

Everyone Welcome



The 2022 National Convention States Dinner was held on Wednesday evening, August 31st. The theme was Kentucky Derby! Pictured are Department Commander Don Suchy and Department President Vicki Ozenbaugh.

<i>In Memoriam</i> Received August 10 to September 10, 2022		
Mary Baines.....	Omaha.....	1
Mary Jo McNamara.....	Omaha.....	1
Cynthia M Smetter.....	Lincoln.....	3
Eva C Kroeger.....	Lincoln.....	3
Janice A Nicholas.....	Norfolk.....	16
Paula J Rumsey.....	Norfolk.....	16
Wilma Purdy.....	Norfolk.....	16
Dora A. Day.....	Kearney.....	52
Pearl Baumgartner.....	Kearney.....	52
Dana J Twiford.....	Laurel.....	54
Jan Twiford.....	Laurel.....	54
Esther E Thomsen.....	Pender.....	55
Rose Flom.....	Newcastle.....	62
Leah Harms.....	Clay Center.....	87
Leola Stone.....	O'Neill.....	93
Shirley Wolzen.....	Minden.....	94
Michelle L. Britt.....	Wilber.....	101
Edna Meininger.....	Stuart.....	115
Luetta Lund.....	Genoa.....	144
Vera Hamar.....	Jackson.....	175
Etna C Heater.....	Beaver Crossing..	178
Gwen Pankoke.....	Beaver Crossing..	178
Colleen Jochum.....	Sutherland.....	208
Donna M. Swanson.....	Decatur.....	215
Mildred Jasa.....	St Edward.....	226
Mary Nickels.....	Silver Creek.....	263
Mrs. Gracie Husk.....	Herman.....	274
Elaine Crane.....	Danbury.....	276
Patsy L Redfern.....	Danbury.....	276
Kathleen Petrashek.....	Table Rock.....	289
Marcella Tucker.....	Burwell.....	298
Wanta Petersen.....	Burwell.....	298
Leoma Fuelberth.....	Osmond.....	326
Dorothy Cassell.....	Steele City.....	349
Jean Hope.....	Millard.....	374
Joan Bart.....	Millard.....	374
Vera J Havener.....	Department.....	500

Thank you for all the expressions of sympathy we have received since my mother’s passing. She was 99 years old. All of the cards, memorials, calls, texts, and hugs were greatly appreciated.

Mom loved the Auxiliary and worked for the veterans as long as she was able. Your friendship and support is greatly appreciated.

Lorene Bartos • Star Editor • St. Edward Unit 226

DATES TO REMEMBER

OCTOBER

1 Department President Vicki’s Homecoming - Seward
11 Columbus Day – Department Headquarters Closed
31 Halloween
31 Poppy Orders due

NOVEMBER

6 Daylight Savings Time Ends
8 Election Day – Remember to Vote!
10 Happy 103rd Birthday American Legion Auxiliary
11 Veterans Day
14-18 American Education Week
24 Thanksgiving Day – Department Headquarters Closed
25 Department Headquarters Closed
29 #Giving Tuesday

FOR YOUR ADVANCED PLANNING

Jan. 13-15, 2023	Mid Year Conference, Norfolk Lodge, Norfolk, NE
Jan 23-26, 2023	National President Vickie Koutz Visits Nebraska
June 22-25, 2023	Department Convention, Ramada, Kearney
Aug. 25-1 , 2023	National Convention, Charlotte, North Carolina

COUNTY GOVERNMENT DAY

County Government Day was started by Chief Justice Robert G. Simmons of the Nebraska Supreme Court. He’d heard a Boys State citizen saying that if he couldn’t win a state office, he would just have to run for one of those old county offices.

Realizing what an important part of the governmental puzzle the counties are, he made it his mission to create a program that would educate our youth about county government and just how important it is to every county. Each county sets up their own program according to their unique situation. Local high school students learn about each county office/position and their duties and responsibilities. Some conduct lectures, question and answer sessions, jeopardy games, visits to the

county offices and court, and many other ideas

Remember that County Government Day in Nebraska is a program fir boys and girls and is supported by both the American Legion and the American Legion Auxiliary.

If you wish to start a county government program in your county or just need help revitalizing it, contact the Nebraska American Legion headquarters (402-464-6338) for more information. Be sure to notify them as well when you have set the date and place for your County Government Day.

Patricia Wiseman
County Government Chairman



Since Omaha Unit 1 President Kathy McDowell-Secret has been on medical leave for surgery, she and her mother, Bonnie McDowell, have been busy with ALA community service. They dropped off snacks and drinks to the Fisher House, made up 24 backpacks for kids at Sacred Heart School (near Carter Lake), and provided snacks and supplies to Victory Apartments.

CHANGE OF SEASONS, CHANGE OF HEART

The air conditioners are going off at night, the air is crisp and clear, and pumpkin spice everything is making its appearance and the soup recipes are out. I love the change in seasons, quickly as they come now, as it reminds me that nothing lasts, and it is important to take care of each other the best we can.

As we look forward to tucking ourselves into our little corners of the world during these long-darkening nights, please do not forget those who are not as happy about the darkness, as it compounds their loneliness and traps them into their thoughts of aging and increasing losses in their lives. Take some time as the season approaches to make note of those who are homebound, facility bound, or going through their first winter alone. Whether or not they are an Auxiliary member, they are our people, and they need us. As the world becomes ever larger and more frightening, God is depending on you to Keep the Home Fires Burning, and share your loving Auxiliary hugs. Of course, this is where I remind you to bring your music to warm and soothe their lonely hearts.

Happy Fall, Y’all, and Keep Singing!

Jean Vackiner
Music Chair

EDITOR’S NOTE

Please send articles and pictures for future editions of “THE STAR” to Lorene Bartos, Editor at 7441 San Mateo Lane, Lincoln, NE 68516 or email to: ALATheStarNE@yahoo.com. Send photos as jpg attachments. Material for the next issue needs to be submitted by NOVEMBER 10, 2022

CRETE ALA UNIT HOSTS SUMMER PICNIC

The American Legion Auxiliary Unit 147 hosted their annual summer picnic August 2nd at Veterans and Friends.

Camille Andelt, of Crete, was this year’s Girls State representative and was introduced by ALA Vice President Jo Lisec. Camille gave a talk on her week spent at Girls State and answered questions from the audience. She had a very positive experience and hopes that other girls will be interested in making application in the future.

Quilts of Valor were presented to Roger Dageforde and Gene Rogers by ALA officers Gerry Johnson, Paula Valenta, and Diana Pomajzl in recognition of their military service.

Roger joined the 134th Infantry 67th Bde in September of 1965 in



Fairbury, Nebraska. He was in the 4 Deuce Mortar Platoon. In June 1966 he went to Fort Polk, Louisiana for basic training and then to Fort Dix, New Jersey for AIT. It was there that he was in an airborne platoon. When he came back to Nebraska, he

joined the National Guard in Lincoln and was in the Military Police. In September of 1971, after six years, he was discharged. While in the Army, he qualified as an Expert with the M-60 Machine Gun; Sharpshooter with the M-14; and Marksman with the M-14A2 Auto Rifle and the 4.2 Mortar.

Gene joined the Marine Corps in 1962 and was sent to Marine Corps Recruit Depot in San Diego. While at Camp Pendleton, he was stationed at San Mateo with the 1st Marine Division 3rd Battalion. He spent most of 1962 there but also went through the Panama Canal to Cuba, Jamaica, Puerto Rico, and Guantanamo Bay. When the Cuban crisis was over, he left San Diego and traveled aboard the USS Iwo Jima to Hawaii and then Okinawa where he was stationed at Camp Schwab in 1963. While stationed there, he was on float BN in the Philippines, Hong Kong, Taiwan, and Japan. The Vietnam War was starting about this time, but his overseas duty was ending. He was discharged on May 21, 1966 while at Camp Edson, which was the recruit weapons training station.

The Quilts of Valor Foundation is a nonprofit organization whose mission is to award heirloom quality quilts to veterans and service members touched by war and to show appreciation for all that they have sacrificed to keep our country free.

HISTORIAN

Hi! My name is Amanda Washburn, and I am your 2022-2023 Department Historian. I am looking forward to working with all units and members this year to share what you are doing. I worked with last year’s Historian, Angie Foster; and we created a new simplified History Book contest. Look for the new rules in the upcoming ABC Book.

This year, I would like each unit or member to send in pictures or other items from your events. Send them to me at amandafaye33@gmail.com or 5230 N 148th Street – Lincoln, NE 68527. I will use them all to make an end-of-year history book for President Vicki so she can remember her year and the activities that were held while she was President.

If you have any questions or need anything, please feel free to contact me at the email above or at 402-480-1472. I can’t wait to share our history this year!

Amanda Washburn
Dept. Historian