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AMERICAN
LEGION
AUXILIARY

DEPARTMENT of NEBRASKA
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DEPARTMENT PRESIDENT VICKI'S FEBRUARY FOOTNOTES

Wow! We had a fantastic, fun Mid-Year Educational Conference. Thank you to those who were in attendance. We had all thirteen Districts represented, with 62 Units, 5 Juniors, and 80 Seniors registered. Thanks to those members and Units that donated snack items to the Veterans Homes and Medical Centers. We have six overflowing boxes that were delivered to the Norfolk Veterans Home, Western Nebraska Veterans Home, Central Nebraska Veterans Home, and Eastern Nebraska Veterans Home. The Grand Island Medical Center and Omaha Medical Center received a boxful, also. Kudos again to members and Units that brought items for the Winter Warmth & Care Kits for our homeless veterans. We were able to assemble 58 complete kits and will have 61 more to add some scarves/blankets and lotion to. I am in the process of distributing these across the state. If you are aware of any homeless veterans in your area, please let me know. Finally, a successful auction for the AEF and NEF!! Approximately \$1500 for each!!

COMMUNICATING TIMELY by having a committee of three District Presidents review and approve the DEC Minutes from Mid-Year. District 6 Nancy Harrold, District 8 Paula Pillen, and District 12 Charlene Hobelman have read and approved the minutes. They are included in this newsletter.

HELP TO KEEP IN TOUCH by completing the two forms included in this newsletter and sending them in.

MEMBERSHIP numbers are looking good, but we still need to work on collecting dues from our members and signing up new members. We are still leading the Northwestern Division. As of January 18, 2023, Nebraska has 13,492 members, which is 78.94%. Remember our goal is 17,091. Do the math—that is 3,599 more members to reach 100%. WE CAN DO IT!

2024 UNIT MEMBERSHIP DUES FORM is due by March 1. It was included in your December Newsletter. If you have not set your dues for 2024, you MUST do this at your February meeting!

DISTRICT CONVENTIONS begin this month. The schedule has changed. An updated schedule is included in this newsletter. Remember poppy centerpieces, publicity books, prayer books, and history books for your convention.

END OF YEAR REPORTING will soon be upon us. Now is a good time to check on your Unit and members reporting. If you compile now, it will be easier to put the finishing touches on it in April.

UNITS should also be planning to write a narrative for the different program awards. Check the ABC Book (your hardcopy or online) to see what is required.

IF YOU HAVE NOT, now is the time to follow up on scholarships, poppy posters, and Girls State. Deadlines are approaching. If you need those deadlines, you can call the chair for them or check the ABC Book.

LOST & FOUND from Mid-Year. A few extra items made it home with me that were left behind. I have a bowl from our Legion Family Gathering (it had a popcorn mix in it); a pair of black insulated gloves (left in the Legion's meeting room); a yellow, sunflower insulated tumbler and another tumbler with a straw (brand new—might have been a door prize); a door prize in a red sack (Let it Burn candle and car air freshener), and a clear tote with no lid. Please contact me if any of these belong to you. I can bring them to District conventions or send them with the officer assigned.

FINAL FEBRUARY FOOTNOTE—it is the month of love. What is your Unit doing to show our love to our Veterans?

Patriotism is taking the time to share a box of mementos, and memories, with a vet.

**2023 DISTRICT CONVENTIONS – By Date
TENTATIVE SCHEDULE**

(Unless otherwise notes, times are Central Time)

DATE	DISTRICT	OFFICER ATTENDING	LOCATION	REGISTRATION (Central Time Zone)
**Sat., Feb. 11	8	**Historian Amanda	705 Main St Herman	8:30 am
Sat., Feb. 18	10	Historian Amanda	208 W Harlan Wilcox	9:30 am
Sat., Feb. 18	13	President Vicki	721 Harlan St Falls City	9:00 am
Sat., March 4	6	President Vicki	1223 Central Ave Kearney	8:30 am
Sat., March 11	5	President Vicki	Heartland Museum Lexington	9:30 am
Sat., March 11	9	President Vicki	301 Garlick Ave Curtis	9:30 am
Sun., March 12	2	President Vicki	Atkinson Post 86 Atkinson	9:30 am
Sat., March 18	3	President Vicki	City Audit - 424 Main St Winside	8:30 am
Sat., March 18	7	Historian Amanda	224 Oak St Dodge	9:30 am
Sat., March 18	12	Chaplain Ruth	115 Locust Hickman	8:30 am
Sat., March 25	1	President Vicki	206 Sprague St Rushville	7:30 am Mountain Time
Sat., March 25	11	Chaplain Ruth	701 Dorsey Beatrice	9:30 am
Sat., April 1	4	President Vicki	1425 9 th St Gering	9:30 am Mountain Time

**** changed to Historian Amanda due to Lincoln Pilgrimage for President Vicki**

PRAYERS PLEASE

As the 2023 Department Chaplain, I would like to create a beautiful prayer book for President Vicki. I need your help! I would like to request prayers, little sayings, and bible passages. Small images that go with the verses or prayers are welcomed. I will insert what is submitted in President Vicki's Prayer Book as a memory for her year.

Please type the prayers single spaced, on a one-sided page. More than one prayer can be on one page. You can include an image or graphic. If you are quoting a bible verse, please include where it is in the bible. Please include the author if the prayer has been published.

Please submit these to me by May 1, 2023. You may email them to rhieltbri@gmail.com or mail to Ruth Hietbrink, 735 Washington Street, Sterling NE 68443. If you have any questions, please call me at 402-239-6371.

Chaplain Ruth Hietbrink

**AMERICAN LEGION AUXILIARY
DEPARTMENT OF NEBRASKA
2023 MID-YEAR EDUCATIONAL CONFERENCE
DEPARTMENT EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MINUTES**

Friday, January 13, 2023
Divots Convention Center, Norfolk, NE

The 90th Annual Mid-Year Educational Conference Department Executive Committee (DEC) meeting was called to order by Department President, Vicki Ozenbaugh, at 10:00 a.m.

The flag was saluted, and the invocation was given by Department Chaplain, Ruth Hietbrink.

Ozenbaugh read the American Legion Resolution 288 that calls for designation of a POW/MIA empty chair at all official meetings.

Department Historian, Amanda Washburn, led us in reciting the Pledge of Allegiance, followed by the National Anthem led by Music Chairman Jean Vackiner, and the Preamble led by National Executive Committeeperson (NEC), Beverly Neel.

Ozenbaugh welcomed all to the 2023 Mid-Year DEC meeting.

Ozenbaugh recognized Lorene Bartos serving as Co-Sergeant at Arms along with our distinguished guests: 8 & 40 National Chapeau, Lorene Bartos and 8 & 40 Departmental Chapeau, Amanda Washburn.

Ozenbaugh introduced many members in attendance. They are listed below:

***Members with National Appointments:** National Security Chair, Barb Washburn; Community Service Vice-Chair, Deb Albers; and VA & R Northwestern Division Chair, Amanda Washburn

***Past Department Presidents:** Luayne Weisgerber, Lynne Wild, Roxanne Hiatt, Donna Hatfield, Barbara Skillman, Barbara Washburn, Deb Albers, Beverly Neel, and Elizabeth Paes.

***Department Officers:** NEC Beverly Neel, Historian and Cavalcade of Memories Amanda Washburn, Chaplain and Gold Star Ruth Hietbrink, Secretary/Treasurer Jacki O'Neill, and Parliamentarian Barbara Washburn.

***District Presidents and Finance Chairman:** District One, Mary Krause; District Two, Carolyn Conroy; District Three Vice-President, Laura Novak; District Four, Luayne Weisgerber; District Five, Donna Hatfield; District Six Nancy Harrold; District Seven, Nancy Niemann; District Eight, Paula Pillen; District Nine, Maria Atterberry; District Ten, Cathy Webber; District Eleven Secretary, Loree Hendrickson; District Twelve, Charlene Hobelman; District Thirteen, vacant; and Finance Chair Adeline Hanel.

***Department Chairmen;** Beverly Neel, Auxiliary Emergency Fund (AEF) and Membership; Justina Birkel, Leadership; Loree Hendrickson, Legislative; Amanda Washburn, Constitution & Bylaws (C&B); Jean Vackiner, Music; Kathryn Cyboron, Grand Island Veterans Home; Linda Varejcka, Lincoln Community Based outpatient Clinic (CBOC), and Deb Albers, Children & Youth.

District 2 members were thanked for assisting with registration.

Ozenbaugh called for the reading of the minutes from the June 23 and June 26, 2022, DEC meetings. Amanda Washburn moved to dispense with reading the minutes since they were sent to the DEC members two weeks prior to this meeting. Nancy Harrold seconded motion. The minutes were approved as printed.

Ozenbaugh called for the reading of the minutes from the September 27, 2022, ZOOM Advisory meeting. Amanda Washburn moved to dispense with reading the minutes since they were sent to the DEC members two weeks prior to this meeting. Ruth Hietbrink seconded motion. The minutes were approved as printed.

Ozenbaugh called on the District Presidents to give brief highlights on activities in their District.

Next, Ozenbaugh asked the District Presidents if there were any units closing. Four units have completed the necessary steps to submit their charters for cancellation. They are: Stapleton Unit 324 of District Five, Merna Unit 50 of District Six, Milford Unit 171 and Nebraska City Unit 8 both from District Twelve. Luayne Weisgerber moved to accept the closure of the four units. Motion was seconded by Cathy Webber and carried.

Ozenbaugh called on the reading of the Advisory and Finance meeting minutes held on December 29, 2022, at the Department Headquarters. Ruth Hietbrink moved to dispense with reading the minutes since they were sent to the DEC members two weeks prior to this meeting. Nancy Niemann seconded motion. The minutes were approved as printed.

The Annual Girls State meeting was held on November 19, 2022, at the Department Headquarters. Ozenbaugh called for the reading of those minutes. Amanda Washburn moved to dispense with reading the minutes since they were sent to the DEC members two weeks prior to this meeting. Mary Krause seconded motion. There was one correction to the minutes. The minutes were approved as corrected.

Advisory Committee Chairman Beverly Neel was asked to report on the December 29 Advisory meeting. Neel reported that the Committee discussed the vacant position of the Department Vice-President. No action was taken. The next topic was to possibly separate the Department Secretary and Department Treasurer position. After much discussion it was decided to appoint a committee of three to establish the duties of each position. The committee consists of Vicki Ozenbaugh, Jacki O'Neill and Finance Advisor, Julie Totten. Neel then reported there was discussion on when the Scholarship committee would meet.

Ozenbaugh asked for any recommendations from the committee. Neel reported there were none. Neel introduced her committee members: Past Department Presidents Elizabeth Paes and Barbie Meyer.

Ozenbaugh called for the Finance report from Adeline Hanel. Hanel began with reporting on the Girls' State budgets. By direction of the committee, Hanel moved to accept the adoption of the Girls State budget of \$152,857 for 300 delegates. Motion was carried. Then, by direction of the committee, Hanel moved to accept the adoption of the Girls State budget of \$187,626 for 400 delegates. Motion was carried. It was discussed that both budgets needed to be adopted because there could be 300 or more delegates.

The DEC reviewed the Budget to Actual report.

There was much discussion on the Department 500 dues increase that was determined by the Finance Committee. Currently the dues for the Senior dues are \$40 and the Junior dues are \$23.25. The committee suggested that the rates be changed to \$50 per Senior member and \$15 per Junior member. Charlene Hobelman moved to accept the Department 500 dues change. Nancy Niemann seconded motion. Motion carried.

Hanel announced that the December 9, 2022, Semi-Annual Risk and Compliance audit report findings and responses were available for the DEC to review.

Hanel introduced her committee members. Barbara Skillman was in attendance. Member Eileen Gentrup and Finance Advisor Julie Totten were absent.

Ozenbaugh reported on units that are struggling with membership. There are sixteen units that currently do not have the required ten paid senior members. District Two has four Units; District Three has one; District Five has one; District Nine has four; District Ten has four; District Twelve has one; and District Thirteen has one.

Ozenbaugh called on Beverly Neel to give a report on membership. Neel spoke on the Units standings in membership and answered many questions from members of the DEC. She spoke on the difference between State Life Member (SLM), National's Paid Up For Life (PUFL) and Honorary Life Member (HLM) members and requested that all SLM members are contacted for any updates before submitting to the Department.

Next Ozenbaugh called on members seeking Department Officer candidacies to come forward and share their name, Unit, District, and the position for which they are seeking. Candidates were: Vicki Cyboron for Department Chaplain, Ruth Hietbrink for Department Historian, Amanda Washburn for Department Vice-President, no candidate for Department President and Vicki Ozenbaugh, the candidate for National Executive Committeeperson (NEC).

The Department Officers, Parliamentarian and NEC shared a "Fun Presentation" by singing a song written by Jean Vackiner.

Jacki O'Neill gave announcements.

Ruth Hietbrink gave the closing prayer.

Ozenbaugh adjourned the DEC meeting with a hand salute at 12:35 p.m.



UNIT/DISTRICT PUBLICITY BOOKS
(there is no national contest)

Send District winning book to the Department Public Relations Chairman, postmarked by May 1, 2023. They may be sent electronically (preferred) to grannygurley@gmail.com or by USPS to: Kimberly Gurley, PO Box 277, Milligan NE 68406.

DATES THE BOOK SHOULD COVER
2022 – 2023 Auxiliary Year
(or until your District judging timeline)

Scoring Points:

- 5 points - Stiff cover with ALA Emblem on front
- 5 points - Page 1: Unit Name, Number and Town
- 5 points - Page 2: Unit Officers
- 0 points - Page 3: District Officers (optional)
- 0 points - Page 4: Department Officers (optional)
- 0 points - Page 5: Pledge of Allegiance (optional)
- 0 points - Page 6: Preamble (optional)
- 75 points -- Following pages in chronological order: Dividers by month may be used, if desired.
 - Newspaper articles (name of paper and date should be above the article)
 - Emails to radio and/or TV stations
 - Posters
 - Program of events
 - Photos (photos with a description are the best)
 - Copies of Facebook or other social media posts
 - Other items used to promote Public Relations by your Unit
- 15 points - A short written narrative about how your Unit let the public know who we are, what we do and why we matter (not to exceed 500 written - can be hand-written)

UNIT E-MAIL CONTACT

Mail to: ALA
PO Box 5227
Lincoln NE 68505



District _____ Unit _____
Unit Town _____
County _____
Date _____

Every effort is made to communicate with our Units across Nebraska in a timely manner. One form of communication is the use of e-mail. Department Headquarters is requesting to have an e-mail address for every Unit on file. Ideally, this would be the President; however, not every Unit President has access to e-mail. Please complete this form and return it to Headquarters.

Member Responsible for Receiving E-Mails _____

Member Membership Number _____ Title _____

E-mail Address _____

Phone _____

2023 UNIT E-MAIL CONTACT

UNIT GOLD STAR MEMBERS

Mail to: ALA
PO Box 5227
Lincoln NE 68505



District _____ Unit _____
Unit Town _____
County _____
Date _____

The American Legion Auxiliary honors the mothers as well as the wives, daughters, and sisters of our “Fallen Heroes.” The members of these families have made the “Ultimate Sacrifice.” Please help us to keep an accurate roster of our Nebraska Gold Star members by completing this form and returning it.

Gold Star Member _____ Membership ID# _____

Address _____ City _____ State _____ ZIP _____

Phone _____ e-mail _____

Gold Star Member _____ Membership ID# _____

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