

CONTENTS

President Vicki January Jingles
National President Vickie's Itinerary
Legislative – Legislative Mini-Council Application
Membership
Unit 2023 Leadership Form
2024 Unit Dues Form



AMERICAN
LEGION
AUXILIARY

DEPARTMENT of NEBRASKA

PO Box 5227 - 5600 P Street - Lincoln, Nebraska 68504

402*466*1808 – neaux@windstream.net

DEPARTMENT PRESIDENT VICKI'S JANUARY JINGLES

Happy New Year! We are moving into the second half of my year as your Department President. Let us keep working on our programs!

MEMBERSHIP of course is top priority! Without members it is difficult to work our mission. Do you know your Unit's membership numbers? How many are paid? What is your goal? If you do not, contact your District President or Vice-President to see what your Unit needs to do yet to reach 100 percent. Nebraska has led the Northwestern Division thus far this membership year. Let us stay in the lead!

YOUR HELP IS NEEDED when requests are made. Secretary Jacki has requested many times for your response about the Form 8822B Form (November Newsletter). Deadline was December 31 and she still needs a high percentage to be returned. Also, Membership Chair Beverly has asked numerous times for help in cleaning up the incorrect mailing address (lost addresses). Do you have current mailing addresses for ALL your members? She has, also, requested that **ALL** members that are SLM, VIM, or PUFL be submitted on the 2023 Unit Membership Transmittal Form. Guess what? Not a good response to either one of those requests! Please help us get these simple tasks completed.

2024 MEMBERSHIP DUES should be on your agenda. Does your Unit need to raise them to cover the \$2 State dues and \$6 National dues increases? If you do, it needs to be voted on and your Constitution and By Laws updated with the new amount. Then you need to mail a copy of your Constitution and By Laws to Headquarters as well as the Unit Membership Dues form (included in this newsletter)

2024 UNIT MEMBERSHIP DUES form is due by March 1. (Included in this Newsletter)

NATIONAL PRESIDENT VICKIE KOUTZ'S itinerary is included in this newsletter. Units in District 2, District 3, District 5, District 6, and District 8 should plan to attend an event in your District as NP Vickie travels through. All other Units are encouraged to join us along the route, if possible.

SCHOLARSHIPS, AMERICANISM ESSAYS, POPPY POSTERS should be happening in schools (and home schools).

DISTRICT CONVENTIONS will be starting in February. The schedule was in last month's newsletter and January's STAR. Remember poppy centerpieces, publicity books, prayer books, and history books for your convention.

YOUR GENEROSITY ROCKS!! Thank you for your thoughtfulness in remembering our Veterans during the holiday season (and always). Your outstanding contributions have indeed brought smiles to the faces of many.

*Patriotism is a light: A candle's light at a vigil. A flashlight at a Boy Scout all-nighter.
A lighthouse beacon steering a sailor safely home from the sea.
It doesn't matter what the light is, or where.
It just matters that you keep it lit!*

ALA members, keep your "patriotism" lit as we move into 2023!!

**NATIONAL PRESIDENT VICKIE KOUTZ VISIT
January 23 – 27, 2023**

Monday, January 23, 2023

North Platte

Supper—Canteen Bar & Grill or Penny's Diner—7:00 pm

Tuesday, January 24, 2023

North Platte

20th Century Veterans Memorial – south of interstate – 8:15 – 9:00 am

Bailey's Yard & Golden Spike Tower – 9:30 – 11:00 am (Senior 62+ \$7 Admission)

Lunch Unit #163 - 11:00 am – area American Legion Family members invited

Kearney

Great Platte River Road Archway Monument – 1:30 pm (Senior Rate \$13)

Central Nebraska VA Home – 3:00 pm

Supper Kearney Post #52– 5:30 pm – area American Legion Family members invited

Wednesday, January 25, 2023

Grand Island

Nebraska Creative Arts at GI Medical Center – 8:00 am

Stuhr Museum of the Prairie Pioneer – 10:30 am – 12 noon (Senior Rate \$13)

St. Paul

Lunch Unit #119 – 12:30 pm – area American Legion Family members invited

Visit Medal of Honor Recipient's Grave

O'Neill – 1:45 pm

Travel Medal of Honor Highway east to South Sioux City

Possible stops: Royal, Plainview, Osmond, Laurel, Jackson

Supper South Sioux City Unit #307 – 5:00 pm – area American Legion Family members invited

Evening activity – Vietnam Veterans Memorial – 7:00 pm

Thursday, January 26, 2023

South Sioux City

Freedom Park – John Douangdara Dog Park, Freedom Rock, The Interpretive Center – 8:00 am

Dinner – Experience a Nebraska exclusive – Runza – Bellevue, NE – 12:45 pm

DPAA at Offutt Air Force Base – 1:30 – 3:00

Eastern Nebraska VA – Lee Doolen – 3:15 pm

Omaha National Cemetery – 4:30 pm

Supper Gretna Post #216 – 5:30 pm area American Legion Family members invited

Friday, January 27, 2023

Depart Omaha

LEGISLATIVE

Loree Hendrickson, Chair
511 Road 3, Unit 1 -- Shickley, NE 68436
(402) 759-6016 -- loreeh@hotmail.com

The Legislative program is in place to support the public policy positions of The American Legion (TAL), which disseminates material relating to issues involving veterans' health care, program funding, and troop and family support.

First, I encourage all Unit Presidents and Legislative Chairs, as well as any interested members, to sign up for this material as follows:

1. Go to www.legion.org/legislative.
2. Scroll down about half the page to the six photos and click on the middle one in the top row, captioned "Grassroots Action Center."
3. Here you can "Sign Up for Alerts."
4. Not comfortable signing up? Then scroll down and click on any legislation which is important to you. You can either compose your own message to Congress, or you can simply fill out the information on the right-hand side and click "Send Message" to send the Legion Family's position directly to Nebraska's Congressional representatives.
5. Download the guide at www.legion-aux.org/member/guides/advocacy-guide.
6. Consider listening to a podcast at www.legion.org/tangoalphalima.
7. **Apply for the Legislative Mini-Council (application attached) ... BUT send it to me, rather than to National Headquarters BECAUSE the Department signing up the most members to the Legislative Mini-Council prior to December 31, 2022, will receive a prize.**

Second, National TAL Commander Jim Troiola has stated that the Legion Family's key legislative priority is getting Congress to pass the Major Richard Star Act to support combat-injured veterans. Major Star deployed to Afghanistan, Iraq, and Kuwait with the U.S. Army Reserves, contracting Stage 4 lung cancer as a result of burn pits and other damaging environmental conditions. Then he learned that his disability pay would be deducted out of his retirement pay. TAL's position is that the Major Richard Star Act would end this unjust "tax" on medically retired veterans being subjected to an offset in their retirement pay for every dollar of disability received. NOW ... please consider going back to Steps 1-4 above and completing a message to our Congressional delegation in support of this and any other legislation in which you and/or your unit are interested.

Finally, remember that one voice may not make a difference on its own, but by joining together, ALA members can make a difference when we advocate for America's veterans. So let's work together over the coming year to serve America's veterans well.



American Legion Auxiliary

In the Spirit of Service Not Self for Veterans, God and Country

NATIONAL LEGISLATIVE MINI-COUNCIL INFORMATION SHEET

The American Legion Auxiliary’s National Legislative Mini-Council serves as a complimentary council to The American Legion’s National Legislative Council for the U.S. House and Senate Veterans Affairs committees. Both councils are called upon by The American Legion to advocate on behalf of veterans, servicemembers and their families.

Each member of the mini council is tasked with serving as a liaison between the Legion/Auxiliary and a member(s) of Congress. Each nominee should be on friendly terms (preferably a personal relationship) with either the member of Congress or one of their staff members, so that she can communicate, either by letter, email, phone, or in-person the priorities of The American Legion.

If you are on the mini council for more than one member of Congress, complete one form for each member of Congress. (For example, if you’re assigned to two members of Congress, you will need to complete and submit two forms.)

Mini-Council Appointee:

Name of Mini-Council Appointee: _____

Auxiliary Member Number: _____ Unit #: _____ Department: _____

Home Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ ZIP + 4: _____

Phone—Home: _____ Cell: _____ Work: _____

Email Address: _____

Congressional Information:

State: _____ Congressional District: _____

Name of Congress Member: _____

What personal/professional contact have you had with this member or a member of his/her staff?

Email the completed form to Legislative@ALAforVeterans.org or by mail to American Legion Auxiliary Washington DC Office, Attn: Legislative Program Coordinator, 1608 K St NW, Washington DC 20006.

American Legion Auxiliary National Headquarters | 3450 Founders Road. | Indianapolis, IN 46268 | Phone (317) 569-4500
Washington DC Office | 1608 K St. NW | Washington, DC 20006 | Phone (202) 263-2999
Fax (317) 569-4502 | www.ALAforVeterans.org

MEMBERSHIP STRATEGY
Beverly A. Neel, Membership Chair

Department President Vicki Ozenbaugh asked this Chairman to write for the newsletter on a **State Life Membership (SLM)** concern she has taken questions on. As a result of the request, I share the following as provided to President Vicki.

“You are correct that there are no requirements that ‘Units pay for their 2022 SLM members who were not reported into the Department for 2022.’ Those Units have failed their SLMs and basically allowed their National dues to lapse. So, yes, I truly believe it is the Unit obligation to pay for their SLMs in 2022 and the Department will pay 2023 upon receiving the Units' checks.

The only District with unpaid 2022 SLM dues into National is District 8. Then again outside of District President Paula trying desperately to get things done, Units ignore and move on. Yes, if anything else, those Units need to pay for their lapse of notification to the Department.

I made the ‘requirement’ after months of contacting Units to get things sent in. If they want to ignore me, that is fine, but they cannot ignore their obligation to their SLMs. I have not heard anything from any of the Units, except one.

I will gladly speak with anyone with questions, but I feel if we continue to let things pass, then we will be farther behind. What happens to any of those District 8 SLMs if they need AEF grants, collect on LIT insurance, or want to run for office - are they members in good standing? Not on the Department or National level until they are verified and reported to the Department and their 2022 per capita dues get sent to National and then their 2023 dues.

Early on in the 2023 membership campaign I asked some Past Department Presidents (PDPs) to assist in verifying SLM, VIM or PUFL members in **Unit 0500**. Of the 18 names, PDP Elizabeth Paes reported back that 16 were deceased and the last two may be. Some were dating back to 2005 and the Department paid their SLM dues for all that time because no one bothered to verify and report. The Department has borne too much fiscally to not stand behind the Department now and have the Units do their due diligence for each SLM member.

I am still working with the **Unit 0500** 11 SLMs from 2022 on verification so the Department can pay their 2023 dues. The effort is less than cooperative. It is not that great effort has not been put into the search. The one good thing about researching the 11, there were no obituaries found. Therefore, I presume they are alive and the Department should go ahead and pay the **Unit 0500** remaining 2023 SLM per capita dues to National.”

Thank you,
Beverly A. Neel

DEPARTMENT PRESIDENT’S COMMENT

I understand your concerns, as well as frustration, from the lack of response from District 8. Your perseverance to get the 2022 SLM's submitted is commendable. However, without a Standing Rule to substantiate the request that Unit's pay for these past due memberships, it is inappropriate to require them to be paid by the Units. Therefore, for the remainder of this membership year, I am requesting that the wording reflect that--only a suggestion to remit with the transmittal form.

Vicki Ozenbaugh, Department President

UNIT LEADERSHIP FORM

Mail to: ALA

PO Box 5227

Lincoln NE 68505



District _____ Unit _____

Unit Town _____

County _____

Date _____

PLEASE CIRCLE THE MONTHS THAT YOU MEET - JAN FEB MAR APR MAY JUNE JULY AUG SEPT OCT NOV DEC

DAY OF THE WEEK _____ TIME _____ LOCATION _____

An e-mail address is requested if available. E-mail is becoming the communication of choice for National; Department, District, and Units to save postage and provide ease of single or group communications. Please PRINT clearly and return to Department Headquarters following your Unit elections. The form is required yearly even if officers & chairmen remain the same. Changes may be called in at 402-466-1808.

UNIT PRESIDENT: _____

ADDRESS (mail newsletters to): _____

PHONE: _____ EMAIL: _____

UNIT VICE-PRESIDENT: _____

ADDRESS: _____

PHONE: _____ EMAIL: _____

UNIT SECRETARY: _____

ADDRESS: _____

PHONE: _____ EMAIL: _____

UNIT TREASURER: _____

ADDRESS: _____

PHONE: _____ EMAIL: _____

UNIT MEMBERSHIP: _____

ADDRESS: _____

PHONE: _____ EMAIL: _____

UNIT CHAPLAIN: _____

UNIT HISTORIAN: _____

UNIT Cavalcade of Memories: _____

UNIT AMERICANISM: _____

UNIT CHILDREN & YOUTH: _____

UNIT EDUCATION: _____

UNIT GIRLS STATE: _____

UNIT JUNIOR ACTIVITIES: _____

UNIT LEADERSHIP: _____

UNIT LEGISLATURE: _____

UNIT NATIONAL SECURITY: _____

UNIT POPPY: _____

UNIT VETERAN'S AFFAIRS: _____

UNIT OTHER: _____

UNIT OTHER: _____

UNIT OTHER: _____



District _____ Unit # _____

Unit town _____

Date _____

American Legion Auxiliary – Department of Nebraska

PO Box 5227, Lincoln NE 68505 - Phone 402-466-1808 – Email neaux@windstream.net

NOTE: This form determines the information that will be printed on the renewal notices your Unit Members receive.

2024 UNIT DUES DATA FORM – RETURN BY MARCH 1, 2023

Standing Rule Q – Membership #2 was amended to increase the Nebraska dues portion by \$2 beginning with the 2024 year. In addition, at the 2022 National ALA Convention an amendment was approved to increase the National dues portion by \$6 beginning in 2024. When setting your Unit Members’ dues, you will need to vote on the portion your Unit will keep. Junior dues are NOT affected by the dues increases noted. Only Senior dues.

All Senior dues collected must be \$30.25 or more to cover the Department and National portions. If not, your Unit will have to pay the difference.

Unit Portion of Senior Dues	\$ _____ (this amount stays in your Unit)
Department Portion of Dues	\$ 12.25
National Portion of Dues	\$ 18.00
Total Senior Dues per Unit Member	\$ _____ (not SLM, VIM , PUFL)

Unit Portion of Junior Dues	\$ _____ (this amount stays in your Unit)
Department Portion of Dues	\$ 1.25
National Portion of Dues	\$ 2.50
Total Junior Dues per Unit Member	\$ _____ (not SLM, VIM , PUFL)

The Remit To/Membership Chairman information is necessary, so membership dues are submitted to the correct person as well as to have on file who is responsible for receiving and processing dues for each member.

2024 Remit to/Membership Chair: _____

Address Unit membership payments sent to: _____
PO Box or Physical Address

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Phone: _____ Email: _____

Signature : _____ Title _____

If you have any questions, please email neaux@windstream.net or call 402-466-1808.