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AMERICAN
LEGION
AUXILIARY

DEPARTMENT of NEBRASKA
5600 P Street - PO Box 5227
Lincoln, Nebraska 68504
402-466-1808
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DEPARTMENT PRESIDENT VICKI'S APRIL AWARENESS

The season of District Conventions has wound down. Many miles have been traveled over this great state by your District Officers. Thank you for the wonderful hospitality you extended to Chaplain Ruth, Historian Amanda, and myself. It is now time to make you aware of the latest news.

NEW HEADQUARTERS BUILDING PURCHASED

- A new building was purchased, and we will take possession on April 3.
- Located at 150 Northwest 40th Street (on west O Street, former AKRS {John Deer} building).
- Purchase price \$1 million (included beautiful new furniture).
- One level with lots of parking space.
- Pictures are included in this newsletter.

CURRENT HEADQUARTERS BUILDING HAS BEEN SOLD

- Within two days of the "For Sale" signs being posted, our current building was sold.
- Received our asking price of \$800,000.
- Not aware of the closing date at this time.

AUXILIARY SHARE

- The Auxiliary owns one-third of each building.
- We have the funds to cover our share.
- A moving company has been hired to move our possessions for \$5,120.

END OF YEAR REPORTS

- Fillable form is on our website.
- Due to headquarters April 20.
- May email or regular mail.

DEPARTMENT CONVENTION

- The Convention Call is included in this newsletter. It must be read at your next Unit meeting.
- The location for the Convention has CHANGED!
- Due to ongoing hotel disrepair and health concerns.
- It will now be held at Younes Conference Center South, Kearney.
- If you have made reservations at The Ramada, you will want to cancel them.
- New hotel choices are Comfort Inn (308-236-3400) or LaQuinta (308-237-4400).
- Unfortunately, the room rates are higher (\$129.95 plus tax), but you will be at a much nicer facility.
- A \$35 fee will be charged for any extra tables set up in the hallways.
- Our Northwestern Division VP Marlene Boyer will be our guest.
- My wish is that every Unit will have at least one member attend.
- A tentative agenda is included with this newsletter.
- Sons of the American Legion holding a Children & Youth Academy. Flyer included with this newsletter.

GIRLS STATE

- Welcome letters have been sent to the 293 Girls State Citizens.
- Acceptance letters have been sent to the Units.
- They must register online.
- They must attend one of the three on line Orientations (April 27 at 7 pm, May 10 at 6:30 pm, or May 16 at 7 pm).
- Kimball Hall on the UNL campus is under renovation, so unfortunately there will be no choir, band, or joint sessions.

WALKER/WHEELCHAIR PHONE CADDY PATTERNS

- At Mid-Year a request was expressed for the need of a phone caddy for walkers or wheelchairs.
- Ohio ALA #193 member, Phyllis Schoenholz, upon my request and with the initial creation of one by Donna Hatfield, put together three different patterns for making a phone caddy.
- They are included in this newsletter for all you ALA seamstresses.

THE STAR

- THE NEBRASKAN LEGIONNAIRE, due to a shortage of staff with The American Legion, will temporarily be taken out of circulation after the June issue.
- As THE STAR is mailed with the Legion's paper, this might affect our publication.
- I am checking into the possibility of the American Legion Auxiliary continuing to issue our paper during the temporary time period the Legion is not publishing.

As always, **THANK YOU** for what you do for our Veterans, their families, our communities, and our children and young people. Remember that April is Children and Youth Month. What do you have planned? And do not forget to report it!

Patriotism is God blessing America and you passing the blessing along.



2023 DEPARTMENT CONVENTION

AMERICAN LEGION AUXILIARY
Department of Nebraska
April 2023

The Department "Convention Call" will be mailed out to the Units sixty (60) days prior to the Department Convention. (Department Constitution, Standing Rules "Conference and Conventions," Paragraph 4)

UNIT PRESIDENTS ARE REQUESTED TO READ THIS CALL AT THE
EARLIEST POSSIBLE MEETING OF THE UNIT.

A SPECIAL MEETING SHOULD BE CALLED IF NECESSARY.

Call for the One hundred-third Annual Department Convention

The 103rd Annual Convention of the American Legion Auxiliary, Department of Nebraska, is hereby called and will be held in Kearney, Nebraska, June 22-25, 2023. Auxiliary Headquarters will be at the Younes Conference Center. Kearney Unit 52 will be the host Unit. The Department of Nebraska American Legion and Sons of the American Legion will be headquartered at the same facility.

PURPOSE

The Convention is called for the purpose of:

1. Electing Department officers for the ensuing year.
2. Electing delegates and alternates to the 2023 National Convention,
3. Receiving reports of Department officers, Department chairmen and the National Executive Committeewoman.
4. Transaction of such business as may be brought before it in conformity with the provisions of the National and Department Constitutions.

REPRESENTATION

Representation in said Convention shall be by Units. Each Unit shall be entitled to two (2) delegates and to one (1) additional delegate for each twenty-five (25) members or major fraction thereof, whose dues have been received by the Department Secretary-Treasurer at least thirty (30) days prior to the first day of said Convention and to one (1) alternate for each delegate. *(Department Constitution, Standing Rules, Conferences and Conventions, Paragraph 4)*

DELEGATE STRENGTH WILL BE BASED ON EACH UNIT'S 2023 MEMBERSHIP IN DEPARTMENT HEADQUARTERS ON May 23, 2023. The delegates and alternates shall be elected by their respective Units at least three (3) weeks before said Convention and notice of election be forwarded immediately to the

Department Secretary-Treasurer. *(Department Constitution, Standing Rules, Conferences and Conventions, Paragraph 4)*

The voting age of eighteen (18) years for members of the American Legion Auxiliary was adopted at the 1930 National Convention in Boston.

Members of the Department Executive Committee shall be delegates-at-large to the Department Convention, with vote to be exercised with their Units. *(Department Constitution, Article III, Section 7)*

Past Department Presidents in good standing in their Units shall be life delegates-at-large to the Department Convention, with vote to be exercised with their Unit. *((Department Constitution, Article III, Section 6)*

ALTERNATES

Each Unit is entitled to send and seat in the Convention a number of alternates equal to the number of delegates to which such Unit is entitled. An alternate shall have power to vote only in the absence of the delegate. The selection of any one of the alternates to represent any certain delegate who may be absent is a matter of decision within the respective delegation.

MEMBERS

Unit members who are not Delegates or Alternates may register as Members and will be admitted to the Convention Hall.

GUESTS

Guests of Unit delegations will be admitted to the Convention Hall.

DEPARTMENT CHAIRMEN

Department Chairmen, unless elected as delegates or alternates to the Convention, have no privilege in the Convention except as any other member. Units having Department Chairmen among their members may want to make them delegates as their presence will be valuable to the Convention.

CREDENTIALS

ONLY the UNIT PRESIDENT will receive the bulletin stating the number of delegates and alternates that your unit is entitled to. These numbers will be mailed when delegate strength is figured on May 23, 2023. The Unit President is responsible for the election of delegates and alternates. The delegates and alternates will fill in the registration card at time of registration. The registration committee will verify that members are in good standing and that the number of delegates and alternates that register does not exceed the allowed members per unit. Units are reminded that members must be registered and in the Convention Hall by 9:15 am, Sunday, June 25, if serving as delegates or alternates, as voting will take place soon after that time.

CHAIRMAN OF DELEGATION

Each Unit delegation should elect a chairman prior to departure of the delegation for the Convention. The duties of the Chairman are to see that the credentials of her delegation are properly presented, to mark present or absent the members of her delegation, and to cast the vote of her delegation.

Showing your 2023 membership card will speed up the registration process. Also, reporting the members your Unit elected as delegates and alternates in advance can guarantee that the member will have a preprinted name badge.

EXPENSES

Unit Delegates' and Alternates' expenses must be paid by the Unit if the Unit authorizes such expense or by the delegates and alternates themselves.

REGISTRATION FEE

(Department Constitution, Standing Rules, Conferences and Conventions, Paragraph 2)

Delegates, Alternates and Senior members will be charged a registration fee of **\$10.00**, this fee to be applied toward convention expenses incurred by the Department.

Junior members will be charged a registration fee of **\$5.00**, that fee will not, include the packet with the Convention Annual.

Guests will be charged a registration fee of **\$10.00** to be applied toward convention expenses incurred by the hostess Unit.

HOUSING

Be sure to tell the hotel you are with The American Legion. There will be no reservations made by the Department headquarters. That means the "Official Family" and each Unit delegation will make its own reservations by writing or calling the motel/hotel of its choice. A listing of motels in the Kearney area will be listed in your June "Legionnaire" combined Auxiliary, "The Star" newspaper. If you have questions about lodging, please call The American Legion at the Department Headquarters. The phone number is 402-464-6338.

RESOLUTIONS / RECOMMENDATIONS

All amendments to the governing documents and one-time resolutions shall be submitted to the Department Secretary to record by the later of April 15 or two (2) weeks following the last District Convention. Amendments shall be forwarded to the Constitution and Bylaws Committee by May 1. One-time resolutions shall be forwarded to the Resolutions Committee by May 1 for appropriate action.

The American Legion Auxiliary Department of Nebraska Constitution and Bylaws may be amended at any Department Convention by a two-thirds vote of the Department Convention delegates, provided that proposed amendments shall have been submitted through the Department Secretary to the Units and members of the DEC by distributing same to them at least twenty (20) days prior to the convening of the next Department Convention. Units shall be responsible for distributing the proposed amendments to their Unit delegates. *(Department Constitution, Bylaws, Article XI, Section 2)*

Amendments proposed after the distribution date may be adopted by a two-thirds vote of the Department Convention delegates, provided they have been read at one meeting of the session prior to taking the vote. *(Department Constitution, Bylaws, Article XI, Section 3)*

DEPARTMENT ADVISORY and FINANCE COMMITTEES

The Department Advisory and Finance Committee will meet prior to the Department Convention. (Time and place to be set by Department President.)

DEPARTMENT EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

The 2022-2023 Department Executive Committee will tentatively meet on-site prior to the 2023 Convention opening.

The 2023-2024 Department Executive Committee will tentatively meet on Sunday, June 25, following installation.

REQUESTING ASSISTANCE FROM MEMBERS

The Department President and Secretary are looking for ways to share Convention duties among the members. Volunteers are needed for registration, elections and any other Convention needs. Please contact the Department Secretary with volunteers' names. They will receive instructions and a schedule of their duties prior to the Convention. The registration table will be close to the convention hall so the volunteers will not miss the reports and actions of the members.

NOTE: Instructions covering the program, order of business, etc. will be mailed at a later date and will also be published in the June "Legionnaire" combined Auxiliary "The Star" newspaper.

Jacki O'Neill
Department Secretary

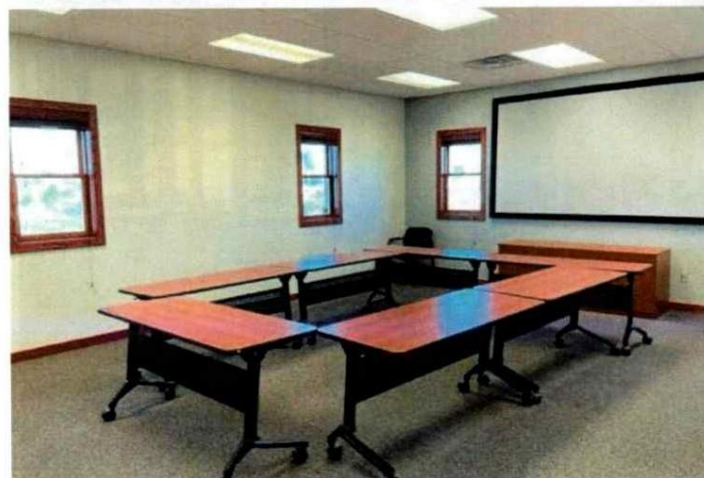
Vicki Ozenbaugh
Department President

Please try to encourage your members to attend the Department Convention!

Please call 402-466-1808 with any questions.



The new American Legion & American Legion Auxiliary Building – 150 NW 40th Street



2023 DEPARTMENT CONVENTION TENTATIVE AGENDA
The Younes Conference Center – Kearney, Nebraska
June 22 – 25, 2023

Thursday, June 22

1:00 pm ALA Department Executive Committee Meeting
7:00 pm Special Committee Meetings (if needed)

Friday, June 23

8:00 am Registration Opens
9:00 am ALA Formal Opening and General Session
11:45 am Recess for Lunch
1:00 pm Joint Session and Memorial Service
2:40 pm ALA Reconvenes
5:00 pm District Caucus
5:30 pm Recess
5:45 pm Nominating Committee Meeting
7:00 pm Veterans Affairs & Rehabilitation Meeting

Saturday, June 24

8:00 am Registration Opens
8:30 am ALA Reconvenes
11:00 am Gold Star Recognition Service
11:15 am Past Department President Memorial Service
12:00 pm Children & Youth Luncheon Kearney Post
1:45 pm ALA Reconvenes
4:30 pm Special Guests and Candidates Reception
6:00 pm Catholic Mass Worship Service
7:00 pm Tentative American Legion Family Gathering Kearney Post

Sunday, June 25

8:00 am American Legion Family Joint Worship Service
9:15 am ALA Reconvenes
11:00 am Installation of Officers
12:00 pm Close of 2023 Convention
Post DEC Meeting and 2023 National Convention Information
Charlotte, North Carolina – August 25-31



From Pro-Tem Secretary – Jacki O’Neill’s Two Cents Worth!

The checks have been sent to the unit treasurer or membership chairperson for the over payments from the Nebraska level. The amount includes the online payments and PUFL portions owed to the units from the National level.

The unit’s Federal 990 forms that could be filed beginning January 1, 2023 have been filed. Your unit will be receiving a copy of the filing very soon. There are a few units that have July or September 2023 deadlines.

The office staff will be bringing the 2024 membership cards to the Department Convention in June. Any member of a Unit may pick up that Unit’s cards. If you have been asked by another unit to deliver their cards, you need a signed permission slip. Last year there were too many units that didn’t receive their cards in a timely fashion because they were picked up without written permission. The option is still available to have the unit cards mailed to you or picked up at the office. The cost to mail the unit their cards is \$10.

Elections of officers are happening in units this time of the year. The unit president receives the correspondence from Department. Send your new unit officer forms to the department office soon after elections to keep our list current.

As your pro-tem secretary, I have to provide to the National ALAMIS team your unit’s updated 2024 membership dues in May. The amounts must be \$30.25 or more per senior member. If your unit does not provide me with an update, National will automatically use \$30.25 as the dues amount. Unfortunately, the unit’s members’ dues amount CANNOT be less than \$30.25.

2024 PERMISSION TO TAKE MEMBERSHIP CARDS

Unit No. _____ of _____ gives permission to the below named individual to pick up our 2024 membership cards at the Department Convention in Kearney, Nebraska, June 22-25, 2023.

Name of Individual _____

Permission granted by _____

Name Title Unit #



You are invited
to attend

The Children and Youth Luncheon

Kearney Legion Post
1223 Central Avenue, Kearney, NE

June 24, 2023 - 12:00 Noon

Cost \$10

Hamburger/Salads/Chips

RSVP to Deb Albers by June 9, 2023

dalbers727@gmail.com

402-364-3162

Detach and send to Deb Albers, 1759 Rd. 5200, Davenport, NE 68335 Make check payable to
Nebraska American Legion Auxiliary

Name(s) _____

Phone _____

Number Attending _____ X \$10 Total _____

Return by June 9, 2023

MEMBERSHIP – THE NEBRASKA WAY

Members of the Nebraska ALA – YOU ARE THE GREATEST!!! We have reached the 85% Department Goal threshold to receive \$250 from the National organization. We had that goal reached by March 15, 2023. When we are at Department Convention in June 2023 (22 – 25th) in Kearney NE at the Younes Conference Center, we will learn how those \$250 will be used for membership. I would like your help on how those funds should be used. Send me an email no later than Monday, May 15, 2023 with your suggestions. Email me at bbneel1912@gmail.com How the money is used must be to the betterment of our organization and have the most coverage across Nebraska. Ponder your thoughts, and I do expect to have some great ideas.

I have been privileged to attend Spring Conventions and they have been exciting, surprising, fantastic, and just down right terrific. Our leadership across the Department in our Units, Counties, Districts and Department is a tough bunch of members who never give up, are prepared to conquer and ready to assist. Who could ask for anything more?

That describes all our ALA members. There is something that each member can give to the Unit, the County, the District and the Department that is uniquely their own. Have you given that “something” yet? You still have time. The best “something” for this Chairman is pay your dues now. But better yet, get in the habit of marking your 2023 calendar on July 1 – PAY MY ALA DUES and get it into the Unit. EVERY ALA member must have a 2024 membership card on January 1, 2024 to be a member in good standing. Without that card when you attend a meeting, participate in a Unit event, make a donation to an ALA program, or bake a cake for a funeral – you are doing so as a GUEST of the ALA, not a member.

Our membership dues campaign is based on the timespan of July 1 through December 31. Our actual membership card is good only for the 365 (366) days between January 1 through December 31. For those ALA members who have not been told this, have not accepted it, or have not applied this method of operation to their ALA membership – now is the time to get that habit firmly in place. We do not want to lose you, your talent, your skills, your ideas, your energy. We need all of you. So grab your calendar now as you read this and mark it for July 1.

Incidentally, July 1 also will be the day the \$2.00 Department and the \$6.00 National dues increases take effect. Now is the time to get signed up to be a PUFL member – National’s Paid Up For Life plan. It is based on your current Unit dues rate and your age. Pretty darn simple. It is recommended, if you want to beat the July 1 dues increases, that you get your paperwork completed and sent off to the National organization before May 31, 2023. REMEMBER – before you can sign up for PUFL, your 2023 Unit dues must be paid in full.

Did you know VIM is PUFL? YES!!! Here is a bit of history on the VIM and/or PUFL acronyms you may find on your Unit membership roster. The question was asked, and this seemed to answer it well.

VIM membership was established by a resolution adopted at the February 18, 1981, National Executive Committee Meeting in Washington, D.C.

Any member in good standing whose membership dues were paid for the current year could become a VIM member, the National Headquarters Auxiliary Life membership program. The membership status had to be verified, and application signed by the unit secretary to be valid.

The member purchased a VIM membership with a one-time lump sum payment. A VIM membership could have been purchased as a gift for a member. The cost of the VIM membership was based on two factors: age of the member and the unit dues amount at the time the application is processed.

The VIM Trust Fund is maintained by National Headquarters. The monies from the Trust Fund can be used only to support the VIM program and to pay annual dues per capita each year to the unit, department, and National Headquarters. The interest income from the Trust fund is used to cover the cost of dues increases to the national and department levels.

In February 2010 the American Legion Auxiliary’s National Executive Committee agreed that the lifetime membership program would be known simply as Paid Up for Life (PUFL). The application form to apply for **PUFL** can be found at alaforveterans.org (“About Us” tab, “Membership Eligibility,” “Application/Brochures,” Paid Up for Life Application {PUFL}) or on our website under the Forms tab.

Spring is just around the corner as I have seen some pretty plump robins in my yard. Easter is near, and I wish for each of you a blessed Easter season. Be sure each Unit reports its activity, volunteer hours, donations, miles, etc., and get that sent to the Department by April 20. This is a huge task for the Department and when Units get it completed in a timely fashion, then our Department Chairmen can have their reports completed on time for the Northwestern Division. **Yes, your Department Membership Chairman wants each Unit to share how did you plan out your membership campaign – what was successful – what needs a bit of assistance – did you reach your Goal.** Thank you all.

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

AUXILIARY EMERGENCY FUND (AEF) - MEMBERS HELPING MEMBERS

What a great opportunity for members to be an aide to another member. This is the only ALA program that directly affects members of the ALA because we, as ALA members, take care of each other. What better bond is there in the ALA than to know that when we are in need we have our fellow members there to assist. That is the purpose of AEF. There is a need – the ALA is there to help make times easier, provide comfort and see that we do not leave our members go it alone.

Your generous donations to the AEF are one of the greatest investments we as members can provide to each other. Please consider your ability to make a donation, large or small. Every penny counts. Our members are in need and some day we may be that member.

Thank you for all your ALA years of service and dedication to our Veterans, Military, Children & Youth and your fellow members. The reward in our hearts is greater than any monetary donation we could ever dream to give or receive. Blessings to all!

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

SONS OF THE
AMERICAN
LEGION
DETACHMENT
OF
NEBRASKA



Children & Youth Academy

SATURDAY, JUNE 24TH 1:00PM-4:30PM

YOUNES CONFERENCE CENTER SOUTH 416
W.TALMADGE RO.
KEARNEY, NE 68845

Calling all school-aged American Legion Family members. Join the Detachment for our first ever Children & Youth Academy. The earlier we involve our youth, the brighter our future will be!

"Education is not the filling of a pail,
but the lighting of a fire"
-William Butler Yeats

TRAINING WILL INCLUDE: FLAG
EDUCATION
ROLES & RESPONSIBILITIES PROTOCOL
FACT & FICTION

