



The NEBRASKA Legionnaire

January/February 2023

Volume XCVIII Number 5



Commanders' and Presidents' Pet Projects



Each year, the Department Commander and Department President select programs to support during their time in office. These programs are typically something that is meaningful to them, and to our Department.

Commander Don Suchy served over two decades on either the Department or National Children & Youth Committee. He is a strong advocate and supporter of our nation's children, especially military children. This year he is asking for donations to the Children & Youth programs, the Child Welfare Foundation, and the Veteran's & Children Foundation.

The American Legion has many Children & Youth Programs that assist active duty military families and veteran families. In 1952, Dr. Garland D. Murphy Jr. gave a large contribution that would benefit children to The American Legion. The American Legion Child Welfare Foundation (CWF) was developed as a repository of funds from individuals who wished to contribute to the betterment of children in this country. Their goal is to contribute to the physical, mental, emotional and spiritual welfare of children and youth by aiding progress in the field of child welfare through dissemination of knowledge about research, studies, surveys, projects, or by supporting programs and activities benefiting the welfare of children and youth. Nebraska has been the recipients of a few CWF grants over the years. These include multiple grants to Boys' Town and Omaha Children's Hospital and have totaled over \$50,000.

The American Legion Veterans & Children Foundation feeds and houses children of military personnel and veterans facing urgent, unexpected hardships. It prevents eviction, keeps the power on and fulfills basic needs to hold a family together through difficult

times. The foundation also covers rigorous training and accreditation costs for American Legion claims experts who provide free representation for veterans and families applying for disability benefits, survivor assistance, GI Bill opportunities and more. Since its inception in 1925 as the American Legion Endowment Fund, the foundation has assisted millions of veterans, their families and children in need. The fund was renamed American Legion Veterans & Children Foundation in 2019 to more clearly state who benefits from tax-deductible donations to the separate non-profit 501c3 element of the nation's largest veterans organization. The foundation relies entirely on charitable donations from individuals, like-minded associations and corporate allies.

President Vicki Ozenbaugh has always been a strong supporter of the Red, White, and Blue. While she was Americanism Chairman, she wore her hair that color to show patriotism and love of our country. She is asking for donations for the Defense POW/MIA Accounting Agency at Offutt Air Force Base and for wreaths and small flags to be placed on the Nebraska Medal of Honor awardee graves.

The Defense POW/MIA Accounting Agency's (DPAA) mission is to provide the fullest possible accounting for our missing personnel from past conflicts to their families and the nation. Currently, they are actively searching for missing personnel from World War II, the Korean War, the Vietnam War, the Cold War, the Gulf Wars, and other recent conflicts. They work with hundreds of countries around the world during their research and operational missions. At present, more than 81,500 Americans remain missing from all of these conflicts. Out of the more than 81,500 missing, 75% of the losses are located in the Indo-Pacific, and over 41,000 of the missing are presumed lost at sea (i.e. ship losses, known aircraft water losses, etc.). Nebraska is lucky enough to have one of the two DPAA Labs at Offutt Air Force Base. The other is located at Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickman, Hawaii.

Currently, there are 3,515 military members who were awarded the Medal of Honor (MOH) for their act of bravery. The Nebraska Medal of Honor Foundation supports Nebraska Medal of Honor Recipients and provides funding for events and other support. The foundation works with active military and veterans groups in Nebraska such as The American Legion, Veterans of Foreign Wars, Disabled American Veterans, American Veterans, and others. They are a Nebraska non-profit LLC. Nebraska has 27 Indian Wars MOH veterans, 19 Civil War MOH veterans, 4 War With Spain MOH veterans, 2 World War I MOH veterans, 11 World War II MOH veterans, 2 Korean War MOH veterans, and 8 Vietnam War MOH veterans. While not all of them were buried in Nebraska, each has a Nebraska tie.

If your Post, Unit, Squadron, Chapter, or any individual would like to make a donation to their projects, please mail your donation to PO Box 5205 - Lincoln, NE 68505. We wish both Commander Don and President Vicki good luck this year.

FOR GOD AND COUNTRY


The Nebraska Legionnaire
P.O. Box 5205
Lincoln, NE 68505-0205

THE ROAD TO SUCCESS

2023 MEMBERSHIP GOAL: 24,835 DECEMBER 14TH TOTAL: 19,066 - 76.77%

DISTRICT 7 - 83.05%	DISTRICT 2 - 80.08%	DISTRICT 15 - 78.47%	DISTRICT 6 - 77.67%	DISTRICT 10 - 77.24%
DISTRICT 8 - 76.79%	DISTRICT 11 - 76.49%	DISTRICT 12 - 74.69%	DISTRICT 1 - 74.00%	DISTRICT 5 - 72.88%
DISTRICT 3 - 72.73%	DISTRICT 4 - 72.41%	DISTRICT 13 - 72.19%	DISTRICT 9 - 60.67%	





Commander's Corner

Don Suchy
Department Commander



Greetings everyone, here is hoping everyone had a Merry Christmas, and a Happy New Year. Hope you have made your New Year's resolutions, and you are keeping the American Legion in those resolutions. Increasing our membership would be a great resolution.

November brought many Veterans Day activities. The schools across the state need to be commended for their time and effort for hosting the Veterans Day programs in their schools, and remembering all Veterans. I attended the Raymond Central Veterans Day program, this was the most outstanding Veterans Day program I've ever attended. Principal Scott Shepherd did an amazing job. Guest speaker was former Governor Dave Heineman, who kept the attention of all pre-K to 12th grades in attendance.

From Raymond Central we traveled to Grand Island. I was the guest speaker at Howard Elementary School where our own District 6 Commander Julie Schnitzler is also Principal. I spoke to 350 very attentive students there. Commander Julie even surprised the kids by wearing her military uniform, thank you Commander Julie for inviting me. We also attended the Valparaiso Veterans Day potluck meal at my home post.

We attended a Veterans Day banquet in Ashland, we were served a delicious steak meal, and our guest speaker was Andrew Siemek, from the Nebraska Army National Guard Camp in Ashland. I was honored to present membership awards to some of Ashland's members. Congratulations to these recipients.

Adjutant Dave Salak and I flew to Charlotte, NC to explore the hotel and surroundings for the National Convention to be held there in August. It's a great hotel and city, hope you will make plans to attend. Might be a good idea to bring your walking shoes.



On November 30, Marge and I, Adjutant Dave Salak, Alternate NEC Jim Costello, District 1 Commander Judy Walters, Area D Vice Commander Gene VonForell, and District 1 Vice Commander Gary Sones headed out on the District 1 Membership Tour. We started out at Ainsworth with a delicious breakfast, then on to Newport, and Bassett for lunch. Valentine was our next stop, and we spent the night there. In the morning we stopped in Cody, thanks


for the great breakfast. We then stopped in Gordon, Rushville, Hay Springs, and then Chadron where we were treated to a banquet that night. The next morning we drove up to the Veterans Medical Center and Domiciliary in Hot Springs, SD. We were given a grand tour of the Veterans Home, we delivered 3 carloads of ditty bags and other useful items for their veteran residents. We also did a drive through of the Hot Springs National Cemetery. Last on our tour we backtracked a little and visited the Crawford Legion post, before heading home. I would like to thank all of the District 1 Posts for participating in this tour and for all the great food and hospitality you provided for our group.

We are doing very well in membership as of this writing, we are sitting in 5th place at National. Eleven districts are above 70%, and District 2 and District 7 have already exceeded 75%, thank you for all your great effort. Congratulations to Districts 2 & 7 for leading the road to success.

Looking forward to seeing you at Midyear in Norfolk January 13-15. Don't forget the Oratorical contest on Saturday evening, hope you will come out and support these contestants from all four Areas, the winner will advance to the National contest in Indianapolis.


In closing, let's keep in mind the National Commander's motto of "No Veteran Left Behind", and my motto of "Serving Our Veterans on the Road to Success". We do not pick and choose who we represent, we represent all Veterans.

"Serving Our Veterans on the Road to Success"



S.A.L. Notes

Chris Casey
Detachment Commander



Greetings from the Detachment of Nebraska! Happy New Year to The Nebraska American Legion Family. Thanks for all your demanding work in 2022 and we look forward to another great year in 2023. If you do not have a 2023 membership card at this point, your membership is delinquent. Please contact your Adjutant or Membership Chair to get renewed today!

I hope you have made plans to attend our Mid-Year Conference in Norfolk, January 13 - 15, 2023. Leading Candidate for Sons of The American Legion National Commander, Don "JR" Hall, will be our guest during the weekend. The DEC will meet on Friday evening at 6:00 PM. If your time is limited, as is usually the case, please make plans to attend on Saturday. The training will be worth your time and make all of us better members!

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- Commander.....Don Suchy, Valparaiso
- Senior Vice Commander.....John Henry Percy, Papillion
- Area A Vice Commander.....Carl Lorenzen, Blair
- Area B Vice Commander.....Ken Meyer, Creighton
- Area C Vice Commander.....Dick Binder, Minden
- Area D Vice Commander.....Gene VonForell, Crawford
- Adjutant.....Dave Salak, Lincoln
- Programs Director.....Eric Martin, Lincoln
- Chaplain.....Fr. Alexander Borzych, St. Paul
- Historian.....Jennifer Laux, Omaha
- Judge Advocate.....William Harris, Omaha
- Finance Officer.....Mark Novak, Dawson
- Sergeant-At-Arms.....Fred Tisdale, Omaha
- Asst. Sergeant-At-Arms.....Albert Bartek, Valparaiso
- Service Officer.....Levi Bennett, Lincoln
- National Executive Committeeman.....Fred Craigie, Lincoln
- Alternate NECman.....Jim Costello, Bellevue

District Commanders

- Dist. 1.....Judy Walters, Ainsworth
- Dist. 2.....Kelley Hanvey, Center
- Dist. 3.....Michael Ellis, Jackson
- Dist. 4.....Steve Stanec, Alliance
- Dist. 5.....Scott Bell, North Platte
- Dist. 6.....Julie Schnitzler, Kenesaw
- Dist. 7.....Jerry Schulte, Omaha
- Dist. 8.....Ron Riley, Omaha
- Dist. 9.....Ron Wiest, Moorefield
- Dist. 10.....Don Nelson, Clay Center
- Dist. 11.....Tom Crisman, Crete
- Dist. 12.....William Lawrence, Nehawka
- Dist. 13.....Scott Buss, Sterling
- Dist. 15.....Bruce Gubser, Lincoln



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Legionnaire

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If you would rather receive the Nebraska Legionnaire by email or view it online, send in this form. The email and online edition of the newspaper is usually available a week or so before the paper arrives in your mailbox. All we need from you is your email address.

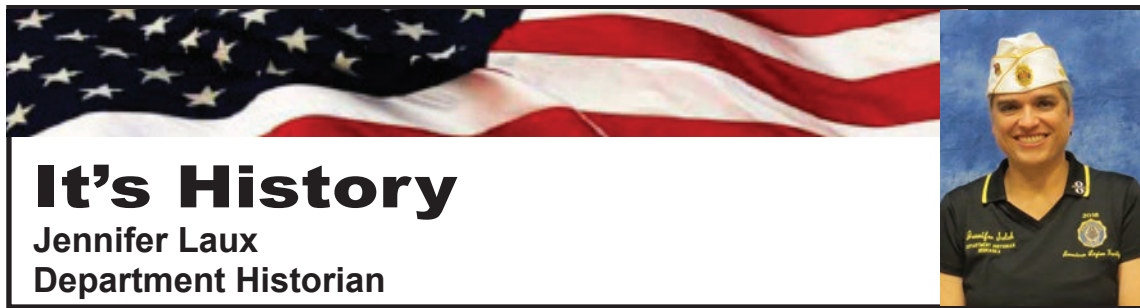
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Mail this form to The American Legion, PO Box 5205, Lincoln, NE 68505, or you can email the information to kzpestel@windstream.net



It's History
Jennifer Laux
Department Historian



POW/MIA
Boyd Yochum
POW/MIA Liaison

American Legion Department of Nebraska History Word Search

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

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

January/February 1973 (50 years ago)

- **MILLARD** Legion Post 374 and Auxiliary co-sponsored a drive to obtain food, clothing and toys to be distributed to the Indian reservation at Macy, Nebraska for **CHRISTMAS**.
- A 17-minute slide **PRESENTATION** pertaining to the purposes and programs at of the Nebraska Veterans **HOME** in Grand Island will be shown on tv channels in Grand Island and Lincoln on Sunday, January 21st at 2:00pm. The presentation, entitled "To Care for Him" is designed to give the viewing public a better understanding of the vets home.
- Much to everyone's delight, the Department of Nebraska again met their January membership **PLEDGE** to National and the honor of being classified as a Big 10 Department.
- One of the highlights of the 40th Annual Mid-Winter Conference will be the appearance of National **COMMANDER** Joe Matthews of Fort Worth, TX. Commander Matthews is a WWII Navy Veteran having been a member of the Navy's famous **SEEBEES**. He saw service in the **MARSHALL** Islands, Okinawa and Hawaii.

January/February 1983 (40 years ago)

- Even though Lee Ferguson Post 343 at **EDISON** has already set another all-time membership high for 1983, the post continues a tradition of buying a **STEAK** dinner for any eligible veteran who joins as a new member at the post's annual Christmas party.
- John Schmidt of **MADISON** Post 35 was the winner of the top prize, a 12-inch tv set, at the annual **LUNCHEON** of the Nebraska American Legion Press Association, held January 8th during the Mid-Year Conference in **NORFOLK**.
- Legionnaire Lloyd Cox of **WYMORE** brought a medal to department headquarters which he said he found while mowing the lawn. The face is inscribed "The National Association of the Battle of **SHILOH** Survivors" and includes an engraving of the battle scene. The Civil War battle took place April 6-7, 1862 at Pittsburgh Landing in Tennessee.

World War II

Last year I wrote two articles, using the source document, "Archangel, 1918 to Hanoi 1972, and the case of Captain Michael Joseph Bosiljevac, USAF." One was about WWI, The Great War and the other about Michael Bosiljevac.

We'll move forward to World War II. The most damning proof that the Soviets used American military personnel as human bargaining chips after WW II appears in unimpeachable official records.

In early 1945, President Roosevelt met with Churchill and Stalin at Yalta to plan the postwar world order. Less than a month later, American ambassador to the USSR, Averill Harriman sent the following "Urgent Top Secret" personal cable to FDR: "Since the Yalta Conference, General Deane and I have been making constant efforts to the Soviets to carry out this agreement in full (regarding American POWs under Soviet control). We have been baffled by promises which have not been fulfilled.

Harriman continued his outrage that the Soviet Government had declined to carry out the agreement signed at Yalta, that our contact officers had not been permit-ted to go immediately to points where our prisoners were first collected, to evaluate our prisoners, particularly the sick; or to send our supplies to points other than Odessa which is 1,000 miles from the point of liberation. "For the past ten days the Soviets have made the same statement that Stalin has made to you [FDR], namely that all prisoners are in Odessa or entrained thereto, whereas I have now positive proof that this was NOT, repeat NOT true on February 26, the date on which the statement was first made." This supported Harriman's belief that Stalin's statement was inaccurate. Harriman wrote, "there appear to be hundreds of our prisoners wandering about Poland trying to locate American contact officers for protection. I am told that our men don't like the idea of getting into a Russian camp."

Six days later, Harriman sent another cable to Washington, this time to Secretary of State, Edward R Stettinius, Jr: "The Soviet Government is trying to use our liberated prisoners of war as a club to induce us to give increased prestige to the Provisional Polish Government by dealing directly with it in this connection."

(The Gulag Study, Fifth Edition, prepared by the United States Joint Commission Support Directorate - Moscow). The task of that office is "to determine if there were any American Servicemen who were held against their will within the territory of the former Soviet Union. The study can be found at http://www.dtie.mil/dpmo/sovietunion/gulag_study.htm.

Soviet unwillingness to return American military personnel was not confined to the European Theater of Operations. According to the Report, In the Pacific Theater, even though the Soviets were late comers in the war effort against Japan, they managed to take control of territory just across the Soviet Union's contiguous borders with Manchuria, China as well as the northern islands of Japan. In doing so, the Soviets were able to seize some Japanese POW camps holding Allied prisoners.


The fate of many of these men has never been determined.



Creighton Post 74 member Kenneth Meyer was presented with a certificate for 50 years of continuous membership by District 2 Commander Kelly Hanvey. Meyer was also presented with a Quilt of Valor from the members of Unit 74. Pictured left (L to R) Commander Kelly Hanvey and Area B Vice Commander Kenneth Meyer. Pictured right (center) is Kenneth Meyer and directly behind him is his wife, Marlene. Surrounding them are members of Unit 74.




Remembering Our Fallen includes Nebraska's Fallen from Iraq and Afghanistan. The Tomb of the Unknown is a half-size replica, recently unveiled at Nebraska's State Capitol. It is a powerful addition to the Fallen memorial or it can stand alone. To bring either or both of these powerful memorials to an event, contact Bill Williams at 402-612-0210 or bwilliams@patrioticproductions.org www.PatrioticProductions.org



Straight Talk

Levi Bennett
Department Service Officer




Rider's Rally

John Arias
Department ALR Liaison



As a Veteran do I know what benefits I may be eligible to receive?

The first question a veteran in Nebraska should ask themselves, is do I know my County Veteran Service Officer (CVSO)? If you do not know your CVSO, you should become acquainted, to do so you may find their contact information online at <https://veterans.nebraska.gov/cvso> or by calling (402) 471-2458. The CVSO is the gate keeper to the knowledge each veteran should be advised upon their release from active duty.

To lay the foundation regarding the need to work with an accredited CVSO, the United States Department of Veterans Affairs (USDVA) is segmented into three different administrative entities, the Veterans Health Administration (VHA), the Veterans Benefits Administration (VBA), and the National Cemetery Administration (NCA) and none communicate with the other regarding a specific veteran, unless the veteran or veteran's representative requests. The CVSO also has knowledge of what State Veteran Benefits may be available and is available to assist in making application for State Veteran Benefits. The American Legion offers training to CVSOs in Nebraska and provides accreditation to properly trained service officers.

Veterans in Nebraska benefit from having both local County Veteran Service Officers and also State Veteran Service Officers to advocate on their behalf with the USDVA. Navigating the USDVA can be challenging in almost every aspect in obtaining an earned benefit and the CVSO is there to guide veterans along their journey.

Benefits that are available to Nebraska veterans begin at the county level, first with the access to a local CVSO, who if accredited with USDVA as a representative, may communicate and advocate on behalf of the Veteran in obtaining earned benefits from USDVA. Counties also provide for a County Veterans Aid fund to assist veterans who are in need as specified in §80-102 and who served during a period of actual hostilities in any war or conflict as identified in §80-401.01.

Benefits for veterans at the State level include Nebraska Veterans Aid (financial Assistance for veterans in need – applications are made to the Nebraska Department of Veterans' Affairs (NDVA) by a CVSO or Post Service Officer), Nebraska Veterans Registry (Veteran/Guard/Reserve Driver's License Identifier and Eligibility for Military Honor License Plates), Waiver of Tuition Program, Reservist Tuition Credit Program, Nebraska DD-214 Repository (NDVA), Nebraska State Veterans Homes (located in Bellevue, Kearney, Norfolk, and Scottsbluff), Nebraska Veterans Cemetery System, Homestead Exemption, Veterans Park Entry Permit, and the Veteran Permit to Hunt/Fish/Fur Permit.

At the Federal level benefits include USDVA Health Care, Disability Compensation, Non-Service-Connected Pension, Education, Veteran Readiness and Employment (VR&E), Dependency and Indemnity Compensation (DIC), Automotive and Special Adaptive Equipment Grants, Homeless Assistance to Veterans, and more.

Although some veteran benefits require specific disability ratings to obtain there are many more that do not require any disability rating.

If you as a veteran have not enrolled in VA healthcare, I encourage you to do so, those who are enrolled with VHA receive comprehensive medical benefits to include preventive, primary, and specialty care.

Omaha Post 1 Veteran's Day



Omaha Post 1 hosted their annual Veteran's Day program, but instead of being at Memorial Park, it was held at their Post home. A large crowd stretched from the front door all the way to the back wall of the dining room.

Guest Speakers for the day included President (Vice Admiral Retired) Ted Carter from the UNL system, Director of Omaha National Cemetery Jason Dolan, Senator Deb Fischer, Congressman Don Bacon's

representative Felix Underman and Omaha City Council President, Pete Festersen.

During the program the name of Arthur Francis Johnson, a Navy Veteran who was killed in WWII, was added to the Bronze Plaque. This plaque includes the 897 Douglas County Veterans who died in WWII.

The highlight of the event was the renaming of a downtown Omaha street to James William Fous Drive. Fous was killed in 1968 in Vietnam. In 1970, President Nixon awarded him the Medal of Honor.



gutter of despair. She then saw him wrapped in a quilt which changed his demeanor from despair to hope and well-being. The message of her dream was a quilt of healing. This quilt would be done by a volunteer team. One person would piece the top of the quilt and another would quilt it. She saw the name of this special quilt. "Quilt of Valor." These ladies donate the fabric and spend hundreds of hours sewing the pieces and then quilting the "Quilts of Valor," to present them to veterans across the country.

The Grand Island ALR Chapter 53 will be hosting the 2023 State Romp on August 18 - 20, 2023. Mark your calendars and hope to see a large group to support ALR Chapter 53.

If you have any questions, please contact me at 308-352-6824 or email me johnpaularias32@gmail.com.

Attention

This will be the last issue of the Nebraska Legionnaire newspaper for any member who has not paid their 2023 dues. Contact your Post or Headquarters with questions. Once your 2023 dues are paid you will be put back on the mailing list.

We need pictures and stories! Tell us what your Post, Squadron, or Chapter is doing in your local community. Articles and pictures can be emailed to afwashburn@windstream.net or mailed to The American Legion – PO Box 5205 – Lincoln, NE 68505.



Chaplain's Thoughts

Father Alexander Borzych
Department Chaplain



It's hard to believe that another year is in the books, and we are quickly approaching 2023, which we hope will be filled with promise and joy. With all that has happened in 2022, the only way is to go forward is with hope in the new year.

It often seems that people live life with no fear of the repercussion of their actions and have no respect for others. I dread turning on the news anymore, because I'm saddened to see the suffering that people are going through with one nation fighting against another for no apparent reason except for greed. Children are dying on our streets and in our schools, because of revenge. Men and women of all ages are being killed in our stores and malls as if they are wildlife. How can we, everyday Americans, turn the tide?

I think one must commit themselves to prayer and pray every day. Not just at prayer breakfasts, or only on Sunday if and when we attend a religious service. We need to develop a routine that includes daily prayer. Praying for our government so that our leaders make good choices that benefit those they serve. Pray for peace, for the infirmed, for those who are battling depression. Pray for our military, first responders, medical personal. There is so many people to lift in prayer.

Too often we only pray when we want something. These pleas are commonly known as "give me prayers." But there are so many more types of prayers. Prayers of adoration, praising God for who He is. We see this in scripture in Psalm 104:1-4, 1 Kings 8:22-24, Nehemiah 9:5b-6. Prayers of lament, which are prayers of bringing our fears, doubts, and troubles to Him. 1 Peter 5-7 tells us to cast all our troubles and fears to the Lord. If you are burdened, anxious, depressed, angry, or grieved, let God know in prayer. Prayers of Thanksgiving let God know that we appreciate what He has done for us. Pouring out His blessings upon us. These prayers are kind of like writing a thank you note to someone who has given you a gift. There are prayers of petition, which ask God for something either for ourselves or for someone else. In Mark 10:51, Jesus asks a blind man, "What do you want me to do for you." There are prayers of deliverance which ask God to save us or others from challenging or dangerous situations. Prayers of contrition are prayers streaming from a feeling of remorse and the desire to repent of our sins. Prayers of guidance allow us to trust in the Lord because he knows what is best for us. Some good examples of guidance prayers can be found in 1 Kings 3:4-9, Psalm 25:4-5, and Jeremiah 10:23-24. This type of prayer traditionally asks for wisdom, knowledge, and direction in our lives.

What is important is that God is asking us to pray unceasingly. A good example of unceasingly prayer can be found in Luke 8:1-8. In this parable, Jesus tells how the widow's persistence alone leads the judge to act justly. Jesus uses this parable to teach his disciples to never give up. Prayer is something we must never give up on.

Bombard the Lord in prayer. So, I hope you resolve to pray unceasingly in the new year. I will be praying you make pray a part of your life.

Sons of The American Legion Membership As of December 14, 2022

District	2022 Members	2023 Members
1	329	156
2	639	347
3	223	125
4	352	161
5	134	101
6	1,314	623
7	728	355
8	861	553
9	342	158
10	363	145
11	1,084	647
12	255	88
13	130	43
15	145	137
Total	6,899	3,639

Mid-Year Conference Program

It's time to start putting together our Mid-Year Conference Program and the Department is selling space in the program for individuals or businesses to advertise. Please ask around your community to garner support. All ads and payments must be received before January 8, 2023. The program is 8.5 x 5.5 in size. Please contact Amanda at Headquarters.

- \$10 - page split into eight sections
- \$20 - page split into four sections
- \$30 - page split into two sections
- \$60 - Full page

Purpose of The Member Data Form

The American Legion Member Data Form (MDF) is a multipurpose form for tracking and providing accurate information on Post members. You can download the form online on our website. With the exception of transferring members from one post to another, most MDF changes can be made through MyLegion.org.

Note: Members can be transferred online through MyLegion.org if the member is paying their dues at the time of transfer.

The MDF can be used to report deceased members, continuous years, name corrections, address changes, branch of service, war era, and others.

On the MDF, always include the nine-digit member ID number, Post number, and Department name. The signature of the authorized Post officer is required at the bottom of the form. Be sure to mail part 1-3 to Department Headquarters and keep part 4 for your Post files.

Membership transfer from one post to another is handled by completing the MDF. Always ask prospective members if they currently are or have been a member. If the veteran has a current or previous nine-digit ID number, it should be reported on the transfer. If a member signs up as a new member, a duplicate record can be created, and multiple renewal notices will be received by the member.



Valley Post 58 presented thirteen certificates of continuous membership to its members. Four of the members were in attendance. Pictured (L to R) Mike Rowe, 5 years; Everett Lerew, 20 years; Pat Clausen, accepting posthumously for her husband Duane Clausen, 60 years; Post Commander Dick Rowe, and Post Adjutant Kurt Muhle, 20 years.

Looking to add a companion animal to your life?

Use Vets Get Pets!

Eligible veterans can have up to \$350 in pet adoption fees covered when they use the Vets Get Pets Program

NEBRASKA
Good Life. Great Sacrifice.
VETERANS' AFFAIRS



Funded by Vets Get Pets License Plate sales!

Learn more online at
veterans.nebraska.gov/vetsgetpets



Membership Minute
Steve Bartos – Membership Chairman

Happy New Year!!

I hope everyone enjoyed the holidays and is ready to embark on a new year --- and finish up the current American Legion membership year with a bang! We've been making our goals and maybe even showing some signs of getting some of our memberships in a little earlier than usual. Let's keep up that effort.

If you haven't paid your 2023 dues yet, now is certainly the time.

As Department Membership Chairman, I've tried to keep in touch with Department leadership and even some individual post leaders --- to make suggestions, share information, and sometimes to just offer encouragement. And, I routinely communicate with members of my own post.

Because of cost (primarily), convenience (secondarily), and speed, I do a lot of communication using email. Sharing data files. Making membership appeals. Scheduling meetings and events. It just makes sense to use the technology we have available to communicate with our members and each other economically and efficiently.

Unfortunately, using email doesn't guarantee 100% success in our communication efforts. Not everyone has email. And not everyone who has email uses it. While using computers and cell phones is the norm in today's society, I don't pretend to suggest that I --- or anyone else --- can dictate to anyone that they must start using technology if they choose otherwise. However, what I can and do suggest is that we do a better job of utilizing email when we can.

I recently wanted to send out an email to the members of my post who had not yet paid their 2023 dues. Unfortunately, we only had email addresses for about 60% of them. And when I did send out the emails to the addresses I did have, about 10% of them came back as being undeliverable. Since the emails that did get through to their intended recipients resulted in a significant influx of renewals in a matter of a few days, I was convinced that we all need to make an effort to add email addresses to our members' records whenever we can --- and also make an effort to determine the validity of the addresses we do have.

I ask every Legionnaire who has access to email to make sure a valid email address is included in their information on the American Legion database. I ask every post to review its roster and make an attempt to add as many email addresses as you can. This activity can be of benefit to both the members and the posts. And it may encourage some Legionnaires and posts to become more familiar with MyLegion.org and utilize the tools available to help in the membership effort.

Every post should have been at 75% of goal on December 14th. The next target percentage is 80% by January 19th (just after the Mid-Year Conference). 85% will be the goal on February 15th. Another renewal notice from the national headquarters is currently scheduled to mail during the first week of January.

Have a nice January!

Assistant Adjutant Brent Hagel-Pitt Retires



After thirteen years of service to the Department of Nebraska American Legion as the Assistant Adjutant and Programs Director, Brent Hagel-Pitt has retired.

HP was hired on at the Nebraska American Legion in December 2009. During his time at the office, he attended many District Conventions, Department meetings, numerous baseball games, and National meetings.

The Department Staff and Commander Don Suchy took HP and his wife, Tammy, to a retirement lunch to celebrate his years of service to the Nebraska American Legion. HP was presented with an eagle plaque and an Admiralty for his dedication.

Administrative Assistant Sandy Rickerts and Executive Assistant Amanda Washburn were also presented with an Admiralty for their years of service to the Nebraska American Legion.

The Department Staff, Commander Don Suchy, and Alternate NECman Jim Costello helped make HP's last day at the office with an Office Olympics. Department Adjutant supplied a pair of Zubaz to everyone, as these are HP's favorite pants, and they participated in a few games.

Please join us in extending HP our best wishes on his retirement, as he will be greatly missed at the office and at Department meetings. Thank you, HP, for your dedication to the Nebraska American Legion and its programs.



2023 Mid-Year Conference
Make Your Reservations Now

The 2023 Mid-Year Conference will be held January 13 - 15, 2023 at the Norfolk Lodge & Suites in Norfolk. The Norfolk Lodge is located at 4200 West Norfolk Avenue in Norfolk.

A draft agenda is listed to the right. A reminder that the lottery drawing will be held on Sunday morning during the joint session. Conference registration will be held from 12:00 to 4:00 p.m. on Friday, 7:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. on Saturday, and 7:30 to 10:00 a.m. on Sunday. If you would like more information or have questions, please contact Adjutant Salak at Headquarters.

Candidate Announcement

John-Henry Percy
Department Commander



John-Henry Percy has announced his candidacy for the high office of Department Commander for 2023 - 2024. He is eligible for membership in The American Legion through his service in the United States Air Force. He enlisted in 1974 and served 29 years until his retirement in 2003.

He is a 48-year Paid Up For Life Legion member at Papillion Post 32. He has proven leadership at the Post, County, District, and Department levels.

He graduated from The American Legion College as a student in 2009 and completed the correspondence course in 2006, 2012, and 2017. He completed the online Basic Training Course in 2019. In addition, he has attended 12 national conventions and served on the Aerospace Committee for 10 years.

He is a dual member with 60-years as a member of the Sons of The American Legion. He is a member of Squadron 32 in Papillion. He has held many leadership positions at the Squadron, District, and Detachment levels.

Percy is fully retired and can dedicate the necessary time and energy to The American Legion and its four pillars. He looks forward to seeing you all at the Mid-Year Conference in Norfolk and would truly appreciate all of his fellow Legionnaire's support to take on the role as your Department Commander. It would be both his honor and privilege to serve Nebraska Legionnaires as your new Department Commander.

Boyd C. Yochum
Senior Vice Commander



Boyd C. Yochum has announced his candidacy for the high office of Department Senior Vice Commander.

His qualifications for membership in the American Legion include three years' service in the U.S. Regular Army, (21 months with the 7th Armored Squadron 1st Air Cavalry Regiment). He was able to help organize,

and train his Squadron at Fort Knox, Kentucky; and was advance party when his unit was deployed to Vietnam. After returning to the States, I was assigned to Department of the Army. I also spent 10 years in the Nebraska National Guard.

Yochum graduated from Ashland High School and Lincoln School of Commerce. He attended the University of South Vietnam Vinh Long Campus and graduated from Doane College with a degree in Accounting.

His experience in The American Legion includes Ashland Post 129 Commander, Post 129 Adjutant, Post 129 Honor Guard, Saunders County Commander, District 7 Adjutant, and Area B Vice Commander. He is presently serving as the Department of Nebraska POW/MIA Liaison.

If you want character, values, integrity, and for the good of the American Legion; vote for Boyd C. Yochum, Candidate for the high office of Department Senior Vice Commander.

Mid-Year Agenda

Friday, January 13, 2023

10:00 a.m. DEC Meeting

Saturday, January 14, 2023

8:00 a.m. Joint Session

1:00 p.m. Training

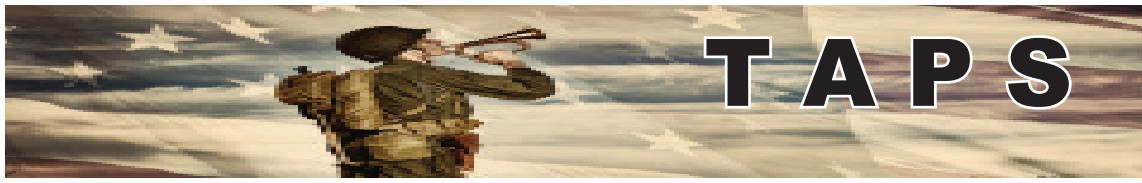
5:00 p.m. Catholic Mass

6:00 p.m. Oratorical Contest

Sunday, January 15, 2023

8:00 a.m. Joint Religious Service

9:00 a.m. Joint Session



Albers, Palmer, Osmond, Korea	Henry, Edward E., North Platte, Korea	Rayno, Donald L., Grand Island, Vietnam
Altman, Gary R., Lincoln	Hickok, Lorne, Atkinson, WWII	Reichlinger, Perry F., York, WWII
Barnes, Roland R., Arcadia, Korea	Himmelberg, Gerald, Lawrence, Korea	Rempe, Richard, Superior, Vietnam
Bartlett, Arthur L., Columbus, Vietnam	Hird, Wes, Kearney, Korea	Reyman, Claude L., Wood Lake, Vietnam
Beebee, Gregory E., Lincoln, Vietnam	Howell, Lloyd D., Alliance, Vietnam	Rezac, Kenneth E., Valparaiso, Vietnam
Benes, Myron R., Valparaiso, Vietnam	Johansen, Virgil, Osceola, WWII	Roeser, Jimmy L., Fairmont, Vietnam
Bishop, Mark, Gering, SAL	Kampfe, Harold R., Ogallala, WWII	Schmit, John N., O'Neill, WWII
Blaser, Eldon N., Silver Creek	Kander, Eugene, Stanton, Vietnam	Schneider, Alex W., Callaway
Bobert, Larry, Lexington, Vietnam	Kellogg, James E., Ashland, Vietnam	Schneider, Frank J., Valley, SAL
Bowers, James G. Jr., Springfield, Vietnam	Koglin, Larry H., Scribner, Vietnam	Schneider, Robert A., Elwood, Korea
Bradley, Richard D., Lincoln, Vietnam	Kumm, Gary E., Callaway, Lebanon/Grenada	Schoonover, Gerald D., Denton, Vietnam
Brandon, Gary L., Omaha, Vietnam	Lister, David H., Brewster, Korea	Schuessler, Harold A., Potter, Korea
Breach, Everett, Norfolk, Korea	Loberg, Vernon, Randolph, Korea	Sedlacek, Raymond, Brainard, Korea
Bukoske, Tim, Lincoln, Vietnam	Lopez, Alexander G., Bayard, Korea	Sheehan, John E., Millard, WWII
Clabaugh, Steven L., Nelson, SAL	Magee, Paul J., Cortland, Persian Gulf	Simants, Richard A., Palisade, Vietnam
Cloud, Robert D., Sidney, Korea	Maixner, Ray, Belgrade, Vietnam	Speed, Fred J., Central City, Korea
Covault, Lavon R., Table Rock, Korea	McGowen, William J., Jackson, Korea	Steffen, Russell, Columbus, Vietnam
Crowell, Dennis R., Ravenna, Vietnam	McKesson, John, Prague, Vietnam	Swagerty, Calvin, Wakefield, WWII
Deprez, Leo G., York, Korea	Merrill, Keith L., Silver Creek	Tennant, Michael E., Wymore, SAL
Dobry, Daryl D., Rushville, Vietnam	Meyer, William J., Odell, Korea	Ulmer, Walter E., Arcadia, WWII
Dyer, Sterling, Exeter, Korea	Miller, Roger, Denton, Vietnam	Uphoff, Melvin, Elwood, Vietnam
Eckles, Phil V., Nelson, WWII	Mills, Charles W., South Omaha, Korea	Vaca, Ronald J., Cedar Bluffs, SAL
Eisenhauer, Lloyd A., Wallace, Korea	Millwood, Bobby G., Pleasant Dale, Korea	Vraspir, George M., Pender, Korea
Engel, Benny L. Jr., Beaver Crossing, SAL	Nesiba, Milton, Saint Paul, Korea	Wallander, Bruce, Loomis, Korea
Eriksen, Roland, South Omaha, SAL	Nuffer, Frederick L., Papillion, Vietnam	Weinberger, James L., Yutan, Vietnam
Finn, Michael J., Yutan, Korea	O'Brien, Hugh, Wakefield, Korea	Wheeler, Jack H., South Omaha, Vietnam
Fitch, Jay D., Brewster, Vietnam	O'Connell, John, Atkinson, Korea	Wilkinson, Floyd E., Lincoln, Korea
Freese, Alicia D., Plymouth, Vietnam	O'Rourke, Stephen S., North Platte, Vietnam	Wiley, James A., Chadron, Vietnam
French, Earl L., Millard, Korea	Paulsen, Harold C., Herman, Korea	Williams, Jerry D., Trenton, Vietnam
Gdowski, Richard E., Columbus, Korea	Pegler, Robert H., Lincoln, Korea	Williams, Wayne L., Shubert, Korea
Gebhardt, Howard C., North Platte, WWII	Peter, Marvin A., O'Neill, Korea	Wolzen, Dennis, Oxford, Vietnam
Gillispie, Joseph H., Lincoln, WWII	Pfeiffer, Larry E., Burwell, Korea	Work, Lavern, Herman, Korea
Goering, Ivan, Leigh, Korea	Pitkin, Troy R., Callaway, Korea	Zier, Kenneth E., Bayard, Korea
Goodman, Robert D., Hickman, Vietnam	Pokorny, James, Brainard, Vietnam	
Graham, Robert, York, Vietnam	Pospisil, Lyle A., Creighton, WWII	
Grandfield, John H., Omaha	Prante, Terry L., Rushville, Vietnam	
Green, Keith, Omaha, Vietnam		
Guggenmos, Walter A., Brewster, Korea		
Hall, Lamoine, Campbell, Korea		
Happel, Douglas R., Denton, Vietnam		
Hendricks, Ronald F., Plattsmouth, Vietnam		

Events Calendar

January

- 2 New Years Holiday - Office Closed
- 13 - 15 Mid-Year Conference - Norfolk, NE
- 16 MLK Jr Day - Office Closed
- 19 80% Membership Target Date

February

- 15 85% Membership Target Date
- 20 President's Day - Office Closed
- 26 - 28 Washington Conference - Washington DC

March

- 1 Washington Conference - Washington DC
- 1 - 3 DSO School - Washington DC
- 15 90% Membership Target Date
- 15 American Legion Birthday

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



Humphrey Post 80 presented Quilts of Valor to ten of its members. These quilts were made by the Pins & Needles Quilt Club. Pictured top (L to R) Sonny Herink, Ferdinand M. Weidner, Kenneth Brandl, and John Greisen. Pictured middle (L to R) Melvin Schrant, Post Commander David Classen, and Timothy Rollman. Pictured bottom (L to R) Carroll Hemmer, Ronald Denkinger, and Eugene A. Olmer. Pictured behind the veterans are their families.

Cancer Care Insurance Plan



If you find yourself battling cancer, you may want help to cover the high cost of treatment and recovery. That's where this coverage comes in. Your American Legion Department Endorsed Cancer Care Insurance Plan, helps pay towards the cost of cancer – which may run into the thousands of dollars. Your current health insurance may not cover all of these costs.

That's why this coverage offers benefits, up to a lifetime maximum of \$300,000*, Legionnaires who have been diagnosed with cancer. These benefits are paid directly to who you choose, not to doctors, hospitals or anyone else. Benefits from this plan could be used to pay for: Hospital bills, Chemotherapy, Operations, Doctor visits, Nursing care, Prescription drugs, Mortgage, and more.

Even if cancer runs in your family or if you suffer from other serious medical problems – you are guaranteed acceptance into this plan as long as you have not been diagnosed with cancer (except skin) in the last 5 years (3 years in LA, 2 years in VT, 12 months in TX, 6 months in ID, NV, and UT), and remain a Legionnaire in good standing.

This coverage provides benefits to help you pay for your fight against cancer. Apply for the Your American Legion Department Endorsed Cancer Care Insurance Plan today.



Inspired by your service.

As a veteran who has received an Honorable discharge, you're eligible for membership in USAA. With advice, tools and products to aid you with insurance, banking, investments and retirement, USAA is committed to stand alongside you wherever life takes you.

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Investments/Insurance: Not FDIC Insured - Not Bank Issued. Guaranteed or Underwritten - May Lose Value
 USAA products are available only in those jurisdictions where USAA is authorized to sell them.
 Purchase of a product other than USAA auto or property insurance, or purchase of an insurance policy offered through the USAA Insurance Agency, does not establish eligibility for or membership in USAA property and casualty insurance companies. Use of the term "member" or "membership" does not convey any eligibility rights for auto and property insurance products, or legal or ownership rights in USAA. Membership eligibility and product restrictions apply and are subject to change. To be eligible for auto and property insurance, separated military personnel must have received a discharge type of Honorable. Eligible former dependents of USAA members may purchase auto or property insurance if the member obtained USAA auto or property insurance. USAA means United Services Automobile Association and its insurance, banking, investment and other companies. Banks Member FDIC. Investments provided by USAA Investment Management Company and USAA Financial Advisors Inc., both registered broker-dealers. Financial planning services and financial advice provided by USAA Financial Planning Services Insurance Agency, Inc. (Known as USAA Financial Insurance Agency in California, License # 0E36312), a registered investment advisor and insurance agency and its wholly owned subsidiary, USAA Financial Advisors, Inc., a registered broker-dealer. The American Legion receives financial support from USAA for its sponsorship.
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Utica Post 49 member Gary Dittmar was presented a Quilt of Valor at the Centennial High School Veteran's Day Program. Pictured (L to R) Kobie Kosek, Gary Dittmar, Ava Sicher, and Riley Ziegler.



Hyannis Post 57 presented Quilts of Valor to its members. Pictured top (L to R) Benj Simpson, Jack Connell, and Ed Schroder. Pictured bottom (L to R) Keith Retzlaff, Jim Sevier, Tom Witt, Dan Finney, and Fred Michal.



Benson Post 112 presented certificates for 50 years of continuous membership to its members. Pictured (L to R) Commander Bruce Husted, Adjutant Tom Robbins, Jan Robbins, Ricky Johnson, and John Wenninghoff. Not pictured were Don Burri, Tom Feuquay, Tony Pinkes, John Sawerbrey, Rodney Hirschert, and Vincent Keerbs.



Hallam Post 294 members were presented with Quilt of Valor by the Hallam Auxiliary. Pictured (L to R) Joel Douglass, Dietrick Frye, Thomas Hawco, and Duane Oliver.



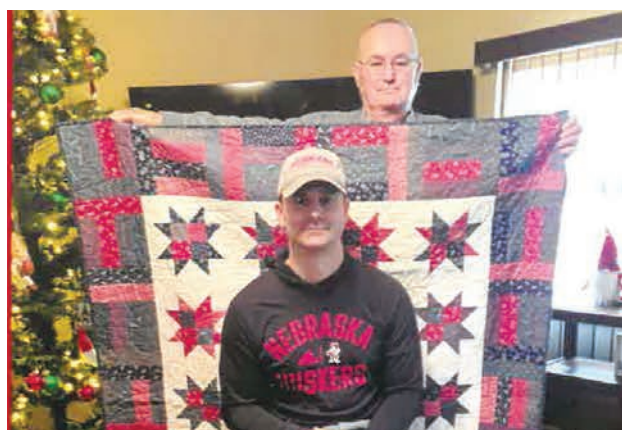
Kearney Post 52 member Tom McCoy placed a wreath at the American Cemetery at Omaha Beach in Normandy, France. Tom McCoy is pictured between two other veterans.



Wilber Post 101 members were presented with Quilts of Valor at the Veteran's Day Dinner. Pictured front (L to R) Richard Duba, Kenneth Kreshel, Albert Skrabal, and Donald Vostrez. Pictured behind the veterans are their families.



Indianola Post 344 member Jerry Uerling was presented with a Quilt of Valor from his great niece Kara Brashears. Jerry is a World War II veteran, and he is pictured with his nephews, all three are Vietnam veterans. Pictured (L to R) Martin Rinehart, Mike Helm, Jerry Uerling, and Jim Helm.



Greenwood Post 173 member Kenneth Krings was presented with a Quilt of Valor by his dad Gary Krings. The quilt was made by the Prairie Point Quilt Club Pictured (L to R) Adjutant Kenneth Krings and Commander Gary Krings.



Table Rock Post 289 presented a Christmas donation to the Table Rock SENCA Head Start teacher for gifts for the students. Pictured (L to R) Adjutant Gregg Clement, Finance Officer Jerry Vrtiska, and Katelyn Gildersleeve.



Gretna Legion Riders Chapter 216 and Trinity Lutheran Church in Murdock held a coat drive for the veteran residents of Victory Apartments. They set up ten tables of winter items at the facility. Pictured (L to R) Director Don Klaumann, Secretary Pat Klaumann, Chaplain Ken Olson, and Jamie Olson.



Wood Lake Post 202 members and community members transported Legion member Willard Hollopeter to his final resting place and preformed military honors for him.



Gering Squadron 36 presented certificates and pins for continuous membership to its members. Pictured (L to R) Senior Vice Commander Eldon Kramer, 10 years; Ron Bordeaux, 40 Years; Jim Warren, 40 years; Lon Ingram, 40 years; Ted Jenkins, 20 years; Donald Moss, 20 years; Tom Gentry 20 years; and Craig Walter, Past Squadron Commander.



IT IS A NEW YEAR!



Welcome to the beginning of 2023! And the outstanding work of the American Legion Auxiliary continues.

Of course, membership continues to be our hot topic. I ask you to stop reading at this point and locate your membership card. What year does it show? If it is not 2023, you are a delinquent member. What does that mean? You currently have no Auxiliary benefits; and IF you are an officer at any level, you cannot serve in that position. Please, take a moment right now to get your dues to your membership chairman. Thank you!

So much will be happening these

first few months of 2023. Will I see you at Mid-Year in Norfolk, January 13-15? I sure hope so! Let's fill our meeting room to the brim and have some FUN! You can visit our website (nebraskalegionaux.net) to get the agenda.

Another exciting event in January is the visit from our National President Vickie Koutz. You can find the itinerary (January 23-26) for her visit in this issue. I encourage you to join us when we are close to your area as we travel the central to eastern part of Nebraska.

Girls State information will be coming soon to your unit. This year's dates are June 4-10, and the delegation fee will stay at \$400 for this year. If you don't think your unit can afford to send a Girls State citizen, remember that you can ask other organizations/businesses in your community to help sponsor one.

Scholarship information should be available in all schools. If you have home-schooled students in your area, please provide them with the scholarships available. Deadline is March 1, 2023.

Let us not forget the Americanism essay. The topic is "What does patriotism mean to you?" and your unit's winning essays are due to Tina Nelson on March 15, 2023. Refer to the ABC Book for more details. It is available on our website.

And, of course, poppy posters should be on your agenda. Have you provided the necessary information to your schools (including home schools)?

The District Conventions begin in February. You should be working on your entries for the Prayer Book, History Book, Publicity Book, and Poppy Centerpieces. Information about these and your District Convention is provided by your District President. The schedule for all District Conventions is in this issue.

Usually with the new year, individuals make (or at least think about) resolutions. What if we make American Legion Auxiliary (ALA) Resolutions? What would be on your list? Possibly:

- Focus on a passion within the ALA programs

- Do a random act of kindness for a veteran or fellow ALA member
- Volunteer at a veteran's facility or nursing home in your area that has veterans as residents
- Call a fellow ALA member just to visit
- Write a letter or send a card once a week to a veteran

I challenge you to create your 2023 ALA Resolutions and bring them to Mid-Year to share. Why? Making resolutions indicates our desire to take a step towards positive change and makes us focus on achieving that change. The resolution obliges us to take stock of where we are and how we can improve. As humans, it is easy to become content with where we are in life. Our units can fall into that same pattern. What ideas do you have for this brand new year? Let us use this opportunity of a new year to change our "hum-drum" routine to something new and exciting. Think of what a difference it can make in the lives of our veterans, our communities, and our children and youth.

As we move into 2023, let us

be there for one another as fellow members of humankind. This quote by Zero Dean says it the best. "May the new year bring you an abundance of amazing opportunities, beautiful moments, and joyful experiences. May your positive actions and attitude inspire others. May you be brave enough to take on and overcome rewarding challenges. May you find yourself in high spirits and excellent health. May you love with all your heart and find peace in even the most turbulent of times. May the love you give always find its way back to you multiplied. And may you forever be filled with the hope and strength necessary to make your dreams a reality."

Vicki Ozenbaugh
Department President '22-'23



MEMBER SPOTLIGHT 45 YEARS OF HELPING TO SAVE LIVES

The first time Kathy Iske attended a blood drive was in 1977. It was the first blood drive hosted by the American Legion Auxiliary Unit 216 in Gretna, Nebraska, and Iske was selected to be the drive's Blood Program Leader. She was responsible for securing the location, recruiting donors, and assisting with setting up for the blood drive.

Kathy Iske and the American Legion Auxiliary Unit 216 recently celebrated 45 years of hosting blood drives with cupcakes. "I didn't know much about what took place," Iske said, referring to that first drive in 1977. "I had to learn it all. The volunteers were great, and we all worked together to get it done."

Iske, Gretna's 2012 Citizen of the Year, has a passion for blood donation. She and other volunteers from Auxiliary Unit 216 work the room at the blood drives signing in donors, presenting certificates to donors who reach milestones in their giving, and encouraging everyone to make their next appointment before they leave. During the 45 years of sponsoring the blood drive, 7,125 units of blood were collected which helped 21,375 patients all over the United States!

Red Cross coordinator Briana DeSadier (far left) presented members of Unit 16 with a certificate commemorating 45 years of hosting blood drives. Volunteers included (left to right) Joann Dalley, Peggy Cherveney, Kathy Iske, and Linda Gillespie.

Iske joined the American Legion Auxiliary in 1970 and is currently the Unit 16 Vice President, having previously served as President and in other offices. For 45 years, she has called donors to fill up the appointment slots, publicized the opportunities to donate, and helped on the day of the blood drives.

"We have a lot of regulars who make an appointment and come donate each time; but, with Gretna growing so quickly, we are seeing new people coming to give," said Iske, who has lived in Gretna nearly her entire life, with the exception of a short time in Omaha.

Mike Laughlin and his wife Sharon routinely donate at the blood drive in Gretna. "We had given before, but when our daughter was hospitalized a few years ago and needed blood, we knew we wanted to become regular donors. We've been

coming here (to Gretna) ever since." Laughlin said.

Iske became a dedicated blood donor herself and has given more than 13 gallons. "I'm working on my 14th gallon. I'm close," she said. That includes three years when her doctor told her she couldn't donate after having four heart stents inserted.

When asked why she is so dedicated to these blood drives, she answered with a question of her own: "What other humanitarian project can help so many people?" she said.



2023 DISTRICT CONVENTIONS TENTATIVE SCHEDULE

(Unless otherwise noted, times are Central Time)

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

HISTORY IN THE MAKING

This is a reminder that with Spring Conventions coming up it is time for your Unit Historian to finish working on your History Book. The rules were sent out in the December newsletter and also in the last newspaper. If you have any questions, please give me a call or send me an email.

I look forward to seeing many of you at our Mid-Year Conference and when I attend district conventions.

Remember, it is up to each member to preserve the history of our great organization and make sure our future generations know the importance and impact we have.

I hope you all had a Merry Christmas and wish everyone a Happy New Year!

Amanda Washburn
Department Historian

AMERICAN FLAG LESSON AT HITCHCOCK ELEMENTARY

Veteran's Day in the Fifth Grade at Hitchcock Elementary was preceded the day before by a lesson taught by Dennis and Peggy Kennedy on Flag Etiquette and Flag Folding. Pictured is the classroom teacher, Mrs. Lori Smith, working with Levi Echhoff and Reid Tines. The students paired up to complete

a nice triangle folded flag. They also learned much history about the flag. When they were finished, they received a book and a flag pin to put on their jacket.

The program was completed with Commander Kennedy sharing his military experiences in the United States Air Force.



RICHARDSON COUNTY GOVERNMENT DAY

Richardson County Government day was held on October 27th at the Richardson County Courthouse. The welcome was given by Falls City American Legion Post 102 Commander Larry Fischer. Tana Brown, ALA County President, introduced the Auxiliary members who were present --- Norma Arrington, Pam Mendenhall, and Doris DeJonge from Humboldt Unit 269 and June Bowers from Falls City Unit 102. Norma Arrington offered the invocation, and June Boers led the Pledge of Allegiance.

The 49 students from Falls City Sacred Heart, Falls City Public School, and Humboldt/Table Rock/Steinauer School participated in a mock election with races and issues that appeared on the November 8,

2022, General Election Ballot. The students then reported to an office to which they were either elected or assigned for a meeting with that Official and their office staff.

Later in the morning, they traveled to the Law Enforcement Center, where a competitive game of Jeopardy was played between schools. The students were then led in groups to tour the jail facility and served a delicious hot lunch --- the same lunch that is prepared and served to the inmates.

To conclude the day, Nebraska's 3rd District Congressman Adrian Smith spoke to the group in a virtual session where the students were able to participate in a question-and-answer session.



Blessings and Thank you to American Legion Family (ALF) members among the 125 volunteers who assisted at the Veterans Administration Stand Down on Friday, November 4, 2022. It was held in the Milo Bail Ballroom of the University of Nebraska-Omaha. Over four hours, your funds helped provide supplies; and your gifted essentials were distributed at an American Legion Auxiliary District 8 table. The event is for veterans who are housing-deprived or low income and using shelters.

Remember to send your assignments a couple weeks before the month they are due.

2023 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
Jan.	#305 Holstein	#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 Craig	#301 Dalton	#218 Exeter	#146 Rising City
April	#147 Crete	#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	#95 Curtis	#193 Ohioa		#70 West Point	#312 Broadwater		#20 Fremont
July	#141 Hampton	#52 Kearney		#302 Leigh			
Aug.	#365 Davenport	#52 Kearney		#176 Jackson			
Sept.					#12 Chadron	#12 Chadron	
Oct.		#316 Elm Creek			#364 Naponee	#364 Naponee	
Nov.							
Dec.	#257 Eustis			#302 Leigh			

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



Veterans receiving Quilts of Valor on Veterans Day from the Crete American Legion Auxiliary Unit 147 were (Front row, L - R): John Retherford (U.S. Air Force), Keith Keller (U.S. Army), Bill Hoesche (Marine Corps), and Dick Barber (Nebraska Air National Guard. Pictured in the back row (L - R) are American Legion Auxiliary officers Pat Filip, Diana Pomajzl, Paula Valenta, and Gerry Johnson.



Kathy (McElravy) Langlois was presented a Quilt of Valor from the Crete American Legion Auxiliary Unit 147. Kathy is pictured with her dad, Dennis McElravy, a previous recipient of a Quilt of Valor.

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

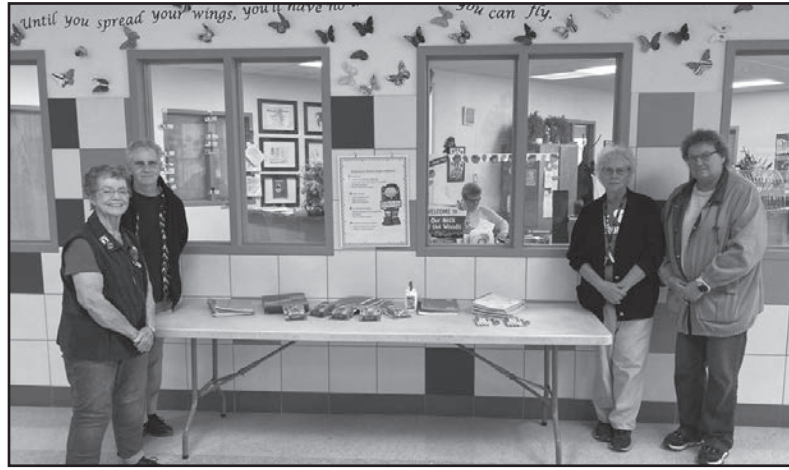
Depart Omaha



GIVE 10 FOR EDUCATION

"Give 10 for Education" is a program of the American Legion Auxiliary. On November 15, Culbertson Unit 133 presented a table of school materials to Hitchcock

Elementary Principal Michael Tines (who missed getting in the picture). Sorry, Mr. Tines! Materials provided included folders, notebooks, glue sticks, Elmer's glue, and markers.



Pictured (L-R) are Peggy Kennedy, Connie Barger, Bette Wurm, and Donna Barth.

SHUBERT VETERANS DAY PROGRAM



The Shubert post and unit put on another fantastic Veterans Day program.

The colors were presented by the Humboldt Sons of the American Legion. The HTRS band, directed by Michael Coffee, played the Star Bangled Banner and another number. Norma Arington then led the Pledge of Allegiance. Tana Brown offered some thoughts about the meaning of

Veterans Day, and the HTRS choir, directed by Katie Umland, sang a song called Bring Him Home.

Pictured is the speaker, hjhStaff Sergeant 1st class Keri Wilhelm of Schubert (a dual member of the American Legion and Auxiliary). She has served 22 years with the Army National Guard and has served in Iraq. She stepped up to the podium as an anonymous mom-looking person and then called for Keri Wilhelm to come into the gym. When Keri didn't appear, she went to find her. There was a hubbub; and, after a few minutes, she came out in uniform. Her point was that you don't always know who is a veteran. She spoke about how we can still thank them by how we live our lives. She described the freedoms that we have to emphasize how much freedom the veterans have bought for us. She was quite animated and connected with the audience in an extraordinary way

The last part of the program was

one developed by Tana Brown and Sharla Sitzman-Cerra at the first Veterans Day program, which was at the HTRS middle school when it was still in Table Rock. They introduced students and veterans in an exercise that has been abbreviated to simply "Thank a Vet." The veterans present lined up on the gym floor in front of the bleachers.



Savannah Cuthbert gives a heartfelt thanks to veteran Bob Bergren

POPPY PARTICIPATION

Our Auxiliary Mission outlines clearly our purpose through selfless service to support the American Legion and honor the sacrifice of those who served. It charges us with the mission for God and Country to advocate for our veterans, educate our citizens, mentor our youth, and promote patriotism, good citizenship, peace, and security.

A time-honored 101-year-old project that addresses the charge of our mission is the Auxiliary Poppy Program. From the beginning in 1921, the poppy was chosen to memorialize those who shed blood in battle and honor those who continue to fight for freedom today.

The poppy is generally worn on the left side, over the heart, and most importantly it is to be worn with pride. Members of the American Legion and the American Legion Auxiliary know the pride associated with seeing and wearing the poppy, but how many of our fellow Americans know the symbolism of

the poppy today?

The Auxiliary Poppy Program is a great way to help educate and instill pride in our military and our country! As Poppy Chair, it would be my pleasure to help guide you in promoting the Poppy Program. No matter if your Auxiliary always has a program or you haven't participated for a while --- this is your year! There are great opportunities to promote and educate in our schools, communities, and our American Legion family. We have guidance available for promotions including the Miss Poppy Contest, the Poppy Poster Contest, and the Poppy Centerpiece Contest. Poppy Day this year is May 26. Please get out in your communities and promote the poppy.

Program guidance and rules can be found in the ABC Book. Another great place to find guidance and ideas is the Poppy Program Guide. Ordering this guide is the first thing I did when I was appointed Poppy

Chair. You can order it from the Flag & Emblem catalog or you can download it from www.legion-aux.org national website. I strongly urge all units to get one to follow.

In closing, here is a poem written by Moina Michaels in response to "In Flanders Fields":

*And now the Torch and Poppy Red
We wear in honor of our dead.
Fear not that ye have died for naught
We'll teach the lesson that ye wrought
In Flanders Fields.*

No matter what you choose to help promote the Poppy Program, make it a priority to get in the game. Let us help make a difference and turn the tide toward patriotism and pride in our country and the freedoms we cherish. Honoring those who shed blood for our freedom never gets old. Please join me in participating in our Poppy Program this year!!

*Marla Furrow,
Poppy Chair*

GIRLS STATE



The 2023 Girls State planning meeting was held Saturday, November 19, 2022. The dates for the 2023 Cornhusker Girls State will be June 4-10 and will be held in person on UNL's Campus.

This year's budget is very straightforward. We are hoping to have 300 girls at \$400 per citizen. At the planning meeting, we voted to keep our fee the same this year. We will likely have to reevaluate the following year along with a few other cost-saving measures. We also discussed other avenues of fundraising for the program. UNL's costs continue to go up, impacting the cost of running the program.

With a successful in-person year in 2022, we look forward to doing

so again in 2023. Everything, from the facilities we used to the speakers we were able to invite, was great; and we're excited to continue the tradition of a stellar program for 2023.

One big change that we adopted over the past two years and plan to continue is the format for our orientations. Going forward, they will remain online only. Information will be sent to your district as time gets closer.

A large part of our program

each year, and personally one of my favorites, is the band and chorus. It is in question this year due to campus renovations. This is out of the control of both Girls State and Boys State. We will search for alternative solutions and will fill the void if needed.

Please be looking for the unit Girls State instructions, application, Girls State pledge form, and a list of suggested interview questions. When you receive it, read and follow all instructions and

pay attention to the amount of the application fee and deadlines for submission and refunds.

We appreciate your continued support of our program. That support allows our volunteers to bring forward an enriching and life-changing experience each year. We can't thank you all enough, and we look forward to a great 2023.

*Brittany Masek
ALA Girls State Chair*



AMERICAN
LEGION
AUXILIARY

MEMBERSHIP STRATEGY PART 2
Beverly A. Neel, Membership Chair
402-369-0152 • bbneel1912@gmail.com

PUFL MEMBERSHIP DUES NEWS FROM NATIONAL

What is the absolute date that current members can sign up for PUFL before the 2024 dues increase causes an increase in a PUFL membership? (Beverly's inquiry to National)

(National's Reply): **By June 30, 2023, but their 2023 dues have to be paid first at that point.**

On July 1, 2023, National will start basing the PUFL rate on the 2024 dues amount.

MEMBERSHIP STRATEGY PT 2

As we come to the close of 2022, we are also coming to the close of an updated membership card in the American Legion Auxiliary (ALA). Our membership year runs by the calendar; namely, January 1 through December 31. On the NEW January 1, you --- as an ALA member --- need to have your NEW 2023 membership card in your trusty little hands. No excuse.

Unfortunately, on this day of December 8, 2022, there are 3,695 unpaid dues for 2023 and 715 unpaid from 2022. And, in those groups, there are over 100 State Life Members (SLM) and three (3) Honorary Life Members (HLM) unreported to the Department. These SLM/HLM members MUST be verified as to correct contact data and that they are still living. Units, if you have not verified and reported your SLM/HLM to the Department, get it done today. They need to be reported on a Dues Transmittal sheet. The sheet can be snail mailed or emailed to the Department. The SLMs do not have any funds sent into the Department; however, the three HLMs will need to be paid via unit check into the Department.

Are you considering becoming a Paid Up For Life (PUFL) member and never have to pay dues again? The PUFL method of dues is on the National level. It is based on your current unit dues for Senior members and your age. There is a form to be completed and submitted to the Department with your lump sum personal check. The unit does not issue payment on PUFL memberships. If you have your 2023 dues already paid, you may deduct that amount from the lump sum total. Each Unit and District President should have copies of this form, as well as your Unit Membership Clerk/Chair. Check it out to see if it is a

feasible solution for you to never pay dues again and never need to take on any dues increases in the future. See the following data.

We are CURRENTLY in the 2023 Membership Campaign. For 2024, all units must know what they will have as their Senior dues. The Department newsletter for October had a "SAMPLE" form. Now is the time to discuss what your unit will do. Also, keep in mind your governing documents will need to be updated. Dues will increase by \$2 for Nebraska and \$6 for the national organization's share. Check out a PUFL membership and never pay dues again. Plan early on this to see if this would be financially feasible for you to do in 2023.

The bottom line today for those unit members who know they are in the SLM category --- double check with your respective unit to see that it has reported your membership into the Department. The Department is responsible to the National organization for each 2023 SLM member reported at \$12.00 each. This is quite an expense annually.

In 2024, that \$12.00 to National will be \$18.00. Now is the time for units and SLM members to determine if they could possibly budget that \$18.00 into the unit budget or the SLM home budget. That generosity would assist the Department greatly. Our SLM membership payments from 1976 to 1998 have long since run dry. The Department is now dependent on the General Fund budget to make these annual payments. Thank you for considering and doubly grateful should you be able to donate your SLM dues of \$18.00 to the Department in August 2024 and each year thereafter throughout your lifetime.

CHAPLAIN'S CORNER

Isaiah 9:6

For unto us a child is born, unto us a son is given: and the government shall be upon his shoulder: and his name shall be called Wonderful, Counsellor, The mighty God, The everlasting Father, The Prince of Peace.

Psalm 46:1

God is our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble.

2 Timothy 4:7

I have fought a good fight, I have finished my course, and I have kept the faith.

Christmas has come and gone, and now for the remnants of the leftover memories. What a beautiful time of year to reflect on the gift that God has given us. Did you celebrate the season together with family and friends?

Is there anything that you forgot? Maybe a gift for someone, or a card for someone special. How about an invitation to your Holiday gathering for a deployed family? It's not too late. Reach out and let them know you care.

Now we enter a new year, and it is time to make goals for 2023. Have you thought about what you plan to achieve? Look back to the past and

renew old commitments, as well as adding more goals for the future. Make sure it comes from your heart. Consider the goal of remembering our veterans who have committed to protecting our country. Let us "NEVER FORGET AND EVER HONOR" our veterans.

Prayer:

Lord, in this new year, help us to remember your promises. It is because of you that we can have hope. Let your faithfulness be the thing we remember and rely on. Help us to stay centered on your will and create goals with you in mind.

We pray for the protection of our armed forces as they serve our country around the world right now. Give them strength and remind them that their service is important. May they know that their service is appreciated by us.

We thank you for your guidance. In your name, we pray. Amen.

Ruth Hietbrink
Dept. Chaplain

William Sullivan American Legion Auxiliary Unit #218 of Exeter

SPAGHETTI DINNER FUNDRAISER AND BAKE SALE

11 am – 1 pm
Sunday, February 5, 2023
Exeter Legion

(Snow date – February 19, 2023)

A NEW YEAR, A NEW SONG



Does this sound like you? When I go to Subway, I order the same sandwich every time. I'm not about to waste my money on something I may not like. When I turn on the radio on the way to work, it goes to my local station for news on the way there --- and "The Bridge" station on the way home so I can hear the same 70's singers/songwriters I've been listening to for (gulp) 50 years. Every restaurant, same dish; every trip, same songs. Anything out of the ordinary, and I felt like my shoes were on the wrong feet.

Then, last week, I was on my way home after a particularly grueling patient case; and I turned the wrong dial on my radio and came across the Sinatra channel, and Frank's smooth voice carried me away. I wondered. How much of life have I been missing? The next day, I ordered

a different sandwich at Subway. I didn't like it, but I didn't die. I'm trying to listen to a different music channel every day now. You'll never get me to appreciate Gangsta' Rap, but a little Blues and that new crap they call Country Music never hurts.

As much as the old hymns soothe the soul, I recommend listening to other stories, and other songs, to stretch the mind. My patient load is mostly elderly. The same sandwich/same songs people are the ones tired of life and ready to die. The folks who are energetic and interesting are the ones who were eager to hear the music their grandchildren liked, and who traveled and explored other cultures.

I guess it all depends on how we want our stories to end. I wish for you, my Legion Family, a New Year of good health, great happiness, and a different sandwich now and then.

And Keep Singing!

Jean Vackiner
Music Chair

DEPARTMENT DEADLINES

The following were all due prior to the year-end of 2022. If your unit did not submit them to Headquarters, please do so ASAP!

ALAMIS

FORM 8822b

2023 MEMBERSHIP DUES

The **UNIT DATA FORM** is due March 1, 2023. This form is in the January Newsletter and shows what your unit dues will be for 2024 and provides the name of the unit member who will be processing your unit payments (Membership Chair).

Thank you for ensuring these have been completed and submitted.

Jacki O'Neill
Secretary

CORRECTION

In the December 2022 issue of The Star, the article on Page 3 about the Crete schools receiving boxes of tissues and disinfecting wipes, etc from the Crete American Legion Auxiliary was published under an incorrect heading. The heading should have been "Crete ALA Donates to Crete Schools" instead of "Norfolk Dedication."

Thank you!

My life is blessed with some of the most amazing people. Thank you for the many Christmas cards I received as well as the Christmas parties during this holiday season. God bless you, the American Legion Auxiliary, and God bless America.

Vicki Ozenbaugh
Department President

Dear Auxiliary members,
What a pleasant surprise to see a member of your Auxiliary unit come to my dialysis unit and present me with a \$10 bill for Veterans Day. I will be celebrating with other veterans tomorrow. Thanks for all you do for the nation's veterans.
Don Cook

In Memoriam

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Luetta Anderson Lincoln.....3	Nona Rogers Craig..... 127
Helen Solt Central City..... 6	Sally Perry Arnold 130
Margery Stoner..... Chadron..... 12	Doris Bowers Arnold..... 130
Joyce Wilson Wymore25	Patricia A Gale Arnold 130
Carol J Schulz Beatrice27	Maxine Reynolds..... Arnold..... 130
Enola M Dauber..... Beatrice27	Deanna Milne Arnold 130
Romaine Wieseler Wynot31	Hazel Hagler..... Arnold 130
Evelyn Gwynn..... Gordon34	Norma Pittack..... Plainview 148
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Marg K Liberator..... Valentine.....90	Mary Kier Madrid271
Carol Starkjohann..... Valentine.....90	Eleanor C Nott..... Elwood.....290
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Marie Vollbracht..... Saint Paul 119	Dianne Ienn Ralston373
Margaret Thompson Saint Paul 119	

DATES TO REMEMBER

JANUARY

- 2 Department Headquarters Closed - New Year's Day Holiday
- 13-15 Mid-Year Education Conference - Norfolk
- 16 Martin Luther King, Jr. Day - Department Office closed
- 23-27 National President Vickie Koutz Visits Nebraska

FEBRUARY

- 10 "THE STAR" articles are due. Please submit them by the 10th.
- 14 Valentine's Day - Legion Family Recruiter Award
- 20 President's Day - Department Headquarters closed

MARCH

- 1 Girls State Applications due to Department; Scholarships due to Units

FOR YOUR ADVANCED PLANNING

- June 4-10, 2023 ALA Cornhusker Girls State - UNL Campus, Lincoln, Nebraska
- June 22-25, 2023 Department Convention, Kearney, Nebraska
- August 25 - 31, 2023 National Convention, Charlotte, North Carolina

GIVE 10 TO EDUCATION

Marian Sisters Principal Jeanette Rerucha and Paula Watts of the Villa Marie School near Waverly accepted school supplies from Therese Juilfs of the Syracuse American Legion Auxiliary Unit 100. The items were donated by members of the unit to participate in the National ALA

"Give 10 to Education" program. Villa Marie is a home and school for exceptional children, helping those with special needs. It is approved by the Nebraska Department of Education, and all teachers are certified in Special Education. It is funded by the generosity of people.



THANK YOU TEACHERS!

In observance of American Education Week, November 14-18, the Leigh Auxiliary Unit 302 made and delivered 40 favors to all the Leigh Community Schools pre-school, elementary, and high school teachers and para professionals --- and to the Zion pre-school teacher. Thank You, teachers, for the outstanding job you do each and every day for our youth!



COMMUNITY SERVICE

To start, I would like to wish every unit a happy holiday season! The festive season always reminds me to think of others and how I can add a little cheer to their day. This is the perfect time of year to make cookies, create holiday cards, host food drives, and do so much more to help others.

With that being said, it is my duty to remind every unit to document every activity that happens throughout the year. Mid-year reports were due at the end of December, and End-of-year reports are due by March 15th. Also, unit and department community service program award nominations are due by June 1st. Please make sure to fill out the online forms and submit them to me prior to the deadline for consideration.

If you have any questions or would like some help brainstorming, please let me know!!

Meri Hietbrink
Community Service Chair
Mhietbrink6@gmail.com

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 FEBRUARY 10, 2023