

Legionnaire

Volume XCVIII

Number 6



American Legion Legislative Priorities



Each year, The American Legion selects about a dozen priority items to present to Congress that impact active duty military, veterans, National Guard, Reservists, and their families. These priorities are chosen based off of the positions and views of its 1.6 million members. This year, the eleven priorities are Mental Health and Suicide Prevention, VA Healthcare Modernization, PACT Act Implementation and Oversight, Protecting Veterans from Predatory Actors, Concurrent Receipt, Guard and Reserve GI Bill Parity, GI Bill for Honorable Service, Support our Afghan Allies, Military Quality of Life, Pay the Coast Guard, and Protect the American Flag. In order to support these priorities and lobby the members of Congress, members from all 55 American Legion Departments make their way to Washington DC every year to participate in the Washington Conference. During this conference, The American Legion Family members visit with their elected officials to see how they plan on voting on the priorities and why they feel the way they do about them. Nebraska will have more than fifteen members attending the conference and visiting with the elected officials.

In Nebraska, the Nebraska Veterans Council (NVC) hosts its own version of Washington Conference at the state level. The NVC chooses four or five bills that they will support or oppose, and they invite the Senators who submitted the bill to come and speak to the

group. The priority bills chosen this year were LB 4 having to do with extending the current homestead exemption credit renewal to every five years for permanently disabled veterans; LB 10 having to do with a vehicle exemption for disabled veterans; LB 80 which appropriates funds to complete the State Veterans Cemetery in Grand Island; LB 126 having to do with a homestead exemption credit for disabled veterans; and LB 274, which the NVC opposed, was allowing those who have a Disabled American Veteran license plate to park in handicap parking spots. The day served as an avenue for the Veteran Service Organization members to talk to their State Senators and see how he or she is planning to vote. This year, 117 people from all Veteran Service Organizations in Nebraska attended Legislative Day. State Senators Rita Sanders, Carol Blood, Raymond Aguilar, Jen Day, and Rick Holdcroft spoke to the group and informed them on the different bills that they have proposed for the legislative session. Following the session, members from all organizations were encouraged to go and talk to their own State Senator to see how they stood on the priority bills. Thank you to everyone who attended and made the day a success.



2023 Department Convention Make Your Reservations Now

The 2023 Department Convention will be held June 22 - 25 at the Ramada Inn in Kearney. The DEC will meet at 1:00 p.m. on Thursday, June 22 and at 9:00 a.m. on Friday, June 23. The Joint Session will be held at 1:00 p.m. on Friday, June 23 and the Legion Convention will begin at 3:00 p.m. and go through Sunday, June 25.

Business sessions of the American Legion, Auxiliary, Sons, and Riders will all be held in the Kearney Ramada. Reach out to the respective organization for an agenda for the Convention.

The hotel is located at 301 2nd Avenue - Kearney, NE. Rooms are \$84.00 a night and includes a hot breakfast. The last date to get reservations at the Legion rate is June 1 or when the reservation block is full. Call 308-237-3141 to make your reservation. The Convention Registration fee is \$10. For more information, please contact Adjutant Dave Salak.

FOR GOD AND COUNTRY

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

THE ROAD TO SUCCESS

2023 MEMBERSHIP GOAL: 24,835 FEBRUARY 15TH TOTAL: 21,112 - 85.01%

DISTRICT 7 - 88.47%	DISTRICT 2 - 87.90%	DISTRICT 15 - 85.78%	DISTRICT 8 - 85.74%	DISTRICT 6 - 85.50%
DISTRICT 11 - 85.30%	DISTRICT 10 - 84.31%	DISTRICT 13 - 83.25%	DISTRICT 5 - 83.25%	DISTRICT 4 - 83.14%
DISTRICT 1 - 83.11%	DISTRICT 12 - 81.82%	DISTRICT 9 - 81.53%	DISTRICT 3 - 79.69%	





Commander's Corner

Don Suchy
Department Commander

Our 90th Annual Mid-Year Conference was held at the Divots Norfolk Lodge, in Norfolk on January 13-15, 2023. Our special guest was Midwest Region National Vice Commander Glenn Wahus from North Dakota. National Vice Commander Wahus shared information from our National Commander Jim Troiola and upcoming events. He also informed us where Nebraska is sitting in membership, I am happy to report that we have reached all of our target dates so far.

We heard great reports from all the committees and they were thanked for their time and dedication to these programs.

I would like to thank everyone that attended President Vicki and my American Legion Social event at Norfolk Post 16. Thank you Post 16 for providing your new Post for this event. A special thank you to Rick Kropf and Jerry and Starla Landkamer. Thank you to Ron Behnke for bartending for us, and all the people that brought food, we really appreciate all you did. Good food and fellowship was enjoyed by all who attended.

On the Saturday afternoon session, Nick Arnett from National Headquarters put on a great presentation on membership, a lot of great information was shared.



Adjutant Dave Salak presented Commander Don Suchy with a gift from the Department. Pictured (L to R) Commander Suchy, Marge Suchy, and Adjutant Salak.

The Department Oratorical contest was held Saturday evening. We had a contestant from each Area, they all did a fantastic job. The winner will be competing at the National level in Indianapolis in April. We wish her luck in the next level of competition.

Immediately following the Oratorical contest, we had a silent and live auction, with proceeds split between the American Legion NEF and the Auxiliary AEF. The auction netted a little over \$3,000, thank you everyone for your generous bids, and also to all our members that donated articles for the auction. A special thank you to Danny Smith for volunteering to be our auctioneer (thanks Donna), and also to

Bud and Beverly Neel and your family, for all your time and effort to organize this event.

On December 28, we attended a recognition banquet for the Creighton Prep baseball team and their parents at Omaha Post 1 for representing Post 1 at the American Legion World Series tournament in Shelby, NC. Congratulations Post 1 for all you do in sponsoring this team in baseball.

On January 26, my wife and I joined the National President and other American Legion Family members at Offutt Air Base to the DPAA facility. The Department of Defense's Defense POW/MIA Accounting Agency works to recover service members who became missing during their service.

The Nebraska Veterans Council annual Legislative Day was held February 3 at the Nebraska State Capital. We heard from several State Senators reporting to us about bills concerning veterans.

Later that day, my wife, Marge, and I drove to Manhattan, KS for their Mid-Winter Forum. Their special guest was Leading Candidate for National Commander Daniel Seehafer from Wisconsin.

It was such a pleasure reuniting with some of our old friends and making a lot of new ones from Kansas. I presented the Department of Kansas Commander, Jeremy Ehart, a membership challenge, and he accepted. My challenge to him is whoever reaches the highest percentage of membership by target date April 19, 2023 will receive \$100 toward their Commander's project. This is just another good incentive for our District and Post Commanders to work membership. We can do this.

In closing let's keep in mind we do not pick and choose who we represent, we represent all Veterans.

"Serving Our Veterans on the Road to Success"

From the Desk of the Department Adjutant Dave Salak:

At the 2022 Convention in Columbus, Resolution 5 "Honoring World War II Veterans" was adopted.

I ask all Posts to go through their membership and identify known WWII veterans and then send me a consolidated list of their names. If their "war era" isn't marked but you suspect they are a WWII member, please call them and verify. We want to honor all our WWII veterans.

At Department Convention in 2023, all WWII names provided to Department will be printed in our Convention Program. Department staff would greatly appreciate your time and effort and request this information not later than May 1.

This is also a great way to have your members renew their dues for the 2023 membership year!

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 Editor.....afwashburn@windstream.net

Department Officers

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.....Bruce Husted, 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



The NEBRASKA
Legionnaire

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Amanda Washburn, Editor
Dave Salak, Publisher's Representative

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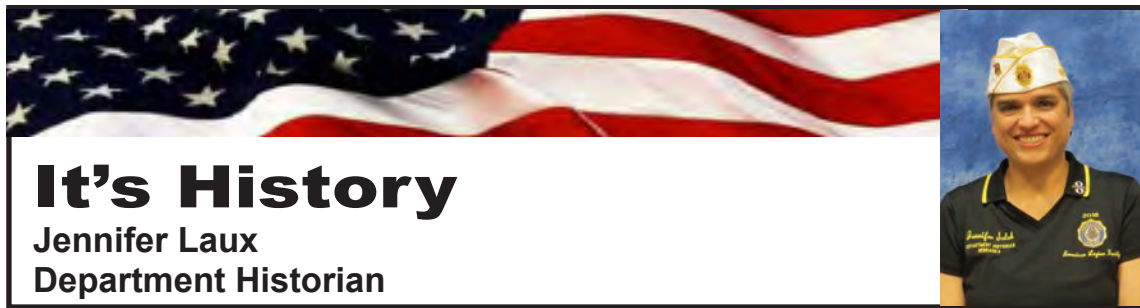
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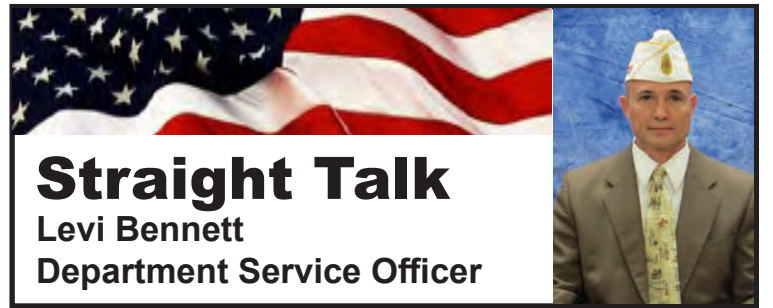
Email Address: _____

Member ID: _____

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



It's History
Jennifer Laux
Department Historian



Straight Talk
Levi Bennett
Department Service Officer

American Legion Department of Nebraska History Word Search

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

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

March 1943 (90 years ago)

- Boys State in Nebraska is out for the period of the war. The special committee appointed to determine the advisability of continuing **CORNHUSKER** Boys State during the war period has reluctantly concluded that it is impossible to do so. The program will be continued when the war has successfully terminated.
- Marcus Adair of **ELGIN** was the first veteran of World War II whose card was received at Department Headquarters. A member of **ANTELOPE** Post 172 in Neligh, he is now employed at the Veterans Hospital in Lincoln.
- Randall Biart, Department Chairman of Child Welfare, warned that today American is facing the greatest wave of **JUVENILE** delinquency in its history and supported that statement with concrete reports from Nebraska and other states. He warned that one of the most potent influences toward delinquency is employment of **MOTHERS** of school children outside the home and particularly in war industries.

March 1953 (80 years ago)

- The 1953 Department of Nebraska **MEMBERSHIP** is close to the 50,000 mark. This leaves a margin of some 11,000 between the present total and the quota set by Department officials.
- OMAHA** Post 1, in cooperation with WOW-TV, is currently producing a weekly show titled "Your **WITNESS**" which spotlights timely local and national topics. The show features a panel of experts quizzing another expert on a certain subject. Topics include Nebraska highways, Omaha's parking situation, are we eating too much, state government, and the new substitution rule in college **FOOTBALL**.

March 1963 (70 years ago)

- Veterans of the **CIVIL** War were honored guests at the annual Washington Day **BANQUET** of Stellges-Baker Post in **TRENTON**. This year the three surviving members of the local post, Clark Marsh, George Benjamin and Sam Lawrence were all present. The guest enjoyed a three-course **TURKEY** dinner.

What is the COMPACT Act of 2020?

The Veterans Comprehensive Prevention, Access to Care and Treatment (COMPACT) Act of 2020, section 201, requires the United States Department of Veterans Affairs (USDVA) to directly furnish, pay for, or reimburse emergent suicide care for eligible individuals in acute suicide crisis. This includes transportation costs associated with suicide care, at USDVA health care facilities as well as non-USDVA health care facilities.

Eligible Veterans may receive up to 30 days of inpatient or crisis residential care related to the acute suicide crisis (this period may be extended if deemed clinically necessary). Up to 90 days of outpatient care related to the acute suicide crisis, which includes both medical and mental health care (this period can be extended if deemed clinically necessary). Prescription medications that are related to your acute suicide crisis. Emergency transportation (ambulance and air ambulance) required to receive emergent suicide care. Emergent suicide care and associated emergency transportation must be provided at no cost and there will not be copayments or bills for eligible veterans. USDVA will determine eligibility for other USDVA services and benefits if individuals receiving emergent suicide care are not enrolled or registered with USDVA. USDVA will refer eligible individuals for appropriate services for which they are otherwise eligible, including social work.

Eligibility is met under the COMPACT Act if a Veteran meets any of the below criteria, regardless if the Veteran is enrolled in USDVA health care.

- Is a former member of the armed forces who was discharged or released from active duty under conditions other than dishonorable after more than 24 months of active service.
- Is a former member of the armed forces, including reserve service members, who served more than 100 days under a combat exclusion or in support of a contingency operation either directly or by operating an unmanned aerial vehicle from another location who were discharged or released under a condition that is other than dishonorable.
- Is a former member of the armed forces who was the victim of a physical assault of a sexual nature, a battery of a sexual nature, or sexual harassment while serving in the armed forces.

As with any unscheduled out-of-network for USDVA health care or non-USDVA emergency room visit(s), it is a best practice for the Veteran, or a loved one, or another trusted person to contact the USDVA to ensure the emergency care is being reported to the USDVA within 72 hours of the start of emergent care. If a community provider fails to notify USDVA of the veteran being treated within 72 hours, the USDVA may decline to pay the medical bills and the veteran may be billed by the provider. I encourage all veterans and those that care for veterans to have the "Reporting Emergency Care to USDVA" phone number (844-724-7842) saved in their cell phones. A veteran may also report the unscheduled non-USDVA medical treatment online at <https://emergencyreporting.communitycare.va.gov/#/> request.



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 • Email: ndva.sso@nebraska.gov
 • Live chat at the bottom right of the page on veterans.nebraska.gov

Membership Minute

Steve Bartos – Membership Chairman

As Spring approaches, our membership effort appears to be experiencing its unwelcome --- but not unusual --- slow down. After placing among the “Top 10” departments over the last few months, we have now recently dropped into the “Second 10.” We need every post to make the effort to clean up their delinquent list.

All is not lost. There is reason to be encouraged. Last year, we failed to meet the 85% Target Date Goal in February. This year, however, we achieved the goal on February 15th --- exceeding it by 2 members. My thanks to everyone who helped make that happen!!

Next up is the 90% target date on March 15th, and another direct renewal notice from national was scheduled to be mailed about March 1. (The early January notice, however, was late getting out).

For those unpaid members with email addresses shown in their MyLegion data, send them an email reminder. Drop them a postcard, give them a call, or pay them a visit. Any and every effort helps.

The 90% Target Date goal on March 15th also coincides with the “Big 12” competition. Winning or finishing in second place is not easy, and Nebraska is competing against 17 other departments in Category V. Departments in each category are ranked according to their per cent of goal on March 15th --- but any department not reaching the percentage they pledged last fall is disqualified. While we may have departments in our category doing a little better than we are, they might not meet their pledge. As a result, we just need to renew or recruit and transmit every single member we can by the 15th of March. Nebraska has pledged that we will have 91.60% of our goal by that date.

I probably sound like a broken record, but I continue to encourage everyone to use MyLegion to help manage your membership AND search for new members to transfer from Post 500, our headquarters holding post. Adjutant Salak sent out about 900 letters from Department Headquarters in early January to all of the Post 500 members who had not yet renewed their dues for 2023 and encouraged them to do so. But, please know that he ALSO recommended to them that they transfer their membership to a local post --- and gave them some good reasons why.

Please follow up on Adjutant Dave’s letter. Determine who the Post 500 members are who live near you and then contact them. I know that some posts are doing that ---- and some of these Post 500 members are transferring to a local post and renewing at the same time. It doesn’t hurt to also check with those headquarters post members who have already renewed for 2023. Some of those will transfer, too.

As for the Membership Committee, Committeeman Doug Vance (Area A) resigned in January. Committeeman Richard Baxter (Area D) has been ill and is convalescing at a care facility in Kearney. Please keep PDC Baxter in your thoughts.

Thank you for all you do in the continuing effort to maintain and GROW our American Legion. Have a nice March!



Daniel Wayne “Danny” Thomas was born September 4, 1946, at McCook in Red Willow County. He attended grade school in Danbury and graduated valedictorian of his class from Beaver Valley High School in Lebanon in 1964. He graduated from McCook Junior College and the University of Nebraska. Danny enlisted in the U.S. Air Force as a candidate for pilot training in the spring of 1968.

Danny Thomas was a Forward Air Controller assigned to the 23d Tactical Air Support Squadron at Nakhon Phanom RTAFB Thailand. Their missions were quite sensitive and highly classified. On July 6, 1971, Army Captain Donald G “Butch” Carr was aboard the Air Force OV10A Bronco aircraft flown by Thomas, when the aircraft disappeared 1.5 miles inside Laos, west of Ben Het. The aircraft had been on a visual reconnaissance mission over central Laos when it was lost. Thomas’ plane was detailed out of the 23d Tactical Aerial Surveillance Squadron, tail number 67-14634.

The Bronco was among the aircraft most feared by the Viet Cong and NVA forces, because whenever the Bronco appeared overhead, an air strike seemed certain to follow. The glassed-in cabin could become uncomfortably warm, but it did provide great visibility. The two-man crew had armor protection and could use machine guns and bombs to attack; as well as rockets to mark targets for fighter bombers. This versatility enabled the plane to fly armed reconnaissance missions as well as forward air controllers.

At 1530 hours, Thomas radioed to the Army support facility that he was in his target area, but that he was unable to observe because of weather conditions. This was his last known radio contact. A ground reconnaissance team later reported hearing an impact or explosion at 1600 hours in their vicinity, but they did not report seeing the aircraft. Thomas and Carr were due to depart the area at 1700 hours, and should have radioed then. Search efforts were conducted through July 10, with no results.

A source reported that in July 1971, he had seen an American POW in that area. The source learned from a guard that the POW was a pilot of an OV10 that had been downed a week before. This information was thought to possibly correlate to either Carr or Thomas.

On March 7, 2017, DPAA released an announcement that Captain Daniel W. Thomas, USAF, listed as MIA had been accounted for. Remains were recovered by a Vietnamese Unilateral Recovery Team in August 2014, and identified in August 2015; as well as remains of Donald G. Carr, US Army. Analysis of aircraft wreckage and life support items indicated both aircrew members were in the aircraft at the time of impact.

Danny’s remains were returned to his family, and they were buried in a private family service in the Danbury-Marion Cemetery November 27, 2017. Daniel W. Thomas was posthumously awarded a Distinguished Flying Cross, Purple Heart, and other medals. Captain Thomas is memorialized on the Courts of the Missing at the National Memorial Cemetery of the Pacific.

Contentious Department Executive Committee Meeting in Norfolk

By Department Adjutant Dave Salak

On Friday, January 13, 2023, the Department Executive Committee (DEC) met and first on the agenda was the matter of a Nebraska Pardons Board hearing. At that hearing, several members of the Nebraska American Legion attended to support a fellow Legionnaire seeking a pardon. However, those Legionnaires did so wearing their Nebraska cover and it is this specific action that didn’t sit well with several members of the DEC. The majority of the DEC did not have an issue with these members supporting another veteran/Legionnaire but they did take issue with them wearing their Nebraska Legion hats during the hearing.

As a result, a motion was made to censure the individuals in question and for them to issue a public apology via the Nebraska Legionnaire. This public apology is listed herein.

January 17, 2023

To: All members of The American Legion, Department of Nebraska

I apologize for wearing my American Legion hat while supporting a fellow veteran at a Nebraska Pardons Board Hearing.

Donald Suchy
Department Commander 2022-2023

Douglas Boldt
Past Department Commander 2003-2004

Daniel Benes
Past Department Commander 2021-2022

Richard Baxter
Past Department Commander 2002-2003

David Bruckner
Past Department Commander 2013-2014

Michael Landkamer
Past Department Commander 1998-1999

William Crosier
Past Department Commander 2008-2009

Michael Helm
Past Department Commander 1987-1988
Past National Commander 2014-2015

Jerry Landkamer
Past Department Commander 2006-2007

Julie Schnitzler
District 6 Commander 2021-2023

Sons of The American Legion Membership

As of Febraury 15, 2023

District	2022 Members	2023 Members
1	329	210
2	639	452
3	223	182
4	352	316
5	134	121
6	1,316	1,126
7	732	542
8	866	710
9	342	216
10	364	218
11	1,088	981
12	258	185
13	130	114
15	145	140
Total	6,918	5,513

2023 Mid - Year Conference - Norfolk



National and Department Officers are seated at the head table for the Joint Session. Pictured (L to R) ALR Liaison John Arias, NECman Fred Craigie, National Vice Commander Glenn Wahus, Commander Don Suchy, Auxiliary President Vicki Ozenbaugh, Sons Senior Vice Eldon Kramer, Leading Candidate for SAL National Commander Don "JR" Hall, and Sons NECman David Rippe.

Nebraska American Legion 2022-2023 Lottery Winners

Thank you to all that participated in this year's lottery. The drawing was held during the Sunday Joint Session of the Mid-Year Conference in Norfolk. The winners were:

- Grand Prize: \$2,500, K. E. Houchens, Lincoln
- 2nd Place: \$1,000, Greg Roan, Grand Island
- 3rd Place: \$ 500, Irvin Hess, Farnam
- 4th Place: \$ 200, Lawrence Will, Columbus
- 5th Place: \$ 200, Gayle Martinson, Wahoo
- 6th Place: \$ 200, Donald McQuigg, Omaha
- 7th Place: \$ 200, Randall Koehler, Nelson
- 8th Place: \$ 200, Larry Reiff, Omaha

A special drawing was also held for tickets purchased at the Conference. Each of the following won \$100: Judy Walters, Ainsworth; Don Nelson, Clay Center; David Salak, Lincoln; Wes Luther, Ainsworth; and Michael Reimers, Central City.



Glenn Wahus, National Vice Commander (Midwest Region), was presented with a plaque and an Admiralty from the Nebraska Navy. Pictured (L to R) Commander Don Suchy, NVC Glenn Wahus, and NECman Fred Craigie.



Mary Worthing of Arthur County High School was the winner of the annual Nebraska American Legion Oratorical competition and was awarded a \$1,000 scholarship. Second place and a \$600 scholarship went to Jack Watermolen of Lincoln Southwest High School, third place and a \$400 scholarship went to Reagan Choat of Plainview High School, and fourth place and a \$200 scholarship went to Joshua Mammen of Creighton Prep High School. Pictured with the winners are (left) Commander Don Suchy, (right) Oratorical Chairman Michael Landkamer, and Americanism Chairman Michael Hatfield.



The Children and Youth Committee had Jill Druskis, Former Director of the National Americanism Division, speak to the session about the numerous C&Y programs and benefits The American Legion offers. Pictured (L to R) Commander Don Suchy, Jill Druskis, and Adjutant Dave Salak.



Dillon Olson of Concord was awarded the 2022 Nebraska American Legion Baseball Player of the Year plaque. Pictured (L to R) Commander Don Suchy, Dillon Olson, and Americanism Committee Chairman Michael Hatfield.



2022-23 Boys' State Governor Vikram Menon of Omaha spoke to the joint session. Pictured (L to R) Commander Don Suchy, Vikram Menon, and Americanism Chairman Michael Hatfield.



The Rehabilitation Committee had Leah Anderson of the NDOL Veteran Reemployment Coordinator speak to the session about employment opportunities for veterans. Pictured (L to R) Commander Don Suchy, Leah Anderson, and Adjutant Dave Salak.



Department Historian Jennifer Laux was presented with a copy of her 2021-22 Yearbook and the plaque and certificate from her third place finish in the 2022 Yearbook judging.



Commander Don Suchy presented PDC Dan Benes with the 2021-2022 Yearbook, 2022 Department Convention minutes, and the 2021-2022 Nebraska Legionnaire newspapers to remember his year as Commander.



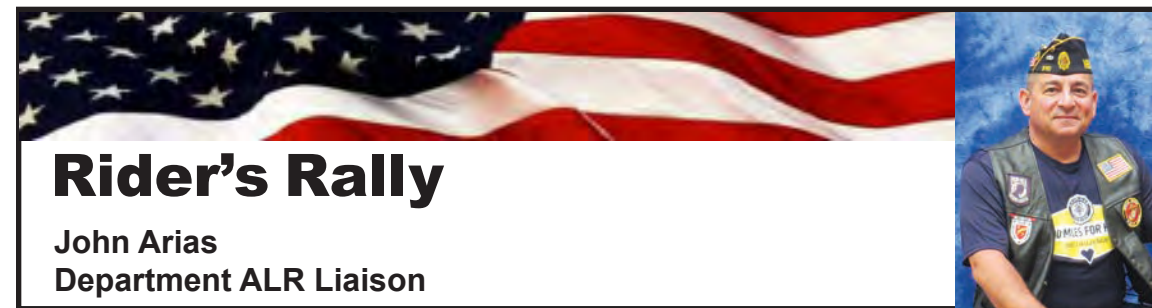
Pictured to the left: The family of PDC Gene Twiford was presented with a Memorial Resolution to honor the memory of their father. Gene, his wife, Jan, and daughter, Dana were killed in August of 2022.

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Rider's Rally

John Arias
Department ALR Liaison



Greetings Fellow Riders,

We held our Mid-Winter Conference ALR meeting on January 14, 2023. We started our meeting at 4:15 pm after Casey Walton posted colors for us. There were thirty riders present.

Department Commander Don Suchy thanked the Riders for all the work (funeral escorts, flag lines, poker runs) we have put in to support Veterans and the Legion Family.

A moment of Silence was given to the fallen Riders of 2022. The minutes from the previous meeting minutes were approved as presented.

Under old business, several chapters received the National American Legion Legacy Scholarship fund plaques and awards. Edgar Chapter 248 was not present to accept the awards, the plaque and award were not passed.

Under new business: Daryl Harrison spoke about the Medal of Honor Run (3rd year) on Memorial Weekend on May 27, 2023, celebrating the Medal of Honor recipients. The Thedford SAL helped buy community signs. The Medal of Honor Run will start in Valentine and head east towards South Sioux City. Daryl also spoke about the Beemer Motorcycle Raffle and since the bike was donated back, they are looking for a chapter to buy it to raffle. The Beemer Auxiliary also donated \$600.00.

Casey Walton spoke about the Memorial Park being built in Gordon. Casey stated that there were 75 slots left on the wall for \$40.00 each. For more information contact Casey Walton.

The 2024 State Romp will be hosted by four chapters originating in Chadron.

The 2023 Legacy Ride Across Nebraska was discussed and Casey Walton suggested it take place with the Medal Of Honor Run on Memorial Day weekend.

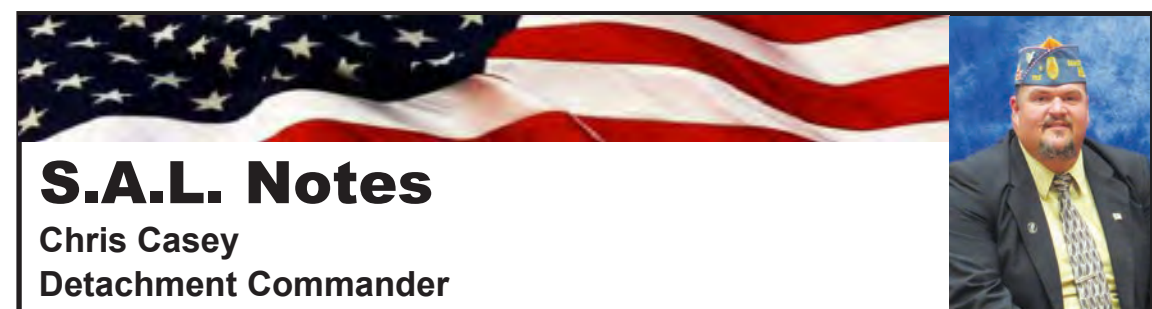
LB 91 a bill to repeal the helmet law for those over 21 was discussed. Please contact your State Senator and support this bill.

Danny Stefka gave his ALR Region report detailing the work they had done in 2022.

I thanked the ALR Chapters who supported the Quilts of Valor by providing flag lines and other duties. Bruce Gubser reported that the Lincoln ALR Chapter will be hosting a poker run on September 23, 2023. Casey Walton retired the colors, and the meeting was adjourned at 5:20 p.m.

I've yet to receive any nominations for the Rider of the year. Please get with your Assistant Liaisons and nominate a deserving Rider from your chapter.

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



S.A.L. Notes

Chris Casey
Detachment Commander



Greetings from the Detachment of Nebraska! The Detachment was honored to host the leading candidate for Sons of The American Legion National Commander Don "JR" Hall Jr. at our Mid-Year Conference. Mr. Hall was joined by Sons of The American Legion National Legislative Commission Chairman Tom Deal. We enjoyed having them both take part in our meetings and training. Don and Tom are members of the outstanding Detachment of Maryland. Our leadership was blessed to spend time learning about the successes of the Maryland Sons and how we may adapt some of the Maryland programs to work for Nebraska. The Detachment of Nebraska wishes Don "JR" Hall safe travels during the remainder of his campaign. We are excited for the leadership he will provide our national organization.

Once again, the Detachment of Nebraska would like to thank Past National Commander Danny Smith for the training he provided to those in attendance at our leadership workshop. Danny has provided many excellent trainings throughout my two years as Detachment Commander. We continue to encourage all members to take advantage of training whenever it is available. You might consider starting with the Basic Training course available at www.legion.org/alei. Our organization is strengthened by members who understand the processes, programs, and traditions of The American Legion Family.

District Convention season is upon us. I have asked our Detachment leadership to attend their local Districts and carry messaging from the state level. I encourage all Sons of The American Legion members to consider attending these meetings in better numbers. It would be extremely helpful to have a shared message of involvement from the rest of The American Legion Family at the local level. These meetings are a great opportunity to network with other members outside of your own Post home. The information shared is valuable and helps to improve the work being done by our Squadrons. Share your successes and assist other Posts, Units, Squadrons, and Chapters in finding success of their own.

The Sons of The American Legion National Americanism Commission is asking for the help of the entire American Legion Family to reach the goal of placing 1.5 million flags on the gravesites of those who have served. The program is called Flying Flags for Heroes (FFFH) and was kicked off last year by placing over 1.3 million flags. We have considerable work to do to reach Nebraska's goal of placing 28,370 flags by the National Convention in August. Please visit www.flyingflagsforheroes.com for more information or feel free to contact me by email at aproudpatriot1776@gmail.com with any questions you may have. Ask your Sons Squadron when they plan to host a community flag placement event and how you can get involved. Remember to return to the FFFH website after your event to register the number of flags placed and upload any pictures of your event(s). Honor the service of our veterans, inspire patriotism within our communities, and promote national pride! "Sacrifice is meaningless without remembrance."

Candidate Announcement

Carl Lorenzen
Senior Vice Commander



Carl Lorenzen, Area A Vice Commander, has announced his candidacy for the high office of Department Senior Vice Commander.

Lorenzen's qualifications for membership in the American Legion include over 33 years of service in the Nebraska Air National Guard as a pilot, with 25,000 hours of military and civilian flight time. He has

held nearly every military leadership position to include; Wing Commander, Chief of Staff and Assistant Adjutant General for Air. He served on Active Duty as the last Air Reconnaissance Wing Commander and the first Air Refueling Wing Commander for the 155th Wing, Nebraska Air National Guard. He successfully led the 155th through the conversion from the RF-4C to the KC-135R Aircraft and Mission while managing a sixty million dollar base reconstruction project to support the KC-135R mission.

Lorenzen graduated from Blair High School, and Nebraska Wesleyan University with a degree in Economics and a minor in accounting. He is a graduate of Air Command and Staff College and a resident graduate of the Air War College, Air University, Maxwell AFB, Alabama. He is an Honorary Alumni of the Army War College.

He is a 54 year member of the American Legion, Jackson-Peck Post 274, Herman American Legion and Voiture 1018, 40 & 8. He serves on the Post 274 Honor Guard and has served several times as Post 274 Commander, County Commander and is currently serving as the Area A Vice Commander and Washington County Commander.

I am extremely proud of my military and Legion service. I provide proven leadership and will serve our Legion Family with honor, integrity and impartiality. I pledge to carry out the duties of Senior Vice Commander in a professional manner representing all Nebraska Legionnaires. I ask for your vote for the office of Senior Vice Commander and look forward to continued service in the Department of Nebraska.

Donald E. Patras
Area B Vice Commander



Donald E. Patras currently serves as Post Commander for Hartman Post 84 in Columbus.

Don has served and presently serves on several committees with in the Post. His leadership is very strong and he is very understanding. He always has time to listen to the thoughts and concerns of the membership.

Don's eligibility as a member of The American Legion comes from his service to his country with the United States Navy where he served as a Seabee. During his time with the Seabee's, Don was deployed to the Western Pacific twice and to Puerto Rico.

Don grew up in Clearwater, NE where his father was very involved with The American Legion. Don has been involved with the American Legion Family for over 50 years. Don's wife Nancy serves as President of Hartman Unit 84 and Vice President of District 7. Don has taken online courses of The American Legion to expand his knowledge. Don and Nancy have three sons and a daughter along with 10 grandchildren and 3 great grandchildren. Don and Nancy celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary this past July.

Don serves on the Hartman Post 84 Honor Guard, works bingo; fish fry's and is very visible around the Post. Don has lead the Post to become a 100% Membership Post. He continues to work hard on membership and has received awards from the National Commander and Department Commander of The American Legion. Because of Don's dedication and hard work Hartman Post 84 has awarded him the Volunteer of the Year Award, Legionnaire of the Year Award and Honorary Life Membership. Don is also a member of the 40&8 Voiture 841 and a Life Member of VFW Post 3704.

It is with great pride that Hartman Post 84 endorses Donald E. Patras for Area "B" Vice Commander of the Nebraska American Legion and asks you for your support at the Department Convention in June at Kearney.



Acton, Russell R, South Omaha
 Aden, Marvin, Barneston, Korea
 Akers, Virgil L., Bloomfield, WWII
 Arbuthnot, Dave A., Madison, Vietnam
 Arnold, Wayne D., David City, Korea
 Beckenbach, Leonard O., Lincoln, Korea
 Bell, Richard, Alliance, Vietnam
 Benson, Douglas D., South Omaha, Vietnam
 Bilyeu, Lynn H., Chadron, WWII
 Blair, Benjamin R., South Omaha, WWII
 Bolus, Charles, Lincoln, WWII
 Bonacci, Baptist J. Sr., Omaha, WWII
 Borrel, John E., Glenvil, Vietnam
 Bottolfson, Robert E., Hastings, SAL
 Boyles, David L., Doniphan, SAL
 Brauer, Wilmer D., Sidney, Korea
 Braziel, Bryson, Lincoln, Korea
 Breitenfeldt, Steven E., Doniphan
 Broz, Ron, Wilber, Persian Gulf
 Burger, Charles L., Beatrice, Korea
 Burke, Ronald L., Lincoln Vietnam
 Bykerk, Craig D., Grand Island, SAL
 Cave, Richard W., Lincoln, Korea
 Chavez, Rugerio S., South Omaha, Korea
 Chohon, Donald, O'Neill, Korea
 Chuda, Larry L., Lincoln, Vietnam
 Cihlar, L. J., Verdigre, Korea
 Cooper, William L., North Platte, Korea
 Cox, Larry J., South Omaha, Vietnam
 Curry, Larry G., South Omaha, Vietnam
 Curtis, Clayton A., Norfolk, Korea
 Dappen, Lester W., Omaha, WWII
 Decarlo, Angeline, South Omaha, WWII
 Dietrich, Calvin, Leigh, Vietnam
 Ditter, Leroy J., Columbus, Vietnam
 Divoky, Alvin L., South Omaha, Korea
 Doue, Thomas A. Sr., Bellevue
 Doyle, Forrest A., Friend, Panama
 Drabek, Dennis, Kearney, Vietnam
 Edelmaier, John D., Lincoln, WWII
 Emken, Ronald D., Grand Island, SAL
 Engel, Leo P., South Sioux City, Korea
 Epstein, Irving B., Omaha, Korea
 Eriksen, Roland, South Omaha SAL
 Euchner, Dale W., York, Korea
 Fanslau, Walter H., South Omaha, Korea
 Findley, Robert, Hastings, Korea
 Fleming, Dennis R., Norfolk, Vietnam
 Franzen, Werner J., North Platte, Korea
 Frerichs, Roger P., Lincoln, Vietnam
 Gabelman, Gerald R., Lincoln, Korea
 Glandt, Stanley, South Omaha, Korea
 Grabenstein, Norman, North Platte, Vietnam
 Groves, Timothy R., Lincoln, Vietnam
 Haase, Kenneth J., Papillion, Vietnam
 Hansen, Charles E., Friend, Persian Gulf
 Heithoff, Delbert V., Elgin, Korea
 Hermann, Vernon W., Bennet, WWII
 Hill, Gary, Lincoln, Vietnam
 Hillman, Arthur D., Lincoln, WWII
 Hilton, Marvin R., York, Vietnam
 Hoffman, Leonard F., Pierce
 Hohl, Thomas G., Lincoln, SAL
 Hopkins, Ernie, Elkhorn, Korea
 Hubenka, Albin K., South Omaha, Korea
 Huls, Har J., Beatrice, Vietnam
 Janssen, Ramon, Hooper, Vietnam
 Jech, Keith, Wayne, WWII
 Jefferson, Mark R., Omaha, Vietnam
 Jensen, Eugene, Bloomfield, Vietnam
 Johansen, Dennis, Osceola, Vietnam
 Johnson, Douglas W., Lincoln, Vietnam
 Jones, Gale D., York, WWII
 Jurgens, Arnold L., Beatrice, Vietnam
 Kaplan, George J., Millard, Vietnam
 Keenportz, Lloyd B., McCook, Korea
 Kirchhoff, Wallace E., Alliance, Korea
 Kirkendall, Alvie M., Havelock, WWII
 Kisicki, Thomas J., Omaha, Vietnam
 Kruger, John A., Nebraska City, Korea
 Kucera, Brian P., Cedar Bluffs, SAL
 Kurtz, Joseph T. Jr., South Omaha
 Kusek, David D., Doniphan, SAL
 Larsen, Norman E., York, Korea
 Larson, Don, Dakota City, WWII
 Livingston, Donald, South Omaha, Vietnam
 Lottman, Laverne A. Sr., Beatrice, Korea
 Luedtke, Alan, Arcadia, SAL
 Macatis, Jim C., South Omaha, SAL
 Mallartt, Lavaughn J., Laurel, WWII
 Mares, Mildred L., Columbus, WWII
 Marget, Wayne L., Cowles, Vietnam
 Martin, Robert A., Oakland, Korea
 Martinez, Joseph C., South Omaha, Korea
 Matejka, Joseph A., Ravenna, Korea
 Mattea, Donn T., Omaha, Korea
 Meade, Donald E., Omaha, Vietnam
 Meyers, Herbert O., Lincoln, Korea
 Miller, James F., Elmwood, Korea
 Mires, Terry L., North Platte, Vietnam
 Moore, Joseph D., Utica, Vietnam
 Moore, Kenneth, Beatrice, Korea
 Moran, George Jr., North Omaha
 Mori, Wesley J., South Omaha, Korea
 Nelson, Paul A., Spencer, Vietnam
 Nervig, Dean A., Millard, Vietnam
 Nicola, James N., Decatur
 Nincehelsner, George, Auburn, Vietnam
 Noordam, John P., South Omaha, SAL
 Nordstrom, Karl D., Kearney, Vietnam
 Odvody, David R., Prague, Vietnam
 Paul, Bill, Barneston, Vietnam
 Pelton, Jimmy R., Arnold, Vietnam
 Peterreit, Terry K., Louisville
 Petersen, William J., David City, Vietnam
 Pezdirtz, Leo, Omaha, Korea
 Phifer, Thomas, North Platte, Vietnam
 Pohlmeier, Donavan J., Lawrence, Korea
 Ponec, Robert J., South Omaha, Vietnam
 Ponec, Robert J., South Omaha, Vietnam
 Porterfield, Jerry, Omaha, Vietnam
 Rahe, Brian L., DeWitt, SAL
 Rainforth, Thomas R., Doniphan
 Rall, Frank W., Lincoln, WWII
 Raue, Carl M. Jr., Decatur, Persian Gulf
 Reicks, James D., O'Neill, Vietnam
 Reppert, Paul T. Jr., West Point, Vietnam
 Repschlaeger, Marvin T., West Point, Korea
 Richtarik, Ronnie G., Wilber
 Rise, Arnold E., Fremont
 Roberts, Carroll, North Platte, WWII
 Robinson, John S., Lincoln, Korea
 Rock, Gerald E., Papillion, Korea
 Sandoval, Bruce A., South Omaha, Vietnam
 Sanley, William D., David City, WWII
 Sasich, Metro J., South Omaha, WWII
 Sawyer, Ronald L., Greta, Korea
 Schmader, Frank J., Omaha, WWII
 Schulz, Robert V., Madison, Vietnam
 Scow, Thomas D. Jr., Osceola, Panama
 Scribner, Ewin, Fairbury, Vietnam
 Sekyra, Robert, South Omaha, Korea
 Semroska, Edward A., Papillion, Korea
 Sheehan, Cornelius A., Seward
 Shields, Roscoe L. Jr., Lincoln, WWII
 Siedlik, Thomas, South Omaha, Vietnam
 Sisson, Thomas W., Ewing, Vietnam
 Sjostrom, Donald D., Alliance, Korea
 Sliva, Harold, South Omaha, WWII
 Sliva, James, Shickley, Vietnam
 Smith, Harold F. Jr., Fairmont, WWII
 Smith, Marshall, Burwell, Vietnam
 Smith, Robert, Columbus, Korea
 Sock, Frank J., Silver Creek
 Sorensen, Jack A., South Sioux City, Korea
 Sparling, Stanley W., Lincoln, Vietnam
 Spaustat, Walter R., South Omaha, Korea
 Stanford, Thomas W., South Omaha, Vietnam
 Sterns, Bernard, Atkinson, WWII
 Stohlmann, Lyle A., Louisville, Persian Gulf
 Stow, Marlan D., Springview, Korea
 Stump, Ernest G., South Omaha, Vietnam
 Swadley, Wayne, Palmer, SAL
 Talbot, Laurel E., Pleasanton, WWII
 Teply, Vernon A., South Omaha, WWII
 Thornburg, Howard L., Beatrice, WWII
 Thornburg, Keith, Beatrice, Vietnam
 Timmerman, Delbert L., Clay Center, Vietnam
 Trenchard, Paul, Oxford
 Turek, Milton, Ord
 Tyson, Jon, Nebraska City
 Vaca, Ronald J., Cedar Bluffs, SAL
 Vanderslice, Paul W., Seward, Vietnam
 Varicak, Emanuel, North Platte, WWII
 Vondollen, Robert E., South Omaha, WWII
 Vorderstrasse, Allen R., Glenvil, Vietnam
 Wegner, Doug, Palmer, SAL
 White, Robert J., North Platte, Vietnam
 Whitmore, R. C., Shelby, SAL
 Wilkinson, Floyd E., Lincoln, Korea
 Winkelman, Marvin L., Prague, Vietnam
 Wipf, Virgil L., Lincoln, Vietnam
 Wolken, Laverne E., Beatrice, Korea
 Worm, Jerald L., Havelock, Vietnam
 Wright, John A., Lincoln, Vietnam
 Wright, Joseph M., South Omaha, Vietnam
 Yosten, Daniel M., West Point, Korea
 Young, Deloyt A., North Platte, WWII
 Zelensky, Frank, South Omaha, WWII
 Zimmer, Richard J., Plattsmouth, Vietnam

Events Calendar

March

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

April

- 7 Good Friday - Office Closed
- 9 Easter Sunday
- 19 95% Membership Target Date
- 21 - 23 Oratorical Contest - Indianapolis, IN

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

Mail Call

Dear American Legion,

I am writing to say thank you for your generous scholarship. I was very happy and appreciative to learn that I was selected as a recipient of the Maynard Jensen scholarship. At the University of Nebraska-Lincoln College of Education and Human Sciences, I ended my first semester with a 4.0 and on the Dean's list. Receiving this scholarship allows me to pay for my upcoming books and other expenses. Again, I really appreciate receiving this scholarship.

Sincerely,
 Cameryn Brandt

ID Resolve From The LIT

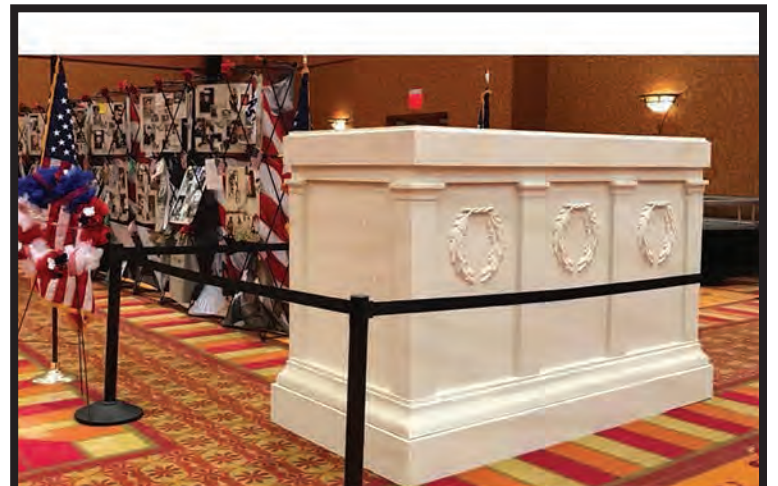


In today's world, identity theft is one of the fastest growing crimes in America. If you or your spouse fall victim to identity theft what would you do? Where would you turn? With Legionnaire ID Resolve you'll have 24-hour identity theft resolution that helps protect your money, your time

and your financial reputation.

If you haven't fallen victim to identity theft yet, don't think you're safe. Data breaches happen every day, where thieves can steal your name, date of birth, credit card information, medical records, and your Social Security number. That's why your Department of The American Legion has endorsed ID Resolve. A new program to help Legionnaires fight back instead of being a victim and not knowing where to turn.

ID Resolve helps you eliminate the uncertainty, by putting ID experts on your side to clean up the mess and help restore your name. You can be confident you're getting the protection you deserve when it comes to your money, accounts, credit cards, financial records, and your good name. Plus, our no-obligation money-back guarantee allows you a full 30-day examination period in case you change your mind about this identity resolution.



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 billwilliams@patrioticproductions.org
www.PatrioticProductions.org



Saint Paul Post 119 member Albert Zimbelman was presented a Quilt of Valor for his 90th birthday. Pictured (L to R) Joyce Ward, Charlotte Rasmussen, Unit President Char Schmid, Albert Zimbelman, and Donna Dobish.



Glen and Shirley Baker of Bassett were presented with certificates of appreciation for their service in WWII during the District 1 Membership Tour in late November. Pictured front (L to R) Shirley and Glen Baker. Pictured back (L to R) President Vicki Ozenbaugh, Commander Don Suchy, and District 1 Commander Judy Walters.



Brunswick Post 357 presented a certificate for 75 years of continuous membership to Robert Sirek. Pictured (L to R) Robert Sirek, Neil Ostenrude, and Commander Clair Ohlrich.



Morse Bluff Post 340 presented certificates for 50 years of continuous membership to two of its members. Pictured (L to R) Commander Galen Johnson and Joe Kavan. Not pictured is Rich Bollwitt.



Fremont Post 20 presented Goodwill and Walmart gift cards to the Dodge County Veteran Service Office. Pictured (L to R) Adjutant Ed O'Neill, Stan Crabb, Ron Spooner, and Dodge County VSO Mark Schneck. Taking the photo was Wes Conklin.



Burwell Post 298 raffled off a Weatherby SA-459 semi-automatic shotgun to raise money for their new Post home. Pictured (L to R) Adjutant Bill Weber, Bill Warren, Commander Don Christen, Wayne Lakin, Jim Bossard, Terrell Sanders, Craig Jones.



Auburn Post 23 presented Quilts of Valor to its members. Pictured top (L to R) Steve Knapp, Alan Daugherty, Harold Silvey, Martin Hayes. Pictured bottom (L to R) John Mayfield, Robert Sherman, Clifford McMann, and Ronald Jones.



Millard Post 374 set up a table to promote and recruit new members for their Post family. Pictured (L to R) Gordon Mix and Rebecca Redlinger Wesch.



Eustis Post 257 hosted a Christmas party for its members. Legion member Bob Dutton was presented with a Quilt of Valor. Pictured (L to R) Helen and Bob Dutton, and Lore Boerkircher (the quilt maker).



Elwood Post 290 member Oscar Stoll was presented with a Quilt of Valor. He served in the Army during World War II. Pictured is Oscar Stoll surrounded by some of his family.



Kearney Post 52 was chosen as a recipient of the Cash-Wa Distributing "Give Back" and was awarded \$3,090 to use at their Post. Pictured (L to R), Cash-Wa staff, Commander Mark Dissmeyer, Adjutant Bill Crosier, Burdette Chappell, Kim Bayley, Bob Henning of Cash-Wa, and his staff.



Winside Squadron 252 created ten care packages for ten Wayne County active duty service members. The Legion and Auxiliary assisted by providing Christmas cards for the boxes. Pictured is Adjutant Bud Neel.



Polk Post 160 member Harvey McHarry was presented a Quilt of Valor for his time in the service. He enjoys playing pool five times a week at the local community.



The American Legion Auxiliary
Department of Nebraska

The Star

March 2023



MARCH MADNESS!



Why "March Madness?" It is a cliché heard across our country in March for the National Collegiate Athletic Association (NCAA) single-elimination basketball tournament to determine the national champion. It was created in 1939. It is just twenty years younger than the American Legion Auxiliary. Both have an amazing legacy.

To correlate "March Madness" to us, think about where we are in the Auxiliary year. Districts are holding their Spring Conventions. Members have already or are putting together History Books, Publicity Books, Prayer Books, and poppy centerpieces. Units are judging scholarships to be submitted to the Department by March 15. Units should be working on their annual reports that are due by April 20. Units should be writing narratives for many of the Department and National Awards. All of this is done to "highlight" our outstanding, dependable Nebraska Auxiliary units! We do not have one champion; we have many!

Even in this "March Madness," we have more to complete in our year. March is Community Service month. When you think about your community, do you define it as the place where you live, play, and work? A place of contentment? Home? What is your unit doing this month to make your community a better place to live as well as to demonstrate our longstanding commitment to support the work of our American Legion? Let the citizens of your town know what you have done or are doing and remember:

*"Real towns are not made
by men afraid,
Lest somebody else gets ahead,
When everyone works
and nobody shirks
You can raise a town
from the dead.
And if while you make
your personal stake
Your neighbor can make one, too,
Your town will be
what you want to see,
It isn't your town, it's you."*

That verse comes from a poem entitled "It Isn't Your Town --- It's You!" by R. W. Glover. I discovered it when I was reading through some old issues of THE STAR. It was shared by Department President Lorena Hahn, 1929-1930, who was also National President, 1936-1937. I'll add a more recent quote from Yoko Ono, "Keep going until your efforts start to make things better in your hometown." Do your part for Community Service.

March is also when we want to recognize and celebrate the birthday of The American Legion (TAL). Plan to honor your post this month as the TAL celebrates its 104 years. And, of course, publicize and report what you do!

Then, it is time to start planning your April events. It is Children & Youth month as well as the Month of the Military Child. Wear purple on April 15 for "Purple Up for Military Kids." Don't forget our "Good Deed Award" and "Youth Hero Award." There are many deserving youths in our state who qualify for these awards. Let us do our part to recognize them. If your unit has Juniors, April would be a great month to involve them in your meeting or event. They are our future.

Although Nebraska has dropped a few places in the membership race across the country (we still lead in the Northwestern Division), I don't believe we have run out of gas! We must not lose sight of the finish line and the real meaning of the Auxiliary. Again, quoting PNP/PDP Lorena Hahn, "We are organized not for self-pleasure or gratification, but in

order that those who sacrificed so much might be benefited because of our existence...We can aid only in proportion to our strength. We must have every eligible member and every member at work if we are to measure up to the task before us."

I believe it is a privilege to belong to this great patriotic organization. My personal feeling is no price is too high to belong when I think of the sacrifices our veterans, as well as our current military, have done for my freedoms. We need a little over 3,000 members to reach our goal of 17,091. Are you one of those 3,000?

A Mid-Year recap was in the February Newsletter, but I will share briefly so all members know how much I appreciate their ALA membership. We had a fantastic, fun conference. All thirteen districts were represented, with 62 units, 5 Juniors, and 80 Seniors registered. Six overflowing boxes of snack items (donated by members/units) were delivered to the four Veterans Homes and the two Medical Centers (Grand Island, Omaha). Thanks to those who provided items for the Winter Warmth & Care Kits for our homeless veterans. We assembled 58 complete kits and 61 that need a couple of items. The Auxiliary Emergency Fund (AEF) and National Emergency Fund (NEF) auction was a huge success. Each program will receive \$1,508. And, we had "fun, fun, fun until Vicki put the gavel away!!"

Through all this "ALA Madness," I am grateful to serve as your Department President and thank all the dependable Nebraska Auxiliary members. You are the best!

Vicki Ozenbaugh
Department President '22-'23



NATIONAL PRESIDENT'S VISIT TO NEBRASKA

National President Vickie Koutz, Department of Indiana, visited Nebraska January 23 - 27, 2023. We had a whirlwind road trip planned that took us into Districts 5, 6, 7, 2, 3, and 8. We "skipped" our visit in North Bend at the Veterans Memorial to keep on schedule. The weather was cold --- and some days really cold. Some of our visits were drive-by as the snow depth and weather were too severe.

The hospitality along the travels was exceptional, the food plentiful and delicious, and members very happy to meet Madam President. She is a down-to-earth member and so enjoyed listening to the stories and taking questions. She was able to greet nearly 200 Nebraskans as her National pin count was pretty slim when her travels ended. President Koutz could not pick out just one "favorite" as she considered each unique and special.

If I had to select my "favorite," it was our visit to Offutt AFB and the DPAA (Defense POW/MIA Accountability Agency). The folks examining and handling the remains of our fallen military personnel are remarkable. Certainly not a task for everyone.

My personal "favorite" was our visit to the gravesite of Gene, Jan, and Dana Twiford in Laurel, Nebraska. Gene is a Past Department

Commander, Jan a past District 3 President, and Dana a great friend with the friendliest of smiles. It was the coldest of sites, but we actually got out and visited. A daughter, Gail, met us there.

We were also able to meet Jack Schlickbernd, of Wayne, who attends school in Wakefield and is a recent Eagle Scout recipient. Jack's project is a permanent POW/MIA chair display at Eaton Field in Gaves Park in Wakefield. If you get to Wakefield for summer baseball games, be sure to visit the display. You will be impressed.

We visited the gravesites of two Medal of Honor (MOH) recipients; namely Leander Herron (of St. Paul and the first Nebraska MOH recipient) and Dale Merlin Hansen, of Wisner. Hansen family members met us in the bitter cold and blistering winds. We also visited Fort McPherson National Cemetery in Maxwell, Nebraska and attempted to locate the four MOH recipients. I believe we were close to a couple, but snow was a factor.

Visits were made to the Grand Island VAMC, Veterans Homes at Kearney, Norfolk, and Omaha, and the Omaha National Cemetery.

Beverly A. Neel
Distinguished Guest Chair



GRETNA UNIT #216 LAST STOP FOR NATIONAL ALA PRESIDENT

Several Legion family members from District 8 and the surrounding area came together to share a meal and conversation with National ALA President Vickie Koutz on Thursday, January 26, 2023 at the Gretna Legion Post 216. The evening began with cocktails and dinner catered by Jack Conley, a professional caterer and Post 216 member --- followed by a music video by Air Force veteran and singer/songwriter Jimmy Weber entitled "TAPS" (God Is Nigh).

President Koutz stated this gathering was the largest audience she greeted during her tour in Nebraska, with several notable Legion family guests in attendance. She shared that her president's project is to help every companion who is medically needed by a National Veterans Creative Arts Festival (NVCAF) veteran as well as to raise awareness on an issue close to her heart --- our country's Prisoners of War and

Missing in Action.

Several units sponsored floral centerpieces that were auctioned and raised \$170 for the President's project for National Creative Arts companions. Moreover, a wreath donated by Unit 216 President Moore brought in \$180 for the Department's Auxiliary Emergency Fund Drive.

Many guests have inquired about getting a link to photos that were taken by the photographer at the event as well as a link to the music video. Visit Unit 216's new Facebook page: American Legion Auxiliary Unit 216 - Gretna, NE or contact President Moore directly at 402-672-2040 • GretnaALA216@gmail.com.



Unit 216 President Moore presents National President Koutz a poppy scarf to thank her for visiting and for her commitment to the ALA.



Presidential Lineup:
Unit 216
President Cindy Moore, National President Vickie Koutz, District 8 President Paula Pillen, and Department President Vicki Ozenbaugh



Members of Gretna ALA Unit 216 pose for a group picture during the National ALA President's dinner on January 26, 2023.



LEGISLATIVE DAY

Greetings from the Nebraska State Capitol! Department President Vicki Ozenbaugh, Historian Amanda Washburn, and several other ALA members attended the Nebraska Veterans Council Legislative Day on February 3. We heard from Nebraska Governor Jim Pillen; State Senators Raymond Aguilar, Carol Blood, Jen Day, Rick Holdcroft, and Rita Sanders; Nebraska Department of Veterans Affairs Director John Hilgert; and Deputy Director Levi Bennett.

The group was encouraged to visit our state senators in order to voice our support for the following legislation:

- LB4 (Senator Sanders): Alters timing of homestead exemption applications, allowing permanently disabled veterans to apply every five years, rather than annually – Referred to Revenue Committee;
- LB10 (Senator Blood): Updates definition of disabled and blind veterans to conform with U.S. Code in state statutes providing for motor vehicle and mobile home tax exemptions – Referred to Revenue Committee;
- LB80 (Senator Aguilar): Appropriates \$8 million to Nebraska Department of Veterans Affairs for construction and improvements to Veterans Cemetery in Grand Island – Referred to Appropriations Committee; and
- LB126 (Senator Day): Changes provisions relating to homestead exemptions for disabled veterans and their spouses to include partial, stepped-up exemptions for veterans who are between 10 and

100 percent disabled – Referred to Revenue Committee.

As members of Legislative District 32, Department President Vicki, Past Department Commander Lyle Bartels, and I --- together with three members of the Sons of American Legion, visited our state senator, Tom Brandt. Senator Brandt indicated his support for all four pieces of legislation.

Department President Vicki brought up LB771 (Senator Sanders), which would provide grants to postsecondary institutions to establish internships and academic course programming to assist the U.S. Defense POW/MIA Accounting Agency with their work in providing the fullest possible accounting for missing personnel from past conflicts to their families and the nation. Senator Brandt indicated his support for this bill as well.

Senator Day mentioned in her speech, and Senator Brandt reiterated in his office, that at present, the most important issue is for any bills being supported by the American Legion Family to demonstrate enough backing so as to get out of the committee stage. The Senators recommended that if the above bills are important to us, we MUST voice our support through mail or phone calls – or even testifying in support at the committee hearing.

So, relay your support, Auxiliary members!! You can find your senator's contact information at www.nebraskalegislature.gov/senators.

*Loree Hendrickson
Legislative Chr.*



Nebraska American Legion Auxiliary and Dual Legion members at Veterans Legislative Day in the Lincoln State Capitol on Friday, February 3, 2023, include (L-R): Amanda Washburn, Geri Thomas, Paula Pillen-Quimby, Jennifer Stutte, Marylee Tisdale, Vicki Ozenbaugh, Loree Hendrickson, Roxanne Hiatt, and Jim Costello.

SOMEONE TOOK MY PIGS (CHILD WELFARE FOUNDATION)

When I was at the Department's Midyear Conference, I had two pink piggy banks in which to collect Child Welfare Foundation donations. **Someone took my pigs!**

I will gladly love to have them returned full of change to donate to the Child Welfare Foundation. Better yet, count the change, send a check to Department earmarked for the Child Welfare Foundation, and then pass the Pigs on to another Unit or District for collection.

The American Legion Child Welfare Foundation (CWF) provides grants for the physical, mental, emotional, and spiritual

welfare of children across the nation. Please consider making a donation to this worthy cause today. Please pass the pigs!

*Debra Albers
Children & Youth Chr.*



Time to make your reservations for the Department Convention!

Call The Ramada directly at 308-237-3141 and request the Legion block for the \$84 rate.

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
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 Ohiowa		#70 West Point	#312 Broadwater	#312 Broadwater	#20 Fremont
July	#141 Hampton	#52 Kearney	#268 Benington	#302 Leigh			#226 Bennington
Aug.	#365 Davenport	#52 Kearney		#176 Jackson			
Sept.	#290 Elwood	#209 Franklin			#12 Chadron	#12 Chadron	
Oct.	#290 Elwood	#316 Elm Creek		#322 Monroe		#364 Naponee	\$160 Polk
Nov.				#357 Brunswick	#10 Morrill	#54 Laurel	#160 Polk
Dec.	#257 Eustis			#302 Leigh	#10 Morrill	#133 Culbertson	
Jan.							
Feb.							

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

NATIONAL SECURITY: RAISING AWARENESS OF POW/MIA



Did You Know?

Approximately 81,000 service members (POW/MIA) remain unaccounted for, with nearly 71,000 from WWII. This year's special focus of the National Security program is to raise awareness of POW/MIA, provide ideas to become more aware of POW/MIA, and assist with spreading that information throughout our communities.

A great place to start is the Defense POW/MIA Accounting Agency (DPAA) website, <https://www.dpaa.mil>, which shares a vast amount of information. The DPAA's mission is to provide the fullest possible accounting for missing

personnel from past conflicts to their families and the nation. The website contains a full listing of POW/MIAs, both accounted for and unaccounted for, searchable by conflict, state, and branch of service. Recovery efforts are chronicled, complete with service profiles of those identified. Remains identification can only succeed through the matching of service records and DNA. Now is the critical time for all families of POW/MIAs, and especially those from WWII, to search for their loved ones and provide DNA to assist in identifying remains.

In your communities, you can proudly fly the POW/MIA flag, drape a POW/MIA chair with the POW/MIA flag while reading the POW/MIA resolution, or plan a special

ceremony of remembrance on POW/MIA Recognition Day, September 16th. White Table ceremonies can be conducted with the help of the book, "America's White Table," by Margot Raven. This resource helps to explain the significance of each item on the white table as a remembrance of those who are unable to dine with us.

The DPAA's motto states, "Fulfilling Our Nation's Promise." The American Legion Family can help fulfill that promise and raise awareness of those who did not return from battle. We ask for your support in this vital endeavor.

Let us remember and never forget their sacrifices.

*Barb Washburn
National Security Chr.*



Valley Unit #52 President Patricia Clausen selected and purchase meat and fish products for the VA Omaha Medical Center's Veteran Food Pantry. Baker's Food Store on 132nd and Maple provided a discount. Thank you, Valley American Legion Family, for these funds and other canned goods from your Veterans Day Spaghetti Dinner.



Dorchester American Legion member Terry Gillispie, a Navy veteran, was presented a Quilt of Valor by the Junior Auxiliary before their Christmas program on December 4th.



The Verdigre American Legion Auxiliary has designated the first Monday of every other month as Military Monday. Coffee and rolls are served to veterans, spouses, and guests from 8:00 - 10:00 a.m. in the newly-renovated Legion Building. The approximately 40 in attendance at each get-together enjoy breakfast and LOTS of visiting.



Dorchester Juniors presented a Christmas program to the Legion Family. The program began with candle lighting followed by a fun part with a Christmas tree theme.

APRIL IS CHILDREN & YOUTH MONTH

In 1938, April was designated as Children and Youth month; and it has continued for over eighty years. The areas of concern for Children and Youth month are Children's Health, Safety, and Family Support

There are many things you can do for children in March.

* Plan to host a children's safety day in your community. Partner with schools, law enforcement, fire departments, and health organizations in your community for support.

* Obtain local speakers to talk about concerns in your community.

* Sponsor a carnival for local youth and invite children of the

military to participate.

* Contact local children's organizations and find areas of need. You are only limited by your imagination. Promote your activities through publications and social media.

When you have completed a project, don't forget to report your successes. You are the key.

Don't forget that April 15 is officially Purple Up day for the Military Child. So, wear your purple and show your support.

*Debra Albers
Children & Youth Chr.*



Beth Navratil, Hallam Unit 294 Treasurer, presented a book titled "American Flag" to Crete Elementary School Principal Heather Wendeline for their Library. She also delivered Poppy posters for a 2nd-grade coloring contest; as the flag and poppy are two important symbols of The American Legion about which our youth should learn.



Beth Navratil, Hallam Unit 294 Treasurer, presented a book titled "Forever Heroes: A Collection of World War II Stories from Nebraska Veterans" to Crete High School Principal Cory Bohling for the school library. One of The Auxiliary's missions is to honor our veterans and educate our youth.



Past Honorary Jr. ALA President Ellie Thede has completed her project with THE delivery of requested books to the Nebraska Veterans Homes. Ellie extends a sincere thank-you to all who financially supported her project. The VA Homes expressed gratitude for receiving the much-needed reading material for their libraries, especially the large print books. Learning of Ellie's project, author and Nebraska veteran Tom P. Kruger donated copies of the book he wrote, "Cornhuskers Go To War: The European Theater."

JUNIOR PRESIDENT

Hello in 2023!

Where has the time gone? The holidays are over; also the Mid-Year Conference. Now it's time to think of the Junior Auxiliary.

The Dorchester Juniors are busy making plans for the Department Junior meeting on March 11. We will pack goody bags and door prizes, plan games and awards, and ALSO have some food and fun activities.

Along with these plans, we also need to work on our entries for the contests. We hope other juniors are, also. We want a lot of completion. We have a lot of awards, so let's have contest books, crafts, and poppy entries.

Please plan to attend. The meeting starts at 9:00 AM. Due to the many school and other activities, we will hold our District 11 and Department meetings together. District in the

morning from 9:00 AM to noon, then lunch, and Department the meeting from 1:00 to 4:00 PM. We will be doing activities for everyone all day, such as crafts, games, and demonstrations. So, please plan to attend all day so you don't miss some of these activities.

Seniors, make plans to attend and see what our Juniors are doing.

Also, I hope all Juniors are working on my project. Remember, "Gams and Food Make a Happy Veteran." We want to be able to get a lot of fun and food and Bingo prizes for our veterans. Hope to see you March 11 in Dorchester at 9:00 AM for a fun day.

Questions? Call "Grandma" Marva at 402-940-6851.

*Carly Rains
Honorary Jr. President*

2023 MEMBERSHIP

January has not started well for this Chair. I got booted off ALAMIS and was unable to get the Wednesday reporting done. The next week, I was on a road trip with the National President. Although I had my computer with me, I did not find time to get the Wednesday report done. Hopefully, this week (Wednesday, February 1, 2023) I will have a report. The third time is the charm - I believe I have heard that before.

We are doing well, Members. We have maintained First Place in the Northwestern Division for most of the year so far. But that can change at any time. There are six Departments behind us, and they are running the tracks to pass us up. We are 11th in the nation. We had been holding in the Top 5 for a time, but we have slipped. The Department just crossed over to 80% or better. Thank you.

It will take every Nebraska ALA member to get on track. Send in your dues; and, units, process them immediately. I have been receiving too many comments that "I paid my dues - I do not have my card." Come on, units; you have to be accountable to your paying members. They should not have to ask for their card; nor should they have to advise me they do not have their card.

Nebraska has too many units below the 55% level. Way too many units under the minimum ten (10) Senior members. Struggling units, please reach out to your Unit Officers, District Officers, or this Chair for assistance. That is what we do. But you have to ask.

At Mid-Year, attendees received a cardstock pattern to possibly get each unit to use the form or create their own means of tracking members. It was the start of a "recipe box" attempt to have each member fill out two cards. One (yellow highlight) to the unit; one (blue highlight) to the district. It asks for each member to place their own mailing label on each card, fill in Unit #, Unit Town, District #, phone number, and email address. This card system can be expanded to also include if the member is an SLM, VIM, PUFL, or HLM member. Also, note on the back the date the unit last verified the personal data. Department Secretary Jacki has the template and will share it if you ask for it.

At Mid-Year, we learned which units earned \$50.00 for achieving the unit's 67% Goal by August 18, 2022 - Newport - Creighton - Pleasant Dale. "Member in Good Standing" award - Newport - Plymouth - Shickley. Great work. Funds to be used to enhance unit membership efforts. There are two \$50.00 awards for districts, but that category has not been determined yet. It will be announced at the Department Convention in June 2023 in Kearney.

I would love to see the Department of Nebraska at or above 85% by this time next month. It can only happen if you --- the member --- have your dues paid. If you have questions, get in touch with me. If you need to know the amount of your dues or where to send them, contact me.

*Beverly A. Neel
Membership Chr.*

HISTORY

I hope you all are enjoying the nice weather we have been having lately. Right now, we have many District Conventions that are being held. I hope many of you submitted your Unit History book for judging at the competition. I hope to have books from all thirteen Districts to judge at Department Convention. If you have any questions, please send me an email at amandafaye33@gmail.com or give me a call at 402-480-1472.

The American Legion will be celebrating its 104th Birthday on March 15th. I would love to hear

stories of how your unit helps celebrate with them, and the history of your Unit as well.

I will be traveling to some of the District Conventions, and I look forward to seeing friends and meeting new members at each stop. If you have never attended a meeting before, I encourage you to attend and hear about the great work that is being done in your district.

*Amanda Washburn
Dept. Historian*

WHAT NOW FOR NEBRASKA STATE LIFE MEMBERS (SLM)???

For those Unit members who bought into the State Life Member (SLM) program between 1976 to 1998, please read carefully and respond accordingly to myself as the Department Membership Chair.

The National organization does not recognize our Department's SLM program; thus, the Department is required to pay into National annually its portion of per capita dues. For the current 2023 membership year that is \$12 per SLM. Beginning July 1, 2023, the Department will need to send \$18 per SLM member to National because of the \$6 dues increase approved at the 2022 National Convention.

Presently, the National organization has received applications from our SLMs for the Paid Up For Life (PUFL) memberships, which is the National version of our SLM. National's question is "Does the Department intend to have SLMs become PUFL members and eliminate our Department SLM membership plan?" At this point, there is no discussion to that effect; nor plans to do so. Those Unit members having SLM membership

have the only voice in how we address National's question.

It is an individual, voluntary decision of each SLM to determine whether to stay a SLM and do nothing or make an \$18 donation to the Department annually or switch back to a regular dues-paying Unit member with annual dues or buy into the PUFL program.

What would a PUFL membership provide for the Department that our SLM membership does not? It provides the funding for the Department to meet its obligation to pay National's per capita dues. Thus, the Department would not need to dip into the General Fund to cover that cost. Those of us who bought into the SLM program should understand that those dues have long ago been spent and there are no funds to cover the nearly 725 (plus or minus) SLMs annual payments into National.

Each SLM has to decide how would you like to proceed:

(1) Stay as a SLM and do nothing;

(2) Stay as a SLM and make an annual donation of \$18.00 to the Department;

(3) Switch back to a regular dues-paying member with annual dues;

(4) Buy into the PUFL program, which will be a lump-sum payment based on your current Unit dues rate and your age.

In order to avoid the dues increase in 2024, any SLM wanting to buy into a PUFL membership are encouraged to complete that process by May 31, 2023 to ensure the process is complete before July 1, 2023 on the Unit, Department and National levels.

Please consider your preference as a SLM and let me know by April 1, 2023. Thank you for your years as an ALA member and for being a SLM. Unfortunately, times have changed, and we need to consider ways to help meet the Department's financial responsibility for National per capita dues concerning SLMs.

*Beverly A. Neel
Membership Chr.
402 369 0152
bbneel1912@gmail.com*

QUICK DUES RENEWAL PAYMENT METHODS:

Renewing membership online is very quick and easy, especially after you have created your account on the ALA national website. Login to your ALA account at www.ALAforVeterans.org and click on "renew here" in the upper right-hand corner of the home page. For members who are not internet savvy, they can renew by phone and talk to a National Headquarters staff member by calling 317-569-4500, Monday-Friday 8 AM to 4:30 PM EST.



National President Vickie and Dept. President Vicki delivered Winter Warmth & Care Kits to the Veterans Service Office in Norfolk.



CHAPLAIN'S CORNER "WHAT IS LOVE FOR AMERICA?"

John 15:13

Greater love has no one than this, that someone lay down his life for his friends.

Psalms 33:12

Blessed is the country with God for God; blessed are the people he's put in his will.

John 14:27

Peace I leave with you; my peace I give you. I do not give to you as the world gives. Do not let your hearts be troubled and do not be afraid.

Wow, that month of February flew! We are already in the month of March, the month of good luck. Farmers are looking forward to the upcoming planting season and making plans for our beautiful country. Before we completely wrap up the month of February, known as the month of love, let's talk about love for our country and what it means.

When we participate in acts of patriotism, we show love for our country. Loving our country includes everything that we adore about it -- beautiful scenery, the freedoms we have, and the justice that is provided to us. But our love for America does not just depend on beauty and freedom alone. Our past and present service members have fought for our country and

risked their lives. Without them, all Americans would not have the freedoms we enjoy today. It is our duty to reciprocate their selfless acts of love and show our patriotism. As Americans, we should love our country and pursue its well-being, as well as holding our American culture wholeheartedly.

Let us "Ever Honor, and Never Forget."

Dear Heavenly Father, You said, 'There is no greater love than to lay down one's life for one's friends.' Today, we pray for those men and women who have, in their military service, sacrificed their time, strength, ambition, health, and even their lives on this earth to benefit 'friends,' known and unknown.

Give us the strength of mind and heart to readily defend our freedoms when they are threatened. Please guide everything in wisdom and love. Accept the prayers we offer for our country. In your kindness, watch over those in power so that people everywhere may enjoy freedom, security, and peace. We ask this through our Father in heaven.

Amen.

Ruth Hietbrink
Dept. Chaplain

Thank you!

Thank you, Auxiliary family, for all the prayers, well wishes, and support sent to me after I literally "dropped in" at the Mid-year Conference in January. The break to my shoulder will require lots of rehab. Thank you to everyone who offered aid and support at the scene and helped in many ways. Special thanks to my daughter, Angie, for being there and caring for me and our family as I work through this bump in the road. What a great nurse!

Thank you all again.
"Trying not to be Crabby"

Barbie Meyer
ALA PDP

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 MARCH 10, 2023

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AUXILIARY EMERGENCY FUND



"Thank You" just does not seem enough for all the support provided in the planning, operating, and wrap-up of the AEF - NEF fundraiser at the 2023 Mid-Year Conference of The American Legion Family. The number of items donated --- the number of donors --- auctioneer Danny Smith --- Commander Don and President Vicki for allowing the event to occur.

A lot of behind-the-scenes operations brought forth a great event and raised \$3,016, which will be divided between AEF & NEF. Our event included silent auction and live auction items. Thank you to Laura, KayLynn, Brianna, Adeline, Ruth, Jacki, Donna, and all those who were our "Vanna White" presenters. A great team effort. We were in this together.

The event definitely described "Who we Are," "What we Do," and "Why we Matter." Blessings!!!

Beverly A. Neel
Membership Chr.

DATES TO REMEMBER

MARCH

- 1 Girls State Applications due to Department
- 10 Deadline for April/May Issue of "The Star"
- 11 Junior Dist. 11 & Dept. Juniors Meeting, Dorchester
- 12 Daylight Savings Time begins - Spring Forward
- 15 Scholarship Deadline to Dept. HQ (see ABC book or website)
- 15 Americanism Essays due to Chairman
- 15 Happy Birthday American Legion
- 17 St. Patrick's Day

APRIL

- 9 Easter
- 15 Military Kids Day - Wear Purple
- 20 Poppy Posters due to Chairman
- 20 Narratives due to Historian

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

LET'S SING!



Songs can be silly. Songs can be fun. We like to have fun at Auxiliary gatherings, so just for fun, try this song in your meeting. To the tune of Caissons, or The Army Goes Rolling Along. (Try changing "Auxiliary" to "our Unit", or "our District", or anything you wish!

We got style
We drive miles
And we do it with a smile
And Auxiliary keeps rolling along

Numbers count!
Get it out!
Membership will make us shout
As Auxiliary keeps rolling along

Then it's Hi Hi Hee, it is up to you and me
Helping our Veterans find their way
And we'll have some fun
While we git 'er done
As Auxiliary keeps rolling along

Hang on tight, it's a ride
Husker spirit gives us pride
As Auxiliary keeps rolling along

We work proud, we play loud
So we stand out in the crowd
And Auxiliary keeps rolling along

Then it's Hi Hi Hee; it is up to you and me
Helping our Veterans find their way
And we'll have some fun
While we git 'er done
As Auxiliary keeps rolling along
..... Our Auxiliary Keeps Rolling Along!!
And Keep Singing!

Jean Vackiner
Music Chair



IN REMEMBRANCE OF LORETTA ARMBRUSTER



Loretta Armbruster, 1997-1998 ALA Department President, passed away on January 23, 2023, in North Platte at the age of 94. Loretta was born February 16, 1928, on a farm southeast of Big Springs to Warren and Blanche (Douglas) Deen. She graduated from Perkins County High School and taught for a few years subsequently.

She was a mainstay with the American Legion Auxiliary, having been a member for nearly 80 years. She served as Department President 1997-1998. Her theme as Department President was "Freedom is not Free" with a Liberty Bell

as her symbol. She chose the Auxiliary General Fund to upgrade office equipment as her project. It was a productive project, and the office was updated. Loretta had a contagious smile and was a special friend to her Auxiliary family. She loved Girls State and spent many years coming to Lincoln to help with the program. Loretta was always put-together in her appearance and carried herself with class.

On May 16, 1948, Loretta married Archie James Armbruster at Big Springs. Their union was blessed with two children, James and Teresa. The family made their home on the farm southeast of Big Springs before eventually moving to Grant in 1967.

Loretta eventually earned her certification as an LPN and enjoyed a long and noteworthy career in nursing. She was an excellent caregiver and always prided herself in being responsive to the needs of her patients.

Loretta and Archie enjoyed bowling together and participated in mixed doubles for many years.

Loretta also was a sales rep for Avon for a number of years

Loretta was a longtime dedicated member of the United Methodist Church in Grant.

Loretta was preceded in death by her husband, Archie, and two siblings, Grace Wood and Frances (Delmore) Olson. Survivors include her son, James (Nikki) Armbruster of Wauneta; daughter, Teresa Schimmer of North Platte; grandchildren Craig Armbruster, Jamie (Chris) Bartles, Jacki Jones, Robin Foran, Josh (Chloe) Schimmer, and Doug (Pam) Tillman; 13 great-grandchildren, along with many other relatives and friends.

Services were held on Wednesday, February 1, 2023, at the United Methodist Church in Grant, Internment will be in the Grant Fairview Cemetery.

Loretta was a true friend and will be missed by many. Thank you for your service to the ALA and the veterans.

