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AMERICAN
LEGION
AUXILIARY

DEPARTMENT of NEBRASKA
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DEPARTMENT PRESIDENT VICKI'S MAY'S MUSINGS

Happy May Day! Happy Military Spouse Appreciation Day!
Happy Mother's Day!

Happy Armed Forces Day! Happy National Maritime Day! Happy Memorial Day!

The countdown is on for the 2023 Department Convention, with lots to be done between now and then. Here are my musings for this month. Please share with your members.

UNIT OFFICER ELECTIONS

- If your Unit elects officers this month, please submit the Unit Leadership Form that was included in your January newsletter. You can also find it on our website under the "Forms" tab.

POPPY PROCEEDS

- May 26 is National Poppy Day. A reminder to send in half of your poppy proceeds to Department using the 2022-2023 Poppy Proceeds form. It was in the November newsletter. It is on the website under the "Forms" tab.

UNIT END OF YEAR REPORTS

- Is your Unit one of the 124 that have submitted your report? If so, thank you! If not, please take time to do it TODAY! This is only 42 percent of our Units. We can do better!
- From traveling to District Conventions, I've heard from many Units what they have done. Our chairs need that information to write their reports.
- Please submit what you have done. Remember, you don't have to work every program. Work what works for your Unit!!

UNIT IMPACT REPORT

- I have failed to talk about this report, but it is one that I need to complete my report for National.
- Your District President will be asking for it.
- One is included with this newsletter (pages 11 & 12), or you can complete the fillable one from our website under the "Forms" tab. The pages with page numbers 1 and 2 is what you need to submit from the online version.
- Please submit it to your District President and me by May 15. I've asked your District President to compile and submit the report to me by June 1.
- This report tells The American Legion what we have done and is included in their Annual Report to Congress.

DEPARTMENT CONVENTION

- The Convention Call that was in April's newsletter had the wrong location. It will be at the Younes Convention Center South, Kearney, Nebraska.
- Refer to the April Newsletter for the phone numbers to make room reservations.
- Delegate numbers are included in this newsletter.
- The 2023-2024 Department Officers will be elected.

- Those members that announced their candidacy at Mid-Year have their biographies in the April/May STAR.
- Nominations from the floor will be accepted.
- Two amendments will be presented (included in this newsletter).

SPECIAL CONVENTION COMMITTEES

- Volunteers are necessary for the success of our Convention.
- Registration Committee and Elections Committee
- See the enclosed request for these two committees.

SPECIAL GUEST FOR CONVENTION

- Besides each of you as my special guest at the Department Convention, we will have another special guest.
- Northwestern Division Vice-President Marlene Boyer from North Dakota.

THE STAR

- We will continue to publish THE STAR on our normal schedule.
- Your next issue will be in June.
- Submissions are due May 10.

MEMBERSHIP

- We are on the down side of our 2023 Membership Year.
- Nebraska is at 87.46 percent.
- Nebraska has 1,103 members that have not renewed (as of April 26, 2023)
- Please reach out to your members that have not renewed.
- And, of course, recruiting new members is necessary to meet our goal.
- We need 1,041 new members plus the 1,103 renew members to reach goal—17,091.
- Together we can put Nebraska as a 100 percent Department!

WHERE ARE WE?

- You might wonder where to find us.
- The week of May 1 we should be officially operating out of our new location.
- Phone lines are to be transferred May 2.
- That address is 150 Northwest 40th Street.
- At this time, we will continue to use PO Box 5227 for our mailing address.

Patriotism is a poppy on a lapel, and knowing why you wear it!





2023 SPECIAL CONVENTION COMMITTEES

VOLUNTEERS REQUESTED

The following is a listing of the two special convention committees and any requirements/instructions for them. The 2023 Department Convention will be held at Younes Conference Center South in Kearney, Nebraska.

Sign up today by email (neaux@windstream.net) or phone (402-466-1808).
Deadline to volunteer is June 1.

Thank you in advance for volunteering your time to serve on a committee. The duties you perform are valuable to the success of the 103rd Department Convention.

REGISTRATION COMMITTEE

Volunteers needed: One (1) chairman to report daily and seven (7) – eight (8) to record registrations. A schedule will be made so no one will have to work the entire convention.

Instructions will be sent to you to familiarize yourself with your duties prior to the convention. Supplies on hand will include the registration books prepared by Department Headquarters, cash box, change, pens, receipt books, etc. Please eat an early breakfast and be ready to open registration at 8:00 am on Friday, June 23 and Saturday, June 24. Convention badges will be provided. The Conference Center will have tables and chairs set up for this committee. During slow times, you are encouraged to attend the sessions.

The Registration Chair will report daily to the Convention. Forms will be provided. When giving the final report on Sunday morning, bring the Registration Book with you so the Department Secretary can call roll prior to elections.

Committee will meet on Thursday, June 22 at 7:30 pm.



ELECTIONS COMMITTEE

Volunteers needed: One (1) judge, three (3) tellers, and six (6) clerks.

The Election Committee will report on Sunday, June 25, at 9:15 am. Copies of the Department Convention Rules on Elections will be sent to volunteers prior to convention. The Committee should meet prior to Sunday, June 25, to review the procedures. All tally sheets and any material you will need will be provided by Department Headquarters.

Elections will be held for Department Officers (if more than one candidate) and Alternates to the Delegates to the National Convention.

Committee will meet on Thursday, June 22 at 7:00 pm.

From the desk of Interim Department Secretary, Jacki O'Neill

The dates on the calendar are closer than they appear!

The Department Convention is soon, please plan to attend. DID YOU KNOW?

- Members will elect new Department Officers?
- The newly elected DEC will approve a new slate of Department Chairmen?
- The Standing Rules will be updated and approved?
- And so much more.....

Unit Year-end reports are very important to our organization and our Veterans. I do not have record of receiving reports from the following units. You don't need to report on every program just send in the information that you know of. Any information is better than none.

Albion, Alexandria, Allen, Alliance, Arcadia, Arnold, Ashton, Atkinson, Auburn, Bartlett, Bartley, Beatrice, Beaver City, Beaver Crossing, Belden, Bellwood, Benson, Bloomfield, Bloomington, Blue Hill, Boelus, Brewster, Bristow, Broadwater, Brunswick, Campbell, Carleton Carroll, Cedar Bluffs, Cedar Rapids, Central City, Ceresco, Chambers, Clay Center, Clearwater, Cody, Colon, Columbus, Comstock, Cook, Cortland, Crawford, Crawford, Crete,, Crofton, Curtis, Dakota City, Dalton, Daykin, DeWitt, Doniphan, DuBois, Dwight, Edgar, Elgin, Elk Creek, Elmwood, Elsie, Exeter, Fairbury, Fairfield, Fairmont, Farnam, Garland, Geneva, Genoa, Gibbon, Glenvil, Gordon, Grant, Greeley, Greenwood, Gretna, Guide Rock, Hastings, Havelock, Hayes Center, Hebron, Hershey, Hickman, Holstein, Hooper, Hyannis, Indianola, Janssen, Johnson, Juniata, Kennard, Lexington, Liberty, Lindsay, Lisco, Litchfield, Louisville, Lynch, Madison, Malmo, Maxwell, McCook, McCool Jct., Miller, Minden, Monroe, Morrill, Morse Bluff, Naponee, Nehawka, Nelson,, Odell, Omaha 30, Omaha, O'Neill, Orchard, Ord, Orleans, Oshkosh, Overton, Palisade, Palmyra, Paxton, Pender, Petersburg, Pierce, Pilger, Plainview, Plymouth, Polk, Ponca, Prague, Primrose, Ralston, Ravenna, Red Cloud, Rising City, Riverton, Ruskin, So Sioux City, St Edward, Sargent, Schuyler, Scotia, Shelby, Shelton, Sidney, So Omaha, Spalding, Spencer, Springview, St Paul, Stamford, Stanton, Stromsburg, Superior, Table Rock, Tecumseh, Tekamah, Thedford, Tryon, Uehling, Union, Valley, Venango, Verdel, Verdigre, Virginia, Wahoo, Wakefield, Wallace, Weeping Water, Western, Weston, Winnebago, Wolbach, Wood Lake, Wymore, Wynot, York and Johnson County.

Remember the importance of sending in your unit's new membership dues increase. If not received in the office before National asks for the amounts, you will be listed at \$30.25 per member for the 2024 year. If an amount needs to be changed after the deadline, national will charge the unit \$30.00 to make a change.

ALAMIS has an update. If you would like to process your unit's membership the charge is still \$20 and the training can be done online on your own. No appointment necessary.

Going through the old newsletters I found this cute joke:

One Sunday morning, a mother knocks on her son's bedroom door and tells him to get up and go to church. **"I'm not going to church this morning,"** the son says. **"You gotta get up and go to church,"** says mother. **"No, I'm not,"** says the son. **"Yes, you are!"** says the mother. **"No, I'm not. They don't like me, and I don't like them,"** says the son. **"Give me two good reasons why I have to go."** So, the mother patiently replies, **"Number one you're 55 years old. And number two, you're the pastor!"**

EDUCATION – CRY S BAUMEISTER

Things I wish I knew...

\$10,300. That's the total amount the ALA Department of Nebraska had budgeted for scholarships. Judging day came, and I was so excited to be able to award students with much needed money to continue their post-secondary education. The reality is, we were only able to award \$5100 in scholarships. Due to lack of submissions, incomplete submissions, or submissions missing essential pieces, we did not award all the money available.

The money is sitting there, waiting to be had. I wish I knew why we are unable to get students to apply for some of the scholarships.

I also wish I knew why units did not double and triple check the fine details (ensuring all items were filled out on the application, all scholarship essays were signed, all eligibility completed).

I wish I knew some of the amazing students we were able to award scholarships to. Someday these kids will do great things in our communities.

I wish I knew some of the wonderful people on the unit levels who are making connections with possible new members.

So now, I hope you can give a big congratulations to our scholarship winners, because I want you to know.

Scholarship Recipient	Unit Contact	Unit #	Unit Location	Scholarship Name	Scholarship Amount
Jodie Uhri	Tana J. Brown	222	Shubert	Career & Technical Education	\$500
Jessica Hoffman	Janet Eisenmann	302	Leigh	Career & Technical Education	\$500
Tyler Jelinek	Judy Frickle	86	Atkinson	Career & Technical Education	\$500
Raden J. Orton	Lorraine Ammon	123	Bassett	Career & Technical Education	\$500
Laiken Mumm	Karin Dominy	180	Hebron	Career & Technical Education	\$500
Sydney Guzinski	Sansha Landholm	127	Craig	Healthcare Professional	\$500
Madison Jones	Tana J. Brown	222	Shubert	Healthcare Professional	\$500
Allison Deal	Marge Surber	17	Sidney	Past President's Parley Healthcare	\$500
Karlie Finley	Cindy Wickizer	213	Wallace	Past President's Parley Healthcare	\$500
Leah Jansen	Adeline Hanel	70	West Point	Roberta Marie Stretch Memorial	\$400
Ansley Williams	Melissa Thompson	257	Eustis	Ruby Lorraine Paul	\$200

Again, I wish I knew the specific unit members who submitted the scholarships. Thank you for your time.

I wish you the best in the future.

GIRLS STATE – BRITTANY MASEK – 2023 CHAIR

Cornhusker Girls State 2023 updates! As June approaches, I wanted to take some time to update you all on how things are going with Girls State as I know there have been lots of changes. This year we had the girls register online. They were mailed a letter from me with a QR code to access their registration, and they should have already registered by now. If they have not, please email me, and I'm happy to send you or the girls the link directly. My email is bmmasek@outlook.com.

This year our orientation is now posted on our website:

<http://girlsstate.net/nebraska/wp/orientation/>

Under each heading is a quick video explaining different parts of the week and expectations. We encourage you all to go check it out! Our Directors worked very hard this year to provide very detailed information for the girls. On this page of the website we also have zoom links posted for the girls to attend one of three Question and Answer sessions online.

We also encourage any of our units and parents to join in these sessions and ask questions as well. The girls have received reminder communications directly from me with all this information via the emails they gave us on their applications you had them fill out. In the past the girls have received a "Packet" in the mail with information. This year on our website, under Forms and Information, you will find the "2023 Delegate Packet" with all the information we go over in orientation.

We're very excited about this year's program and have many wonderful speakers and activities planned for the girls. Thank you all for supporting Cornhusker Girls State.

MEMBERSHIP – WHAT MORE CAN BE SAID – BEVERLY NEEL

Ladies and Gentlemen of the American Legion Auxiliary (ALA)– Department of Nebraska what more can be said than “Thank You” to every member who has honored his or her allegiance to a beloved Veteran(s) in their life. What would we do without these brave men and women who have given up careers, interrupted a family, held back from a college degree or perhaps even a promotion along the way? Payment of our annual dues is a personal commitment each of us made when we first signed up to be an ALA member.

Remember our beloved Veteran(s) did the same when they entered the United States Armed Forces from as far back as we have history. That is one segment of our American history that cannot be erased from the hearts and souls of our members because “We Remember” and we can never forget.

Over the years as an ALA member, I have often wondered if I had known when I was a child that I could have been a Junior member when my father joined The American Legion would my life have been any different than it is now. I do not believe I can answer that honestly. I know that each day I communicate with someone in the ALA who may have a question, a concern, a sharing moment or just a simple hello. That means a lot to this Department Chair. We do not have all the answers, but we sure do our best to see if there is an answer and who is best suited to know the answer.

That is what each day brings to me as we work through the 2023 year on membership. I have concerns, I have questions, I have reason to ask why, and I have reason to demonstrate my “Why” I hope in a manner that is open and acceptable to those with whom I visit.

Membership is not paying my dues, it is not going to the next meeting, it is not writing the next article, it is not any of these routine tasks in my life. It is the mere fact that my paternal grandfather served in World War I (by an account of my uncle Grandpa received two purple hearts – I have yet to verify), my father was drafted into the Army Air Corps in World War II, one of his brothers made a career of the Navy (Korea – Vietnam), another served in the Navy and another the Army during Korea, my brother a Corpsman in the Navy during Vietnam, my husband early enlistment in high school and 26-1/2 years later retired as a Sergeant Major of the USMC and our oldest son, eight years in the USMC with a year in Iraq. I cannot know for certain all they gave up in their lives, but I certainly know it had to be much more than I have in mine.

When you think your membership is not worth much, remember your “Why” and continue to support the ALA through your dues and more importantly your beloved Veteran(s) in your life who would do it all again for you and me. My grandfather, my father, my uncles have all passed but what they have done for me and you will live on because I know my “Why” is not to let their service die. Join me and all Nebraska ALA members and get your 2023 dues paid today and be prepared on July 1, 2024 to pay your 2024 dues. You do not know how much you are worth until you find your “Why” and believe in it. Blessings to all.

The following was "borrowed" from District 6 President Nancy Harrold's April Newsletter.
Thanks, Nancy!

NATIONAL SECURITY COMMITTEE – MARCH 2023



We are asking that you share this article with your departments as we continue to hear of many units that are helping your military families by clipping coupons. Below is a list of sites with "how-to" information along with a brief note by each to give you a heads-up on the information the site provides. Our military families appreciate any help they can get. These are just a few of the sites that can be found when browsing for military coupons and where to send those coupons.

- <https://www.coupons.com/> - has printable coupons.
- <http://www.grocerysavingtips.com/p/military-family.html> - provides a list of the bases that accept coupons. Also gives a lot of detail on participating in the Military Family Coupon Program.
- <https://www.couponcabin.com/troops/> - this site is wonderful! Has addresses to submit both current coupons and expired coupons. They distribute the coupons. There is a list of what they can use and what they cannot use.
- <https://supportourtroops.org/troopons> - helps send current and expired coupons to the troops.
- <https://militarybase.net/military-commissaries/> - find a list of the over 230 military commissaries located both stateside and overseas. The Defense Commissary Agency operates the commissaries and offers rewards cards, coupons, online ordering, curbside pickup, savings, and sales events in communities. A telephone number is provided for each base, so you can contact them with questions.

REPORT: Be sure to report how many dollars of coupons your unit processes as well as the number of hours that members devoted to clipping, clipping, clipping. And don't forget the supplies and postage to mail those paper coupons. You will likely be amazed at the numbers associated with this important activity. What a great way to include those who can't get to meetings, so they feel they are contributing to your unit.

Let us know what you find that can help our military families and what other ways your units are collecting and sending coupons.

The following letter is from the Chairman of the Fort McPherson Memorial Association and an open invitation to all..

To Whom It May Concern:

My name is Brian Gallagher. I took Tom Leets place as Chairman on the Fort McPherson Memorial Association in 2020 when he moved. I am writing you to invite your organization to **attend**, and **participate** in this year's **Memorial Day Ceremony** at Fort McPherson National Cemetery, on **May 29, 2023, at 2:00 pm**. On behalf of the Memorial Association Board, I want to thank you and your organization for your past support to our efforts to put on a Patriotic ceremony each year. This year is no exception.

We will have a Military Veteran speaker and also a Gold Star Mother as a guest speaker. We are planning to have live music, a Chaplain, a Memorial Wreath presentation **by all Veterans Auxiliary groups in attendance**, A Fly Over by vintage aircraft, Military Honors, US Flags displayed by the Patriot Guard, and a Release of Memorial Doves. Please plan on attending and representing your Organization.

I also want to thank each of your organizations for your past financial support to the Fort McPherson Memorial Association. We try very hard to keep yearly expenses to a minimum, but always have expenses for programs, water, postage, flowers, and miscellaneous items. Any level of financial assistance you can offer to help us defray the costs of this year's ceremony, and those that have occurred since the last time we sought monetary gifts, will be greatly appreciated. Any amount can be sent to **The Fort McPherson Memorial Association** at 3578 N. Thunderhead Ct. North Platte, NE. 69101. If you have questions or concerns I can respond to, **please call me at 720-320-4187**. Thank You in advance for your time, participation if possible, monetary support, as your organization sees as being appropriate.

Brian D Gallagher

April 12, 2023

Brian D. Gallagher Chairman

DATE

Fort McPherson Memorial Association

UNIT Year-End Impact Numbers Report

Unit # _____ Unit Name _____

Department _____ Unit President _____

Your Name (if other than president) _____

Your Email _____

Number of Member Impact Reports _____

Here is what our unit did in the last 12 months.

1. Our ALA Service for Veterans/Active-Duty/Reserve Military

	Service for Veterans/Military	Obtain Total From	Member +	Unit =	Total
Line 1	Total hours members volunteered	Member Form Line 1		N/A	
Line 2	Total dollars spent	Member Form Line 2	\$	\$	\$
Line 3	Total number of veterans/military assisted	Member Form Line 3			
Line 4	Total number of "Veterans in Community Schools" presentations facilitated	Member Form Line 4			
Line 5	Value of in-kind donations received*	Unit Records	N/A	\$	\$
Line 6	Number of poppies or poppy items distributed	Unit Records	N/A		
Line 7	Dollars raised from poppies	Unit Records	N/A	\$	\$

*Estimated cash value of non-cash donations from **NON-MEMBERS** of goods (like paper goods, clothing) or services (like pro-bono CPA services from a local firm)

2. Our ALA Service for Military Families

	Service for Military Families	Obtain Total From	Member +	Unit =	Total
Line 8	Total hours members volunteered	Member Form Line 5		N/A	
Line 9	Total dollars spent	Member Form Line 6	\$	\$	\$
Line 10	Number of military families served	Member Form Line 7			

3. Our ALA Service for Youth

	Service for Children & Youth	Obtain Total From	Member +	Unit =	Total
Line 11	Total hours for ALA Girls State	<i>Member Form Line 8</i>		N/A	
Line 12	Dollars spent for ALA Girls State	Unit Records	N/A	\$	\$
Line 13	Total hours for other Legion Family youth activities	<i>Member Form Line 9</i>		N/A	
Line 14	Dollars spent on goods for youth activities	<i>Member Form Line 10</i>	\$	\$	\$
Line 15	Dollar amount of direct cash aid to help a needy child	<i>Member Form Line 11</i>	\$	\$	\$
Line 16	All other UNIT expenses (parties, dinners, paper goods, trophies)	Unit Records	N/A	\$	\$
Line 17	Total number of children/youth served	<i>Member Form Line 12</i>			
Line 18	Donations to all other child service charities	<i>Member Form Line 13</i>	\$	\$	\$

4. Our Service Representing the ALA in Our Community

	For any service not included in Sections 1-3	Obtain Total From	Member +	Unit =	Total
Line 19	Total number of hours	<i>Member Form Line 14</i>		N/A	
Line 20	Total dollars spent	<i>Member Form Line 15</i>	\$	\$	\$

5. Scholarships Presented/Awarded by Our Unit

	Scholarships	Obtain from	Total
Line 21	Number of unit scholarships presented/awarded	Unit Records	
Line 22	Total dollar amount of unit scholarships	Unit Records	\$
Line 23	Total dollar amount donated to department scholarships	Unit Records	\$

When completed, send to:

_____ by _____ / _____ / _____

(Get name and date from district or county, if applicable, or department)

**CONGRATULATIONS---YOU DID IT! THANK YOU FOR ALL YOU DO
 AND FOR REPORTING YOUR UNIT'S IMPACT!**

Proposal 1 and Location in Constitution Article III, Section 1		
Current Wording	Proposed Amendment	If Adopted, Will Read
<p>Section 1. The legislative body of this organization shall be the Department Convention, to be held annually at the same time as the Department Convention of The American Legion, Department of Nebraska.</p>	<p>Reword the first section to remove "legislative body of this organization"</p>	<p>Section 1. The Department Convention shall be held annually at the same time as the Department Convention of The American Legion, Department of Nebraska.</p>

Proposed by: Barbara Washburn, Department Parliamentarian

Rationale: Per the direction of American Legion Auxiliary National Parliamentarian, Chris Dickey, the Department Convention body serves neither in an administrative nor legislative capacity.

Proposal # 2023 - 2and Location in Bylaws Article I Section 5.

Current Wording	Proposed Amendment	If Adopted, Will Read
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<p>Section 5. In the event of the death or resignation of the Department President, the Department Vice President shall assume the office of the Department President. In the event of a vacancy in both the office of Department President and Department Vice President, the Department Secretary-Treasurer shall immediately summon the Department Executive Committee for the election of a successor to the Department President. If the unexpired term of office for Department President is less than six (6) months, the successor is eligible to election by regular process to the office of Department President.</p>	<p>Remove.</p> <p>If the unexpired term of office for Department President is less than six (6) months,</p>	<p>Section 5. In the event of the death or resignation of the Department President, the Department Vice President shall assume the office of the Department President. In the event of a vacancy in both the office of Department President and Department Vice President, the Department Secretary-Treasurer shall immediately summon the Department Executive Committee for the election of a successor to the Department President. The successor is eligible to election by regular process to the office of Department President.</p>
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Proposed by: Constitution and Bylaws Committee

Rationale: By changing the current time restriction, we are conforming to the same structure as National.