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AMERICAN  
**LEGION**  
AUXILIARY

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## DEPARTMENT PRESIDENT VICKI'S JUBILANT JUNE

This will be my last monthly newsletter to you. I've titled it Jubilant June because it is the month we get to celebrate our accomplishments for the year at the Department Convention. Please share with your members.

### UNIT OFFICER ELECTIONS

- Has your Unit submitted the Unit Leadership Form that was included in your January newsletter with your new officers? Even if your officers do not change, the form needs to be submitted. You can also find it on our website under the "Forms" tab.

### UNIT IMPACT REPORT

- Have you submitted the Unit Impact Report? The deadline to your District President was May 15.
- To date I have only received 42. That is a long way from 298. I know that some Units have submitted theirs to their District President, which is great. Your numbers have been reported with the District's Impact Report.
- If you missed that deadline, I am willing to accept them up to June 15. That will give me a little bit of time to compile them for my deadline of July 1 to National.
- 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. Or it was included in the May newsletter.

### DEPARTMENT CONVENTION

- Will I see you there? I sure hope so!
- It would be absolutely outstanding if every Unit sent at least one delegate.
- Four amendments will be presented. Two were included in your May newsletter and two in this newsletter.
- Some FUN events are planned. See the informational flyer in this newsletter.
- There is a possibility we will ZOOM part of our sessions. If you are interested to be on the ZOOM, please contact me at [ala.ozenbaugh@gmail.com](mailto:ala.ozenbaugh@gmail.com) or call 402-759-0411 after June 15 to be put on the list.
- Each Unit is asked to bring a door prize. Thank you!

### MEMBERSHIP

- The 2023 Membership Race is heading to the finish line.
- Nebraska is at 88.23% as of May 28, 2023. Can we reach 90% plus by Department Convention?
- Nebraska has 957 Unit members and 36 Department 500 members that have not renewed (as of May 28, 2023).
- Has your Unit reached out to any members that have not renewed? If not, why not? If so, maybe, just maybe, one more contact might be what it takes to get them to renew.
- And, of course, recruiting new members is necessary to meet our goal.

## **OFFICIAL MAILING ADDRESS**

- Beginning with this newsletter, the official mailing address will be 150 Northwest 40<sup>th</sup> Street Unit B, Lincoln, NE 68528.
- We will no longer be using the PO Box.
- Please make sure you make this change when sending anything to headquarters.

## **BE THE ONE INITIATIVE**

- The American Legion passed Resolution 13 (included in this newsletter) during their Spring Meeting in May.
- Starting June 1 and every first day of each month, American Legion Family members are encouraged to wear a “Be The One” item in support of our commitment.
- Consider adding this to your calendar until it becomes second nature (like Wear RED on Fridays).
- Below is what the t-shirt from Emblem Sales will look like. Currently, only the Legion has them available. However, the Auxiliary could have one added to Emblem Sales. The only difference would be the new American Legion Auxiliary branding would be on the back. If interested, you could call Emblem Sales and ask when the ALA one will be available.
- The wording on the back is “To ASK Veterans in your life how they are doing. To LISTEN when a Veteran needs to talk. To REACH out when a Veteran is struggling.”
- Spread the word—Be The One!



**THANKS FOR THE RIDE!** This year’s ride was remarkable, thanks to all of you! Continue to do what ALA members do best—serve our Veterans, military, children, youth, and communities!



*Patriotism is the American flag—folded,  
furled, or flying!*

***Never Forget, Ever Honor***

*Vicki Ozenbaugh, Department President*

## INTERIM DEPARTMENT SECRETARY/TREASURER – JACKI O’NEILL

Another year flew by. Serving with Vicki Ozenbaugh has been my pleasure. Vicki has been a blessing helping at Headquarters. She has printed thousands of copies of documents for mailings. Between her and Membership Clerk, Roxanne Hiatt, they have folded papers and stuffed envelopes for hours. Vicki and Roxanne worked tirelessly getting the ALA office moved to the new location. Packing and unpacking and making the headquarters look amazing.

I can’t leave out Julie Totten. She is knowledgeable of our financial process; in fact, she helped set it up with me years ago. Julie is in the office a few days a week; and when she is in Arizona, she is behind the scenes always lending a helping hand and her expertise.

What do I do? I work full-time at another office and when time allows, I pitch in and help with projects that can be done offsite. Occasionally, I can go to the office and pitch in where needed.

A full time Department Secretary/Treasurer is what the Department needs to better assist our members. We are still searching for that employee. Are you the one? Could you be the one? I would be happy to answer any questions about the job.

We all play our part. The Nebraska members are taking care of our veterans in their communities and in our VA Hospitals and Veteran’s homes across the state. Units are sending girls to Girls State, holding County Government Day events, and numerous other things. We all work for the same cause—serving our Veterans, our children, and our communities. It is with pleasure that I can be a part of this organization.



### REMINDER TO OBTAIN PERMISSION FOR BRAND USAGE

Essentially the rules for obtaining permission for brand usage are as follows:

- Internal communications, social posts, or post event related flyers, etc., do not need permission to be granted for use of any of the American Legion Family and Be The One marks.
- Any use of the American Legion Families and Be The One marks that requires a third party to produce a product (basically, merchandise of any kind that you’re having a vendor make for you) **must** get approval through the form located here: <https://www.legion.org/emblem/request>
  - *Please note, this form must be filled out by a member/post/unit – the vendor cannot fill it out for you.*
- If you are producing merchandise that is strictly American Legion Auxiliary, the ALA can give permission for use of the ALA marks only.
  - ALA **cannot** give permission for the Be The One mark or the American Legion, Sons, Riders, and Baseball marks. You will need to submit through the form link above if your product will include ALA plus any of the other mentioned marks.
  - American Legion **can** approve use of the ALA mark, so if your product has a mix of marks (ALA + others), you can just submit to the link above, no need to go through the ALA also.



## WHERE SHOULD THE ALA GO FROM HERE?

Have you asked yourself this question? Has your Unit asked? How about your District? Do any of us know the answer? Highly unlikely. The **“WHY”** is up to each one of us, you and me. I may have my dues paid, but have I given of my time and energy to see that my Unit is strengthened through me or have I left that to someone else? Is not that how many of us believe – I have paid my dues – my work is done.

We could be nowhere close to being done. Membership is a continuous circle that has no end. Have we jumped into the circle to widen its reach? I know it is difficult - but try we must. We must all try and demonstrate our **“WHY.”** How is that best done? Get involved, get invested – we are never too old or too busy to cherish what our membership in the ALA has brought into our lives. **We know “Who we Are,” we know “What we Do” and we know “Why we Matter.”**

It is now time to educate and celebrate with others what the ALA is all about. We know that not all areas of the State give the same opportunities of service, but there are great opportunities where we are. We are here for a purpose and in the ALA that purpose evolves around **“Service Not Self.”**

Have you seen that sparkle in a child or Veteran’s eyes? Have you seen the joy of a child or a Veteran when we give them our attention? **Have seen that tear of joy and appreciation offered by our Veterans when that truly may be the only means by which they are able to express “Who we Are,” What we Do” and Why we Matter.”** Have you noticed how you feel as a result of Service to Others? That is the ALA. We need that back and only each one of us can get there. When we reach that challenge, we will see our Units grow.

Over the years I have met some wonderful members through visits, phone calls, emails and that simple “Thank You” note. Every member should be a Membership Chair or Clerk to feel what I feel. We have a great base to our organization. That is why it is so important why you need to lend your time and energy to your Unit Membership Clerk and get the job done. I know as a Unit Membership Clerk I welcome anyone who wants to assist in reaching our members. It is not a one-person task – it is every member’s duty.

What would it take from you to get involved and invested in all your Unit members? I can tell you that – it is that tear shed, the emotions of knowing someone cares and the willingness of strangers to reach out to you to make your day, give advice, bend your ear, vent because they must and more to come out ahead knowing we have made a difference. **We all need to know**

**and appreciate that we do make the difference.** We each are in charge of being that member who makes a difference to a fellow member.

A huge **“THANK YOU”** to all our Unit Membership Clerks. You are appreciated and please know your work is the biggest challenge in your Unit, but one of the most rewarding. Who else has that **“connection”** to all members. **THANK YOU** – we have been there we have done that and we will continue to do what must be done. All Unit Members **“THANK YOU”** for being there for your Membership Clerk. The best you can do now is get your 2023 dues paid and be ready to pay your 2024 dues on July 1<sup>st</sup>. Blessings to all!



### **WHAT TO BRING TO CONVENTION**

- ✓ Your 2023 ALA Membership Card
- ✓ \$10 Registration Fee
- ✓ Any forms/documents for Headquarters
  - 2023-2024 Unit Leadership
  - Member Data Status Information Change Form (for updating members contact information)
- ✓ Permission Slip to pick up another Unit’s Membership Cards (see April Newsletter)
- ✓ A friend or two
- ✓ Questions to ask
- ✓ “Blast from the Past” clothes for the Style Show
  - Check your membership card for the year you joined.
  - If you do not recall what the clothing was for that year (because you might have joined as a baby!). Google it or ask a friend to Google it.
  - You will dress in the style from that year. You might be surprised that the style is back and you have something in your closet OR check with a friend OR check with a theater group OR visit a thrift store.
  - We will have a “Blast from the Past” style show on Friday afternoon (after the Joint Session) by years, starting with the current year and going back to the year for the members that have been in the longest.
- ✓ Perhaps some extra cash for the many different fundraising events that will support our programs.



### ***SPLIT THE POT RAFFLE***

The Finance Committee will be offering a **SPLIT THE POT** raffle at Department Convention. Proceeds will be deposited to the General Fund. Other than the Auxiliary Dishes fundraiser, there has not been a fundraiser this year for our General Fund.

**NATIONAL EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE  
OF  
THE AMERICAN LEGION  
May 10-11, 2023  
Indianapolis, Indiana**

**Resolution No 13: Be The One Days  
Origin: Marketing Commission  
Submitted by: Marketing Commission**

WHEREAS, Research indicates between 17 and 22 veterans take their own life each day; an

WHEREAS, The American Legion is committed to reducing that number; and

WHEREAS, Research indicates a stigma exists for veterans with mental health issues, making that audience less likely to ask for help; and

WHEREAS, The American Legion Family is actively raising awareness of the issues through a variety of programs, including an annual American Legion Family Day on the last Saturday of April; now, therefore, be it

**RESOLVED, By National Executive Committee of The American Legion in regular meeting assembled in Indianapolis, Indiana, on May 10-11, 2023, That, commencing on June 1, 2023, the first day of every month be observed as a special day to reduce the stigma around mental health issues among the military community, when all American Legion Family members wear a “Be The One” item to signa their commitment to Be The One to save our veteran; and, be it finally**

**RESOLVED, That all American Legion posts should place special emphasis and awareness on the “Be The One” program on the first day of every month.**

## FUN, FUN, FUN AT THE DEPARTMENT CONVENTION

### PIE IN THE FACE



Proceeds for Children and Youth—Purchase a chance to throw a pie in the face of Commander Don, President Vicki, or Detachment Commander Chris. \$1.00 per ticket or \$5.00 for six tickets. You choose which “leaders” bucket to put your tickets in. Nine lucky winners (three pies per leader) will get to place a pie in their faces. Don’t miss out on the fun!



### BLAST FROM YOUR PAST

What was the clothing styles in the year you joined the American Legion Auxiliary? We want to showcase those styles at this year’s Department Convention. Plan to join in this “Blast from Your Past” style show.

Begin by checking your CURRENT membership card to find out what year you joined (in case you don’t recall). But what if I don’t know or remember what the style of clothes were for that year (because you might have joined as a baby!). Take a trip down memory lane and dig out those family photos from those years. Or Google it! You might be surprised that the style is back and you have something in your closet OR check with a friend OR check with a theater group OR visit a thrift store.



The Blast from the Past style show will be during our Friday, June 23, afternoon session, which follows the Joint Session. Plan your wardrobe today!



### YOUR CHANCE TO OWN AUXILIARY CHINA DISHES



The imprinted Auxiliary China dishes that were donated by the Springfield Unit #143 and made by W. C. Bunting Co. of Wellsville, Ohio, will be part of a fundraising event at the Department Convention for the Department General Fund. The setting will include a 9-inch dinner plate, 6-inch dessert plate, and cup.

**SILENT AUCTION** for two 10-piece settings. Highest bid may take one or both 10-piece settings. Second highest bidder has option to take one 10-piece setting (if high bidder only took one) at the price of the highest bid. If not selected, the option goes to the third highest bidder, etc.

**RAFFLE** for twenty individual settings. Purchase a raffle ticket for \$1.00. Winning tickets may purchase ONE place setting per ticket drawn for \$25 until all twenty place settings are bought.

There will be a few separate pieces sold as well as some “chipped” items on a “first come, first served.”

## ***SPECIAL INVITE FROM BEATRICE AMERICAN LEGION FAMILY #27***

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**AMERICAN LEGION POST #27  
AMERICAN LEGION AUXILIARY UNIT #27  
SON'S OF THE AMERICAN LEGION  
AMERICAN LEGION RIDERS**

**May 18, 2023**

The American Legion family at Post #27 has plans for the Children's Hospital Walkathon on June 17, 2023. We have raised money for Children's Hospital for 23 years. They have received over \$115,000 from our community. Please consider sending a donation to Beatrice American Legion Auxiliary Unit #27 and we'll forward the checks to the Children's Hospital. Also encourage your members to walk in the walkathon for these children. Registration will begin at 9:00 and the walk will begin shortly after 10:00.

The purpose is the same, to raise money for the Children's Hospital of Omaha; a Children's Miracle Network (CMN) affiliated hospital. Hospitalized infants and children need unique medicines and equipment engineered to work with their small statures. To be able to afford to treat kids children's hospitals require funding. CMN is a nonprofit organization that raises money to benefit hospitalized kids. All CMN contributions directly benefit local member hospitals, helping them to purchase up-to-date equipment, train staff, conduct life-saving research, and provide healthcare for children whose parents can't afford to pay.

**There have been numerous kids from our local community who have benefited from the services at Children's Hospital of Omaha.**

Please consider making a donation to assist our Post family in its efforts to support Children's Hospital in Omaha.

**We appreciate your past contributions for this event. If you would prefer to speak to one of us please call.**

***STAY SAFE, STAY WELL, STAY STRONG  
SUPPORT THE VETERAN'S***

Sincerely,  
***Marian***  
Marian Melcher  
Gina Weishahn  
Nicole Weishahn  
Co-C & Y Chairs  
American Legion Auxiliary  
Ph 402 239-0746

Please Note: Any monetary donations should be made payable to:

**Children's Miracle Network – Children's Hospital**

**Send to:** 1114 S 6<sup>th</sup> Street  
Beatrice NE 68310



Proposal # 3-23 and Location in Constitution/Bylaws/Standing Rule – Bylaws Article I – Section 6.		
Current Wording	Proposed Amendment	If Adopted, Will Read
Section 6. In the event of the death, or resignation of the Department Secretary-Treasurer or removal from office, a new Department Secretary-Treasurer shall be elected by the Department Executive Committee upon the nomination of the Department President.	strike elected and add appointed.	Section 6. In the event of the death, or resignation of the Department Secretary-Treasurer or removal from office, a new Department Secretary-Treasurer shall be appointed by the Department Executive Committee upon the nomination of the Department President.

Proposed by: C&B Committee

Rationale: The Department Secretary-Treasurer is appointed, not elected.

Proposal # 4-23 and Location in Constitution/Bylaws/Standing Rule – Bylaws Article IV		
Current Wording	Proposed Amendment	If Adopted, Will Read
<p>Article IV – National Executive Committeeperson</p> <p>The National Executive Committeeperson (NEC) functions on the National level representing the Department of Nebraska. The NEC shall attend the National Executive Committee meetings and National Convention. When a National officer pays and official visit to a Department, the National Executive Committeeperson shall act as Distinguished Guest Committee Chairman.</p>	<p>strike person and add member.</p>	<p>Article IV – National Executive Committee Member.</p> <p>The National Executive Committee member (NEC) functions on the National level representing the Department of Nebraska. The NEC shall attend the National Executive Committee meetings and National Convention. When a National officer pays and official visit to a Department, the NEC shall act as Distinguished Guest Committee Chairman.</p>

Proposed by: C&B Committee

Rationale: National Executive Committee member sounds better than person.