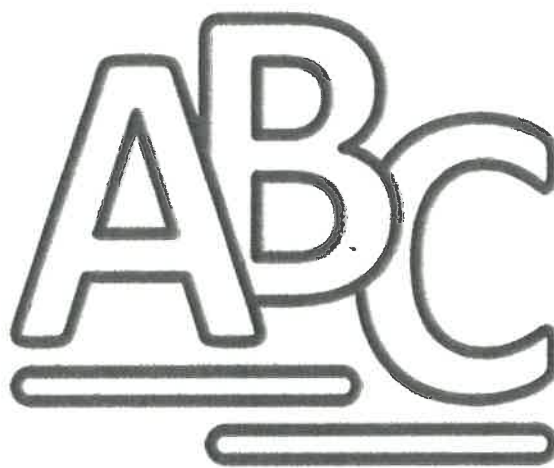


AMERICAN LEGION AUXILIARY
DEPARTMENT OF NEBRASKA
2023 - 2024



BOOK



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SECTION 1

DEPARTMENT OFFICERS

DEPARTMENT CHAIRS

SECTION 1

DEPARTMENT OFFICERS

DEPARTMENT CHAIRS

* * * * * **IMPORTANT NOTE** * * * * *

It was shared at the National Convention that new information for the programs would be released on the National website (alaforveterans.org) following the convention. The PROGRAM ENGAGEMENT PLANS (PEP) for Auxiliary Emergency Fund, Americanism, Children & Youth, Community Service, Education, Finance, Girls Nation, Junior Member Activities, Leadership, Legislative, National Security, Poppy, Public Relations, and Veterans Affairs and Rehabilitation can be found (once you log in) under the "Committee" tab, the column entitled "How to Get Involved," "Program Engagement Plans."

Here is what the website shares about the PEP.

Serving the ALA Mission through Our Programs

Auxiliary members are busy people when it comes to serving our mission. Unit activities take time to plan, implement, and process. Because of that, we recognize the need for better information to connect the dots. The Programs Engagement Plans give our members instructions and guides, while allowing for flexibility, incorporating local and national ALA priorities. The pages in these plans are for unit members and departments (states) to implement the Auxiliary's mission in their communities.

Get involved: Click on an ALA program to be taken directly to detailed guidelines, real-life how-tos, and other ideas on how you can take your ALA mission outreach activities to the next level.

To learn more about the ALA national program committees, request to join one of the many [Facebook groups](#). *(This link will take you to the site to join a Facebook group when you are logged in on the website.)*

The chairs of the ALA programs are your resource when you have questions. Please reach out to them. Their contact information is included with their article.

DEPARTMENT PRESIDENT – Lisa Moore
318 N Railroad – Wilber NE 68465 - 402-821-7077 (C)
moore1986@hotmail.com

For the year 2023 – 2024 I would like the Department to focus on what we can do.

Buddy up with a Unit in a nearby town. We don't have to do everything by ourselves.

Team up to send a girl to Girls State. Help a neighboring town with a booth at an event. Spread the work. Ask for help. Remember "Gnome" body does it alone.

We are Nebraska Strong and Faithful, Serving Veterans Always.

I know it sounds simple but remember the floods. We came together and helped each other rebuild and we came back better than ever.

Teamwork!! That's what it is going to take to make the Auxiliary successful and thriving again. No one wants to belong to a group that complains about everything and does nothing.

Let's remind ourselves that a positive attitude and a giving heart will make whatever our project is a success.

I look forward to doing as much as I can this year and cheering on each and every one of you in your endeavors. Let's remember why we do what we do and who it's for.

Always in Service,

Lisa D. Moore

Department President

**Nebraska Strong & Faithful Serving
Veterans Always**

DEPARTMENT VICE-PRESIDENT – AMANDA WASHBURN
5230 N 148TH Street – Lincoln NE 68527 – 402-480-1472
amandafaye33@gmail.com

I am looking forward to serving as your 2023-24 Vice President and working with everyone to make it a great year! I have been a member of Cook Unit 360 for 30 years and have been active at all levels. I am eligible for membership through the service of my two grandfathers in World War II.

Part of being the Vice President is helping with the membership program for the year. I hope we can try and reach 100% this year and make it a great year for President Lisa, I know we all know someone who is eligible, but haven't been asked yet. Membership is the life blood of our organization, and how we are able to work our mission. I encourage each of you to find just one new member this year.

Also, this year I will be serving as the National Membership Committee Vice Chairman. We are hoping to grow our membership and ensure that we are there to support our veterans, active duty military, and their families for generations to come.

I can't wait to travel Nebraska and see many of you. I know that each Unit and its members do amazing things. Please share these activities so we can all know what you are doing. I know we will have a great year this year!

DEPARTMENT HISTORIAN – RUTH HIETBRINK

735 Washington Street – Sterling, NE 68443

Phone: 402-239-6371 Email: rhietbri@gmail.com

My name is Ruth Hietbrink, and I will be your Department Historian for 2023-2024. I look forward to digging into the history of ALA throughout Nebraska.

I have been a member of the ALA for 50 years, in Sterling, NE Unit 140. My eligibility is through my father, Paul Straube, who was a WWII veteran. Even though he passed several years ago, his passion for our country has kept me engaged in continuing to be an active member of the American Legion Auxiliary. Currently, I serve as the President of Sterling Unit 140. I have also held the position of Department Chaplin 2022-2023. Past Positions within ALA include: • Past Legislative Chairperson Past District 13 President • Past District 13 Vice President • Past District 13 Chaplain • Johnson County President Positions outside of the ALA include: • Past Executive Board of Directors for Energy Solution Center, Washington DC • Past Board member of Home Builders of Lincoln • Past Board member for Friendship Home of Lincoln. I graduated from Sterling High School and have an A.A.S. in Business and an A.A.S. in Event Planning. I am a member of Hope Lutheran Church in Burr, Nebraska. I retired from Black Hills Energy last year where I was employed for 26 years.

I am following previous Historian Amanda Washburn for 2022-2023. She did an incredible job updating the Senior Unit History Book rules last year. I want to follow the rules she put into place. I would encourage all Unites to make a History Book and submit it for judging at their District Conventions. The District winner must be submitted to me by June 1, 2024. The Wagenknecht-Synder Plaque will be awarded at the 2024 Department Convention to the winning History Book.

SENIOR UNIT HISTORY BOOK RULES

(History April 1, 2022, to March 31, 2023)

District winner must be submitted to the Department Historian by June 1

Cover (10 points): Units may use a three-ring binder or three ring folder that can hold 8 ½ X 11 paper for their entry. In the center of the first sheet should be a color American Legion Auxiliary Emblem (any size) and the words "History Book."

Title Page (25 points): Listed on the second page should be the Unit name, Unit number, Unit town, the District number, name of the Unit Historian, and History Book Year 2022 to 2023.

Content (60 points): The history narrative needs to be a minimum of five paragraphs and should start with the installation of officers and the close of your administrative year in chronological order. Within the narrative should be the unit officers, chairman, and other events or activities. Any font can be used, and it can be typed or handwritten.

Unit Historian Signature (5 points): Please have the Unit Historian sign the last page of the narrative.

Bonus Points: A Unit can earn one extra bonus point for including 3 photos of Unit Members participating in Unit Activities or one Unit Event Invitation or Program.

SENIOR UNIT NARRATIVE HISTORY RULES

(History April 1, 2023 to March 31, 2024)

Submissions must be set to the Department Historian by June 1

Title Page (30 points): Listed on the first page should be Unit name, Unit number, Unit town, the District number, name of the Unit Historian, and Narrative History Year 2022 to 2023.

Content (60 points): The history narrative needs to be a minimum of five paragraphs and should start with the installation of officers and the close of your administrative year in chronological order. Within the narrative should be the unit officers, chairman, and other events or activities. Any font can be used, and it can be typed or handwritten.

Unit Historian Signature (10 points): Please have the Unit Historian sign the last page of the narrative.

CAVALCADE OF MEMORIES – RUTH HIETBRINK

735 Washington Street – Sterling, NE 68443

Phone: 402-239-6371 Email: rhietbri@gmail.com

The purpose of the Cavalcade of Memories is to display, share, and perpetuate our history, traditions, and milestones. Preserving the American Legion Auxiliary's historical memorabilia helps us define and remember our core values through time!

Think of these memories as a box of treasures you keep remembering specific events or remembrances that were important to you. Your Unit might keep items such as your Unit Charter, a list of charter members, a program from your first meeting or event, pictures of your Unit Presidents, the bell and gavel for your Unit, and many others.

The Nebraska American Legion Auxiliary has its very own Cavalcade of Memories located at the Department Headquarters building. It contains the pictures of each of the Past Department Presidents, pictures, flags, and items from our Past National Presidents, items from past and current members, and awards for both the Auxiliary and the Junior Auxiliary. It is a treasure trove of history, and it shows the dedication, love, and commitment of our Auxiliary members.

This year I continue to challenge all Units in our Department to send in a picture or pictures of their Cavalcade of Memories to showcase what they have. I will share these pictures on our Facebook page for everyone to see. If you have any questions, please contact me.

DEPARTMENT CHAPLAIN – VICKI CYBORON
5152 N 155th – Omaha NE 68116 – 402-740-5665
vcyborn@aol.com

I am a Paid Up for Life (PUFL) 43-year member of Shipmann Mogensen Unit 201 in Boelus, NE and am eligible for membership in the Auxiliary through the service of my dad, George Cyboron. My membership started as a Junior member. I am currently serving as Unit President and am the current Grand Island VA Medical Center Representative. Past positions that I have served are District Six President for two years and two years as District Historian. On the Department level, I served five years on the Finance Committee and three years as Finance Chairman. I served a three-year term as President of the Nebraska American Legion Press Association (NE-APLA). I graduated from Midland Lutheran College with a degree in Business Administration. For fifteen years I have been employed at Pitney Bowes Presort Services as Collection Specialist.. As a member of the Custer County DAV Auxiliary Unit, I am the current Unit Junior Vice President and Department of Nebraska DAV Auxiliary Senior Vice President. I attend Faith Lutheran Church in Nysted.

DUTIES OF THE UNIT CHAPLAIN AND SUGGESTED ACTIVITIES

The chaplain should attend all meetings and have an opening and closing prayer at each meeting. These prayers may come from the American Legion Auxiliary Chaplains Prayer Book or may be others that the chaplain has found or written on their own.

The chaplain should be involved in many activities, such as:

1. Reporting the names of members who are ill at meetings and presenting cards for members to sign to mail to them.
2. Sending a sympathy card to the family, and, if possible, visiting the funeral home when a member passes away. The chaplain may also be assigned to ask the family if they wish to have a funeral dinner.
3. Being in charge of any religious services the unit may have, such as draping the charter or performing memorial services.
4. Visiting members and veterans in nursing homes and hospitals.
5. Visiting members and veterans who are shut-in at home.
6. Keeping in contact with all Gold Star Mothers and remembering them during all holidays.
7. Sending cards to members and their family members.
8. Making a prayer and devotional book.

9. Encouraging members to send prayers and devotional thoughts so that she can use them to make a prayer book.

HOW DO YOU MAKE A UNIT PRAYER BOOK? **

The unit chaplain does not make a unit prayer book alone. The publication is a collection of prayers, devotional thoughts, and poems that mean something special to the unit members. The chaplain and members may write their own prayers or devotional thoughts for the book. All members should be asked to give the unit chaplain something for the prayer book.

The chaplain may want to type the material she receives. She may want to add pictures that go along with the prayer, devotional thought, or poem.

A great resource for the prayer book is a church bulletin. Many churches use bulletins that have a picture on the cover with a devotional thought or bible verse. Ask unit members to save these for you.

Making a prayer book is a very delightful job. You will likely receive beautiful prayers, devotional thoughts, and poems from many different people. Be sure to enjoy every minute of it.

****American Legion Auxiliary Chaplains Manual 4**

Other Resources:

- ✓ The American Legion Auxiliary web page: www.alaforveterans.org
- ✓ The American Legion Auxiliary Unit Guidebook
- ✓ The American Legion Auxiliary Department of NE Constitution and Bylaws
- ✓ American Legion Auxiliary Chaplains Prayer Book
- ✓ Auxiliary Chaplains on Facebook: www.facebook.com/groups/chaplains
- ✓ Guidelines for the American Legion Auxiliary National Chaplain

DEPARTMENT CHAPLAIN DUTIES

- It shall be the duty of the Department Chaplain to serve as spiritual leader of the Department and to offer prayer at the opening of each day's business at Department meetings and conduct all religious services.
- The Department Chaplain shall serve as Gold Star Chair and prepare a Gold Star Recognition during Department Convention.
- The Department Chaplain shall prepare a suitable Christmas Candle Lighting Ceremony for Unit distribution by October 15th of each year.
- The Department Chaplain shall establish guidelines for judging Prayer Books and prepare Citations of Award to be given in recognition of the winning Prayer Books.
- The Department Chaplain will encourage members to send prayers, poems, and devotions to be placed in the prayer book for Department President, Lisa Moore.

GUIDELINES FOR SENIOR PRAYER BOOK

A prayer book is not made by the Unit Chaplain alone. It is a collection of prayers, devotional thoughts by all that has meaning to each Unit member. They may be original, or they can be found by other sources if cited.

- I. Cover – Blue 3-ring binder/folder with emblem or brand mark 5 points _____
- II. Paper – Use standard size 8.5 x 11 inches 5 points _____
- III. Introduction Page – Centered on page and double spaced.
Include the following information in the following format 15 points _____

Name of the Unit #000

Address of the Unit

City, NE 00000

Department of Nebraska

Name of the Unit Chaplain, Chaplain

Name of the Unit President, President

2023-2024

IV. Contents Total – 50 points _____

- a. Books must be typed and each page neat and clean. 5 points _____
- b. Use only one side of the paper per sheet 5 points _____
- c. The book should have two sections separated by a divider,
- d. which may be decorated. 5 points _____

Prayers

Devotional Thoughts

- e. Prayers may be original or of your preference. The author's name or source must be listed. If the author or source is unknown, type "Author Unknown."

15 points _____

- f. Devotional thoughts may be scriptures from the Bible, poems, or other articles. 15 points _____
 - g. Inspirational messages and captions are allowed on sheets with prayers or devotional thoughts. 5 points _____
 - h. Spelling – be sure to spell correctly. Check closely for errors. 10 points _____
- V. Summary Page – centered and double spaced. 15 points _____

Unit Name and Number

Department of Nebraska

Number of members in Unit _____

Signature of the Unit Chaplain

Signature of Unit President

100 Points _____

The Unit Prayer Books will be judged at the District Convention. Please use the guidelines listed above for judging the Senior Prayer Book

DEPARTMENT SECRETARY/TREASURER – Jacki O'Neill

Cell phone 712-574-5070 – neaux@windstream.net

I became a member in 1980 when my mother-in-law signed me up. I am eligible through my father, Jack Smith, a Korean era veteran and my husband Dan. Dan served in Germany during the Vietnam era.

I have agreed to fill this position until someone applies and takes the position. The office is open from 8:00 a.m. to noon with Roxanne Hiatt processing membership payments and updates. She also manages all poppy distributions.

There is no one to answer the phone after twelve o'clock noon. You are welcome to call my cell number (712-574-5070) if you have a pressing question or leave a message at Department Headquarters (402-466-1808).

The Department has many people standing in to keep everything running smoothly. Having Lisa Moore as our Department President is a plus because she has held the position of Department Secretary/Treasurer. Past Department President, Vicki Ozenbaugh, worked hard last year during her term to assist with secretarial duties and is stepping in working hard this year.

Julie Totten, Financial Advisor, and I are anxious to receive Unit donations, Veteran Facilities assessments, Poppy orders and donations from distributions and Gifts for Yanks donations. Nebraska Units are very generous, and your donations are appreciated for our Veterans and Children and Youth.

Send in your members payments and updates as quickly as possible. Also, remember you can sign up for access to the National Membership System (ALAMIS), and make member changes, or tryout the next level and pay members' dues online with a credit or debit card, saving time and postage.

Our Vice-President, Amanda Washburn keeps our Nebraska website up to date. All mailings are placed on the site and much more. Check it out at nebraskalegionaux.org.

Enjoy the 2023-2024 American Legion Auxiliary year!

NATIONAL EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE – VICKI OZENBAUGH

515 Road 18 – Ohioa NE 68416 - 402-759-0411

ala.ozenbaugh@gmail.com

As your elected National Executive Committee (NEC) Member, I am Nebraska's representative of the governing body of the American Legion Auxiliary with fiduciary, policy, and strategic responsibility for the organization. My term begins at the close of the 2023 National Convention and ends at the adjournment of the 2024 National Convention. The National Executive Committee is comprised of the National President, National Vice President, the five National Division Vice Presidents, National Chaplain, National Historian, and one NEC member from each Department. The National Secretary and National Treasurer, when not in employee paid status, serve with all rights including the right to vote. Nebraska's Past National President Carol VanKirk is a member for life, with all rights except the right to vote.

Nebraska's NEC alternate is President Lisa Moore. She will serve only in the absence of myself.

The National Constitution, Bylaws, and Standing Rules (CBSR) clearly defines the NEC's role per Constitution Article V, Bylaws Article VI, and Standing Rules V. Throughout the CBSR the NEC has specific responsibilities.

I have been appointed to a three-member sub-committee to review the minutes of the NEC meetings.

Per our CBSR, I will be the Distinguished Guest Committee Chair when a National officer pays an official visit to Nebraska. The 2023 – 2024 National President is scheduled to visit Nebraska August 3-5, 2024. Standing Rule M – Reimbursements states:

13. National Officer Visits a. When the National President or Northwestern Division National Vice President visits Nebraska outside of the Department Convention or Mid-Year Conference, the Distinguished Guest Chairman and the Department President can submit a voucher for the standard mileage and any expenses pertaining to the dignitaries visit. The Department Secretary will coordinate with the Distinguished Guest Chairman and Department President to make room reservations for the National guest, Distinguished Guest Chairman, and Department President. Expenses to be taken from Conferences and Convention, General Fund.

On a personal note, I am a Paid Up For Life (PUFL) member of Franklin Unit #193, Ohioa, Nebraska. I joined in 1977 and am eligible through the service of my former husband. Over the span of the last 46 years, I have served at all levels and most recently as the 2022-2023 Department President. It is a privilege to belong to this incredible patriotic organization, and I will continue to fulfill the mission of service not self in the community of volunteers serving Veterans, military, and their families.

DEPARTMENT ADVISORY COMMITTEE – ELIZABETH PAES, CHAIR

501 E Gold Road, Apt 3E - Papillion NE 68046 - 402-677-0268

elizapaes@hotmail.com

The Department Advisory Committee is comprised of three Past Department Presidents (PDP), each of whom will serve on the Committee for a three-year term following the completion of their year as the Department President.

COMMITTEE MEMBERS

PDP Vicki Ozenbaugh (2022-2023) serving as National Security, Chair (1st year)

PDP Barbara Meyer 2019-2021 serving as Past President Parley, Chair (2nd year)

PDP Elizabeth Paes 2019-2021 serving as Advisory Committee, Chair and Auxiliary
Emergency Fund, Chair (3rd year)

Purpose of the Department Advisory Committee

- ✓ The Committee first and foremost **does not have** any governing powers
- ✓ The Committee is simply an avenue whereby the Committee may be sought out for advice from any level of the organization upon request.
- ✓ The Committee is here to guide and mentor any member, Committee and/or Officer/Chairman on all levels upon request.
- ✓ The Committee, along with the Department Education Chairman and the Department President, assists with the review and the judging of applications for the Department-sponsored scholarships.
- ✓ The Committee is available to review resolutions submitted for the Department Executive Committee's (DEC) action and provide commentary when applicable upon request.
- ✓ The Committee performs other duties as proposed and/or recommended by the Department Executive Committee (DEC).
- ✓ The Committee is basically a silent partner of the Department of Nebraska with no direct responsibility or tasks except those brought to the Committee upon request.
- ✓ Chairman of this Committee serves as officer with oversight of the Department's Whistleblower policy as is the Department Secretary.

AMERICANISM - TINA NELSON

503 North Brown Avenue - Clay Center, NE 68933 - 402-469-3367

trnelson81602@gmail.com

I'm a proud PUFL (Paid Up For Life) Member of the Clay Center (Mills-Schroder) Unit #87 since 2015 and became our Unit President this year (First time--I started as Vice President at the District level and worked backwards. There's no one right way to be a member or promote any of our programs). I'm eligible through my husband Don's service in the Navy Seabees; but I could have joined sooner if I had been asked as both of my grandfathers served in the Army.

The Auxiliary Americanism program promotes patriotism and responsible citizenship. I look forward to hearing how your unit works Americanism in your communities. How you help promote and increase participation in Patriotic events and activities that include the youth from your schools, churches and community.

I'm promoting the Americanism Essay Contest and the Star Spangled Kids Program.

AMERICANISM ESSAY CONTEST

Essay title: **What does freedom mean to me?**

Contact schools (work with the school administration to promote the contest and make sure to include homeschoolers in your area), local civic organizations (including but not limited to 4-H, Young Marines, Girls & Boy Scouts), and encourage your junior members and youth in your family and community to all participate.

Create an Essay Packet for your schools. It should include:

- The cover sheet (found on page 18 and on the Nebraska website).
- Rules or guidelines your Unit uses (if your Unit has any specific rules that you judge by, please include a copy with your winning submissions).
- Deadline date (your Unit deadline).
- Department (see below) and Unit awards (if your Unit provides awards).

All Unit winning essays must be to Tina Nelson by March 15, 2024

Help judge the contest.

Contact your local essay winners and their families. Invite them to join you at a meeting and have them read their winning essay or they could be part of your Veterans Day or Memorial Day program by reading their essay.

Make sure to share winners on social media (tag me Tina Renee Nelson) and other local media outlets.

Department awards are issued per Standing Rules, Section F

A \$25 cash award will be given for first place in each class for the Americanism Essay Contest.
A \$15 cash award will be given for second place in each class for the Americanism Essay Contest.
A \$10 cash award will be given for third place in each class for the Americanism Essay Contest.
Monetary awards shall be taken from the Histories and Awards, General Fund.

STAR SPANGLED KIDS KIT

Educating our children about American history is extremely important to our country's civic health. "Star Spangled Kids" is the American Legion Auxiliary initiative to educate our youth about United States history, Americanism, and the U.S. Constitution.

Thanks to a grant provided by The American Legion's Child Welfare Foundation, National Headquarters will be providing Star Spangled Kids kits. Included in the kit are a wide variety of exciting items that make teaching our youth about patriotism fun! These items include "The Pledge of Allegiance" and "Our Country's Flag" comic books, a copy of "Let's Get Right on Flag Etiquette" as well as copies of the Declaration of Independence/Constitution of the United States. Also included are eye catching and patriotic "swag" to get everyone excited about learning!

More information will become available and shared through our Headquarter Newsletters.

AMERICANISM AWARDS WITH DEADLINE DATES

Americanism Essay Contest

Unit winning essays are due to Tina Nelson by March 15, 2024. Please keep a copy for your records before sending the hard copies. If you can email a copy of your winning essays as soon as you have your winners picked. I can reach out for more information if I need it. Last year Nebraska had a national award winner, and I would hate to miss out due to incorrect contact information.

I have to submit our Department winning essays to the Northwestern Division Americanism Chair by April 15, 2024. Therefore, it is imperative that your Unit winning essays are to me by the March 15, 2024 deadline.

Most Outstanding Unit Americanism Program

Units are encouraged to submit a narrative describing their Americanism program. Due to Tina Nelson by May 1, 2024.

Your narrative must be submitted via email (trnelson81602@gmail.com) as the Department winning program is submitted to National electronically. If you need assistance in submitting it electronically, please reach out before Christmas and I will help. Nebraska's winning selection is submitted to the Northwestern Division Americanism Chair prior to June 1, 2024.

AMERICANISM ESSAY CONTEST

2024 Cover Sheet



Each year, the American Legion Auxiliary (ALA) sponsors an Americanism Essay Contest for students in grades 3-12, including students with special needs. Grade levels are divided into six classes. One award in each of the six classes will be presented in each division. Winners will receive \$50 and a \$50 donation in the student's name will be made to the Children of Warriors National Presidents' Scholarship fund.

Essay Title: *“What does Freedom mean to me?”*

Essay Classes:

Class	Grade Level	Word Requirement
I	3 and 4	150-250
II	5 and 6	250-300
III	7 and 8	350-400
IV	9 and 10	450-500
V	11 and 12	450-500
VI	Students with special needs	Word count should correspond with student's grade level.

Essay Checklist:

- ☐ Class competing in _____
- ☐ Sponsoring ALA unit _____
- ☐ Typed or neatly written essay conforming to the word requirement for class Completed
- ☐ essay coversheet as first page of essay
- ☐ Word count of essay _____
- ☐ Due date for student to return to ALA unit _____

To Be Completed by the Student/Parent:

Student Name: _____

Address (Street, City, State, Zip): _____

Phone: _____ E-mail Address: _____

School Name: _____

School City/State: _____

Teacher Name and Signature: _____

Auxiliary Use Only (Must be completed for entry to be considered.):

Sponsoring Unit Name/Number: _____

Signature of Unit Americanism Chairman: _____

Unit winner due to Department on: _____ Department: _____

Signature of Department Chairman: _____

Department winner due to National Americanism Division Chairman by April 15, 2024

Americanism

DEPARTMENT AUXILIARY EMERGENCY FUND – ELIZABETH PAES, CHAIR
501 E Gold Road, Apt 3E - Papillion NE 68046 - 402-677-0268
elizapaes@hotmail.com

The purpose of the Auxiliary Emergency Fund (AEF) is to provide temporary financial assistance to eligible Auxiliary members during times of financial crisis or weather-related emergencies and natural disasters.

Eligible members may be awarded up to \$2,400. AEF funds may be used to provide emergency assistance to eligible Auxiliary members who have been devastated by disaster, including flood, hurricane, tornado, earthquake, fire, or another catastrophe. These members will be considered for essential emergency expenditures up to three weeks after the incident or disaster. Grant funds may also be awarded to eligible members only for past/overdue expenses related to retaining their primary and/or loss of income due to medical and/or employment reasons.

Have you noticed the word ELIGIBLE is present in all these grants? To apply for these grants, you must have paid your current dues and the immediate past two years' dues. This is why it is important to keep your dues current and the Membership Chair of your unit send in dues promptly. Have you paid your 2024 dues?

The job of each Auxiliary member is to promote awareness and knowledge and to support the AEF program. There is no budget line for the AEF program. All monies available for this program come from our donations. It is that extra \$5.00, \$10.00 or \$20.00 that comes from our pockets. This is truly "Members helping Members." An individual who gives an AEF donation of \$100 or more directly to the ALA National Headquarters within the fiscal year (October 1 – September 30) will receive an AEF donation pin. Pins are sent out quarterly.

Why not have some fun at your monthly unit meetings? Try a split-the-pot raffle. At every meeting each member can donate a dollar and if their name is drawn, they win half the pot, and the AEF fund receives the other half. How about donating \$1.00 for every member in your Unit?

National Awards Available: Unit contributing the largest amount (per capita) between 10/1-6/1, 2023/2024. Department contributing the largest amount between 10/1-6/1, 2023/2024 and Department contributing the largest amount (per capita) between 10/1-6/1, 2023/2024.

For all fillable forms to apply for a grant and for many creative ideas go to your member portal at legion-aux.org/aef. Also, ask to join the AEF Facebook page. There you will find what others are doing to help.

CHILDREN AND YOUTH – VICKI COLSON
PO Box 61 – Paxton, NE 69155 – 308-289-4836
colson.vicki@yahoo.com

Key goals of the Children and Youth Program

The Children and Youth program emphasizes protecting, caring for, and supporting children and youth, particularly those of veterans' and military families.

Important date

“Purple up for Military Kids” – April 15, 2024

The program recognizes and rewards the positive actions of our children and youth. The American Legion Auxiliary has two special national awards bestowed to youth nominated by units: the Youth Hero Award and the Good Deed Award.

Good Deed Award youth should demonstrate a leadership role in community service. The specific deed should be present.

Youth Hero Award youth should demonstrate a physical act of valor.

The program recognizes Kids of Deployed are Heroes 2 (KDH2) and is honoring military children who may be experiencing a separation from one or both parents, whether deployed to war zone, having a short tour or on an extended temporary duty assignment.

The program supports and promotes the Children and Youth programs of the American Legion.

The program is a liaison to the Child and Welfare Foundation

Programs supported by the Children and Youth Program: (Source: Youth Programs Brochure)

- ALA Girls State
- ALA Scholarships
- Americanism Essay Contest
- National Poppy Poster Contest
- American Legion Oratorical Contest
- American Legion Baseball
- American Legion Shooting Sports
- ALA Juniors

Unit Report: Due to Vicki Colson by April 20, 2024. Email to colson.vicki@yahoo.com or mail to PO Box 61, Paxton, NE 69155

Unit Award: Most Outstanding Unit Children and Youth Program – Submit a narrative report Vicki Colson by April 20, 2024 describing your Unit's Children and Youth Program for the year.

(Source: <https://member.legion-aux.org/member/committees/childrenandyouth>)

COMMUNITY SERVICE – MARLA FURROW
72055 567th Ave - Fairbury NE 68352 – 402-587-0927
marlamae58@yahoo.com

Fellow Auxiliary members, my name is Marla Furrow. I am Community Service Department Chairman for the 2023/2024 Auxiliary year. I have been a member of Plymouth ALA Unit #243 since 2004. I am eligible through my dad, who served in the US Navy during the Korean War. My husband is also a member of Legion Post #243 having served in the US Marine Corps Reserves. My mom, my sisters, daughters and granddaughters are also members of Unit #243.

As an Auxiliary member, one of our purposes is to promote the Auxiliary's commitment to making our communities better by supporting local projects. Our Department President's theme this year is "Nebraska Strong and Faithful, Serving Veterans Always." This is a great theme to apply to our community projects. We can do this individually and as a Unit.

Individually:

- Wear your Auxiliary shirts, pins, etc. to let people know who we represent
- Reach out to first responders, churches and schools to find out needs in the community
- Volunteer at your library, school, nursing home, senior center
- Deliver meals for those who are unable to get out
- Serve on community committees as an Auxiliary representative

As a Unit:

- Help with Veterans Day and Memorial Day ceremonies
- Organize service projects
- Participate in local projects and activities
- Host a blood drive
- There are so many ways to serve in our communities

Keep records of your volunteer numbers, hours, costs and mileage so when it comes time for reports, these things are easier to track.

Watch for Awards information in "The Star" and newsletters.

The National website—ALAforVeterans.org is an excellent source of information. You can find community service information under "ALA Service Not Self Volunteer Toolkit". Nebraskalegionaux.net is also a great information source.

CONSTITUTION & BYLAWS – KATHY MAZUR
13932 Meadow Ridge Rd – Omaha NE 68138 – 402-659-6689
mazur_kathy@yahoo.com

It is important that all levels of our organization maintain up-to-date governing documents. Having the Constitution, Bylaws and Standing Rules current reduces conflicts and ensures success for our organization.

There have been some revisions over the past few years to both National and Department governing documents. Units, Counties, and Districts should review their governing documents annually to see that they are revised and comply with the National and Department governing documents. Standing Rules also need to be reviewed and amended as necessary.

Uniform Unit Constitution and Bylaws and Uniform District Constitution and Bylaws will be available on the Department website. An example of a Unit Constitution may also be found in the Unit Guide Book available from Emblem Sales.

Copies of revised Unit, County, and District Constitution, Bylaws, and Standing Rules should be sent to Department Headquarters to be kept on file.

COUNTY GOVERNMENT DAY – LORENE BARTOS
7441 San Mateo Lane - Lincoln NE 68516 - 402-310-3481
lbartos1@unl.edu.

I am a 66-year member of St. Edward Unit 226. I belong to help support veterans and youth programs --- and to honor my father and husband, both of whom served our country in the Army.

Per our Constitution regarding County Government,

There shall be a County Government Committee as directed by the Articles of Incorporation for Cornhusker Boys' and Girls' County Government, Inc., Section VIII, 'The corporation shall be managed by a board of directors, consisting of the following: (1) The Commander of The American Legion, Department of Nebraska, to serve during the term of office; (2) The President of the American Legion Auxiliary, Department of Nebraska, to serve during the term of office; (3) The Adjutant of The American Legion, Department of Nebraska, to serve during the term of office; (4) The Secretary of the American Legion Auxiliary, Department of Nebraska, to serve during the term of office; (5) The members of the Americanism Committee of The American Legion, Department of Nebraska; (6) Five members of the American Legion Auxiliary, Department of Nebraska, other than its President and Secretary, to be appointed by the Department Executive Committee thereof, one to be appointed each year for a term of five years, and as the terms of office expire, successors shall be appointed in like manner for like terms. Vacancies in office shall be filled by the Department Executive Committee for the unexpired term. The regular annual meeting of the Cornhusker Boys' and Girls' County Government corporation shall be held in conjunction with the Americanism Committee meeting just prior to the Department Convention of The American Legion.

Chief Justice Robert G. Simmons of the Nebraska Supreme Court started County Government Day. He heard a Boys State Citizen saying that if he could not win a state office, he would just have to run for one of the old county offices. Realizing what an important part of the government puzzle your counties are, he made it his mission to create a program that would educate our youth about county government and just how important it is to every county. Each count sets up their own program according to the count situation. Local high school students learn about each county office/position and the duties and responsibilities of each office. Programs may include speakers, question and answer sessions, jeopardy games, essays, visits to the county offices and court, or other educational activities. Lunch is usually served to those participating.

It is important to contact the schools in your county early with the date and program details.

If you wish to start a County Government Program in your county or assist with one county, contact your District Commander and District President. If you need assistance in revitalizing a program, contact Assistant Adjutant Eric Martin, at the Nebraska American Legion (402-464-6338) for more information.

EDUCATION – CATHY WEBBER
201 18th Ave – Franklin NE 68939 – 308-470-0689
catwebb1971@gmail.com

Welcome to the Education section of the ABC book. I am Cathy Webber, serving as the education chairperson for 2023-2024 year. I have been a member of the ALA Anno Sanger Unit #209 in Franklin NE since 2004. I became a member ALA in honor of my father, who served in WWII in Co H 406th Infantry, Battle Rhineland in the US ARMY. He received a Purple Heart and A Victory and Bronze Medal for his service. I also have extended family members who have served in the military and want to honor and thank them for their service as well.

We ask what the purpose of Education is in the ALA? Our key program statements are:

- To promote quality education for children, especially for military children, and adults
- To encourage schools to invite veterans to speak in their classrooms.
- To provide scholarships for students who desire a college education.
- To support legislation that establishes new scholarship opportunities.
- To support the Education program and scholarship opportunities of The American Legion

As your Education chair, I am here to support your units with knowledge about the scholarships.

SCHOLARSHIPS

DEPARTMENT SCHOLARSHIPS

Please discard any scholarship applications you have. Only the 2024 version of applications will be accepted for judging.

1. **Nebraska ALA Memorial Scholarship** ***Remember, there has been a change in the Department Scholarships. The following four scholarships have been combined to create the new Nebraska ALA Memorial Scholarship. No longer will we have the Avery Elaine Keriakedes Memorial Scholarship, Roberta Marie Stretch Memorial Scholarship, Ruby Lorraine Paul Scholarship and Ruby Pail Campaign Fund Scholarship. Approved and adopted at the 2023 Department Convention.
2. **Career & Technical Education Scholarship**
3. **Healthcare Professional Scholarship**

Remember the scholarship deadline to the units is March 1, 2024 and to the Department is March 15, 2024.

NATIONAL SCHOLARSHIPS

These scholarships are completed online. Refer to the National website (www.alaforveterans.org) for the guidelines on how the student's apply for these scholarships. They have a March 1, 2024 deadline.

- 1. Children of Warriors National Presidents' Scholarship**
- 2. Spirit of Youth Scholarship**
- 3. Non-Traditional Student Scholarship**
- 4. Junior Member Loyalty Scholarship**



CAREER AND TECHNICAL EDUCATION SCHOLARSHIP \$500

Sponsored by

AMERICAN LEGION AUXILIARY—DEPARTMENT OF NEBRASKA

150 NW 40th Street Unit B, LINCOLN, NE 68528

402-466-1808

www.nebraskalegionaux.net

neaux@windstream.net

Career and Technical Education programs are offered through community colleges, trade schools and/or colleges/universities offering two (2) year programs for students who have the intention of going to the workforce after two years or less of higher education. These program areas are typically:

- Associate of Applied Science (AAS) degree program (2 years in length)
- Diplomas (1 year)
- Certificates less than one (1) year
- **This Scholarship excludes applicants enrolled in a school of nursing.**

Applicants must:

- be a resident of Nebraska
- must have a Veteran connection or be a Veteran

The completed application (including requested documents) must be submitted to and received (postmarked by March 1) by your local American Legion Auxiliary (ALA) Unit.

ALA Unit # _____

Name: _____

Local Unit Officer Name

Address: _____

Address

City

State

Zip

If the above is blank, your High School Counselor should be able to provide the name and address of the local ALA Unit where applications must be submitted or call the American Legion Auxiliary Headquarters at 402-466-1808.

If selected, the scholarship must be used within the year selected. Funding not released by January 1 will not be awarded.

The application is on page 2 and must be completed by being typewritten or using legible printed handwriting.

The Scholarship Application must include all three (3) pages included with this packet when submitted.

Applicant's Name _____

1. Name of Applicant: _____
Mailing Address: _____
PO Box or Street City State ZIP
2. Name of school you are currently enrolled or last enrolled? _____ Grade Level _____
If not in school, what is your current occupation _____
3. Name of Veteran connection: _____
Check their Branch of Service:
___Army ___Navy ___Air Force ___Marines ___National Guard ___Coast Guard ___Reserves ___Space Force
Dates of Service (can be found on DD214 discharge paper) _____
Veteran named above is my: ___Parent ___Grandparent ___Great Grandparent
4. Institute of higher education you plan to attend: _____
5. Narrative must be provided from applicant stating what field of study and why you have chosen it. This narrative must be printed on a separate page, double spaced, signed, and be less than 300 words.
6. **Applicant must provide all the following items**, assembled in the order given below, with this completed application form:
 - Two letters of recommendation on their letterhead and **must be signed** by the letter writer
 - a. One (1) letter from an employer, clergy, or businessperson in the community
 - b. One (1) letter from an administrator, guidance counselor, or teacher
 - A high school resume which includes a list of community involvement, church activities and school activities/honors/awards. Include community service completed which includes a description of work, hours served, and a contact person with phone number.
 - Letter of acceptance from chosen institute of higher education
 - Certified Transcript (with seal) of high school (or college) grades GPA _____
 - Include one of these documents showing your score: ACT, SAT, Accuplacer

Signature of Applicant

Applicant's Name _____

**THIS PAGE MUST BE COMPLETED BY YOUR LOCAL
AMERICAN LEGION AUXILIARY UNIT**

Applications must be submitted on or before March 1 (postmarked by March 1) to your local American Legion Auxiliary Unit where they will be judged locally. Again, all three (3) pages of this application packet must be submitted along with other items as mentioned in #5 and #6 on page 2. One scholarship application will be chosen from the local Unit to be submitted to the Nebraska American Legion Auxiliary Department Headquarters for final judging and awarding.

- ✓ The local Unit scholarship selection must be submitted to the Department Headquarters on or before March 15 (postmarked by March 15).
- ✓ ALA Units should make certain that all requested letters and documents are enclosed and completed properly with the application to the Department Headquarters.
- ✓ Individual students are welcome to apply for multiple ALA Nebraska scholarships; however, each American Legion Auxiliary Unit may submit **ONLY ONE** individual student per Department Scholarship. (Example--student "I Need Scholarship" applies for all three Department Scholarships. The Unit must submit "I Need Scholarship" for only one of the scholarships.) Each Unit may submit applications for all three scholarships, but each scholarship must be a different student.

The undersigned confirms that this scholarship application has been selected by:

ALA UNIT # _____ **LOCATED** in _____, Nebraska,
and that this application was reviewed in its entirety by an officer/chairperson of the ALA Unit previously mentioned and contains all information in the correct order as required in #5 and #6 on page 2.

Signature of ALA Unit Officer

Date

Daytime phone number

ALA UNIT shall MAIL or DELIVER before March 15 to:

**American Legion Auxiliary
150 NW 40th Street Unit B
Lincoln, NE 68528**

Applicant's Name _____

**HEALTHCARE PROFESSIONAL SCHOLARSHIP****\$500**

Sponsored by

AMERICAN LEGION AUXILIARY—DEPARTMENT OF NEBRASKA

150 NW 40th Street Unit B, LINCOLN, NE 68528

402-466-1808

www.nebraskalegionaux.netneaux@windstream.net

The **Healthcare Professional Scholarship** of \$500 will be awarded to a person enrolled in a four-year healthcare professional program.

Applicants must:

- be a resident of Nebraska
- must be or have a Veteran connection

The completed application (including requested documents) must be submitted to and received (postmarked by March 1) by your local American Legion Auxiliary (ALA) Unit.

ALA Unit # _____

Name _____

Local Unit Officer Name _____

Address _____

Address

City

State

Zip

If the above is blank, your High School Counselor should be able to provide the name and address of the local ALA Unit where applications must be submitted or call the American Legion Auxiliary Headquarters at 402-466-1808.

If selected, the scholarship must be used within the year selected. Funding not released by January 1 will not be awarded.

The application is on page 2 and must be completed by being typewritten or using legible printed handwriting.

The Scholarship Application must include all three (3) pages included with this packet when submitted.

Applicant's Name _____

1. Name of Applicant: _____

Mailing Address: _____
PO Box or Street City State ZIP

2. Name of school you are currently enrolled or last enrolled? _____ Grade Level _____

If not in school, what is your current occupation _____

3. Name of Veteran connection: _____
Check their Branch of Service:

☐ Army ☐ Navy ☐ Air Force ☐ Marines ☐ National Guard ☐ Coast Guard ☐ Reserves ☐ Space Force

Dates of Service (can be found on DD214 discharge paper) _____

Veteran named above is my: ☐ Parent ☐ Grandparent ☐ Great Grandparent

4. Institute of higher education you plan to attend: _____

5. Narrative must be provided from applicant stating what field of study and why you have chosen it. This narrative must be printed on a separate page, double spaced, signed, and be less than 300 words.

6. **Applicant must provide all the following items**, assembled in the order given below, with this completed application form:

- Two letters of recommendation on their letterhead and **must be signed** by the letter writer
 - a. One (1) letter from an employer, clergy, or businessperson in the community
 - b. One (1) letter from an administrator, guidance counselor, or teacher
- A high school resume which includes a list of community involvement, church activities and school activities/honors/awards. Include community service completed which includes a description of work, hours served, and a contact person with phone number.
- Letter of acceptance from chosen institute of higher education
- Certified Transcript (with seal) of high school (or college) grades GPA _____
- Include one of these documents showing your score: ACT, SAT, Accuplacer

Signature of Applicant

Applicant's Name _____

**THIS PAGE MUST BE COMPLETED BY YOUR LOCAL
AMERICAN LEGION AUXILIARY UNIT**

Applications must be submitted on or before March 1 (postmarked by March 1) to your local American Legion Auxiliary Unit where they will be judged locally. Again, all three (3) pages of this application packet must be submitted along with other items as mentioned in #5 and #6 on page 2. One scholarship application will be chosen from the local Unit to be submitted to the Nebraska American Legion Auxiliary Department Headquarters for final judging and awarding.

- ✓ The local Unit scholarship selection must be submitted to the Department Headquarters on or before March 15 (postmarked by March 15).
- ✓ ALA Units should make certain that all requested letters and documents are enclosed and completed properly with the application to the Department Headquarters.
- ✓ Individual students are welcome to apply for multiple ALA Nebraska scholarships; however, each American Legion Auxiliary Unit may submit **ONLY ONE** individual student per Department Scholarship. (Example--student "I Need Scholarship" applies for all three Department Scholarships. The Unit must submit "I Need Scholarship" for only one of the scholarships.) Each Unit may submit applications for all three scholarships, but each scholarship must be a different student.

The undersigned confirms that this scholarship application has been selected by:

ALA UNIT # _____ **LOCATED** in _____, Nebraska,
and that this application was reviewed in its entirety by an officer/chairman of the ALA
Unit previously mentioned and contains all information in the correct order as required in
#5 and #6 on page 2.

Signature of ALA Unit Officer

Date

Daytime phone number

ALA UNIT shall MAIL or DELIVER before March 15 to:

**American Legion Auxiliary
150 NW 40th Street Unit B
Lincoln, NE 68528**

Applicant's Name _____



NEBRASKA ALA MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP

\$400

Sponsored by

AMERICAN LEGION AUXILIARY—DEPARTMENT OF NEBRASKA

150 NW 40th Street Unit B, LINCOLN, NE 68528

402-466-1808

www.nebraskalegionaux.netneaux@windstream.net

The **Nebraska ALA Memorial Scholarship** of **\$400** shall be awarded to a qualified applicant accepted into an undergraduate or graduate (master's only) program at a four-year Nebraska college or university. Preference will be given to a former Nebraska Girls State or Boys State Citizen who is seeking to teach middle school or junior high school social studies.

Applicants must:

- be a resident of Nebraska
- must be or have a Veteran connection

The completed application (including requested documents) must be submitted to and received (postmarked by March 1) by your local American Legion Auxiliary (ALA) Unit.

ALA Unit # _____

Name _____

Local Unit Officer Name _____

Address _____

Address

City

State

Zip

If the above is blank, your High School Counselor should be able to provide the name and address of the local ALA Unit where applications must be submitted or call the American Legion Auxiliary Headquarters at 402-466-1808.

If selected, the scholarship must be used within the year selected. Funding not released by January 1 will not be awarded.

The application is on page 2 and must be completed by being typewritten or using legible printed handwriting.

The Scholarship Application must include all three (3) pages included with this packet when submitted.

Applicant's Name _____

1. Name of Applicant: _____

Mailing Address: _____
PO Box or Street City State ZIP

2. Name of school you are currently enrolled or last enrolled? _____ Grade Level _____

If not in school, what is your current occupation _____

3. Name of Veteran connection: _____
Check their Branch of Service:

☐ Army ☐ Navy ☐ Air Force ☐ Marines ☐ National Guard ☐ Coast Guard ☐ Reserves
☐ Space Force

Dates of Service (can be found on DD214 discharge paper) _____

Veteran named above is my: ☐ Parent ☐ Grandparent ☐ Great Grandparent

4. Are you a graduate of Cornhusker Girls State or Boys State? YES ☐ What year? ☐ NO ☐

5. ☐ I am a member, ☐ my parent, ☐ my grandparent, ☐ my great-grandparent
is a member of (check all that apply)
☐ American Legion ☐ American Legion Auxiliary ☐ Sons of the American Legion

6. Narrative must be provided from applicant stating what field of study and why you have chosen it. This narrative must be printed on a separate page, double spaced, signed, dated, and be less than 300 words. This is the applicant's opportunity to promote themselves.

7. **Applicant must provide all the following items**, assembled in the order given below, with this completed application form:

- Two letters of recommendation on their letterhead and **must be signed** by the letter writer.
 - a. One (1) letter from an employer, clergy, or businessperson in the community
 - b. One (1) letter from an administrator, guidance counselor, or teacher
- A high school resume which includes a list of community involvement, church activities and school activities/honors/awards. Include community service completed which includes a description of work, hours served, and a contact person with phone number.
- Letter of acceptance from chosen institute of higher education
- Certified Transcript (with seal) of high school (or college) grades GPA _____
- Include one of these documents showing your score: ACT, SAT, Accuplacer

Signature of Applicant

Applicant's Name _____

**THIS PAGE MUST BE COMPLETED BY YOUR LOCAL
AMERICAN LEGION AUXILIARY UNIT**

Applications must be submitted on or before March 1 (postmarked by March 1) to your local American Legion Auxiliary Unit where they will be judged locally. Again, all three (3) pages of this application packet must be submitted along with other items as mentioned in #6 and #7 on page 2. One scholarship application will be chosen from the local Unit to be submitted to the Nebraska American Legion Auxiliary Department Headquarters for final judging and awarding.

- ✓ The local Unit scholarship selection must be submitted to the Department Headquarters on or before March 15 (postmarked by March 15).
- ✓ ALA Units should make certain that all requested letters and documents are enclosed and completed properly with the application to the Department Headquarters.
- ✓ Individual students are welcome to apply for multiple ALA Nebraska scholarships; however, each American Legion Auxiliary Unit may submit **ONLY ONE** individual student per Department Scholarship. (Example--student "I Need Scholarship" applies for all three Department Scholarships. The Unit must submit "I Need Scholarship" for only one of the scholarships.) Each Unit may submit applications for all three scholarships, but each scholarship must be a different student.

The undersigned confirms that this scholarship application has been selected by:

ALA UNIT # _____ **LOCATED** in _____, Nebraska,
and that this application was reviewed in its entirety by an officer/chairperson of the ALA
Unit previously mentioned and contains all information in the correct order as required in
#6 and #7 on page 2.

Signature of ALA Unit Officer	Date	Daytime phone number
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ALA UNIT shall MAIL or DELIVER before March 15 to:

**American Legion Auxiliary
150 NW 40th Street Unit B
Lincoln, NE 68528**

Applicant's Name _____

FINANCE COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN – LUAYNE WEISGERBER

1119 Hudson Ave - Alliance NE 69301 – 308-763-8441

maxine69301@yahoo.com

The purpose of the Finance Committee is to oversee the general financial policy of the American Legion Auxiliary and to prepare and monitor the annual budget and its expenditures.

It is the responsibility of the Finance Committee to ensure that proper internal controls are designed, implemented, and maintained. An adequate budget ensures there will be funds earmarked for all purposes necessary to participate in the various Auxiliary programs throughout the year. Since the American Legion Auxiliary is a membership organization, we rely on member dues to cover our expenses. The Finance Committee will discuss various ways to raise additional funds and to lower the dependence on dues and/or reserves alone to meet our obligations.

The Finance Committee will make recommendations to the governing body, and that body is responsible for the actual policy decision. The finance committee also must present clear, timely and accurate information regarding the financial status of the organization at each of their meetings.

The Department Finance Committee meets in December prior to Mid-Year Conference and in late May or Early June prior to Department Convention. The December meeting is sometimes facilitated by Zoom due to distance and weather concerns.

Per the Department's Bylaws, Article VII Finance:

Section 1. All persons handling funds of the Department shall be bonded by a reputable, solvent bonding and surety company; or shall be covered by fidelity-crime insurance in an adequate amount as determined by the Department Risk and Compliance Committee and the Department Finance Committee with approval of the Department Executive Committee.

a. Bond Review: Department bonds shall be reviewed by the Department Risk and Compliance Committee and the Department Finance Committee, with approval by the Department Executive Committee every two (2) years

b. Retaining of Bonds: Bonds and Surety records and documents shall be retained for the life of the bond plus 6 years.

c. Bond Claims: Bond claims from the Department shall be retained for 10 years.

Section 2. The revenue of the American Legion Auxiliary Department of Nebraska shall be derived from annual membership in a per capita amount established by the Department Convention Delegates, and from such other sources as may be approved

by the Department Executive Committee. Modification to the Department per capita dues for members shall require a two-thirds (2/3) vote in the affirmative by the Department Convention Delegates. Dues shall be payable in the amounts as provided in Standing Rules Section Q - Membership. A member's status is dependent upon timely payment of dues. Dues for each Senior member shall include subscriptions to National's American Legion Auxiliary magazine and to department's newspaper The Star. A portion of each members' dues shall be set aside for the National Convention Delegates' Fund; the balance to be used for the General Fund. If it becomes necessary, a portion of the balance in the National Convention Delegates' Fund may be transferred to supplement the Department Convention Fund upon the recommendation of the Department Finance Committee and approval of the Department Executive Committee. (6-24-2018 Kearney NE)

Section 3. Department and National dues shall be payable immediately following Department Convention and become delinquent January 31st. After that date, Units not having forwarded current dues of at least ten (10) Senior members to Department Headquarters shall not be considered in good standing until such dues are paid. A member failing to pay such annual dues by January 31st shall be classed as delinquent and shall be suspended from all membership privileges. Payment of back dues after suspension shall reinstate such member to active membership. Any member delinquent to December 31st of the year of delinquency shall automatically be dropped from the rolls and may not thereafter be reinstated without the payment of all past dues or by reestablishing eligibility and making application as a new member.

Section 4. The Department Secretary-Treasurer's books shall be audited on a schedule as determined by the Department Executive Committee or as ordered by the Department Convention delegates. This audit may be completed externally by a professional auditing firm or it may be completed internally by the Department Risk and Compliance Committee.

Section 5. The fiscal year of the Department shall be August 1st to July 31st.

JUNIOR ACTIVITIES – CRYSTAL BAUERMEISTER
85803 553rd Ave - Pierce NE 68767 Phone – 402-649-7028
cbauermeister@gmail.com

Junior Auxiliary membership is open to girls from infancy through 17. The Junior Activities program prepares girls to become active adult members of the organization by providing positive volunteer experiences that instill the ideals of the Auxiliary.

ALA Junior Member Activities

ALA Junior members volunteer with other girls in their age group in many engaging activities:

- Learning about patriotism and how to show respect for the American flag
- Helping military families in practical ways such as mowing yards and helping military kids become acclimated at a new school
- Sending care packages to those currently serving our country
- Distributing poppies and raising awareness, especially on Memorial Day and Veterans Day, so our veterans know we care about them
- Practicing leadership by organizing service projects
- Earning service patches while learning about ALA programs
- Demonstrating responsibility for future scholarship, college, or military service applications

The American Legion Auxiliary encourages young women to lead the way in continuing its legacy of serving veterans, the military, and their families.

ITEMS TO NOTE

National ALA meeting

Honorary Department Junior President & officers

What to do with Junior members?

Department Awards

Department Junior Convention Contests

Yearly reporting - simplified, if you wish

GUESS WHAT?? SAVE THE DATE!! ANNOUNCING. . .

2023-2024 ALA MISSION TRAINING AND NATIONAL JUNIOR MEETING

Northwestern Division: Feb. 3, 2024

Lincoln, Nebraska

Lincoln Marriott Cornhusker Hotel

Yes, that's right--National Junior Meeting in Lincoln! Hope to see you there!

**NEBRASKA'S 2023-2024 HONORARY DEPARTMENT JUNIOR PRESIDENT
SAMANTHA STEPANEK FROM ST. PAUL UNIT 119
PROJECT THEME: GROWING WITH OUR VETERANS**

Please join Samantha as she raises money for gardening equipment and various seeds for our veterans. You can help by donating to the Honorary Junior President's Project through the Department ALA Headquarters, 150 Northwest 40th Street Unit B, Lincoln, NE 68528.

Other Department Junior officers include Vice President Shia Rasmussen from Elba, Historian Erica Fuchs from Arlington, and Chaplain Kendall Kasl from Dorchester.

Bring your Juniors to the Department Junior meeting for an educational day of fun, food, crafts and learning. Juniors do not need to be part of an organized Junior group to attend. Date and time will be announced. Watch social media and The STAR for details.

Junior members--What can you do?

Promote and encourage Junior participation in the PATCH PROGRAM.

Ideas:

1. Encourage Juniors to participate in the Patch Program by holding a special meeting to help Juniors earn patches.
2. Give Junior members the opportunity to work on requirements for patches at Unit/Post functions.

What is the Patch Program?

American Legion Auxiliary Junior members and Sons of The American Legion youth members can be active participants of the organization with the Patch Program. Regardless of where one lives, and whether she/he belongs to an active Junior group or squadron, Junior Auxiliary members and SAL youth members can serve their communities and veterans, and learn about patriotism, health, fitness, and leadership through this program. Examples would be ALA programs--Poppy, Leadership, Americanism, Veterans Affairs & Rehabilitation, Digital Media, and more.

Each sheet explains the criteria and what must be accomplished to earn a specific patch. When the activities are completed (and most are quite easy; you're probably already doing these), an adult or Senior member must sign the form to verify that the Junior or SAL youth has met the patch criteria. Then this form is mailed to the department chairperson (see address above).

There are three levels of patch criteria:

- Red—Level 1: Kindergarten through 3rd grade
- Gold—Level 2: 4th grade through 8th grade
- Blue—Level 3: 9th grade through 12th grade (or 18 years old)

Build your Junior Activities program one member at a time by giving Junior members a voice and an opportunity to participate.

Ideas:

1. Encourage your Juniors to invite their friends to attend ALA functions and volunteering opportunities, even if they are not eligible to join.
2. Even if you have only one Junior member, encourage her to organize a service project that your Unit will participate in; it may attract other Juniors to join.

Engage Juniors in programs of the American Legion Auxiliary.

Ideas:

1. Bring your Junior(s) to a meeting with you. Ask your Unit president if the Junior(s) can lead the Pledge.
2. Present any patches earned by your Juniors at a Unit meeting. Celebrate their accomplishments.

Make Junior meetings fun and informative.

Ideas:

1. Junior members can help plan and lead the meeting to make it more fun and informative for their age group.
2. Crafts are another good activity for Juniors. They can make poppy crafts for a fundraiser, patriotic decorations for the Post or veterans homes, handmade cards to send to veterans, etc.
3. Give Juniors a place to display their crafts or artwork.

DEPARTMENT AWARDS

Junior Member of the Year Award

This award will be presented to one Nebraska Junior member in recognition of her dedicated service, efforts, and talents. The winning Junior nominee will possibly be entered to be judged at the National level.

Guidelines:

1. A narrative typed essay, not to exceed 500 words, summarizing the nominee's outstanding contribution the Junior has made through an ALA program or project accomplishments during the current administrative year.
2. Please include pictures, clippings, scrapbooks, folders, etc. either electronically or via postal mail. Nomination must be signed by the candidate's Unit Junior Activities advisor or Unit President.
3. Name, email address, and complete mailing address of the nominee must accompany nomination.
4. With your submission, please include the National Award Cover Sheet, and submit it to the Department Junior Activities Chairperson by April 20, 2024.

Most Outstanding Unit Junior Activities Program

This award will be presented to one Unit in Nebraska and will possibly be sent on to be judged at the National level.

Guidelines:

1. A typed narrative not to exceed 500 words. Include specific examples of how your Juniors worked the ALA mission.
2. May include pictures, news articles, news releases, etc.
3. With your submission, please include the National Award Cover Sheet, and submit it to the Department Junior Activities Chairperson by April 20, 2024.

Best Media Coverage of an Activity or Project

This award is presented to one Nebraska Junior group (Department, District or Unit) with the best coverage of their activities or a project and will be sent on to be judged at the National level.

Guidelines:

1. Narrative not to exceed 500 words. Include specific examples of media coverage, including news articles, news releases, newsletters, pictures of displays, ALA events, speeches, website address, social media activity, etc.
2. With your submission, please include the National Award Cover Sheet, and submit it to the Department Junior Activities Chairperson by April 20, 2024.

DEPARTMENT JUNIOR CONVENTION CONTEST ENTRIES

Junior History Book

History Book is a story of what your Junior Group did through the year. It begins with the installation of officers at the Department Junior Convention, includes a record of the Junior member's participation in activities and programs and concludes by the competition entry date. All Juniors, whether an organized group or not, are encouraged to complete a History Book. Only one History Book per Junior group will be allowed for this contest.

History Books are to be sent to the Department Junior Activities Chairperson by **March 1, 2024**. Contest entries will be judged prior to convention.

Junior Prayer Book

Each Junior member is encouraged to submit a prayer for her Junior Group's Prayer Book. It should be a group effort. Only one Prayer Book per Junior group will be allowed for this contest.

Prayer Books are to be sent to the Department Junior Activities Chairperson by **March 1, 2024**. Contest entries will be judged prior to convention.

Craft Display Contest

The craft display is a collection of five craft items made by members of the Junior group. Examples: cards, nut cups, tray favors, place cards, tree ornaments, etc. The main purpose of the Craft Display is to show and share the creative talents of our Juniors.

Entries will be judged at the Department Junior Convention. They must be in place for judging 45 minutes prior to the beginning of the Convention meeting. Only one Craft Display per Junior group will be allowed for this contest.

Poppy Centerpiece Contest

The poppy centerpiece is an opportunity to reflect the Honorary Department Junior President's project theme, "Growing with Our Veterans." See guidelines in the Poppy section on page 65.

Entries will be judged at the Department Junior Convention. They must be in place for judging 45 minutes prior to the beginning of the Convention meeting. Only one poppy Centerpiece per Junior group will be allowed for this contest.

Poppy Craft Contest (This replaces the former Poppy Corsage Contest)

As the ALA website states, "Connecting the visual image of the poppy with the sacrifice made by our veterans has been an important goal of the American Legion Auxiliary Poppy Program since its inception in 1921." Creating poppy crafts to decorate the Legion Post, to share with a VA Hospital, VA Home or nursing home or designing a window display are just a few of the many places Juniors can distribute and display their poppy crafts.

Entries will be judged at the Department Junior Convention. They must be in place for judging 45 minutes prior to the beginning of the Convention meeting. Only one poppy craft per Junior will be allowed for this contest.

Entries will be judged in the following categories:

Group I – Grade K to 3rd -- Placecard, ***Tray Favor** or Card

Group II – Grade 4 to 8th -- Placecard, ***Tray Favor**, Card, Tree Ornament or Centerpiece

Group III – Grade 9 to 12th – Centerpiece, Wreath, Swag, Tree Ornament, or ***Corsage**

***These items qualify as one of the Poppy Patch activities.**

Little Miss Poppy Contest

This contest is open to Junior members 6–12 years of age who are selected by their Unit to spend the year as their Little Miss Poppy. For Department Little Miss Poppy consideration, the participant must submit a Little Miss Poppy scrapbook illustrating how she promoted the American Legion Auxiliary poppy. The winning Junior's scrapbook will possibly be sent on to be judged at the National level.

The Department contest will follow the National guidelines for judging.

YEAR-END REPORT

Due to the Department Junior Activities Chairperson by April 20, 2024

Each Unit is required to submit a narrative report. In turn, your Department Junior Activities Chairperson compiles all Unit report information and submits a report to the National Junior Activities Chairperson. Please use the following questions to help facilitate your Unit Junior activities report:

How were your Junior members involved in activities and/or projects for veterans?

★ How has your Unit encouraged Junior participation in the Patch program?

- ★ What type of volunteer hours did Junior members perform?
- ★ How does your Unit include Junior members in Unit meetings, activities and programs of the American Legion Auxiliary?
- ★ In what ways did your Senior members mentor your Junior members?
- ★ How many Junior members participated in District and/or Department Junior meetings?
- ★ How many Junior members are in your Unit?
- ★ Does your Unit have an organized Junior member group?

LEADERSHIP – NANCY PATRAS

810 6th Street – Columbus NE 68601 – 402-564-0775 (H) 402-276-3371-C
patrasdn@fronteernet.net

I am Nancy Patras, and I am serving as the Leadership Chairperson. I have been an ALA member at Unit 84 for a short time (four years). I joined under my husband who served in the Navy Seabee. The Unit at my husband's post was not very active. I wanted to change that. So here I am President of Unit 84 for four years, Vice President of District 7, and your Leadership Chair for 2023-2024.

WHAT IS THIS PROGRAM AND WHY DO WE HAVE IT?

- To raise awareness of ALA leadership development opportunities.
- To promote participation in the ALA Academy.
- To enhance knowledge about ALA history, programs, and organization

WHAT CAN YOU DO?

- The first thing starts by talking to your members. Give members a call, get a call chain going. Ask what they would be interested in. Invite them to meetings and events you are doing. If you go to www.alaforveterans.org under the Committee's tab, Leadership tab there are resources to educate our members.
 - Unit Guidebook
 - ALA Academy
 - Senior Auxiliary Basics Courses
 - Program Facebook Pages
- Also don't forget your ABC Book. You can locate it at www.nebraskalegionaux.net

AWARDS

UNIT AWARD: Unit that turns in the most paperwork on time and is filled out correctly.

Most Outstanding Unit Leadership

Deadline: To Department Chair by April 20, 2024

Award Presented to:

- One Unit Leadership Chair who best demonstrates what the Unit did to build leadership skills of unit members during the year.
- **Materials and Guidelines:** Narrative not to exceed 1,000 words; should include number of members attending Department's Leadership Workshop in September and Mid-Year Conference in January. Pictures and examples are encouraged.

Unit Member of the Year

Deadline: To Department Chair by April 29, 2024

Requirements:

- Open to senior members who are not currently, nor have ever been, in an elected or appointed leadership role higher than unit president.
- Units must submit a narrative of 1,000 words or less describing the nominee's accomplishments and activities together with the nominee's name and address.
- Unit with Most Reports turned in on time and correctly filled out will receive an award.
- Winner is recognized at a luncheon at the National Convention, which will be held in New Orleans, Louisiana, August 23-29, 2024

Reporting

- Each Unit should submit a narrative report to the Leadership Chair detailing the Unit's accomplishments and/or activities.
- Be specific with details as what you share may be useful to others. Tell what your Unit has done (attendance at leadership meetings, ALA Academy Courses and mentoring).
- Also, please let me know in your report what you like or disliked after a Department leadership meeting (Leadership school, September 16, 2023 and Mid-Year Conference, January 13-15, 2024). This information will help determine what you want in future leadership meetings.

Department Year End report due April 20, 2024

LEGISLATIVE – VICKY THOMPSON
PO Box 31 – Milligan NE 68406 - 402-366-2427
vsbunker@hotmail.com

My name is Vicky Thompson and I am your Department Legislative Chairman for 2023 – 2024. I am a member of American Legion Auxiliary Unit #240 in Milligan, Nebraska. I have been a member since 1972 so that makes me a 50 plus year member. I recently became a PUFL. My eligibility is through my first husband who served in Germany during the Vietnam conflict and also through my father, who served in the Navy on the destroyer USS Ammen (DD-527) during WWII.

WHY DO WE HAVE A LEGISLATIVE PROGRAM?

As ALA members we need to support our Legion and be advocates for our veterans. The Legion outlines it's priorities for each legislative session of Congress. Our mission is to keep informed on each of these priorities. As members, we can work with our Nebraska legislators as well as our elected officials in Washington D.C. to keep veterans' issues in the forefront.

WHAT CAN WE DO AS MEMBERS AND UNITS?

The American Legion's Legislative Agenda for the 118th Congress, 1st Session consists of eleven legislative priorities. As a member or unit you can chose one or more of the following legislative priorities to follow and support:

1. PACT Act: Implementation & Oversight
2. Mental Health & Suicide Prevention
3. VA Healthcare Modernization
4. Protect Veterans from Predatory Actors
5. Concurrent Receipt
6. Guard & Reserve GI Bill Parity
7. GI Bill for Honorable Service
8. Support our Afghan Allies
9. Military Quality of Life
10. Pay the Coast Guard
11. Protect the American Flag

Information on each of the agenda items listed above can be found at the American Legion Legislature Center on the American Legion Website.

ALA unit members can participate in the annual Legislative Day at the Nebraska State Capitol that is held every February. As members, you can also attend the Washington Conference in Washington D.C., being held from February 24 - February 28, 2024.

WHAT CAN WE REPORT AS MEMBERS AND UNITS?

REPORTING

Year-end Reports: Submit a narrative report detailing any legislative activities held at your unit throughout the year. This would include articles read and discussed during meetings, any action taken - such as reaching out to your Nebraska legislators and/or contacting your Congressional representatives in Washington, D.C. on any legislative matters.

Deadline: **TO DEPARTMENT CHAIR BY APRIL 20, 2024**

LEGISLATIVE AWARD

Unit Award: **BEST UNIT LEGISLATIVE PROGRAM**

Citation Presented to: The unit legislative chair who best demonstrates what their unit did to advocate for a veterans' program or programs during the 2023 – 2024 year.

Guidelines: Narrative not to exceed 500 words. Report what activities your unit did throughout the year to promote legislative activity to make a difference in the lives of our veterans and their families. Submit any letters written to our state or federal representatives, newspaper articles or pictures.

Deadline: **TO DEPARTMENT CHAIR BY APRIL 20, 2024**

MEMBERSHIP - LOREE HENDRICKSON

511 Road 3, Unit 1, Shickley, NE 68436 – 402-759-6016
loreeh@hotmail.com

Hello Members of the American Legion Auxiliary! My name is Loree Hendrickson, and I am honored to serve as the Department of Nebraska's Membership Chair for the coming year. I am a member of American Legion Auxiliary (ALA) Unit #164 in Shickley, Nebraska. My eligibility is through my father, A. LeeRoy Hendrickson, who served in Korea with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers from 1950-52. He loved being a member of the American Legion and encouraged our family to always show respect for America and her veterans.

ALA's members are our lifeblood. If we sustain our membership, our organization will absolutely be able to continue our history of success on behalf of our veterans. How do we do that? By showing our communities what a strong and thriving organization we represent.

Lisa Williamson, ALA National President in 2023-2024, has announced her intention to carry on the 2022-2023 theme of The American Legion's current National Commander, Jim Troiola, which is to **"Be The One"** to help prevent military and veteran suicide. As Lisa hails from Alaska, her Membership Chair has chosen to encourage membership by holding her own version of Alaska's annual dog sled race, namely the Iditarod.

Here in Nebraska, our Department President Lisa Moore has adopted a theme of **"Nebraska Strong and Faithful by Serving Veterans Always."** So let's "Be the One" to highlight the ALA's mission within our communities; let's "Be the One" to recruit a Member (or two or three); let's "Be the One" to rejoin a former member (or two or three); and in doing so, we will "Be the One" to make "Nebraska Strong and Faithful by Serving Veterans Always."

As Nebraska has its own famous "race," an historical event which is recreated each year by volunteers – namely the Pony Express – that will be my way to encourage membership for 2023-2024. Each District has been assigned a station from the Pony Express Trail:

- District 1 – O'Fallon's Bluff Station
- District 2 – Machette's Station
- District 3 – Willow Island Station
- District 4 – Fremont Springs Station
- District 5 – Plum Creek Station
- District 6 – Fort Kearny
- District 7 – Seventeen Mile Station
- District 8 – Kiowa Station
- District 9 – Diamond Springs Station
- District 10 – Little Blue/Oak Grove
- District 11 – Rock Creek Station
- District 12 – Rockhouse Station
- District 13 – Big Sandy Station

AWARDS

The awards available to Nebraska Units and members are:

From National Headquarters:

- 100% Unit Award
 - Deadline: January 31, 2024
 - Unit to Receive 100% Unit Flag Ribbon
- New Unit Award
 - New Units Chartered Between September 1, 2023, and July 31, 2024
 - New Units Will Receive \$25 Gift Card to Emblem Sales
- Recruit 10 Award
 - Members Who Recruit 10 NEW Senior and/or Junior Members (one entry per recruiter)
 - Members Must Be Entered and Paid in ALAMIS by June 1, 2024
 - Recruiter Will Receive Special Gift as Chosen by National Membership Committee Chair

From Department:

- The St. Joseph Award – Where the Pony Express Route Began
 - Hold a Membership Event and Provide Details and at Least One Photo to Department Chair
 - Deadline: National POW/MIA Recognition Day, September 15, 2023
 - Units will be Entered into Drawing for \$50 Prize to be Drawn at Mid-Year Conference
- The Buffalo Bill Cody Award – Nebraska's Most Famous Pony Express Rider
 - Deadline: Veterans Day, November 11, 2023
 - All Units Reaching 75% of Unit Goal will be Entered into Drawing for \$50 Prize to be Drawn at Mid-Year Conference
- The Sacramento Award – Where the Pony Express Route Ended
 - Deadline: The American Legion Birthday, March 15, 2024
 - All Units Reaching 100% of Unit Goal will be Entered into Drawing for \$50 Prize to be Drawn at Department Convention

District Presidents, I hope you will challenge one another to help increase your membership. How? District 6, it looks like District 11 may have passed you up as the one with the largest membership. Districts 4 and 12, you ended up as the top two districts in percentage last year. Challenge each other to see who will win those titles this year.

Thank you, Nebraska members, for allowing me to serve the ALA Department of Nebraska as Membership Chair this year. I look forward to working with all of you to increase our Unit, District, and Department membership and to “Be the One” to make “Nebraska Strong and Faithful by Serving Veterans Always.”

MUSIC- JEAN VACKINER

35878 Boiling Springs Road – Cody NE 69211 – 402-376-4648
vackiner@yahoo.com

My name is Jean Vackiner and I am honored to be the Music Chair for the 2023-2024 year. I have been a member since 1998, all through the Cody Unit 319, and am a past District One President. I am eligible through the service of my late father, Sgt. First Class Eugene Kurpgeweit of Ewing, who served in the 35th Infantry in the Korean Conflict.

As always, I wish to remind you to incorporate music into your meetings. Be sure to keep it fun! Find random ways to lighten your gathering with a song. Perhaps tape the name of a silly song to the bottom of a chair and whomever sits in that chair has to sing it! Or decide on a song of the day and if someone's phone rings, see to it that they have to sing the song for their "penalty". Of course, I also encourage you to begin your meetings with *The Star Spangled Banner* and close with *God Bless America*. If you don't have enough singers, invite the music teacher to bring in a small group to liven up the night.

In this digital age, I long for the old piano songs, but fully understand that in this changing world we must adapt or die. That is why I encourage you to find whatever means necessary to add music to your projects, particularly in your work with our youth, to expose them in any way possible to the very important history of our country's heroes who fought to keep us free.

I would like to hear from you via mail, email or text, to let me know if you are recognizing those in your Unit or your community who work with music in their schools or nursing homes, who work to keep the spirit of patriotism alive. I especially like to hear if you are recognizing those who properly sing *The Star Spangled Banner* at ball games or programs. I will be giving a \$50 prize to the Unit who provides the most support to help music in their local school.

Good Luck and Keep Singing!!

NATIONAL SECURITY – VICKI OZENBAUGH
515 Rd 18 - Ohioa NE 68416 – 402-759-0411
ala.ozenbaugh@gmail.com

As the immediate Past President, I serve as the National Security Chair per our Bylaws, Article II, Section 5.

The purpose of the National Security Committee is to promote a strong national defense (National's Standing Rule #7, Core National Standing Committees).

The National Security Committee has three key program statements:

- The ALA National Security program maintains and promotes a strong national defense by strengthening and supporting military service members and their families.
- Support active-duty military families by working with an installation Family Readiness Group (FRG).
- Raise awareness of POW/MIAs and the work being performed by the Defense POW/MIA Accounting Agency (DPAA) in the search for missing personnel.

When we look at the origin of the word "security," we find that it is late Middle English from Old French "securite" or Latin "securitas," from "secures" meaning "free from care." That is where we, the ALA, do our part. Let us BE THE ONE.

What can your Unit, as well as individual members, do? Let's keep it simple!

The ALA National Security program maintains and promotes a strong national defense by strengthening and supporting military service members and their families.

- Nebraska has two military installations that we can reach out to.
 - Offutt Airforce Base – Omaha
 - 155 ARW – Air National Guard – Lincoln

Collaborate with other like-minded organizations that also support service-members and their families.

- There is no need to re-invent the wheel. We can support and work with established organizations to promote National Security.
 - Blue Star Families – be a supporter. Blue Star Welcome Week is September 23 – October 1. Reach out to Blue Star families in your area. Simple everyday gestures of kindness will cultivate communities where all families feel a sense of belonging. This can be accomplished throughout the year.
 - Present a Blue Star Banner to a military family.
 - Quilts of Valor is very familiar to our state and we have many members that make and present quilts. Although it is not specifically an ALA program, it is one we can collaborate with through National Security. Award a Quilt of Valor as quilts equal comfort and healing.
 - Through the Department of Defense, we can participate in their Taking Care of Our People program. Specifically, plan something for:

- National Veterans and Military Families Month – November
- Month of the Military Child – April
- Military Spouse Appreciation – May 10

Raise awareness of POW/MIAs and the work being performed by the Defense POW/MIA Accounting Agency (DPAA) in the search for missing personnel.

- Host events in honor of National POW/MIA Recognition Day on the third Friday in September. (September 22, 2023) Visit the following website for information:
<https://dpaa-mil.sites.crmforce.mil/dpaaFamWebPosters>
- Post a POW/MIA flag at every meeting or event.
- Include the POW/MIA White Table Ceremony in a community program.
- Urge those related to a servicemember classified as Missing in Action to please consider donating DNA to assist in the identification processes. Check this site for more information: <https://www.health.mil/Military-Health-Topics/Health-Readiness/AFMES?type=Articles>.

In addition to these three key program statements, let us remember to support those families whose servicemembers made the ultimate sacrifice—dying during service to our country. You can check out American Gold Star Mothers and American Gold Star Families. Gold Star Mothers Weekend is September 22-24 and Gold Star Mothers/Families Day is Sunday, September 24.

<https://www.americangoldstarmoms.com>
<https://www.americangoldstarfamilies.org>

Other ideas that can qualify for promoting National Security:

- Recognize your First Responders and Firemen
- Promote Remember Everyone Deployed (RED) Friday
- Clip Coupons
- Stockings for Soldiers (pack Christmas stockings with goodies)
- Take a Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) training course. There are nine core courses to the training. Locate is on <https://community.fema.gov>
- Sponsor a Stop the Bleed class to your community or ALA Family
- Complete “You are the Help Until Help Arrives” web-based training to learn how you can provide first care to potentially save a life. It is a 33 minute video and you can find it at <https://community.fema.gov>
- Offer to your schools the Kids Ready 2 Help card game. It teaches kids five simple steps to stay safe and make a difference until help arrives. Also available on the [fema.gov](https://www.fema.gov) website.

One final resource is Military ONE Source at <https://www.militaryonesource.mil>.

AWARDS

- Submit the end-of-year report for National Security showing at least one 2023-2024 activity to be entered in a drawing for a \$25 donation to their choice from any

of the resources mentioned in this article. Provided by this chair, Vicki Ozenbaugh. Due April 20, 2024.

- Submit a Unit Narrative to share a favorite story about the positive impact you or someone you know has had on our mission of Service not Self with National Security. It should tell others who we are, what we do, and why we matter. Due April 20, 2024.
- Salute to Servicemembers Award. More information to come.

REMEMBER – YOU CAN “**BE THE ONE**” THAT CAN MAKE A DIFFERENCE!

PARLIAMENTARIAN – BONITA DICKINSON

1710 19TH AVE, LOT 42 – Sidney NE 69162 – 308-254-0395 H – 308-249-3783 C
bbdickin@gmail.com

I am Bonita Dickinson, appointed Parliamentarian for the American Legion Auxiliary - Department of Nebraska for 2023-2024. I became a member of Sidney Unit #17 in 1984 with eligibility through my husband of 55 years, Dale Dickinson, who served 10 years with the Army National Guard, and my father, Woodrow Dotson, an Army Tech Staff Sargent during World War II who served in six different fronts in Europe from 1941-1945.

Presently, I am Sec/Treas of Sidney Unit #17 and have been Unit 17 President, Cheyenne County President, and District 4 President as well as parliamentarian for Unit 17, Cheyenne County, District 4, and Department level for the Nebraska American Legion Auxiliary. I was also President for Nebraska State Association of Parliamentarians 2012-2014 and was inducted into the Nebraska Parliamentarian Hall of Fame.

I have the privilege to drive the DAV Van, 200 miles roundtrip from Sidney to Cheyenne, once a week to take Veterans to the Cheyenne Medical Center for medical care. I am happy to be a contact for Nebraska ALA with the Cheyenne, Wyoming DAV Medical Center.

I am available for any questions you may have regarding parliamentary procedure.

PAST PRESIDENT'S PARLEY – BARBIE MEYER

12455 Riverdale Rd – Riverdale NE 68870 – 308-893-2200 H – 308-233-0382 C
meyersheep@aol.com

The Department Constitution and Bylaws clearly defines the role of the PPP.

Bylaws Section S – Past Department Presidents 3-7

3. The Past Presidents Parley Chairman, upon notification of a Past Department President being hospitalized or in hospice care, shall send an appropriate gift, not to exceed \$25. The Chairman shall submit a voucher prior to fiscal year's end and said funds are to be taken from the Past Presidents Parley Courtesy Fund. (1-12-2018 Mid-Year, N Platte NE)

When there is a death of a Past Department President, the Past President's Parley Chairman shall send a card to the family. A \$25 memorial contribution of the family's choice shall also be given in lieu of sending flowers for funeral services, with said funds to be taken from the Past President's Parley Courtesy Fund. (1-12-2018 Mid-Year, N Platte NE)

4. A \$25 contribution shall be made to the Past Presidents Parley Scholarship Fund in memory of a deceased Past Department President with the funds to be taken from the General Fund. (1-12-2018 Mid-Year, N Platte NE)

5. Nurse's Scholarship Fund: a. The PPP Nurse's Scholarship(s) is/are selected and designated by the Department Advisory Committee from the nurses scholarships received from the Healthcare Professional Scholarship applications during the annual judging. The scholarship number and the amount determined by the annual contributions by the Units and at the discretion of the PPP upon review at the annual business meeting during the Mid-Year Conference. There are no separate PPP Nurse's Scholarship applications.

6. Women Veterans

a. This is formerly known as the Ex-Service Women Fund.

b. The funds are derived from Unit contributions and are for the purpose of the gifts for women veterans who are residents of the four Nebraska Veterans Homes and the two Nebraska VA Medical Centers (VAMC). It is the duty of the Department PPP Chairman to contact the American Legion Auxiliary Representatives for the number of women veterans in their respective facilities and purchase a gift or gift card for each woman veteran twice a year, in an amount to be determined at the PPP annual business meeting. The PPP Chairman will be responsible for indicating on the gift the "to and from" and delivery or mailing of the gifts to the representative for distribution. Traditionally, these gifts are given prior to Christmas and another holiday of their choosing. The PPP Chairman will be reimbursed for the gifts and postage. A voucher with receipts needs to be submitted to the Department Secretary. The amount of gifts to be reviewed at the annual PPP meeting as compared to the account balance and documented in the meeting

minutes. The amount of the gift for 2022 was \$20.00. The amount for the 2023 gift was voted on at the annual meeting and will be \$25.00.

7. PPP Courtesy Fund:

a. The Courtesy Fund is maintained by donations of \$5-\$10 annually of Past Department Presidents. It was determined that when the fund remains above \$100 donations need not be collected during the PPP annual meeting. However, individual donations are accepted at any time and deposited in the Department PPP Fund earmarked "Courtesy Fund".

i. The Courtesy Fund provides a memorial at the time of death of a Past Department President, as outlined in Section T – Past Department Presidents - #3. This donation will be sent by Department Headquarters.

ii. The Courtesy Fund provides for courtesy Department PPP lunch tickets for the Department President, National President, and the Northwestern Division National Vice President if in attendance.

iii. The Courtesy Fund provides a card and gift (the gifts are at the discretion of the PPP Chairman) sent by the Department PPP Chairman to a hospitalized or seriously ill Past Department President upon notification received from the Department Secretary. The PPP Chairman is reimbursed by a voucher submitted to the Department Secretary following the report to the members during the PPP annual meeting.

iv. Donations to special projects may be considered by a vote of the members attending the PPP annual meeting when the fund balance allows. (Note: per action of the 2005 meeting, special projects may be categorized as: special projects for current National Officers; support for the PPP members who hold a National Chairmanship, or for candidates for Northwestern Division or National Office.)

The Department PPP meets yearly with a luncheon during the Mid-Year Conference. As Chair, I make the arrangements. The Department President and the National President or Northwestern Division National Vice President are guests at this luncheon, with lunch tickets paid from the courtesy funds. These funds are maintained by PDP donating \$5 to \$10 annually. If the fund remains above \$100, donations need not be collected. Individual donations are accepted at any time and deposited in the Department PPP fund earmarked "Courtesy Fund."

Donations to special projects may be considered by the vote of the members attending the annual meeting when the fund balance allows. Special projects may be categorized as special projects for current National officers; support for the PPP members who hold a National Chairmanship, or for candidates for Northwestern Division or National office.

POPPY – LORI REIMERS

2011 24th Street – Central City NE 68826 – 402-604-8636
ljunker66@live.com

My name is Lori Reimers, a proud member of Lester Harder Post 42's Auxiliary in Aurora Nebraska. I have been a member of the American Legion Auxiliary Unit 42 since 2010 and am eligible through my husband who served in the Air National Guards for 26 ½ years. In my unit I have served as President. I have also been the District 6 Vice President and President.

As the 2023-2024 Department Poppy Chairperson I hope to encourage members and Units to use the poppy to promote all of the American Legion Auxiliary's programs. Think of the poppy as an additional "brand" of the ALA.

Let us work together by sharing what we do with the Poppy program throughout the year. Incorporate the poppy in each activity your Unit does and then share what you did with me. These ideas will be passed along to all our Units.

As in the past, we want to work with our communities and schools by:

- Promoting the symbolism of the Poppy and Flanders Fields
- Promoting the Poppy Poster Contest
- Participating in your District's Poppy Centerpiece Contest
- Promoting and selecting a Little Miss Poppy (ages 6-12) (New for this year is the Little Miss Poppy award submissions are now electronic to alleviate postage and material cost considerations. The rules for submission requirements and deadline information can be found on the National website – www.alaforveterans.org.)
- Utilizing Poppy donation collection cans

Remember that National Poppy Day is held on the Friday prior to Memorial Day. The date this year is May 24, 2024. Why not plan a special event for that day? (And then report it to me!)

What do you do with your poppy proceeds? National Headquarters suggests considering using them to support one of the American Legion Auxiliary's partners:

- Support essential aspects of Honor Flights in your area. For more information, visit <https://www.legion-aux.org/poppy-funds>.
- Poppy funds may also be used to support food banks coordinated by the Armed Services YMCA. For further information, visit <https://www.legion-aux.org/poppy-funds>.

If you have any questions or need any information, please feel free to call or email me. I look forward to having a "Poppy Proud" year!

Poppy Poster Contest Rules

Units shall sponsor contests in local schools. When schools do not conduct activities, other youth groups — including Junior members — may participate under direct supervision of the unit.

Contest Classes

- Class I: Grades 2 and 3
- Class II: Grades 4 and 5
- Class III: Grades 6 and 7
- Class IV: Grades 8 and 9
- Class V: Grades 10 and 11
- Class VI: Grade 12
- Class VII: Students with special needs defined as:
 - a. Those in special education classes.
 - b. A student recommended for special education classes but who has not been admitted due to a waiting list or various other factors.
 - c. A child identified as having a disability, but not in a special education class due to lack of facilities; identification contingent upon discretion of school officials.

Poppy Poster Requirements

1. Each poster shall have a fitting slogan not to exceed 10 words. Articles “a”, “and,” “an”, “the” are not to be counted as words. The words “buddy” and “buy” cannot be used.
2. The words “American Legion Auxiliary” must be used in the design of the poster and will not be counted in the 10-word count.
3. Each poster must include a red poppy.
4. The department shall determine the closing date of the unit contest. The poster shall be on 11x14” poster board. (Drawing paper will not be accepted).
5. The United States flag may be used as long as there are no infractions of the flag code.
6. Posters will be judged using the following criteria:
 - 50% - poster appeal (layout, message, originality)
 - 40% - artistic ability (design and color)
 - 10% - neatness
7. Media used shall be watercolors, crayons, powder or oil paint, handmade paper cutouts, ink or textures, acrylics, pencils, and markers.
8. Written in ink on the back of the poster (not attached) shall be the class in which the entry is submitted, the name, address, age, and grade of the contestant and the name of the department.

9. Submissions become property of the American Legion Auxiliary. Through submission of artwork, contestants and their legal guardians grant non-exclusive reproduction and publication rights to the works submitted and agree to have their names and artwork published for commercial use without additional compensation or permission.
10. The poster shall be the work of only one individual.
11. The label "In Memoriam" from the veteran-made poppy may not be used.

Poppy Poster Contest Judging and Awards

1. Each department shall establish its own procedure for judging.
2. A citation will be given for the most outstanding poster in each classification within the five divisions.
3. Unit members should follow deadlines and process for the department. All department entries are due to the division chairman by June 1.
4. While ALA representatives will do their best to return all posters, it is not guaranteed. We recommend participants take a picture or scan their poster for their records.
5. Submissions become property of the American Legion Auxiliary. Through submission of artwork, contestants and their legal guardians grant nonexclusive reproduction and publication rights to the works submitted and agree to have their names and artwork published for commercial use without additional compensation or permission.

2023 – 2024 POPPY CENTERPIECE CONTEST

The following rules apply to both the Senior and Junior Poppy Centerpieces.

- Remove the labels from the poppies used in the centerpiece.
- **SENIORS**—use Department President Lisa Moore’s theme—**Nebraska Strong & Faithful – Serving Veterans Always**
- **JUNIORS**—use Honorary Department Junior President Samantha Stepanek’s theme—**Growing With Our Veterans**
- Poppies must be predominant, using a sufficient number of small or large poppies, or a combination of both, to make a nice arrangement.
- The American Flag **MAY NOT** be used in the centerpiece.
- Centerpieces should have a maximum height of 12 inches and width of 12 inches to allow for **viewing from all sides**.
- **SENIOR** centerpieces are the work of a member of the Unit displaying it.
- **JUNIOR** centerpieces may submit a centerpiece created by the entire Junior group rather than an individual Junior.
- Unit name, number, and town should be securely affixed to the bottom of the centerpiece.
- Each District winning centerpiece will be eligible for the Department winning centerpiece.

PUBLIC RELATIONS – NO APPOINTMENT

RESOLUTIONS – NO APPOINTMENT

RISK & COMPLIANCE – BARB WASHBURN
455 County Road 7 – Ashland NE 68003 – 402-521-0016
bwashburn827@gmail.com

Regardless of the size of your unit, you should take steps to ensure that your policies and rules are being followed. This ensures the protection of your financial accounts as well as the reputation of your unit in your community.

What should you do annually?

- **Review financial accounts:** At the close of your administrative year, your unit's treasury and financial accounts should be reviewed by two people. These people should be appointed by the unit President and can be anyone other than the treasurer. It would be helpful if the treasurer could be available for questions.
 - Monetary outlays should be supported by either the Standing Rules or motions made during meetings. Invoices or vouchers are a great way to document this.
 - Signers on financial accounts should be reviewed. Only authorized signers should remain on the signature cards, and there should be more than one person authorized to sign in the event the treasurer is unavailable.
 - If the unit has a credit or debit card, transactions should be reviewed against bank account transactions.
- **Review governing documents:** The unit Constitution and Bylaws should be reviewed to ensure they follow National and Department documents. Minutes from unit meetings should be reviewed for compliance with unit Standing Rules.
- **Review unit officers/chairmen in ALAMIS:** The listing of unit officers and chairmen within the ALAMIS system should be reviewed to ensure it is current.
- **Review bill payments:** If the unit has bills to pay, ensure they are paid on a timely basis.
- **Keys/codes to meeting location:** Review who has the keys/entry codes to your building. And who has the authority to give those out?
- **Insurance:** Does your unit have the need to carry property insurance?

There are other items that could be reviewed, but the ones listed are a great start. How do these items help protect your unit's reputation? Embezzlement or default of payments destroys the trust that your community has placed in your unit. Even if restitution is made, the memory of the event remains and may impact membership and participation.

Risk & Compliance (formerly called Internal Audit) is important to us all and doesn't take a lot of time. Taking a little time upfront can save a lot of trouble down the road.

SERVICE TO VETERANS – MARY KRAUSE
339 N Osborne - Ainsworth NE 69210 - 402-382-8689
marykrause8689@gmail.com

I am Mary Krause. This is my first year serving as the Service to Veteran Chair. My mother signed me up as a tiny tot when I was two in 1964. My Unit is Ainsworth #79. I am eligible through my dad, Leroy Lucht. He was a lineman in WWII. I have served in the Unit and District level as President and Vice-President. I have also been on several local committees. I am proud to help and serve our Veterans.

Service to Veterans is a program to help assist veterans, service members, and their families without the structure of a VAMC. The volunteers conduct projects and work for veterans/military and/or families from their own homes or in their communities. It is very important that as a volunteer you keep record of the hours and dollars spent. These will need to be reported at the end of the year. Anything done directly for a veteran outside of a VAMC is considered Service to Veterans.

You can also count hours with work done in your home for the benefit of home bound, sick or injured service members and veterans. These activities might include sewing, mending, cleaning house and/or babysitting while a veteran attends medical appointments or rehab. You could even make quilts or make afghans for hospitalized or homeless veterans.

These hours can only be counted once and cannot be reported in other committees such as National Security or Community Service. If you are unsure which committee your hours belong to, just pick the one that makes the most sense. The main thing is to report your hours somewhere.

There are other ways to provide "Service to our Veterans." Here are a few.

- Visit with veterans. Offer to give them rides to appointments. Or just a drive in the country.
- Offer to stay with a veteran so their caretaker can have a break or get groceries.
- Treat veterans to a show or sporting event.
- Transitional housing programs have many needs. Secure donations for staple items such as laundry soap, cleaning supplies, kitchen items, new undergarments, etc.
- Donate a membership to the American Legion. Arrange an outing to a Legion meeting or special events such as a Veteran's Day dinner, memorial service, etc.

As your Service to Veterans chair, I will work with Units in assigning tray favors, centerpieces and door hangers for the VA facilities in Nebraska. When making tray favors or centerpieces, remember safety. Do not have anything sharp or edible. Your items will need to be mailed or delivered to the facility at least 2 weeks(or even a month) in advance to the month assigned.

The assignments will be posted in “The Star.” If you see an empty spot, please consider filling it.

FACILITY	ITEM	CONTACT	PHONE	ADDRESS
Central NE VA Home	175 tray favors*	Heidi	308-865-3473	4510 E 56 th Street Kearney, NE 68847
Eastern NE VA Home	24 centerpieces or 90 door hangers**	Leatrice Doolen	402-547-7500	12505 South 40 th Street Bellevue, NE 68123
Norfolk VA Home	20 centerpieces	Laree Kubes	402-841-6813	600 East Benjamin Ave Norfolk, NE 68701
Western NE VA Home	13 centerpieces	Cecil Doshier	308-631-7093	1102 West 42 nd Street Scottsbluff, NE 69361
Western NE VA Home	70 tray favors	Cecil Doshier	308-631-7093	1102 West 42 nd Street Scottsbluff, NE 69361
Grand Island VA Medical Center	11 centerpieces ***	Jody Johnson	308-382-3660 ext.242146	2201 N Broadwell Ave Grand Island, NE 68803
Omaha VA Medical Center	75 tray favors	Paula Pillen	402-630-6583	Volunteer Services 4101 Woolworth Avenue Omaha, NE 68105

*Please do not use anything that resembles food or outdoor items (like pinecones)

**Please no paper or glass.

***If you want your centerpieces back, please state on a piece of paper along with contact name and number.

THE STAR – LORENE BARTOS

7441 San Mateo Lane – Lincoln NE 68516 – 402-423-7541 H / 402-310-3481 C
lb32906@windstream.net or LBartos1@unl.edu

Hi! I am Lorene Bartos, Editor of *THE STAR*.

I am a 66-year member of St. Edward Unit 226. I belong to help support veterans and youth programs --- and to honor my father and husband, both of whom served our country in the Army.

THE STAR is the publication of the Nebraska ALA and is published six times a year --- February, April, June, August, September, October, and December. ***This schedule may vary due to staff availability of The Legion.*** *THE STAR* is the pull-out center fold of the *Nebraska Legionnaire*. When the paper comes, be sure to pull out *THE STAR*. You will then have all the information handy.

Any Legion Family member may submit articles and pictures for inclusion in the paper. All issues will include articles from the Department President, Vice President, Historian, Chaplain, Secretary, Membership Chair, and Music Chair. It will also include Thank-you's, In Memoriam, Service to Vets, and a Calendar.

Guidelines to follow:

- Any member may submit an article or pictures for *THE STAR*.
- Articles are due to the editor by the **10th of the month prior to publication date.**
- All levels are encouraged to submit (Unit, County, and District).
- Original pictures only!! (Copies of pictures in a newspaper cannot be used.)
- Get permission to publish the pictures from those in the pictures.
- Adhere to patient/resident privacy for those in any facility.

Any questions? Contact Lorene Bartos, Editor, at 402-310-3481 or Lisa Moore, Department President, at 402-821-7077.

Let us share what is happening in our American Legion Family!

VETERANS AFFAIRS AND REHABILITATION – BEVERLY NEEL
57576 847th Road – Wayne NE 68787-7080 – 402-369-0152
bbneel1912@gmail.com

BEtheONE 9 8 8 + 1 VETERAN SUICIDE HOTLINE

Welcome ALA Members,

As we begin this new journey, I invite you to join us. Our VA & R program is where we get to shine in the eyes of those who have worn the uniform of the United States Armed Forces and we can “give back” to them for what they have done for us in the past, the present and in the future. As they say, there is not enough material or monetary gifts that can equal what our freedom is worth. It is priceless because we will never reach the threshold where we have met our Veterans’ sacrifices over the decades and centuries. We are where we need to be. Let us make the most of “Nebraska Strong & Faithful Serving Veterans Always”!

Our Nebraska ALA VA&R program has Unit members serving as Chairs and Vice Chairs at our four Nebraska Veterans Home (Bellevue, Norfolk, Kearney & Scottsbluff) and more Unit members serving as Representatives, Deputies or Associate Representatives at two Nebraska VAMCs (Veterans Administrative Medical Centers) (Omaha + CHI Papillion, Grand Island) and Hot Springs SD VAMC. You are asked to lend a helping hand, financial support and your time to assist at these facilities in unison with our ALA appointees.

Take time to introduce yourself to your area facility. Take a field trip and see where your Unit members may be of service of established, routine events and activities or introduce new ideas for the benefit of our Veteran residents and patients. We have tried and true activities, but that should not limit any Unit from bringing new ideas to the table. Find out what your Unit members can do for our Veterans. Do not limit your members to scheduled activities, just drop in and be there for our Veterans.

Each facility will have a “needs list” and if your Unit is able, help with filling those needs. Keep in mind that not all needs are material – presence of someone to visit with, play cards, write greeting cards, or just sit and listen. You may be the only visitor our Veterans may have throughout the year. Loneliness can possibly be the worst emotion we all deal with, but for our Veterans it may be more evident. Bring a smile to someone’s day!

Units, please keep great records of what you do for our Veterans. If it is important enough to do it, then it is important enough to record all that you do. Everyone has something to give or do. Do what you can and know it is greatly appreciated by our Veterans.

Our ALA Junior members are a great treat for our Veterans because they bring in energy, music, laughter, and just perhaps a reminder of Veteran family members who live afar and cannot visit as often as they may like. Take along board games or crafts that may interest our Veterans and create something with them to remember you were there, you gave of your time and energy, and you brought a smile.

Thank you. May this year be one to say, “We did well.” Blessings to all.

BEtheONE 9 8 8 + 1 VETERAN SUICIDE HOTLINE

MEET YOUR NEBRASKA VA & R TEAM

Beverly A. Neel, VA & R Chair 402 369 0152 bbneel1912@gmail.com

Mary Krause, Service to Veterans Chair 402 382 8689 marykrause8689@gmail.com

BEtheONE 9 8 8 + 1 VETERAN SUICIDE HOTLINE

*The Department of Nebraska is very honored and privileged to have volunteers give of their time, energy and personal resources to meet our mission to enhance the lives of Veterans, military and their families. Basically, it is helping meet the needs which may not otherwise be met if it were not for The American Legion Family and its generous members. **This list is our lead ALA member at the facilities.***

Meet your ALA members serving as Chair, Representative or Associate Representative in Nebraska:

VAMC (Veterans Administration Medical Centers)

Grand Island VA Medical Center (GIVAMC at Grand Island) –

Representative Vicki Cyboron 402 740 5665 vcyboron@aol.com

Nebraska & Western Iowa Health Care System (NWIHCS at Omaha) (VAMC) –

Representative Paula Pillen 402 630 6583 ppillen2@gmail.com

Papillion Community Living Center (PCLC at CHI Midlands Hospital, Papillion) –

Representative Paula Pillen 402 630 6583 ppillen2@gmail.com

CBOC (Community Based Outpatient Center)

Lincoln Community Based Out Patient Clinic (CBOC at Lincoln) –

Associate Representative Linda Varejcka 402 580 2459 jfvarejcka@windstream.net

NEBRASKA VETERANS HOME

Central Nebraska Veterans Home (CVNH at Kearney) –

Chair Kathy Fisher 308 627 4454 C 308 237 7234 H kmloskill1@charter.net

Eastern Nebraska Veterans Home (ENVH at Bellevue) –

Chair Leatrice Doolen 402 547 7500 leatricedoolen@msn.com

Norfolk Veterans Home (NVH at Norfolk) –

Chair LaRee Kubes 402 841 6813 lareekubes@yahoo.com

Western Nebraska Veterans Home (WNVH at Scottsbluff) –

Chair Cecil Doshier 308 631 7092 cddoshier@charter.net

Hot Springs Veterans Home (HSVH at Hot Springs SD) –

Associate Representative Karol Lockmon 308 327 2687

Cheyenne VA Facility (Wyoming – Receives monetary support)

BEtheONE 9 8 8 + 1 VETERAN SUICIDE HOTLINE

CENTRAL NEBRASKA VETERANS HOME – KATHY FISHER, Representative
3007 West 22 St – Kearney NE 68845 – 308-627-4454
kmloskill1@charter.net

I have been a member of the Kearney Unit #52 since 2014. I am eligible through my brother, Lee, who served in Vietnam.

Some of the activities that we do at the Central Nebraska Veterans Home are: themed bingo (such as M & M bingo, Candy Bomer Bingo, Kool Aid bingo), St Patrick's Day Party, Pizza party, Valentines Party, Pie and Ice Cream, Happy Hour with snacks, Cards, Dollar Days, Gifts for Yanks, and Merrymakers Concerts.

I enjoy being with our veterans and non-veterans as they are appreciative of what we do, and we bring smiles to their faces.

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EASTERN NEBRASKA VETERANS HOME (ENVH) - LEATRICE DOOLEN
630 S. Washington Street – Papillion NE 68046 – 402-547-7500
leatricedoolen@msn.com

My name is Leatrice Doolen, and you may contact me by phone **402-547-7500** or by email: **leatricedoolen@msn.com**. Our duties are to see that the needs of the Veteran are met to the best of our abilities.

Every month on the 3rd Friday, the Eastern Nebraska Veterans Home (ENVH) provides the ice cream and we have District 8 Units bring in the cookies to complete the Ice Cream Social. Units of District 8 are asked to sign up for a month to bring five (5) dozen cookies and have at least two (2) members of the Unit come to help serve the cookies. We have the Legion members dish up the ice cream. Volunteers are always needed.

From the Recreation Funds donated by The American Legion Family, we supply popcorn kernels, butter oil, and salt to ENVH as the members have fresh popcorn one day a week as a special treat.

Units of District 8 sponsor Bingos, ice cream socials, and card games weekly or monthly. If you like to play cards, poker, kings in the corner or Gin, they would love an hour or so of your time. They also love Wii games.

If your Unit is thinking of sponsoring a Bingo, then come out to ENVH the first Wednesday of each month and members of Papillion Unit 32 would be happy to show you the ropes. This Unit has Bingo as a scheduled activity each month. Your Unit could too. Contact me (Leatrice) and let me know you plan on being there. Activities begin at 2 PM so we show up around 1:30 PM.

There is always a need for more volunteers for the activities going on. Contact the **Activities Coordinator Sarah Ryan at 402-591-4862** for details on this. You do not have to have a scheduled event/activity to stop by ENVH and lend a helping hand and share your time and smile with others.

If I can be of any help to anyone, please feel free to contact me. Just to let you know. There are no covid restrictions at ENVH. Come join us.

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NORFOLK VETERANS HOME - LAREE KUBES
205 West 10th Street - Madison NE 68748-6294 - 402-841-6813
lareekubes@yahoo.com

Hello members. My name is LaRee Kubes, and I am a member/President of Unit #16 of Norfolk. I will continue serving as Department Auxiliary Chair at the Norfolk Veterans Home (NVH).

As Chair at NVH, I will continue reporting to the Department on all activities we participate in at NVH and an accounting of all expenditures, attend meetings, and assist with activities.

We are very fortunate to have a great group of area members that continue to enhance the lives of our Veterans and their families by hosting activities at NVH and inviting our Veterans and their families to their post homes, that all are greatly enjoyed and appreciated. We also have a great group of Volunteers that assist in various activities, enabling our Veterans to enjoy attending. Please all continue doing so!!

My goal for this year is to learn all we can to better serve our Veterans and their families that live in our facility. This will help us by getting a better understanding of their wants and needs.

Also, to seek new ideas to further enhance our Veterans and their families in and out of NVH. If I can help at all, let me know.

I also would like to thank Karen Ohlrich for all the dedication and years she enriched NVH Veterans and their families lives with her service as NVH Chair.

Please feel free to contact me at any time if I can help in any way. We would like to get to know everyone and together continue serving our Veterans.

NVH NEEDS: Wall clocks for residents rooms, Sponsors for newspapers for 6 Pods (Omaha World Herald & Norfolk Daily News) and clothing protectors.

Thanks!

Sincerely, LaRee

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WESTERN NEBRASKA VETERANS HOME (WNVH) – CECIL DOSHIER

1960 Kings Road – Gering NE 69341 – 308-631-7092

cddoshier@charter.net

I am the representative of Western Nebraska Veterans Home (WNVH) in Scottsbluff for the Nebraska American Legion Auxiliary. I was born and raised in Gering and have made it my home for the last 50+ years. I taught school for 38 years and am now retired. I am President of Gering Unit 36 and District 4 Secretary.

The time I spend with the veterans is very rewarding. All of the things I do are meant to help veterans and make their stay at WNVH more enjoyable. Those activities are as follows:

- Sponsor and help with Bingo
- Participate in Lunch Bunch (taking residents to a restaurant)
- Plan special Events such as Flag Day, Mother's Day, Father's Day, Patriots Day, Valentines Day, etc.
- Plan and Host Dollar Days
- Attend Activity meetings
- Attend Resident meetings

The veterans also like to go 'out to a movie' and to Prairie Winds (gambling) when it can be arranged.

My project this year will be to have their pool table recovered.

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GRAND ISLAND VA MEDICAL CENTER REPRESENTATIVE (GI VAMC)

VICKI CYBORON

2454 7th Ave - Boelus, NE 68820 - 402-740-5665

vcyboron@aol.com

I am a Paid Up for Life (PUFL) 43-year member of Shipmann Mogensen Unit 201 in Boelus, NE and am eligible for membership in the Auxiliary through the service of my dad, George Cyboron. My membership started as a Junior member. I am currently serving as Unit President and am the current Grand Island VA Medical Center Representative. Past positions that I have served are District Six President for two years and two years as District Historian. On the Department level, I served five years on the Finance Committee and three years as Finance Chairman. I served a three-year term as President of the Nebraska American Legion Press Association (NE-APLA). I graduated from Midland Lutheran College with a degree in Business Administration. For fifteen years I have been employed at Pitney Bowes Presort Services as Collection Specialist.. As a member of the Custer County DAV Auxiliary Unit, I am the current Unit Junior Vice

President and Department of Nebraska DAV Auxiliary Senior Vice President. I attend Faith Lutheran Church in Nysted.

DESCRIPTION OF RESPONSIBILITY:

1. Work closely with the volunteer staff at the Grand Island VA Medical Center (GI VAMC)
 - a. To assist with the needs that the GI VAMC might need, i.e., Money so a veteran can buy some clothes.
 - b. Assist in providing activities for the facility that can be for the veterans, family, and staff.
 - c. Donate funds to provide haircuts for the veterans.
2. Attend quarterly meetings for the volunteer service organizations to find details of what is going on at the GI VAMC or any other VAMC facility in Nebraska or country.
3. Help organize and request volunteers' assistance for our programs, i.e., Dollar Days, Gifts for Yanks, and the Gift Shop.

NEEDS LIST:

The needs for the Grand Island VA Medical Center (GI VAMC) changes each week per the request of veterans. They do have a food pantry. The types of food for the food pantry are the following:

1. Canned meats
2. Canned fruits
3. Canned vegetables
4. Microwave meals
5. Anything nonperishable

+ + +

OMAHA VA MEDICAL CENTER (VAMC) - PAULA PILLEN

6001 N 1475th Street – Omaha NE – 402-763-6209

ppillen2@gmail.com

VA & R at OVAMC:

Your Department of Nebraska ALA Representative is Paula Pillen for the Veterans Affairs & Rehabilitation (VA&R) program connected with the Omaha VA Medical Center (OVAMC). I am a member of Unit 362-Elkhorn. However, it is an easy drive to OVAMC, which is at 1401 Woolworth Avenue, Omaha, NE 68105.

DUTIES:

Did you know that VA&R is the "PILLAR #1" commission of the American Legion? My liaison duty — and yours — is to communicate with and support programs of the VA Volunteer Services (VAVS) program staff. In Omaha, Jon Boothe (Chief), Jennifer, Heather, and Cynthia are under the Center for Development and Community Education office (CDCE = Fund Raising, volunteer

recruitment). Joint, quarterly meetings are held for Veteran volunteer organizations. They share about events, administration information, and service improvements. Report all gifts to me!

COMMUNICATE:

- A) If you have a Unit member who is your main contact for the Omaha VAMC other than the ALA president, I would appreciate the name, email/address, and phone.
- B) Who are your Unit's current volunteers at OVAMC?
- C) Please **share details at ppillen2@gmail.com or call/text 402-630-6583.**
- D) If you wish to suggest an activity or volunteer, contact me or call the CDCE office at 402-995-3282 for simple instructions.

To help understand VA Veteran needs, events, and VA benefits, emails will be sent. Emails will share minutes of VA quarterly meetings and new "wish lists". I can speak with Units; VA Coordinator Jennifer Servant also can present.

Share the VA benefit updates that are important to your family and Post/Unit members; check NE-ALPA Facebook pages. I HIGHLY suggest sharing what is sent to you with our Post, Sons, and Riders.

OUR SUPPORTED PROGRAMS:

Your hard-won fundraising supports VA programs that lovingly support hospitalized Veterans who cannot participate in holidays. Your role: Fund the below projects, make it a party, and deliver gifts.

- Nebraska's Dollar Days for Vets (Nov. 11 - Veterans Day), \$10 per inpatient veteran;
- Gifts to the Yanks who Gave- established in 1944 (Dec 7 - Pearl Harbor), \$20 per inpatient veteran (50-93 in pandemic).
- ALA Gift Shop (early Dec.) funds provide inpatient veterans in VA facilities with comfort items during the Christmas / Hanukkah season. P.S. We have no room to work in again.
- Veteran Family Baby Showers (Quarterly): Needed new baby items will be sent out.
- "Stand Down" of VA Healthcare and Homeless Services: (Nov. 17) Your Unit can support this by giving special gifts. ALA has a table of hygiene, clothing, and basic living items.
- Creative Arts Festival: Submission deadline is April 20, 2024

REMINDER: If your Unit does not think anything happens...change that with volunteering at OVAMC!

SECTION 2

DISTRICT PRESIDENTS

SECTION 2

DISTRICT PRESIDENTS

DISTRICT 1 – VICKI KOTSCHWAR

90 Mann Rd – Chadron NE 69337 – 308-432-3615 H / 308-430-3121 C
kotsch@bbcwb.net

I am Vicki Kotschwar, District 1 President from Chadron, NE. I am eligible because my father, Raymond Christensen, was a corporal in the Army Air Corps during WWII. My husband, Glen, is also an Air Force Veteran, serving during the Vietnam Era. We are both retired teachers, have been married for 62 years, and have three children. Timothy and wife, Chona own a pharmacy in Alliance, NE. He has one son, Ray, and grandson, Max. Second son, Lance and wife, Becky live in San Diego, CA. He is a Compliance Officer for the WD40 Co., and has one son, Tommy. Tommy is in the Army, stationed at Ft. Sill, OK and will be going to TX soon for more air defense training. Daughter, Angela and husband, Steven live in Canton, GA and have two children, Joshua and Abigail. We are involved in our community and do as much volunteering as possible. Glen has also been a member of our Dawes County Honor Guard for many years. Their group recently was honored to receive the 100 Women Who Care for Our Community Award of \$10,000, which will help with new uniforms and equipment they use.

I have been a member of Chadron Auxiliary Unit 12 since 2002. I have been President four years, Vice President four years, Girls State Chairman, and helped with the Poppy program. Our auxiliary helps quite a bit with the VA Hot Springs facility of which I am a Deputy Representative for our District here in Nebraska. We have provided gift certificates for many occasions, helped with celebrations, donated items and monetary gifts, entertained some of the veterans when they come to Chadron, etc. We serve funeral lunches, help with Thursday night dinners at the Legion, support our local schools, encourage community volunteering, which many of our members do a lot of. I know we could always do more, but I do feel we have been active and I appreciate all our members help and support.

I guess my theme is "Why Not Us." We often hear "Who is going to do that?," "I'm too busy," "Who was supposed to take care of it?," and "It's not my job." So I say, "Why Not Us." If we all help regardless of whose job it was supposed to be or just because we see a need, things would probably work out better. Maybe it follows our leaders who say, "Be the One." I think we can all try to be the one and not worry about who is supposed to. Sometimes just stepping up to help is all the incentive others need.

Supporting Honor Flight Participants is my District project. I know the goal for the Honor Flight has been for WWII Veterans but most of them have gone or are no longer with us. I would encourage all our units to get eligible Veterans signed up for the flight closest to them. We have one here in western Nebraska, out of Chadron, but veterans from this whole end of the state, some from WY and SD have left from here. I also know it is supported by many but it takes much to pay for the veterans and their guardians, which is what we do here. It is a very rewarding experience and one we would hope all veterans could have. Therefore, I will be raising funds for supporting the Honor Flights.

I certainly don't have a long history with the Auxiliary but I truly believe and support all we try to do. I, along with all the wonderful support of our units, will do my best as District 1 President. Let's continue to always be the strong support for our Veterans and, yes, "Be The One!"

DISTRICT 2 – CAROLYN CONROY

90557 490th Ave – Spencer NE 68777 – 402-589-1334 H / 402-992-3609 C
carolynr@nntc.net

I am Carolyn Conroy and this is my second year as president of District 2. I am also President of our local Unit #78 in Spencer. I am eligible for membership through my husband Gary Conroy, who died earlier this year from a stroke suffered last summer. We raised 8 children and have 13 grandchildren. I live on a farm north of Spencer. I work part time opening for coffee and breakfast at the Country Cafe in Spencer. One of my hobbies is to collect antiques to put in my little antique village on my farm.

District 2 Vice President is Corrine Janovec. District 2 consists of 35 Units in Antelope, Boone, Boyd, Holt, Knox, Madison, Pierce, and Stanton counties.

My District project is to raise funds to purchase outdoor awnings for the swings at the Norfolk Veterans Home. Any leftover funds will be used for BINGO prizes.

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DISTRICT 3 - BEVERLY A. NEEL

57576 847th Road – Wayne NE 68787-7080 - 402 369 0152
d3alaprez2224@gmail.com

THIRD DISTRICT OFFICERS:

Beverly A. Neel, President, Winside 0252,
Laura Neel Novak, Vice President, Winside 0252
Adeline Hanel, Secretary/Treasurer, West Point 0070,
Cheryl Schultz, Chaplain, Beemer 0159,
Jacki O'Neill, Parliamentarian, Jackson 0175,
Vicky Gullicksen, Junior Past District President, Coleridge 0114

I am Beverly A. Neel and will be serving as President of the Third District comprised of seven counties; namely, Burt, Cedar, Cuming, Dakota, Dixon, Thurston and Wayne; and 22 Units. This is my second year as District President.

I became an American Legion Auxiliary (ALA) member at Cameron MO in October 1981; transferred to Dakota City NE Unit 0376 in 1983; and final transfer to Winside NE Unit 0252 in 1990. I am a Paid Up For Life (PUFL) member. Member of 42 years. My eligibility for membership in the ALA can be traced to my father, John James Gallop, Sr., World War II Army Air Corps, Guadalcanal and Bougainville; my brother, Warren Micheal Gallop, Vietnam Era Navy Corpsman; my husband, Robert Grayson "Bud" Neel, Vietnam-Desert Storm USMC Sergeant Major, Retired; and son, John Grayson Neel, USMC, Persian Gulf/Iraq.

My theme is the same as the one I used as Department President; namely, ***"Veterans – Our Soul & Heart's Inspiration."***

Third District Spring Convention will be held at Lyons NE on Saturday, March 9, 2024 and plans are to have a morning session only. That change will call for more organization and “sticking with the program” from our officers and members. We will elect officers for 2024-2025 and address District business. More on how this will work out as we receive information from the District Commander.

In the meantime, our members will continue to send in dues, plan events, donate to worthy causes and be present for Veterans and children.

My President’s Project will be accepting donations for “Dreamer’s Place” north of Wayne NE, which is an Equestrian Ranch for Veterans, Special Needs Youth & Adults and just about anyone wanting a quiet place to sit and listen. Miniature animals are cuddly and a welcoming friend to many. Each Tuesday evening, 6 – 8 PM, there is a simple meal to raise funds and those are given **back in support of Veterans and Military the First Tuesday of the month.** A great program.

Third District is assigned “Willow Island Station” on the Pony Express route in membership as we continue to “**BEtheONE**” for “Nebraska Strong & Faithful Serving Veterans Always.”

BEtheONE 9 8 8 + 1 VETERAN SUICIDE HOTLINE
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DISTRICT 4 – LUAYNE WEISGERBER

1119 Hudson Ave – Alliance NE 69301- 308-762-5240 H / 308-763-8441 C
maxine69301@yahoo.com

My name is Luayne Kaye Weisgerber. I have been a member of The American Legion Auxiliary Alliance Unit 7 for about 35 years – a Paid Up For Life (PUFL) member since 2002. I am eligible through my father Ray O. Andersen, US Army, World War II and my husband Raymond J. Weisgerber, US Marine Corps, Vietnam. This is my third round as District President, and I am a Past Department President (2002-2003). I also am the Alliance Unit 7 President and Treasurer. I was born and raised mostly in the Northport/Bridgeport/Dalton area, with the exception of three years in Oregon. I am a 1967 graduate of Bridgeport High School and a 1988 graduate of Chadron State College with a Bachelor of Arts Business Comprehensive degree with majors in accounting, management, and real estate. I have two sons, a daughter and six grandsons. Morgan, Jakob and all six grandsons are members of Sons of The American Legion Squadron 7, and Brandy is a PUFL member of Unit 7. My husband is a member of Post 7 and serves regularly on Honor Guards for funerals. My reason for membership is to honor my father and husband and those with whom they served, and in gratefulness that my children and grandchildren enjoy their freedoms due to the service of others.

District 4 Vice-President is Jeanine Tyree. District 4 consists of 13 units in Box Butte, Cheyenne, Garden, Grant, Morrill and Scottsbluff counties.

DISTRICT 5 PRESIDENT - DONNA HATFIELD

PO Box 841 – Lexington NE 68850 – 308-324-3696 H / 308-325-1718 C
donna68850@aol.com

American Legion Auxiliary (ALA) District 5 consists of eighteen units (Arthur, Lexington, Eddyville, Overton, Farnam, Mullen, Paxton, North Platte, Maxwell, Sutherland, Wallace, Hershey, Tryon, Grant, Elsie, Venango, Madrid and Thedford) in nine counties (Arthur, Dawson, Hooker, Keith, Lincoln, Logan, McPherson, Perkins, and Thomas Counties). District 5 covers 9,172 square miles. Highway 92 is the north border; Highway 23 is the south border and on Interstate 80, Overton is the east edge and Ogallala is the west edge. The district is a little bit west of the middle of Nebraska and on each side of Interstate 80. This is a lot of miles to cover the whole district. Oh, and there are two time zones in the district – Central and Mountain time zones.

Greetings from the 2023/2024 American Legion Auxiliary District 5 President, Donna Hatfield. I live in Lexington, Nebraska and am a member of Unit 111. My eligibility for this great organization is through husband Mike's Army service. I have been employed by Dawson County Weed Control for 29 plus years.

The 700 plus members of District 5 will be "Serving Veterans Always, Strong and Faithful" following Department President Lisa's theme.

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DISTRICT 6 – JUSTINA BIRKEL

PO Box 64 – North Loup NE 68859 – 402-389-0537
jbirkel.ala@gmail.com

I am Justina Birkel and I am serving as the District 6 President. I became a Junior member at the age of 5 in 1985 with the Springview Unit #98. One of my first memories of being in the American Legion Auxiliary is sitting in front of the grocery store in Springview on Poppy Day. I did have a lapse in membership for a few years but in 2006 I became a Senior member in the Springview Unit #98 and was a member there until I transferred to North Loup Unit #285 in 2017. I was a Junior member for 13 years and have been a Senior member for 17 years. I am currently the Unit President for the North Loup Unit #285. I am eligible through my grandfather, Harley Jack Snyder. He served in the Korean War.

I reside in North Loup with my husband Heath and 9 year old son Walker. Walker is a typical boy and keeps us busy running to his sporting events. I have been the office manager for Jeffres Sand and Gravel Inc in Burwell and Loup Valley Redi Mix in Ord, NE since October of 2016.

Barbara Dorsey is the current District 6 Vice President. District 6 is a big District covering 13 counties. Within these counties we have 36 units.

For my President's Project I plan to raise funds and awareness for the Vets Get Pets program. This program through the Nebraska Department of Veterans Affairs is a pet adoption program for veterans. The Vets Get Pets program will cover up to a maximum of \$350 in pet adoption fees for veterans. On the website there are applications and a list of authorized shelters/rescue organizations.

<https://veterans.nebraska.gov/vetsgetpets>

Also, through the Nebraska DMV you can get license plates. For every personalized license plate that is purchased they donate \$35 of the fee to the Vets Get Pets program.

A study done at two Department of Veterans Affairs outpatient clinics examining the benefits of canine companionship for veterans with PTSD found that overall the veterans who participated in the study indicated the canine companionship helped them feel calmer, less lonely and depressed, and less worried about the safety of themselves and their families. In addition, the CDC notes that studies have shown that owning a pet can lead to potential physical and mental health benefits such as increased opportunities for exercise and outdoor activities and increased opportunities for socialization.

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DISTRICT 7 – NANCY K NIEMANN

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niemann05@gmail.com

Thank you for allowing me the opportunity to introduce myself. I am Nancy Niemann and am the incoming District 7 President. I am a 49-year member of Weston Auxiliary Unit 308 being eligible through my father, Arnold Machacek, who served in the Army during the Korean War. My mother, Rose Machacek, was a Gold Star Sister to her brother, Charles Snitily, who died in World War II. Those two connections are my personal reasons for being an Auxiliary member, as well as "to participate in and contribute to the accomplishment of the aims and purposes of The American Legion". I live near Raymond with my husband, Don, where we raised three children Brandon, Courtney, and Jack. In addition, I have a granddaughter, Myah, and son-in-law Denton. I work for The City of Lincoln Aging Partners and the Village of Raymond.

"Behind every son or daughter killed in action, there's a Gold Star Mother." (emblem.legion.org). My project this year will be to work to identify Gold Star Mothers and hope to place GSM grave markers and flags at their graves in order to "Honor these women who gave up their children that we may enjoy freedom." (emblem.legion.org). District 7 Vice-President Nancy Patras. District 7 consists of 33 units in Butler, Colfax, Dodge, Platte, Polk and Saunders counties.

DISTRICT 8 – LINDSAY BROWN

20 S 41st Street, Apt 111 – Council Bluffs Iowa 51501 – 402-578-9222
lbrown0825@gmail.com

My name is Lindsay (Mazur) Brown. I grew up in Millard and graduated from Gretna High School, where I was on the softball team. After High school I went to Metro Community College in Elkhorn, Nebraska, where I studied Photography and Business. Unfortunately, I never finished.

I have been a member of the Gretna Legion Auxiliary Unit 216 for 40 years. I am eligible through my grandfather, Leonard Koch, who served in WWII. I have done a total of five years as our Unit president, served the past two years as District 8 vice president, will be the incoming secretary/ treasurer of the Sarpy County American Legion Auxiliary, and beginning my first year as District 8 President.

This year my project is going to be Javelan. The Javelan program provides funding for service dogs for military veterans and retired first responders in eastern Nebraska and western Iowa. It enriches the lives of veterans and retired first responders by enabling independence and giving life-changing support.

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DISTRICT 9 – MARIA ATTERBERRY

704 Rochelle St – Elwood NE 68937 – 308-325-2863
m_atterberry@hotmail.com

My name is Maria Atterberry. I am in my second year as the District 9 President. I am from Elwood, which is in South Central NE. I am eligible for the American Legion Auxiliary through my husband, who was in the Marine Corp and a Vietnam era Veteran. I have been a member for 18 years. I have 4 daughters and 11 grandchildren. I enjoy crocheting, knitting, and watching my grandchildren.

My project will be to continue making the cover-ups for Veterans in the area VA Homes.

District 9 consists of 16 units in Chase, Dundy, Frontier, Furnas, Gosper, Hayes Center, Hitchcock and Red Willow counties.

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DISTRICT 10 – CATHY WEBBER

201 18th Ave - Franklin NE 68939 – 308-470-0689
catweb1971@gmail.com

I am Cathy Webber of Franklin, NE. I am District 10 President and am in my second year. I have been married for 50 years to my husband Don and blessed with two wonderful children, a son, Jon, who is deceased, and a daughter, Jenna (Mark) and two grandchildren, Riley, and Haley.

I became a member of the ALA Anno Sanger Unit #209 in Franklin in 2004 in honor and memory of my father, Ignatius Flax, Tech Fifth Grade, who served in CO H 406th Infantry, Battle Rhineland WWII in the US ARMY. He received a Purple Heart and a Victory and Bronze Medal for his service.

I have held office as treasurer and membership chair in the unit and District Vice President and District Chaplain. I share the co-treasurer position for Franklin County (ALA) and am Department Education Chair. I am employed at the Franklin Housing Authority (HUD) for the Elderly and Disabled.

My President's Project is with Central Nebraska Veteran's Home in Kearney, collaborating with the Veteran's activity requests, supplying the library with new audio and large print books for them. I am working with Jessica Modlin at CNVH on this project.

My Theme: "Helping a Veteran ~ Keep Their SMILE!"

My team consists of District 10 Vice President Deanna Tuttle and Secretary, Treasurer, Chaplain, Historian, VA&R, County and Unit leaders. District 10 consists of 25 units in Adams, Clay, Franklin, Harlan, Kearney, Nuckolls, and Webster counties.

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DISTRICT 11 – CINDY SUMERS LUGAN

5210 S 40th Street, Apt. 28 – Lincoln NE 68516 – 402-310-8951
clugan@hotmail.com

DISTRICT 11 OFFICERS:

Cindy Summers Lugan, President, Alexandria Unit 194
Marla Furrow, Vice President, Plymouth Unit 243
Loree Hendrickson, Secretary/Treasurer, Shickley Unit 164
Deb Albers, Parliamentarian, Davenport Unit 335
Jan Holstein, Chaplain, Ohioa Unit 193
Alice Vieselmeyer, Historian, Friend Unit 183

Thank you for allowing me to introduce myself. I am Cindy Summers Lugan. This is my first year serving as District 11 President. District 11 consists of 6 counties – Fillmore, Gage, Jefferson, Saline, Thayer, and York. There are 35 Units in the District.

I am a 55-year member of the American Legion Auxiliary in Alexandria. I became a Junior Member at age 9. My membership is through my father, Sam Summers, who served in the Navy during WWII. I am #7 of 9 children born to Sam and Ruth. Five of my brothers served in the military in different branches. They recently received their Quilts of Valor. In the Alexandria Unit, I have served as secretary, vice-president and am currently serving as president. I served as Thayer County President for three years (due to the pandemic). I have served as District 11 parliamentarian. At one time I was a member of the Lincoln Unit and served as membership chair.

My theme is "Remember Those Who Gave Their All". My symbol is the Poppy. My project for the year is to place a purple, heart-shaped wreath on the graves of all Purple Heart Recipients in District 11. I will be raffling off an original oil painting by Rita Romsdal Jarvis, a Nebraska native. It is called "Field of Poppies."

My large family consists of my siblings, 20+ nieces/nephews, 28+ next generation and 4 of the next generation. We just keep growing!!

My other interest is Parliamentary Procedure. I am a member of the National Association of Parliamentarians, the State Association and the Lincoln Unit. As a member, I had to pass an examination of 100 questions from a list of 300 questions of basic knowledge. The next level is Registered Parliamentarian which is more testing but at a higher level of study. I am taking this test on Halloween. In the Star City Unit, I have served as Secretary, Treasurer, Vice-President, and President and many committees. I also enjoy reading and playing the piano. Finding enough time is sometimes difficult.

I believe in God, Country and Community. Without these, where would we be?

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DISTRICT 12 – LOIS JOHNSON

711 S 20 Road – Unadilla NE 68454 – 402-209-5011

ljreddish@hotmail.com

Greetings from Lois Johnson! I am serving as President of District 12 for my first year. I live near Unadilla, Nebraska. I am an Auxiliary member through my late husband, Ronald L. Johnson. He served his country in the United States Army from 1953 to 1955 and was a Korean War Veteran. Ronald and I had been married forty-four years. I had three children from a previous marriage. I have fourteen grandchildren and twelve great-grandchildren.

In our family we had members who served in every war—one in the Civil War, one in World War I, two in World War II, three in the Korean War, one in Vietnam, and one in Iraq.

I am a member of Syracuse Unit #100, 8 & 40, and the Syracuse United Methodist Church.

I am currently the treasurer/membership chair of Unit #100 and Vice President. Our Unit #100 grew in membership when Nebraska City closed and merged with the Syracuse Unit. Currently we have 127 members.

My theme is "Remember with Poppies, Least we Never Forget." My symbol is the flag. This year my project is to raise funds through the poppy program. Have you had your poppy distribution?

District 12 consists of 21 units in Cass, Lancaster, Otoe, and Seward counties.

DISTRICT 13 – MICHELE TEGTMEIER

310 Otoe Street – Burchard NE 68323 – 402-865-4235 H – 402-223-8874 – C
mtegtmeier@windstream.net

Bobbi Albers District 13 Vice President

My home unit is ALA Unit 156 Burchard in Pawnee County. I am a member in honor and memory of my father Dale Buzzard who served in the Army during the Korean War. Also, I am an RN who practiced nursing at the Eastern Nebraska Veterans Home (ENVH) in Bellevue, NE. As the nurse educator at the Home I was able to participate and experience the special care provided for the Veterans while training all the employees.

District 13 consists of 13 units in Johnson, Nemaha, Pawnee and Richardson counties. The units are very active and have dedicated members, many who have served most of their adult life. The District 13 officers have much experience and knowledge thankfully as I have only been a member for two years joining after retirement. My husband and I raise buffalo near Burchard Lake. Our son and wife have three boys. Quilting is my hobby and I have witnessed the presentation of quilts and gifts given to the veterans by the auxiliaries.

My project will be to raise funds to add to the Recreation Fund at the Eastern Nebraska Veterans Home to help with their activities for the Veterans.

Our work really is impactful to the veterans' lives. My goal is to support and encourage the work of the Units in District 13.

SECTION 3
GIRLS STATE

SECTION 3

GIRLS STATE

GIRLS STATE - BRITTANY MASEK
15706 W 80th Terrace - Lenexa KS 66219 - 308-882-0280
bmmasek@outlook.com

I would like to introduce myself. I'm Brittany Masek, Chair for Cornhusker Girls State (CGS) 2024. A little about myself. I reside in Lenexa, Kansas with my husband Kyle and our son Walsh. I work as an Analyst for the Federal Reserve Bank of Kansas City. I have been a member of the ALA for my entire life. I've always belonged to the Unit in Elsie, Nebraska, near where I grew up. My grandfather was a veteran and a Legion member which led to my grandmother encouraging us to get involved. I first attended the Cornhusker Girls State program in 2007 thanks to my hometown Unit Madrid, NE. I fell in love with what CGS stands for, and I returned as a counselor and other volunteer positions for ten years. Whitey Shirley of Perkins County was a mentor to my father and Legion member who had great impact in my life. He and his daughter, CJ, among other local friends, continued to share their support for me year after year, which always meant a lot. My goal has been to share my passion for policy at our local levels as well as being a proud and grateful young American with the girls of Cornhusker Girls State to help foster a positive future in Government.

The program is offered to girls who have completed their Junior year of high school and will be entering into their Senior year. It takes place the first week of June each year. This year it will be June 2-8, 2024. Each girl is sponsored by an Auxiliary Unit who selects the delegate and an alternate to represent them. While attending they are asked to file for a state/county/city office, campaign, debate, and vote. At the same time they participate in sessions where they learn to build party platforms, run judicial hearings, and propose legislative bills. It's a wonderful experience and teaches them how our State and Local Governments run.

Through the years I have seen many girls form lifelong friendships, find college roommates, and even create business partnerships. One of my favorite parts of the week is seeing the excitement of new friendships and watching the respectful debate on many topics.

Girls State is an Auxiliary sponsored program with its own Constitution and Bylaws. It has its own chairs, advisory, secretary, and treasurer. The same format will be followed for Unit's receiving the packet of information and forms to be completed and returned by the deadline of March 1, 2024. With the advancement of technology, some parts of the process will be electronically; such as orientation.

CORNHUSKER GIRLS STATE ADVISORY COMMITTEE – KATHY MAZUR

13932 Meadow Ridge Rd - Omaha NE 68138

Phone: 402-659-6689 Email: mazur_kathy@yahoo.com

The Advisory Committee is comprised of five members. One member is appointed each year by the American Legion Auxiliary Department President. It is a five-year commitment, and the member serving their fifth year serves as Chairman of the committee.

The Advisory members are expected to attend the Girls State planning meeting in the fall. They are also expected to be in attendance the entire week at Girls State, arriving on Saturday to prepare for the Sunday arrival of the delegates.

Duties include:

- Assist the Girls State Secretary
- Check-in and direct delegates on arrival
- Prepare for sessions
 - Instruction for Flag Bearers
 - Selecting pianist(s) from tryouts
 - Setting up the meeting room
- Appointing non-elected officials
 - Help prepare certificates
- Preparing for inauguration
 - Gather all items to be taken to the State Capital
 - Set up for inauguration ceremony
 - Practice inauguration ceremony with the inauguration group
 - Return all items to the Girls State office
- Interview candidates for Girls Nation
- Prepare for closing session
 - Girls State citizens receive their diplomas
- Post Girls State meeting
 - Staff meets on Friday to review the week's activities
- Assist with setting up and tearing down the Girls State boutique