

THIRD DISTRICT – ALA – NEBRASKA
2024 Mid-Year Conference, Kearney NE

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

FINANCE: 1/1/2023 Balance \$2,924.43 12/27/2023 Balance \$3,537.99

Welcome to Mid-Year Conference 2024 here in Kearney NE. We have had our taste of winter over the holidays. As this is written we look forward to safe travels to Kearney in January.

District 3 has been active and buzzing. District fundraiser at Laurel NE in October 2023 with great generosity allowing the Norfolk Veterans Home, The Legion District 3, and the Auxiliary District 3 to each receive \$1724.27 for use as each entity determines. Thank you to all Units and members who lent a helping hand, baked goods, time and energy to make this a success.

District 3 has 22 Units in seven counties; namely, Burt, Cedar, Cuming, Dakota, Dixon, Thurston and Wayne. Read what some of our Units have been involved in:

Beemer Unit 0159 – Contributed to Veterans Day project, refreshments, singing; recognized ALA birthday; decorated for the holidays; door prizes for Legion Family Christmas party; Valentine gift bags to shut-in Veterans and ALA members; members attended District Convention; treats provided for The Legion birthday at meeting; refreshments before Bingo night; prizes to community Easter Egg Hunt; operated monthly bingo event for The Legion Family Day with refreshments; Poppy containers on display area businesses and Memorial Day lunch; participated in Memorial Day service, programs, singing, and refreshments; ALA provided bars/cookies for Beemer ALR Poker Run; Ice cream floats for Legion/ALA members to celebrate Independence Day; silent auction fundraiser for ALA projects; Beemer Play Days parade ALA walked/rode, handed out flags/candy; donated to Veterans Day project spearheaded by Lisa Hunke; funds to Gifts for Yanks and other Department/National requests; potluck for local Veterans and Norfolk Veterans Home residents at the Post; donated to District 3 President's project and Department assessments/assignments; throughout the year donate books to Karlen Library in memory of ALA and Legion members who pass away; various courtesy cards to ALA/Legion members; provided treats Beemer's Trunk & Treat event; posted flyers as reminder of patriotic holidays and events. ***Whew these gals are terribly busy.***

Craig Unit 0127 – Decorate cemetery Memorial Day weekend; assisted with Legion BBQ on Memorial Day weekend; Made & donated a wreath for Craig Cemetery; identified all Veterans in the Craig Cemetery; made signs for Burt County Fair; drove the Girl Stater and Scholarship winner through the Burt County Fair; field trip to Dreamer's Place in Wayne and members made donations on their own; assisted with funeral lunch for ALA member; participated in POW/MIA walk; made cell phone bags for Veterans in

the nursing home; assisted with the Veterans Day BBQ; set up the Missing Man table at the Veterans Day program at the school. ***Another busy bunch of gals!***

Decatur Unit 0215 – Unit Poppy Day with 10 poppy canisters and 13 posters placed in Decatur area businesses, sent \$174.15 to the Department; placed ALA grave marker flags at ALA members gravesites; ALA members attended Memorial Day Service; Bake Sale fundraiser with United Methodist ladies serving lunch during Riverfront Days, a local celebration; “Memorial Day our Nation’s Time to Remember – Reflections on War Sacrifice & Valor” by James Martin Davis book donated to Decatur Museum; ALA set up garage sale table, bake sale table and served sloppy joe lunch for support Girls State and scholarships; ALA member Brooklyn Grandgenett selected to receive Unit 2015’s second semester scholarship; purchased \$35 da in the 2024 Decatur Museum Historic calendar; ALA invited by United Methodist ladies to host a bake sale and sell cinnamon rolls and coffee at their turkey dinner fundraiser; ALA November meeting was attending Veterans Day program at the Lyon-Decatur Northeast School; Gene Hightree received his quilt of valor at the Senior Center with ALA providing cookies and coffee; Fleirs were posted and invitations personally given to Decatur community Veterans to come to the Senior Center for cinnamon rolls and coffee in observance of Veterans Day – an ALA “Thank You” to the Veterans for their service; ALA took cookies to Lyons-Decatur Northeast School for American Education week; ALA purchased and donated Kleenex for the “Give 10 to Education” program during American Education week. ***Variety is the spice of life for ALA Decatur.***

Jackson Unit 0175 – Donated an afghan silent auction at the District’s fundraiser – raised \$50; members attended Veterans Day program at Ponca with First place Americanism Essays read by students; Nebraska Hospice Officer attending ALA November meeting advising what they do and members received a flag pin; celebrated 103rd birthday at this meeting and had a balloon bouquet for Legion in honor of Veterans Day; annual Chili/Oyster Soup & Sandwich Supper & Bake Sale the Saturday before Thanksgiving – profit split with The Legion with the ALA’s hare \$1,100; Legion Family Christmas party – members brought snacks & played Bingo, with members providing prizes; annual ALA drawing was also held; several Legion Family members attended the supper at South Sioux City when National President Vickie Koutz visited Nebraska; sent Get Well and Birthday cards to members; donated \$25 memorial to family of deceased members; served in Honor Guard at funerals, offered prayer and placed a Poppy Cross at the service; donated to various ALA programs; celebrated The Legion’s birthday; ALA members attended District Convention – Unit was 1st place Publicity Book – 1st Place tie with History and Prayer books – 2nd place Poppy centerpiece; Prayer Book was chosen 1st place at Department Convention; sponsored (Girls State) Zoe Kastning from Ponca Public School – she and family came to July meeting/potluck supper where Zoe shared her Girls State experiences; Chicken Noodle & Vegetable Beef Soup, pie supper plus a bake sale in April and raffled a quilt made by a member; sponsored Poppy Poster and Americanism Essay contests at Ponca Elementary School for third through sixth Grades – judged over 100 poster and 100 essays and sent 1st place ones to Department for judging; 3rd grade student won 1st place at state and National for Americanism Essay Contest. State award present at a school assembly along with the 1st, 2nd, 3rd place Awards from the ALA for each grade; National award presented in September – this was a surprise for the student and we had his parents attend; Memorial Day activities at

Hubbard and Jackson cemeteries – outdoor Mass celebrated – serviced lunch by ALA – three Legionnaires recognized for 50 years of continuous membership; donated August centerpieces to Norfolk Veterans Home, plus donated many needed items; sponsored a July Bingo party at Norfolk Veterans Home, served strawberry shortcake; participated in Dakota County Fair parade float with banners “Thank you Veterans” posted, played patriotic music and tossed out candy; Unit provide pie for Norfolk Veterans Home residents’ visit at the South Sioux City Post for meal and entertainment – ALA member made give “Fidget Quilts” for the Veterans and more in being made – same member made the quilt raffled at chili/pie suppers and Memorial Day; published future and current events in the Dakota County Star and Nebraska Journal Leader – sent photos when possible – used articles in Publicity Book – use marque outside Legion Post to advertise as well; sent letters to ALA members to keep informed. ***Great events I am sure you could try where you are!***

South Sioux City Unit 0307 – ALA was host to the National President Vickie Koutz’s visit to Nebraska as well as Department President; due to good ole Nebraska weather Unit conducted Zoom interviews for Girls State; assisted with dinner to honor Vietnam Veterans Memorial Day each March 29th; assisted The Legion with placing/removing gravesite flags for Memorial Day at St. Michael’s Cemetery – attended Memorial Day services at same; attended and supported “Thunder on the Mighty Mo” held at Siouxland Freedom Park; Girls State Citizen attended July meeting and reported on her experiences and expressed her appreciation for the opportunity; assisted The Legion’s hot dog, baked bean and chips picnic after Greater Siouxland Fair parade in August – event open to all Legion, VFW members and families and the public; Assisted with, attended and encouraged the community to attend the annual 911 Memorial Service/Flag Retirement ceremony at Siouxland Freedom Park; craft fair/vendor show last Saturday in September – funds used to send a Girl State delegate plus other projects for Veterans and youth of the community as needed; Norfolk Veterans Home residents came over in September – meal provided by Post/Unit 0307 and desserts by Jackson Post/Unit 0175; ALA Unit 307 members serve on the Siouxland Freedom Ball committee to raise funds for completion of many different phases of the park – ALA members/spouses attend the event; send birth cards and notes throughout the year to Veterans in nursing homes or retirement homes in Dakota County or other facilities who are member of either Legion Post 307 and/or VFW Post 10753 South Sioux City; assist with the soup and sweet treats for those who stand on the corner the send Saturday in December to ring bells to collect money for the Carinal Basket Bell Ringing – funds used to provide food for those in need; collect toys, cash and gift cards for the Marines “Toys for Tots” program; through the efforts of the whole American Legion Family at Post 307 plus other community members who support Veterans of Northeast Nebraska each year during the holiday season - we take a cash donation - plus several pounds of Iowa home-grown popcorn donated and grown by on the members of SONs Squadron 307 – plus purchase the popcorn oil and take it to the Norfolk Veterans Home; made 20 centerpieces for the Norfolk Veterans Home. ***Have you seen any “new ideas” you may try back at your home Unit?***

West Point Unit 0070 – deliver gifts to shut-in members; sent Get Well and Sympathy cards to Legion Family members and families; purchase a year’s subscription to the West Point News for two West Point Veterans residing at the Norfolk Veterans Home;

an ALA member makes quilts for the Quilts of Valor; donate to the District 3 President's project; members assisted with Past Department Presidents project - made cookies and bars and assisted with Medal of Honor (MOH) program at Wisner; ALA member assisted/attended District 3 fundraiser in Laurel – donated items for bake sale and live auction; several members attended Cuming County ALA annual meeting in Beemer; honored law enforcement by making and delivering trays of treats to the local Sheriff's Department, Police Officers, State Patrol and Dispatch Office in West Point; sent Veterans Day cards to local elderly Veterans; donations to Gifts for Yanks – Bingo prizes at Norfolk Veterans Home – Dollar Days – Veterans baskets presented to local Veterans on Veterans Day – President projects; assist Legion in collecting flays for Flag Retirement Ceremony; ALA member assisted a SONS member erect 20-foot flag poles at three cemeteries in the county – dug holes, poured concrete, installed poles; ALA member visits cemeteries monthly to replace tattered flags; ALA member assisted at American Legion baseball games; donated to Child Welfare and Childre of Warriors projects; \$75 Auxiliary Emergency Fund (AEF); donated gloves, mittens and hats to local elementary schools for "Give 10 to Education"; ALA members assisted The Legion with Memorial Day services by reading a portion of the Honor Roll and presenting the Colors; ALA members assisted with raising flags and retiring flags at local cemeteries; placed ALA flags at gravesites of 80 deceased ALA members; ALA member volunteers weekly at Senior Citizens Center with daily meals; ALA member assists with bloodmobile four times a year – several members assist with registration and donating cookies; ALA members visited and delivered flowers to shut-in members; ALA member volunteers as a Social Minister at the local nursing homes; ALA member video tapes Sunday church services; sponsored two Girls State Citizens and invited with parents to dinner and share experiences with the ALA; sent letters to invite others to join the ALA; sent emails/letters sharing meeting data with members who are unable to attend meetings; sent Get Well, Sympathy and Thinking of You cards to members; gifts delivered to ALA shut-in members at Christmas; hosted to Christmas party for members offering food, gift exchange and entertainment; donated to State Life Membership fund \$36; poppies are distributed and placed at various businesses in West Point – canvased the town and visited businesses while distributing poppies; prepare poppy memorial wreaths for funerals and table centerpieces; visit with local newspaper and radio station to announce various activities to promote the ALA – they gladly said "yes"; host to Norfolk Veterans Homes residents, Veterans from local care center and assisted living center who attend the annual potluck roast beef meal and Bingo in West Point, plus a "goodie bag" to take along; provided ice cream bars and helped with Bingo at the Norfolk Veterans Home. ***By this time, you should have some great "ideas" to take back home.***

Winside Unit 0252 –Unit set 2024 dues at \$30.25 for Seniors and \$5.00 for Junior members; governing document was updated to reflect dues change; Four members attended Mid-Year Conference 2023 - Unit prepared gift basket for AEF/NEF raffle – member was in charge of the raffle with assistance by members from Winside, Homer, Jackson, West Point within District 3 at Mid-Year; provided desserts for Legion Soup lunch; ALA member served as escort for Department President Vicki Ozenbaugh and National President Vickie Koutz on a whirlwind tour of central to northeast to southeast Nebraska on President Koutz's visit to Nebraska; Unit selected four young ladies as Girls State delegates – three attended, one was a no-show; SONS Squadron 252

donated \$800 to Girls State expenses; Winside Public School was invited to participate in the Poppy Poster contest with grades 5, 6 and 7 – the 4th grade class actually participated, Unit was host to the 2023 District 3 Convention – was able to host a fundraiser and raised \$1,551 – Junior members raised \$184 in split-the-pot as well – Unit will double the \$184 as the Junior members plan to purchase items for the Winside School backpack program in the fall of 2023; host to Bingo and refreshments at Norfolk Veterans Home; assisted with Wayne County Government Day for Junior and Senior students (21 & 2 instructors) from Winside Public School at the Wayne National Guard Armory and County Courthouse – Unit provided bars for lunch while The Legion provided pizza; Unit provided a bronze grave marker for deceased member and a memorial tribute; members prepared 230 poppy wreaths for seven cemeteries for Memorial Day; Poppy Day in Wayne America Saturday of Memorial Day weekend at Bomgaar's, Pac N Save, QFC, ACE Hardware, Dreamer's Place – poppy canisters set out in Winside businesses Wayne County Bank, Winside Store, Heads to Toe Pet Grooming – Kinship Pointe and Elkhorn Valley Bank in Wayne and Winside auditorium on Memorial Day proceeds of \$688.96 divided between the Department and District 3 President's project; prepare/serve annual Memorial Day Dinner our only fundraiser; ALA member updates Roll of Honor each year; four members (2 Senior, 2 Junior) attended Department Convention; sent 25 invites to prospective eligible members to join Unit 0252; participated in the 4th of July parade at Hoskins NE while serving in the Color Guard; ; member and spouse attended National Convention at Charlotte NC coming home with Covid; annual Legion Family picnic for residents of Norfolk Veterans Home – members brought in desserts, salads and fresh veggies and donated to prize money for the Plinko game; Unit and SONs joined forces and sponsored a Sunday Soup & Sandwich lunch for Northeast Nebraska Special Olympics athletes – members provided bake sale items as well as families of the athletes – a member prepared all the soups without cost – members prepared ham/cheese sandwiches with parent of special Olympics athlete – SONs and ALA members worked the event raising over \$5,000 for the athletes – an athlete and mother provided a rug and quilt for raffle items – many generous donations received throughout the Norfolk/Winside/Wayne area; next weekend Post/Unit members assisted with the District fundraiser in Laurel donating bake sale and auction items, time and energy; member assisted the SONs with its Root Beer Float Sunday at the Norfolk Veterans Home; member attended Veterans Day programs at Laurel and Emerson-Hubbard schools – two Junior member participated at Emerson-Hubbard; member traveled Nebraska to attend and assist with Veterans Dollar Days (Veterans Day means of thanking our Veterans) at the four Nebraska Veterans Homes, two VA Medical Centers and Lincoln Regional Center. attended and assisted at Gifts for Yanks (Christmas) party at Lincoln Regional Center with Santa Bingo played and treats as prizes and Norfolk Veterans Home – provided six dozen decorated sugar cookies for the event; host to Holiday potluck at the SONs November meeting and packed 13 care packages for active-duty military personnel with a connection to Wayne County Nebraska – donated food items, time and energy; member served as Chair on NEC sub-committee wrapping up its tasks within 7-month time; member serves a Chair of the VA & R program for the Department. ***If you have gotten this far and still cannot find something to try new at your Unit, please give District 3 a call. We would be glad to help you get started.***