



American Legion Auxiliary District 11 Newsletter February 2024



Remember Those Who Gave Their All

Cindy Summers Lujan, President
5210 S 40th St, Apt 28
Lincoln NE 68516-4541
402.310.8951 (call/text)
CindyL_Dist11Pres2023@hotmail.com
clujan@hotmail.com



District 11 Contest Entry Deadlines

HISTORY BOOK – March 1, 2024

Alice Vieselmeyer
112 S Pine St Friend NE 68359

PRAYER BOOK – March 1, 2024

Jan Holtmeier
132 County Road Y Tobias NE
68453

If you need to reach by phone, call or text Cindy to get the numbers.

DISTRICT 11 POPPY CENTERPIECE CONTEST

Bring your centerpieces to the District 11 Convention on March 23, 2024 in Wilber. Centerpieces need to be available for judging by 9:15 a.m. – meetings start at 10:00 a.m.

MEMORIAL SERVICES DISTRICT CONVENTION

Please send the information for your deceased members to Lori Balke, Beatrice Unit president.
loribalke@hotmail.com 402.239.7182

Let us all remember President Lisa's theme.

Nebraska Strong & Faithful Serving Veterans Always

SATURDAY, MARCH 23, 2024
DISTRICT 11 SPRING CONVENTION
WILBER LEGION HALL
9:00 A.M. REGISTRATION/10 A.M. MEETING

BRING CASH OR YOUR CHECKBOOK!!

The District 11 President's Project Raffle will be selling tickets prior to the drawing after lunch. An AUCTION will be held right after lunch. Units please bring at least one item for the auction. Baked goods, canned jams and jellies sell very well. Unique items or baskets are always wonderful. If you are unable to make it and have an item, contact Cindy and she will make arrangements to get your donation picked up. DONATIONS JARS will be available for President Lisa's projects and for Honorary Junior Department President Sam Stepanik's project. There will also be pigs available for the Child Welfare Foundation and Children & Youth.

District Officers and Chairs include:

Marla Furrow, Vice-President
Membership and Junior Activities
Marlamae58@yahoo.com

Loree Hendrickson, Secretary/Treasurer
loreeh@hotmail.com

Deb Albers, Parliamentarian
Bylaws Chair
Dalbers727@gmail.com

Jan Holtmeier, Chaplain
Gjh41@yahoo.com

Alice Vieselmeyer, Historian
alicevies@aol.com

Trudy Spicer, Poppy Chair

Julia Pohlman, Music Chair
Ejpholmann1@gmail.com

Vicky Thompson, Past President
vsbunker@hotmail.com

Unit Presidents should have received their 2025 Unit Dues Data Form. These need to be turned into the Department Office by March 1. This needs to be done whether or not your dues change.

District 11 Bylaws, Standing Rules

A copy of the proposed amendments to the governing documents for District 11 are being sent with this newsletter. It is a separate document. Be prepared to vote on these proposed amendments at District Convention.

District Constitution

There are two proposed amendments to the District Constitution. These are also being sent with this newsletter. These proposals will be decided at the Department Convention in June. All Districts will need to vote on these amendments.

CURRENT COUNTY PRESIDENTS

Fillmore County
Gage County
Jefferson County
Saline County
Thayer County
York County

Vicky Thompson
Gloria Henderson
Marla Furrow
Gerry Johnson
Donna Schweer
Mary Beth Coffey

If your County elects a new president, please send the new list of officers to the Department and to the District 11 president.

UNIT REPORTS

Those Units who did not submit a report in December/January – could you please send one now to put into the District Convention program? Be sure to put in the Community Service – all those volunteer hours are important! Did you host a blood drive? Did you donate blood? All that counts! Even if the Unit did not sponsor the event – the members who are doing the volunteering need to send in their information.

DEPT. MID-YEAR CONFERENCE

I realize it's been less than a month ago, but it sometimes feels like ages ago that I was in Kearney. I found out the hard way that you do not drive when there are snow squalls. But before I reached Kearney, there was a sundog. It was beautiful.

The DEC met bright and early on January 19th. Amanda called the meeting to order. The minutes from the June 22 and 25th meetings were approved. The Girls State minutes and budget were approved. District Presidents and Officers are requested to send a personal biography to the Department Historian for the Department History Book. Districts and Counties are asked to send a copy of their bank statements to the Department office.



Mid-Year Conference (continued)

Vicki Ozenbaugh was presented with the National ALA Brand Ambassador certificate and a new name badge. Congratulations!

New Department office hours are 8:00 a.m. through 4:30 p.m. Volunteers are needed at the Department office. Persons wanting in the building need to be buzzed in, a person is needed to attend to the door. Labels need to be put on envelopes. State Life memberships need to be updated. Anyone knowing someone with a lost address, these need to be updated.

Do you know the difference between Veteran Services and National Security? I found out. Anything that deals with active military persons is National Security. The rest is Veteran Services.

President Lisa's Department projects consist of refunding of Junior Members attendance cost for the February 3rd training event in Lincoln NE. The other part of the project is to donate gift cards to the Fisher House in Omaha. These are needed for those needing the use of the Fisher House while their loved ones are in the hospital.

National President Lisa is coming to Nebraska in August – just in time for Czech Days. Department and National presidents will be participating in the parade and having a booth for donations and another for membership. Volunteers are needed to help during Czech Days.

Honorary Department Junior President Sam Stepanik's project is "Growing with your Veterans" and the donations will go to building raised flower/vegetable beds. \$300 was raised during this session.,

Americanism essays are due by March 15th. Please be sure to fill out the form completely. On the back of the last page, in the upper left corner place your name and physical address. Then cover it up using a piece of paper and tape.

Handouts received were:

Poppy fill in the blank
Veterans Affairs & Rehabilitation
National Security – with Prepare with Pedro,
Disaster Preparedness Activity Book
Poppy information – Posters, Centerpieces

The Oratorical Contest is always interesting. There were four participants. Each participant did

very well. Joshua Mammen of Creighton Prep High School is the winner of the Oratorical Contest and will go to the next level.

Proposed Department Officers for 2024-2025 are: Amanda Washburn, President; Ruth Hietbrink, Vice-President, Vicki Cyboron, Historian, Lori Reimers, Chaplain, Vicki Ozenbaugh, NEC.

Friday night's Chili cookoff and Poker Walk were great hits. The Chili cookoff raised \$935 for the general fund. District 11 spicy contestant took 2nd place in the spicy category.

CELEBRATION DAYS!

FEBRUARY

- 1 Black History Month
National Freedom Day
- 2 National Wear RED Day
Give Kids a Smile Day
- 4 Thank Your Mailman Day
- 7 National Signing Day
- 11 Super Bowl Sunday
- 12 Lincoln's Birthday
- 14 Valentine's Day
Ash Wednesday
National Donor Day
- 17 Random Acts of Kindness Day
- 22 George Washington's Birthday

MARCH

- 1 Women's History Month
- 3 National Anthem Day
- 4 National Hug a G.I. day
- 8 International Women's Day
- 10 Daylight Savings Time starts.
- 13 National K9 Veterans Day
National Good Samaritan Day
- 20 International Day of Happiness
- 21 National Common Courtesy Day
- 25 National Medal of Honor Day
- 29 National Vietnam War Veterans Day

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

February 19	President's Day
March 10	Daylight Savings Time begins.
March 17	District 11 Junior American Legion Auxiliary Conference – Milligan St. Patrick's Day
March 23	District Convention, Wilber, Registration 9:00 a.m. – Elections held Department Junior Conference, 10:00 a.m. St. Paul, NE
March 24	Palm Sunday
March 29	Good Friday
March 31	Easter Sunday
April 15	Purple Up for Military Kids Day
April 27	American Legion Family Day
May 24	National Poppy Day
May 27	Memorial Day Observed
June 20-23	Department of Nebraska Annual Convention, Holiday Inn, Kearney



In Canadian Fields

Floyd Zurbrigg

In Flanders Fields the poppies grow
When I hear that famous poem I know
That our soldiers went to a far off shore
And gave their lives in an awful war
I'm aware of the hardships they endured
So our peace would be assured
But the poem that I cannot find
Tells the stories of those left behind
Of wives and sweethearts, kissed at the train
That never saw their men again
Of parents, brothers and sisters too
Who worried, because they never knew
If their soldier was alive or dead
Many tearful, heartfelt prayers were said
To the one's at home, we owe a debt
They suffered too, let's not forget
While in Flanders Fields the poppies grew
The folks at home were heroes too

Until We Meet Again

*Those special memories of you
will always bring a smile.*

*If only I could have you back
for just a little while.*

*Then we could sit and talk again,
just like we used to do.*

*You always meant so very much
and always will too.*

*The fact that you're no longer here
will always cause me pain,*

*But you're forever in my heart
until we meet again.*

