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**JUNE 2024 DEPARTMENT NEWSLETTER**

**UNIT PRESIDENTS**

It is important that the information in this newsletter is shared with all members. Please share this newsletter at your meetings and inform others that all Newsletters are available on the Nebraska Website ([nebraskalegionaux.net](http://nebraskalegionaux.net)). Thank you!

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**FROM YOUR PRESIDENT**  
 Lisa Moore

Wow! Memorial Day was fantastic.

National Poppy Day I passed out poppies at work and was able to educate several on the meaning of Memorial Day.

Lexington and Ft. McPherson National Cemetery were such an honor.

Now on to the Girls State and Department Convention.

I can't wait to hear what wonderful activities all of you have been up to. I hope you will join me in Kearney at the Holiday Inn June 21 through the 23. DEC will meet on Thursday, June 20.

WE have lots of things happening. There will be amendments and resolutions, music, fun, fellowship, elections, and, of course, reports. Let's all come and see who did what this year.

A tentative schedule is included.

Thanks for allowing me to serve this amazing department in this role. You are amazing people and Nebraska is fortunate to have all of you as members.

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**NOTES FROM THE SECRETARY** ..... *Roxanne Hiatt*

It's about the end of one year and the beginning of another. Lots to do and a lot of things happening.

Girls State is June 2. Thank you to all who have sponsored girls to attend. It's a busy week but ask them about their experience when they return.

Here in the office, we are waiting for Units to submit their Leadership forms. They came out on purple paper in the March Newsletter. I have received quite a few but am waiting for more. Please send them. The form not only lets us know the change in your Unit leadership, but it also lets us know you have no change. Both ways are appreciated.

Be looking for donation forms in the August Newsletter. And yes, we have poppies available at the office again. Our poppy makers have been working like beavers again, so things are back on track.

For the new 2025 membership year you can begin submitting current members after August 1 and new applications after September 1. I have a few requests. It is all earth-friendly to use up all those old copies of data forms and transmittal sheets you have at home, but when it comes to getting the correct information needed into Department, only the most current forms ask for that information. On the data forms we always need the membership numbers. Especially if the person is transferring. Old data forms don't ask for the complete number. Time for them to go into the recycle bin. All previous transmittal forms are obsolete. Please throw out old forms that have the dues transmittal amount of \$22.25 on them. It confuses the preparer and me if the wrong amount is submitted because that is what you are seeing on the form. Recycle. Dues into Department are \$30.25 per Senior member and anything else submitted will get you a phone call. Use the new forms that will be in your membership packets at the Convention. Proper forms omit phone calls from the Department.

Here's some pointers on filling out a membership application. They must be on the current application form. This is the form that does not have great-granddaughter as the relationship to the veteran. We all know by now that they are no longer eligible. All the information for the veterans, including their American Legion membership ID number, must be included, and ALL the correct signatures must be on there. The applicant or parent/guardian must sign the application. The POST ADJUTANT – not the Unit Membership Chair – must sign the veteran eligibility section. Please don't send them expecting the Department to take care of these things. You may receive it back if it is incomplete. The application should not be used for a previous member renewal. Those need to go on the transmittal sheet with the word "rejoin" written somewhere with their name. I could go on, but I think what you should get out of this is if you are unsure about something, please call us and ask the question. It saves a lot of time.

I hope you have plans to get to the Convention in Kearney June 20-23. President Lisa will say her thankyou's for a wonderful year, chairs will report on Unit accomplishments, we will usher in a new year with a new president, and lots of other fun stuff! It's always nice to see old friends and meet new ones.

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## AUXILIARY EMERGENCY FUND (AEF)

Elizabeth Paes, Chair

I wish to take a moment to thank all the Districts and Units who made donations to AEF. Special thanks to those who went the extra mile to help our members. To the Bennington Unit (who held a soup supper to raise funds) and to District 8 (who held an auction of branded Auxiliary clothes). Thank You for all you have done. To the individuals who made personal donations, thank you for thinking of our members who need help.

This has been a violent Spring weather-wise. Please remember the Auxiliary Emergency Fund is "Members helping Members." If you have had damage and need help, the AEF is here. The help is completely anonymous, forms are emailed directly to National. Up to \$3,000 may be awarded for Disaster Relief up to three weeks following the disaster.

You must be eligible to receive a grant. What does that mean? That means the current year's dues, plus 2023- and 2022-years dues paid as well. Another reason to have your dues paid.

Again, thank you for all you do for our Veterans, Military, their families and for our members. See you at Convention!

(AEF grant forms are available on the National website [alaforveterans.org](http://alaforveterans.org))

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### STAR – JULY ISSUE

Lorene Bartos, Editor

402-310-3481

Good news!! There will be a July issue of THE STAR. Current and incoming officers, please have an article for this issue. Incoming chairs may share any information for the new year. Please have all articles to me by June 10, 2024, as there will be a short turnaround time with the convention this month. Send articles to [Lbartos1@unl.edu](mailto:Lbartos1@unl.edu), [ALTheStarNE@yahoo.com](mailto:ALTheStarNE@yahoo.com) or [lb32906@windstream.net](mailto:lb32906@windstream.net). Any questions, call 402-310-3481.

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### JUNIORS

Crys Bauermeister

#### Juniors Have Successful Convention

Department Junior Convention was held Saturday, March 23, in St. Paul, where Samantha Stepanek, Department Junior President presided over the convention. Samantha's theme of *Growing Together with Veterans* was very apparent, as she raffled various yard items to support her service project. The St. Paul unit also included live plants as part of the door prizes available.

During the meeting, juniors had some networking time, as well as a service-learning activity where they learned how to make poppies, plus the history behind poppies. Following lunch, officers for 2024-2025 were installed. The new president, Shia Rasmussen, will be in Kearney at the Department Convention, where she will announce her president's project for her term as honorary department junior president.

Installed as the Vice President was Erica Fuchs. Although unable to attend the Junior Convention, Kendall Kasl will serve as the Historian and Cora Pankoke was installed as the Chaplain.

Make plans to attend the department junior convention next spring.

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### **MEMBERSHIP**

Loree Hendrickson

Upon becoming a Unit President in the fall of 2014, I began my year by attending a Leadership Training at which several Department Committee Chairs spoke, including Barbie Meyer, whom we all know as a Past Department President, but who was at that time the Membership Chair. She was funny and engaging (isn't she always?), and yet I still remember thinking, "That has to be the worst job there is. I would NEVER want to do that." Fast forward nine years, and I found myself becoming Nebraska's Membership Chair, proving that (a) "never say never," and (b) there is always room for growth.

Thank you, Pony Express Riders, for proving yourselves to be "**Nebraska Strong and Faithful by Serving Veterans Always.**" Here are some highlights from the past year:

- 34 Units from all 13 Districts in Nebraska turned in reports. Your numbers included:
  - 97 volunteers worked on membership (nearly 3 members per reporting Unit)
  - 1,498 volunteer hours on membership were reported (nearly 15 hours per volunteer and 44 hours per Unit)
  - \$875 was spent on membership (\$25 per reporting Unit)
- As of this writing, eight Units have reached 100% for membership: Bayard Unit #200, Craig Unit #127, Hayes Center Unit #287, Hemingford Unit #9, Howells Unit #155, Oxford Unit #219, Plymouth Unit #243, and Syracuse Unit #100.

Nebraskans used many standard methods of renewing, recruiting, and rejoining membership, including letters, phone calls, information tables at events, and publishing information in local newspapers. But innovative techniques were tapped as well:

- Cody Unit #319 held a Back-to-School Potluck Dinner for their local school's faculty and administration, to which the entire community was invited. The publicity for the event included a notation that any current or new Auxiliary members who paid their dues by the date of the picnic would have their names entered into a

drawing for gift cards to local businesses. This Unit renewed 23 members and joined 4 new ones, as well as discovering 3 prospective members.

- Gretna Unit #216 assigned a theme to each month's meeting. August was "Membership" month, at which the Unit went out to dinner in lieu and listened to a dual member give a presentation on her time in Iraq and Afghanistan. In September, the theme was "History," and each member was encouraged to bring a photo and tell the story of his/her veteran. After hearing all these wonderful accounts, who would not want to pay their dues?

Some Units chose to reward members as a recruitment tool. For example, Auxiliary pins were provided to new members and/or certificates given to members reaching milestones for continuous membership. A few Units chose to pay the dues for any aging members who were no longer able to do so. My personal favorite was the Unit who presented a quilt to a member reaching 50 years of membership.

Way to go, Pony Express Riders! You can all be proud of your work.

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### **NATIONAL SECURITY**

Vicki Ozenbaugh

We are on the home stretch of the 2023-2024 Auxiliary year, but that does not mean we stop working the programs. Please continue to donate blood, wear RED on Friday's, send care packages, share the POW/MIA Empty Table story, recognize our Gold Star mothers, sisters, or families, present Blue Star banners and Quilts of Valor, and always, always, always, support our Veterans, Military, Communities, and Children & Youth.

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### **LEADERSHIP**

Nancy Patras

There are leaders in all of us. What type of leader are you? I will have a handout at the Department Convention with different leadership styles. I ask you to take it to your Unit meeting and have fun seeing what kind of leaders you all are.

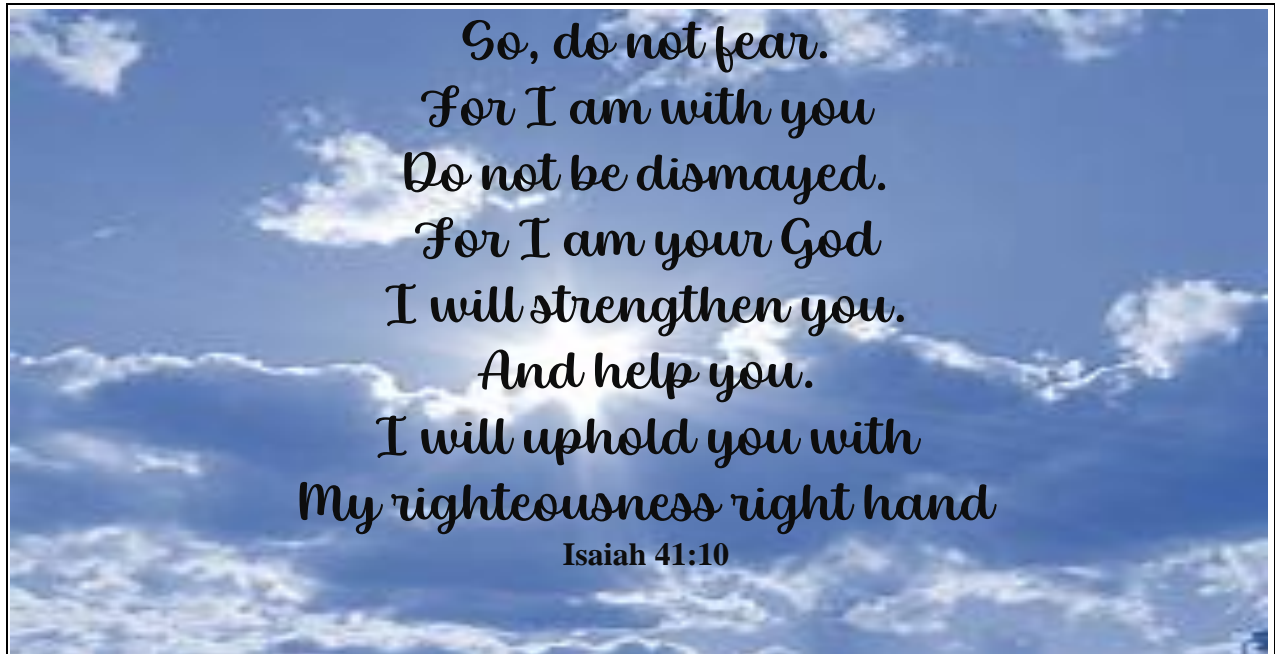
Did everyone get their reports submitted to the Department? This is something we all need to work on.

The Nebraska Unit Member of the Year has been selected. I am very proud of all the things she has done for the Auxiliary and our Veterans. Is it you? Plan to be at the Department Convention in Kearney to find out if it is you or who it is!

Leaders are not born, they are made. We can all mentor each other to be a leader. We just need to remember there are different styles of leaders!

**DEPARTMEN CHAPLAIN**

Vicki Cyboron



I want each of you to find the comfort and encouragement to these words knowing that God is with us each day. Even in challenging circumstances, we know our strength and hope comes from God as he upholds us in his 'righteousness right hand.' The divine strength that God provides us, it is the sufficient guide to get through any situation that we are in.

Remember take pride in what you are doing and be kind to yourself. God will get you through all your life's challenges.

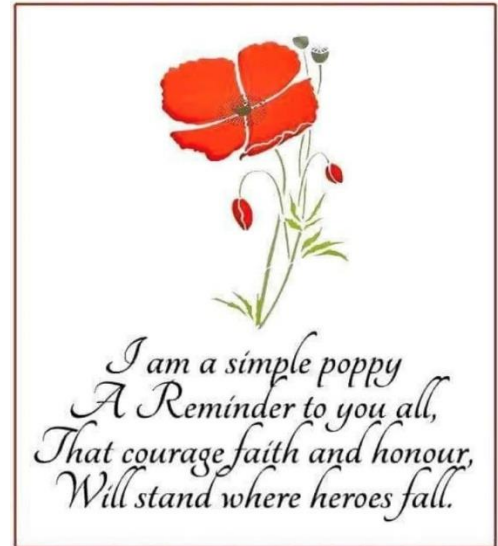
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**POPPY**  
Lori Reimers

Wow! What a year it has been as your Department Poppy Chair. I have painted wooden poppies to make into pins for a donation of \$5. The money raised will be donated to the Veteran's Homes and Hospitals in Nebraska. I will have the pins at the State Convention in Kearney.

I had the privilege to judge the Poppy Posters. And the winners are:

- Class I -- Kwynn Graham Unit 90 Valentine
- Class II -- Joslyn Kollmorgan Unit 133 Palisade
- Class III -- Tenley Panowicz Unit 48 Loup City
- Class IV -- Caroline Davis Unit 27 Beatrice
- Class V -- Neltje Reiff Unit 59 Callaway
- Class VI -- Jazmyne Diaz-McCall Unit 335 Davenport
- Class VII -- Emme Price Unit 48 Loup City



The non-winning posters will be at the State Convention in Kearney. District Presidents can pick them up there.

I have had a great Poppy Year as your Department Poppy Chair.

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**EDUCATION/SCHOLARSHIPS**

Cathy Webber

**\*\*CORRECTED COPY\*\***

(I missed a couple of names when I typed my article last month and want to correct that in this month's article. Sorry for the error.)

2024 Department scholarships have been completed by the scholarship committee with the winners chosen. We had a total of 105 Department scholarship applications received from the Nebraska ALA Memorial Scholarship, Healthcare scholarship and the Career and Technical scholarship.

The application process was reviewed for completion of all the items that were met on the scholarship application. Items that were incomplete were noted before the committee met. If the application was complete a check mark was made in the completed column and those applications were reviewed for the final selection of the scholarship. A tally sheet for all scholarships were followed noting Scholarship (40 points) Narrative/Application (30 points) Character and Leadership (30 points).

Congratulations to the following winners!

### **Nebraska ALA Memorial Scholarship**

- Georgia Ramsey, Unit 377, Wilcox, NE – First place
- Brooke Bryant, Unit 213, Wallace, NE – Second place

### **Healthcare Professional Scholarship** (I apologize to those whose names that I mixed up in this category.)

- Brooke Hilgenkamp, Unit 71, Arlington, NE – Presented by Past Presidents Parley
- Skyler Kuhlman, Unit 213, Wallace, NE – Presented by Past Presidents Parley
- Brady Carnell, Unit 117, Ponca, NE
- Ava Fischer, Unit 178, Beaver Crossing, NE
- Savannah Horne, Unit 218, Exeter
- Kenzie Strein, Unit 243, Plymouth, NE
- Lily Srajhans, Unit 68, Geneva, NE
- Macy Hansen, Unit 170, Tilden NE
- Cora Payne, Unit 49, Utica
- Addison Overholser, Unit 377, Wilcox

### **Career and Technical Scholarship**

- Wyatt Ozenbaugh, Unit 193, Ohiowa, NE
- Hunter J. Blume, Unit 344, Indianola, NE
- Seth Stengel, Unit 164, Shickley, NE
- Max Peterson, Unit 262, Yutan, NE
- Hudson Fahrenbruch, Unit 143, Springfield, NE

For the National Scholarships, there were 23 applications with six applications properly completed for judging. These applications are submitted online to National Headquarters and forwarded to me for our judging. National provides a scoring rubric for judging that has to be submitted with the winners being sent on for further judging at the National level. Congratulations to the winners!

### **National Children of Warriors Scholarship**

- Hayden Johnson, Papillion

**(\*\*Note:** Per our Constitution and Bylaws, Standing Rule, Section W, 5a, when Nebraska does not have a National winner, a \$500 scholarship is awarded to our submitted applicant.)

### **National Spirit of Youth Scholarship**

- Ryanne Mackling, Emerson, NE

**(\*\*Note: Ryanne won at the National Level the National Spirit of Youth Scholarship for the Department of Nebraska!! So BIG CONGRATULATIONS to Ryanne!** Per our Constitution and Bylaws, Standing Rule, Section W, 5b, when Nebraska has a National winner, the alternate is awarded a \$500 scholarship. Therefore, **Carley Thompsen**, from Eustis, is the recipient.

I want to thank the Scholarship Team for their help and expertise in reviewing the applications. Thank you to all the students who took the time to apply.



## VOLUNTEERS STILL NEEDED

Thank you to those who have volunteered to help at the Department Convention. We still need more volunteers for registration and pages. Please contact Roxanne at 402-466-1808. Thank you!

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### TENTATIVE DEPARTMENT CONVENTION 2024 SCHEDULE

June 20 – 23, 2024

Holiday Inn

Kearney, Nebraska

#### Thursday, June 20, 2024

1:00 pm DEC Meeting  
Candidate Announcements

#### Friday, June 21, 2024

8:30 am General Session  
11:30 am Recess for Lunch  
1:00 pm Joint Session  
General Session Reconvenes

#### Saturday June 22, 2024

8:00 am General Session  
11:30 am Recess for Lunch  
1:00 pm General Session Reconvenes  
4:30 pm Candidate Reception  
5:30 pm Legion & Auxiliary Special Signing

#### Sunday June 23, 2024

8:00 am Worship Service  
9:00 am General Session  
Election of Officers  
Installation of Officers  
Close of 2024 Department Convention

Post DEC Meeting and 2024 National Convention Information  
(All 2024-2025 Officers, Chairs, and 2024 National Delegates attend Post DEC)

## WHAT TO BRING TO CONVENTION

- ✓ Your 2024 ALA Membership Card
- ✓ \$10 Registration Fee
- ✓ Any forms/documents for Headquarters
  - 2024-2025 Unit Leadership
- ✓ Permission Slip to pick up another Unit's Membership Cards (included in this Newsletter)
- ✓ A friend or two
- ✓ Questions to ask

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## 2025 MEMBERSHIP PACKETS with CARDS

All Unit Membership Packets with the 2025 membership cards will be brought to the Department Convention for distribution. Any member may sign for their Unit's packet. You must have written permission from any Unit that is not your own to sign out their Membership Packet (see below). Any 2025 Membership Packet not picked up at the Convention will be mailed with a \$10 invoice attached.

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### PERMISSION TO TAKE 2025 MEMBERSHIP PACKET with CARDS

Unit No. \_\_\_\_\_ of \_\_\_\_\_ gives permission to the below named individual to pick up our 2025 Membership Packet at the 2024 Department Convention in Kearney, Nebraska, June 20-23, 2024.

Name of Individual \_\_\_\_\_

Permission granted by \_\_\_\_\_

| Name | Title | Unit # |
|------|-------|--------|
|------|-------|--------|