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DEPARTMENT of NEBRASKA 150 NW 40th St Unit B Lincoln, Nebraska 68528

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AUGUST-SEPTEMBER 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). Thank you!!

FROM THE DEPARTMENT PRESIDENT

Hello everyone! I hope you are all enjoying the end of summer and the nice weather we have been having. I want to thank everyone who was able to attend the Leadership School and Homecoming on August 10th. We had a great turnout and a lot of great information was shared. What a great way to kick off the year for Commander Boyd, Sons Commander Eldon, and myself.

National Convention is right around the corner and many of us will be traveling to New Orleans for the meetings. Be sure to attend your District Fall Round-ups to hear from those that attended the convention.

Monday, September 2nd is Veterans Appreciation Day at the Nebraska State Fair. The Nebraska American Legion Auxiliary will be participating in the parade that they are having. There is a program at 10:30 a.m. and the parade will start at 1:00 p.m. We will plan to meet at 12:00 p.m. to line up for the parade. Please send me an email or text if you are planning to attend, and I will send you some free entry tickets. I hope to see many of you there.

Included in this newsletter are the donation forms, poppy order forms, VA & R schedule of events, and assessment forms. Please be sure to fill these out and get them returned to Department Headquarters. If you have any questions about any of them, please contact Roxanne.

The next newspaper will be going out in October. Please send any pictures or articles to Lorene Bartos at LBartos1@unl.edu and she will do her best to get them in the paper.

I look forward to seeing many of you along the way, and I would love if you would invite me to any of your events or Unit meetings.

"Always Remembering Their Service"

Amanda Washburn

Please be aware there is an email scam that appears to be coming from President Amanda. If it is not her email address (amandafaye33@gmail.com), **DELETE IT!**

FROM THE OFFICE Roxanne & Jacki

****IMPORTANT INFORMATION: Starting September 5, regular office hours will change for a few weeks. The office will be closed September 5, 6, 10, and 12. Someone will be in the office from 10:00 am to 2:00 pm on September 9, 11, and 13. Regular office hours should resume beginning September 16. If you need assistance during the time the office is closed, please leave a message on the answering machine. You can also call 402-405-9505 for assistance after September 9. Membership will be processed during this time, so please continue to submit it.

It's the beginning of a new year. You are receiving the Annual Donation Forms, Home and Gift Shop assessments, Gifts for Yanks Unit and Post donations and Poppy order forms. The General and VA & R donations are due November 1. We set this date so we have VA & R donations in place for all the VA & R activities that start in November. All donations on the blue, green and purple pages can go on one check.

The Gift Shop and Home Assessment figures are based on the membership for your Unit 30 days prior to Department Convention. Please do not change the amounts sent out on the forms. Thank you.

The Poppy order form also has the November 1 date. We DO NOT have large poppies for sale. We DO have plenty of poppies, so please order what you need. We take District orders to Department Mid-Year Conference, and they are picked up by the District Presidents to take back for District Convention. If you need poppies before that, please indicate so on the form. Poppy orders need to be on a separate check from donations. Poppy orders are sales and not donations, thus why you pay sales tax on them.

The VA & R dates are included. There are now two Stand Down dates. One for Omaha and one for Lincoln. Papillion Community Living Center (PCLC) has also been added. It is a new entity that is under the umbrella of the Omaha VAMC. They house longer term care and hospice patients at this facility. If you have questions about any event, please contact the Chairman or Representative of that facility (contact information sheet included in this newsletter).

The ALAMIS sign up for Units is also included. If there is a printed sticker on the bottom with a name, it means that person is the current user. You do not have to have ALAMIS access to process your Unit membership. This is a Unit decision. If you do choose to sign up, you need to indicate if you want to remove or add to your Unit users and return with the correct fee attached. Each Unit is allowed two users with whichever level of access you choose.

Included is a copy of the IRS form 8822B. The sticker on the bottom has the name of the current person on file. If this person needs to be changed, then indicate it on the top of the form and return. If there is no change, return it with the words "No Change." We would really appreciate the response.

Membership for 2025 is open. I am unable to enter new applications for 2025 until September 1. If you send them before that date, I will hold them until then – unless they want to pay 2024 AND 2025 at the same time. If you are a Unit member with full ALAMIS access, please pay attention to this. If you pay a new application before September 1, it will be for 2024 dues. You will then owe 2025 dues right away. NOTE: All membership

submitted to Department must be on a transmittal form – this includes NEW Member Applications. And before you ask....yes, new Junior membership has to be submitted on a membership form and a transmittal form.

This year we did not make a separate transmittal sheet for your SLM and PUFL members. Please submit them on the transmittal sheets you send with your Sr/Jr memberships. Please check to be sure you are sending the correct amount for a Junior. We know you've known them since they were babies, but they do grow up fast and may now be a Senior member. If your roster says they are now a senior, you must pay the senior dues amount for them.

We have a lot of trouble with Unit names and numbers. Part of it is our fault. We have over the years transitioned from asking for the Unit name (Mette-Reed for instance) and actually only want the town where your Unit is located and the all-important Unit number, i.e. 270 Venango. If you don't have your Unit number on your bank account checks, please do so when you reorder. It makes matching things up a lot easier here in our office.

We are hoping *The Star* gets back on track since the Legion has hired a new Media Specialist. *The Star* will have an October issue, and the next issue of this newsletter will be November.

With the interruption in communications to our membership with no newspaper, it is really important that your Unit members are privy to what is in these newsletters. Thanks for your help in spreading the information around.

AMERICANISM Cie Kauth

Hi! I'm Cie Kauth, the Americanism Chairman for this year. As schools are beginning, I want to share this year's essay theme so you can get the request out to the schools (remember the home schooled families and any civic organizations).

This year's essay is "What Does America the Beautiful Mean to Me." I would like the units to receive the essays from the schools by February 15 so you can have some extra time to judge them before sending them to me by March 15. I only have one month to judge them before I send them to National by April 15. The cover sheet will be made available at a later date.

You can send the essays by mail or email. Thanks!

My contact information is:

Cie Kauth P.O. Box 97 Belden Ne. 68717

Email: cie.kauth@gmail.com

AUXILIARY EMERGENCY FUND (AEF) Barbie Meyer, Chair

The AEF is one of those programs that we need to donate to with the hopes that no one needs to utilize. However, with how Mother Nature has been across the country and personal hardships that can affect us, it is good to have the AEF. Remember, it is "members helping members."

The two grants available and basic information are:

HARDSHIP ASSISTANCE

- Provides temporary assistance to eligible members during a time of financial crisis when no other source of aid is readily available
- Used to pay for shelter, basic household utilities, and/or for loss of income
- May be awarded up to \$3,000
- One AEF grant per grantee awarded in a 12-month period
- Applicant must be a current ALA member
- Applicant must have maintained annual ALA membership for three consecutive years (the current year and immediate past two years

DISASTER ASSISTANCE

- Provides emergency assistance to ALA members in areas devastated by a natural disaster
- Applicants with damage to primary residence and/or displayed/evacuated from residence, and/or had out-of-pocket expenses for temporary emergency expenses as a result of the disaster
- May be awarded up to \$3,000
- One AEF grant per grantee awarded in a 12-month period
- Applicant must be a current ALA member
- Applicant must have maintained annual ALA membership for three consecutive years (the current year and immediate past two years)
- Application must be received within six months of disaster

The application can be submitted on-line, via fax, or my mail. The forms are available on alaforveterans.org and includes specific information on applying. Applications are sent directly to National Headquarters. A person does not have to obtain any information from their Unit or Department.

One last thing to know—only one AEF grant (whether hardship or disaster) will be awarded per grantee in a 12-month period.

DISTINGUISHED GUEST Vicki Ozenbaugh

It was an honor to chauffeur our 2023-2024 National President Lisa Williamson for her official visit to Nebraska..

An abbreviated report is National President Lisa, 2023-2024 President Lisa Moore, 2024-2025 President Amanda Washburn, and myself traveled just over 900 miles. NP Lisa experienced Wilber Czech Days, a visit with Past National President Carol VanKirk, a tour

of the Central Nebraska and Eastern Nebraska Veterans Homes, Omaha Fisher House, and Papillion Community Living Center.

A detailed report, including pictures, will be in the October issue of *The Star*.

EDUCATION Cathy Webber 308-470-0689 ~ catwebb1971@gmail.com

This is the start of the new year 2024-2025. I attended the Leadership Training in Ashland, Nebraska on August 10, 2024, for President Amanda Washburn. Had a great turnout. Leadership Chair put on a great program with the input from President Amanda's Department Chairs.

Being the Education Chair there are so many things to share with the units that can be passed on throughout the communities and schools "to promote quality education for children, especially for military children, and adults" (Standing Rule #6 – Mission Outreach Programs).

- Promote quality education for children, especially for military children and adults.
 - o Participate in ALA's Give 10 to Education
 - o Present an *Education Certificate* to members who donate at least 10 items to schools. 10 items per 10 members is 100 is effective.
 - o This could be a challenge for all 13 Districts in the State of Nebraska to donate to all the schools in each district.
- Participate in American Education Week (November 18-22, 2024)
 - Recognize school Administrator and staff with special treats.
 - o Host a luncheon for them.
 - Make special door hangars for their doors showing them appreciation.
- Encourage schools to participate in Month of the Military Child and Purple UP! Day on April 15 to honor their students who are military children.
 - Sponsor a Purple UP! Day on April 15 in your school by providing purple items for students to wear.
 - Present the Military Child Table at your school, unit meeting, or at your post.
 - o Sponsor a party for the military children in your school.
- Participate in Teachers Appreciation Week. (May 5-9, 2025)
 - Contact your local Parent Teacher Organizations or school to see what your unit could sponsor or donate (e.g., snacks, doughnuts, soda) to the local school.
 - Show your appreciation to teachers by designing and presenting Certificates of Appreciation.
 - Provide Teacher Survival Kits with fun and helpful items such as candy and snacks, tea bags or coffee, restaurant gift cards, or items for the classroom.
- Encourage schools to invite veterans to speak in their classrooms.
 - o Work with your American Legion Post to participate in <u>Veterans in</u> Community Schools.

- Ask the teacher(s) to have their students make cards for the veteran.
- o Collaborate with the teacher(s) to prepare students to ask questions of the veteran.
- Support and Promote the Education Program and Scholarship opportunities of the American Legion Family.
 - o Promote the American Legion Auxiliary's Scholarships. Visit https://wwwlegion-aux.org/scholarships.
 - Promote the American Legion's scholarships by visiting https://www.legion.org/scholarships to learn more about the Legion's scholarship opportunities.
 - o The scholarships will be available online in September.

If there are any questions, you are always welcome to contact me by my phone number or email above.

LEADERSHIP Tina Nelson

Leadership can look different for each member and can even be different for that same member at different levels (unit, county, district, department and for some even national). Being a leader at the unit level doesn't even mean you have to have a position. You can greet guests or help a new member through the basics. Things like how a meeting is opened (making sure they have a copy of the preamble) or how it is ran (simple things like two raps of the gavel is to get attention, one rap to sit, three to stand). Just being a good mentor for other members is a huge piece of good leadership.

At all levels there are "jobs" available for every leadership style. Some like to have a position (set job) where they can share their knowledge or strength. Others may not see themselves as a leader at all but are the first to jump in and help fill any gaps at a fundraiser or event. Leadership doesn't always mean being in the spotlight (like Steve Harvey at the Leadership School). It does take a village to grow our organization. The more members/volunteers we have the better we can help our veterans, which is what our organization is all about.

Leadership School was held on August 10 in Ashland. I think that everyone that attended learned something. We highlighted information about our programs from the website (https://member.legion-aux.org/Home) Program Engagement Plans (PEP). Your department chairs are a great resource, but I highly recommend checking out the information available on the website.

If your unit, county or district does some type of leadership training, please reach out to me (402-469-3367 or trnelson81602@gmail.com). I would love to check it out. I'm hoping to do at least one training this fall at a unit meeting and one in the spring (possibly during our Legion Family Day Event on Saturday April 26). The ALA academy, which is available on the website, provides the information for this training.

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LEGISLATIVE CHALLENGE FOR 2024-2025

Barb Washburn, Chair

Please accept my challenge to sign up to receive Action Alerts from the American Legion Grassroots Action Center. If writing letters or emails to your folks in DC is challenging, the Grassroots Action Center offers an easy way for our voices to be heard.

It is as easy as registering through the American Legion Grassroots Action Center. You can access it through the Legislative page on the ALA National website (ALAforVeterans.org) or directly at the American Legion Grassroots Action Center (https://votervoice.net/AmericanLegion/register).

The screen below is what you'll see:



Once registered, you will receive an email containing a link to a pre-created email for Senators or Representatives about crucial veteran legislation being considered in the House and Senate. Your address is used to determine your Congressional members. This system has proven to be a powerful tool, allowing us to communicate the American Legion's stance to our Congressmen in DC with just a click.

You can check out state legislation at https://nebraskalegislature.gov/ to see what our state senators are doing in Lincoln. Stay tuned for more information about Legislative Day at the State Capitol in early 2025.

MEMBERSHIP Loree Hendrickson, Chair

Hello Members of the American Legion Auxiliary! I am honored to once again serve as the Department of Nebraska's Membership Chair for the coming year.

Every one of us needs to let our members know they are the ALA's MOST VALUABLE ASSET! So take some time at your next meeting to let your members know they are appreciated. Remind them that their volunteer service not only honors our veterans and our military, but it will also grow your Unit's membership. And if we all sustain our membership, our organization will absolutely be able to continue our history of success for our veterans.

To enhance our members' experience, Trish Ward, the leading candidate for ALA National President in 2024-2025, has announced her theme for the upcoming year as "Leading the Way," using the North Star as her symbol and the elements in nature as building blocks for growth in membership. In the Northwestern Division, our "building block" is Energy. Meanwhile, Nebraska's Department President Amanda Washburn has adopted a theme of "Always Remembering Their Service" (ARTS), and her project is to support the Veterans Creative Arts Festival.

In an attempt to combine Energy with Creativity here in Nebraska, I chose something which nearly all of us support – and one I know our Department President wholeheartedly cheers on – namely Husker Sports. In order for Nebraska Athletics to be successful, our coaches need to recruit. And in order for the American Legion Auxiliary to continue to be successful, our members must recruit. So this year, each District has been assigned a team from the University of Nebraska Athletic Department to cheer on and encourage as we recruit in our own ranks:

- District 1 Women's Track & Field, B1G Conference Runner-Up
- District 2 Men's Track & Field, B1G Conference Champion
- District 3 Men's Baseball, B1G Conference Tournament Champion
- District 4 Women's Soccer, B1G Conference Co-Champion & NCAA Final Four
- District 5 Men's Basketball, At Large Bid to NCAA Tournament
- District 6 Men's Gymnastics, Finished 4th in NCAA National Meet
- District 7 Women's Basketball B1G Conference Runner-Up
- District 8 Women's Rifle 8th in NCAA Championships
- District 9 Men's Wrestling 3rd in B1G Conference & 9th in Nation
- District 10 Women's Gymnastics Qualified for NCAA Championship Meet
- District 11 Women's Volleyball B1G Conference Champion & 2nd in Nation
- District 12 Women's Bowling 3rd at NCAA Championship
- District 13 Men's Football No accolades, but who doesn't love Husker Football!

BENEFITS OF ALA MEMBERSHIP

As an ALA member, you bring untold value to our nation's veterans through your service to our mission. But did you know there are additional benefits available to you as well – just for being an ALA member?

Below are some of those benefits. You can find more information about each on the ALA's website at www.alaforveterans.org.

- Insurance, including long-term care, life, dental, and vision
- Hardship Assistance through the Auxiliary Emergency Fund
- Retail & Travel Discounts

UNIT GOALS

Goals have been adjusted this year in order to make them more realistic and attainable for all. In Nebraska's case, National looked at what our membership total was on the date 30 days prior to the 2023 National Convention, then asked us to increase that number (15,186) by 2% – to 15,490. Nebraska closed out the 2024 membership year on July 31 with 14,040 members.

Take a moment to look at your Unit roster. Are there names on it who need to be reported to Department Headquarters as deceased? Are there former members on it who might be willing to rejoin? Then take a look at your community. Are there folks out there with a veteran in their family who might like to honor that veteran's service by joining? Finally, take a look at your communities organizations. We all have those "go-getters" in our communities who love volunteer service. Even if they're not eligible to join themselves, they might be willing to help you contact others. Every new and rejoined member gets the Department of Nebraska one step closer to our goal.

RENEWAL NOTICES

Transmitting memberships in a timely fashion is important. Once a member has paid his/her dues, their effort not only helps your membership total, but the member expects to be listed on the rolls as paid. All Membership Chairs should be honoring these expectations.

Renewal notices will be mailed to members on September 15, 2024. Any member who was not reported by your Unit to National by the date of August 9 will receive this 1st notice. A 2nd renewal notice will be mailed on February 1, 2025, and will include any member who was not reported by your Unit to National by January 2, 2025.

Finally, the last day to make changes to your roster for the 2026 membership year will be April 1, 2025. So remember to send in the transfer forms for any deceased or transferring members, as well as any members changing their names or addresses.

Thank you, Nebraska members, for allowing me to serve the ALA Department of Nebraska once again as Membership Chair. I look forward to working with all of you to increase our Unit and Department membership.

NATIONAL SECURITY Vicki Ozenbaugh, 2023-2024

Something exciting will happen at the 2024 National Convention that comes from what was promoted in National Security for the 2023-2024 year. Nebraska has a recipient of the Salute to Servicemembers Award!

JoAnn Sieck, Pleasant Dale Unit #354, submitted Chief Master Sergeant Dustin D. Troyer, USAF, for the award. He will be recognized on Monday, August 26, during the morning general session. CMS Troyer is JoAnn's grandson.

The process to nominate someone is an online one. That did not deter JoAnn from learning how to navigate the system. And look at the end result? A winner that is deserving of the award and Pleasant Dale Unit #354 and Department of Nebraska receiving recognition as well. Thanks, JoAnn, for stepping up to the task and congratulations!

Start thinking now as to whom you could nominate for the Salute to Servicemembers Award. Information is available on the National website, alaforveterans.org.

POPPY Elsa Knight. Chair

Hello everyone! My name is Elsa Knight. I am a member of Lincoln Unit 3, and I am excited to serve as this year's Poppy Chair for the Nebraska American Legion Auxiliary. I'm looking forward to promoting various Poppy events, such as the Poppy poster contest, Poppy Day, and the Little Miss Poppy contest. As the year progresses, I will provide updates on application guidelines, rules, and deadlines. Please feel free to reach out if you have any questions at 402-762-5056 or knightelsa15@gmail.com. I'm eagerly anticipating all the fun we'll have this year!

THE STAR Lorene Bartos, Editor

Exciting news! There will be an October/November issue of THE STAR. Please have any articles and pictures to me by September 10. You may submit them to LBartos1@unl.edu.

VETERANS AFFAIRS & REHABILITATION (VA & R) Beverly Neel, Chair

MONETARY DONATIONS TO FACILITIES

Units, Districts, and Members – When you are preparing to make a monetary donation to any of our CVA Medical Centers in Nebraska or Nebraska Veterans Homes, please remember to send your donations to the Department Office using the enclosed Department of Nebraska & National Veteran Projects donation sheet (green). The donations will be recorded to the appropriate facility; thereafter, the funds will be available to the facility upon the facility presenting a voucher to the VA & R Chair. We are trying to maintain an accurate money trail from your Unit/District/Members to the event/project. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me. Thank you.

SPECIAL SCHEDULED DATES

Each year the ALA Department of Nebraska has scheduled events for which your Units, Districts, and/or Members donate the funding; namely, Veterans Dollar Day (November),

Gifts for yanks (December) (both at the Nebraska Veterans Homes and VA Medical Centers), and Gift Shops (December at the Nebraska VA Medical Centers). It is great to see new faces attend, and it will warm your heart to see how our beloved Veterans appreciate our gift of money and especially our time and listening ear. Be sure to wear the brand and arrive at least one-half hour before the events begin. The ALA appointees at the facilities should verify through their respective facility if there are any restrictions and share them with the Department Office and VA & R Chair. The Nebraska American Legion Family VA & R Schedule of Events is included in this newsletter. Thank you.

HAPPENINGS AT OUR VETERANS FACILITIES

Norfolk Veterans Home (NVH)

LaRee Kubes, Chair

Hi, all members. My name is LaRee Kubes. I am an ALA and American Legion Rider (ALR) member, President of Unit #16, Norfolk, along with being ALA District #2 Vice-President and honored to continue serving as ALA NVH Chair.

We are very fortunate to have an outstanding group of Auxiliary members from all Districts (especially #2, #3, and #7) along with all American Legion Family members that continue to enrich our NVH Veterans and their families lives. We, also, have a fantastic group of volunteers that assist with various activities to enable Veterans and their families to enjoy attending.

My goal for this year is to further enhance our Veterans and their families lives by creating more activities and working together more as the American Legion Family volunteers to come up with new ideas and ways to get this accomplished.

It has been awesome to see the smiles, laughter, and creativity that everyone has brought to our residents in the variety of ways, whether by music, conversation, activity, games, or just by visiting. I hope to see this continue. After all, we are their extended family.

We are always looking for more volunteers and ideas. Please feel free to contact me if I can help in any way. My contact information is lareekubes@yahoo.com or 402-841-6813.

Our current needs are patterns for recliner arm storage covers, with pockets, to help prevent falls; continued need for clothing protectors; sponsors for newspapers (*Omaha World Herald* and *Norfolk Daily News*) for six pods.

We are so glad to be supporting the continuation of a traditional favorite week that was lost during COVID. On Wednesday, August 21, the facility-wide Corn/Hamburger Feed was held. Then on Thursday, August 22, the facility-wide Corn Auction took place, enabling all members the opportunity to bid on and receive items they need and enjoy. They are given tokens to bid with. Good times were enjoyed by all!!

Grand Island VA Medical Center

Vicki Cyboron, Representative

Grand Island VA Medical Center (GI VAMC) average censuses of veterans the past year has been 55 veterans. It is always a pleasure working with the staff at the GI VAMC as they are very helpful to us and appreciate all we do and provide for the veterans and staff.

Recent needs lists are reading glasses higher than 2.5, USB C phone cables and plug ins. Any toiletry items except dental items as they get them through the VA. Items like shower gel, soap, razors, shaving cream are a few items that they use.

Thank you to everyone who has helped with the functions we have hosted. One function we had at the GI VAMC was a NCAA Tailgate Party, and we had a lot of fun with this; plus we handed out treat bags for Easter the same day. We started the process of updating one of the waiting rooms on the 3rd floor by making it a hospice family room.

Another activity was a morning of playing games. Although it was a chilly one on July 20, the veterans and volunteers enjoyed card playing, cornhole, balloon volleyball, golf-ball toss, and the Grand Island Legion Riders sponsored Poker Run motorcycle drive-by.

When providing items, please remember to write down your contact information (the address, phone number and contact name and who [what part of the Post Family].) This is a very important step so the VA knows who they can contact and send a thank you to your Unit or other part of your Post Family.

Please reach out if you have any questions or suggestions of events. Looking forward to seeing all the donations Nebraska American Legion Family donates to the Grand Island VA Medical Center.

Central Nebraska Veterans Home CNVH

Kathy Fisher, Chair

Greetings from Central Nebraska Veterans Home. The members had a fishing tournament last month with three members being Master Anglers. It was rather windy, but they still had a good time. They always enjoy playing bingo. We have Merrymaker concerts, which you see lots of toe tapping and clapping with the music.

Activities that groups can sponsor and assist with are Bingo parties, Ice Cream Socials, Pie Socials. You can contact Alicia Muller, Volunteer Coordinator, if interested (308-865-3473). They can use Gift Cards (Walmart, Amazon, etc.). The home has bird feeders outside each home. They need bird seed or donations for them to purchase seed. If interested in volunteering at CNVH, please call Jessica Modlin (308-865-3421) for details.

Eastern Nebraska Veterans Home ENVH

Donna Smith, Chair

Hello members of the American Legion Auxiliary and any American Legion Family members that may be reading this message. I would like to take this opportunity to introduce myself and bring you some important information related to the Eastern Nebraska Veterans Home.

My name is Donna Smith and have been recently appointed the Auxiliary VAVS chairman at the Eastern Nebraska Veterans Home. I am a 31-year member of the American Legion Auxiliary and currently a member at Valparaiso Unit 371. I have been volunteering at the Eastern Nebraska Veterans Home and former Thomas Fitzgerald Veterans Home in Omaha for over 40 years and have served as VAVS co-chairman at ENVH for the past 2 years. You may contact me via email at ddjssmith@msn.com or my cell phone number is 402-250-3309.

Now for the most important part of this message, what's happening at ENVH! We have a new volunteer coordinator in Katie Mahar-Flock, hired a few months back. Katie is young and energetic, ready to assist you and get you involved at ENVH. Her contact information is Katherine.mahar.flock@nebraska.gov or 402-595-2180. Sarah Ryan continues as the Activities Director at ENVH and is great to work with. She can provide you with wants and needs at ENVH. Her email is Sarah.ryan@nebraska.gov and phone 402-591-4862.

The exciting news is the new addition is nearly complete with the contractor making a few minor repairs and members will start moving into this new neighborhood in the near future. Once occupancy takes place, there will be some remodeling in the existing building. Once all of this is complete, ENVH will be able to increase their occupancy number, serving more veterans with much needed services.

If you have never taken the opportunity to volunteer at ENVH, you should consider it. You will find volunteering a very rewarding experience. ENVH has activities during the days, nights, and on the weekends--all of which volunteers are needed. The members are very appreciative of those visits and enjoy just seeing and talking with someone different than those they see on a day-to-day basis.

My primary goal this year is to get more members of The American Legion Family actively involved in volunteering at our Eastern Nebraska Veterans Home. This could be in any of our current activities or by starting a new one. Come put a smile on one of our Veterans face! I am here to help you get involved and serve. Feel free to contact me, and I will work with you to make your volunteer experience memorable and exciting!

LINCOLN COMMUNITY BASED OUTREACH CENTER CBOC

Linda Varejcka, Representative

When wish lists are presented, here is a reminder for everyone. The wish list goes out to everyone calling for "what do you need." There is no separate needs list for certain organizations. A lot of times they are only updated before the quarterly VAVS meeting.

For example, if a folding grocery/shopping cart would be put on the needs list and sent to ten to twenty organizations, it is possible that 100 carts could come in. We do not have storage or do not need that many. That is why the suggestion is made to always call when starting a donation to make sure an item is still needed. This lets the coordinators know what an organization is working on, and they can cross the item(s) off their list. They can also tell whoever calls if the item(s) has been filed.

An example of this. An organization received a needs list which indicated a musical keyboard was needed. The organization spent many hours, etc., to raise money to honor that request. When they took the keyboard to the facility, they were told "Oh, that item was filled, we don't need it." Unhappy and upset? Yes!!

(Additional information from Beverly Neel, Chair: When you are doing spring/fall closet cleaning, be sure to contact the facility you wish to donate gently used clothing or related items to be sure the facility needs them, has storage for them, or they have no interest in the items. Plan ahead to save a lot of time and effort. There are other non-profit entities available that may need your items—check them out.)

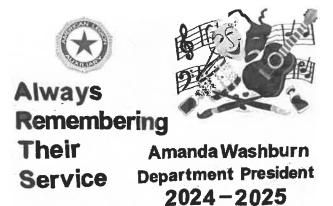
OMAHA VA STAND DOWN

Paula Pillen

Save the date of Friday, November 1, 2024, for the Omaha VA Stand Down. It will be held at the Milo Bail Student Center on the University of Omaha campus from 10 am to 2 pm. We hope you will join us in serving our homeless Veterans at this year's resource fair! Be on the lookout for more information in the following weeks.

DISTRICT FALL ROUNDUP SCHEDULE (time shown is the meeting time)

District 1	Sunday, October 6	Cody	1:00 pm Mountain Time
District 2	Sunday, October 6	Chambers	1:00 pm
District 3		No Roundup Held	
District 4	Saturday, October 26	Sidney	1:00 pm Mountain Time
District 5	Saturday, October 12	Stapleton	1:00 pm
District 6	Sunday, October 13	St. Paul	9:00 am
District 7	Sunday, October 13	David City	2:00 pm
District 8	Sunday, October 13	Blair	1:00 pm
District 9		No Roundup Held	
District 10	Saturday, September 28	Holstein	10:00 am
District 11	Saturday, October 12	Fairbury	2:00 pm
District 12	Saturday, October 19	Syracuse	
District 13	Saturday, October 12	Humboldt	11:30 am





Amount

\$

\$

American Legion Auxiliary Department of Nebraska General Donations 2024 - 2025 Form

1/2 Gifts for Yanks - Creative Arts

Supplement National Per Capita Dues

Raised Garden Beds for the Veteran's Facilities

Purpose

Funds support additional Delegate activites determined by need

Donations to the projects below may be combined into a single check. Be sure to indicate the amount you wish to contribute to each project.

Donations are appreciated by November 1st but are accepted throughout the year

Designation Name

Dept. Honorary Jr. President's Project

Nebraska State Life Member (SLM)

Department Presidents Project

Girls State Donation

\$	Women Veterans	Provides gifts to Women Veterans	s residing in VA facilities
\$	Career Technical Education	Scholarship fund: Community coll	lege or Technical school
\$	Past Presidents Parley		Professional Scholarships
\$	Little Red Schoolhouse Fund	Donations support Scholarships	
\$	Donation/Program of choice not listed	Unit wants to donate to this project	et
	List project:/purpose:		
	AMERICAN LEGION AUXILIA	ARY - <u>NATIONAL</u> SPECIAL	REQUESTS
Amount	Designation Name	Pupose	Allocations
\$	Aux. Emergency Fund	Members Helping Members	American Legion Auxiliary
\$	A.L.A. Foundation	Mission Endowment Fund	National programs
\$	Children of Warriors	National President's Scholarship	Awarded to Children of Veteran
\$	Child Welfare Foundation	Legion Youth Programs	American Legion
\$	TOTAL SUM OF UNIT ANNUAL DON	ATIONS	
5	amount enclosed	check #	date
Jnit #	Unit Town		District #
	MAKE CHECK PAYABL	E TO: Department Treasur	er A.L.A.
		ion Aunilians Department	of Nobraska
Mail to:	American Leg	ion Auxiliary - Department o	nebiaska

Retain a Copy for Unit records



American Legion Auxiliary Department of Nebraska & National Veteran Projects 2024 - 2025 Donation Form

Donations to the projects below may be combined into a single check. Be sure to indicate the amount you wish to contribute to each project.

Donations are appreciated by November 1st but are accepted throughout the year

Amount	Nebraska VA Facility	Allocations
	Recr	eation/Special Needs
\$	Omaha VAMC - OMVAMC	Veteran's Needs
\$	Papillion Community Living Center	Barber Chair
\$	Grand Island VAMC-GIVAMC	Hospice Room Furnishings
\$	Eastern NE Vets Home - EVH	
\$	Norfolk Vets Home-NVH	
\$	Central Nebraska Vets Home-CNVH	Gift cards, newspaper and magazine subscriptions
\$	Western NE Vets Home - WNVH	Flag Pole
\$	Lincoln CBOC	Hemeless O. Less Endurado Materials No. 1
\$	VA&R Special Needs	
\$	Veterans Dollar Days	
\$	Nebraska Creative Arts Festival	Support Nebraska Veterans Arts
\$	Omaha Fisher House	Serve families of VAMC patients
\$	Stand Down	Support Nebraska Stand Downs
\$	_ TOTAL SUM OF UNIT ANNUAL DON	ATION REQUESTS
\$	amount enclosed	check # date
Unit #	Unit Town	District #
	MAKE CHECK F	PAYABLE TO: Department Treasurer A.L.A.
Mail to:	American Le	egion Auxiliary - Department of Nebraska
	150 NW 40th St Unit B - Lincoln NE 68528	

Retain a Copy for Unit records

THANK YOU FOR YOUR CONTINUOUS SUPPORT!

2024-2025 VA Donations









The American Legion, Legion Auxiliary, Sons of the Legion and Legion Riders are co-sponsors of the "GIFTS FOR YANKS" program. Through donations from the Legion Family there will be a gift for every inpatient Veterans in the Nebraska VA Medical Centers (VAMC), Veteran residents in the Nebraska Veteran Homes and Regional Centers; and parties held at the VA Medical Centers in Hot Springs, South Dakota and Cheyenne, Wyoming.

All Inpatient Veterans in the Nebraska VA Medical Centers (VAMC), residents in the Nebraska Veteran Homes and Regional Centers will receive a gift of \$25 and their spouse will receive \$20.

The Posts, Units, Squadrons and the Riders may make a combined donation per the following chart or individual donations of equivalent or larger amounts.

ADDITIONAL DONATIONS ARE NEEDED TO CONTINUE THIS PROGRAM

Please send donations/assessments by November 1st of each year.

All donations will be reported on the National Veterans Affairs and Rehabilitation annual report form.

Match \$ below with combined members: Total of your Post, Unit, Squadron and Riders equal:

\$20.00 -Up to 100 combined members	\$30.00 - 100 to 199 combined members
\$50.00 -200 to 299 combined members	\$60.00 - 300 to 399 combined members
\$85.00 - 400 to 499 combined members	\$110.00 - 500 to 749 combined members
\$125.00 - Over 750 combined members	

Make check(s) payable to ALA Treasurer - memo GFY

Mail to: 150 NW 40th ST - Unit B, Lincoln NE 68528

Date	\$ Unit donation - ALA
District and #	\$ Post donation – TAL
Town	\$Squadron donation – SAL
Check(s) #	\$Legion Riders donation – LF
	\$Additional donation
Combined donations	\$

2024-2025 Poppy Order Form

Deadline is November 1st

Today's Date

ALL ORDERS WILL BE AT YOUR DISTRICT CONVENTION UNLESS UNIT ADVISES OTHERWISE

Submit order with payment to: American Legion Auxiliary, 150 NW 40th St - Unit B- Lincoln 68528

MAKE CHECK PAYABLE TO: ALA TREASURER

District #	Unit Location		Unit #	
Hundred(s) ordered	x \$17	plus sales tax	\$add \$10 if shipped	
Date poppies are needed:	if not at Dis	trict Convention see" Ship to " b	pelow	
Contact person:	Da	ay phone:		
Poppies will be delivere	ed to : District Convention	Shipped	Picked-up at Headquarters	
	We no longer stock larg	ge poppies due to price increas	e	
If you are req	uesting your order to be shipped	d, please fill in address informa	tion below.	
"SHIP Name:	TO ORDERS" ALL MAIL ORDER	RS WILL NEED TO INCLUDE A \$	10 SHIPPING FEE	
Address:		8-1-1		
City:			Zip:	
Cost of poppies \$	plus tax \$	plus postage \$10 ~~	TOTAL COST \$	
Use this	space only if you want your pop	py order mailed to the unit me	mber listed above.	
Be sure to add the sales tax	to your order \$	total enclosed	Check #	
Order early - We cannot guarantee that poppy orders received after January 1st can be filled. Calculate using Nebraska state tax of 5.5% plus your city sales tax - add tax to poppy order amount The latest sales tax rate chart is on the backside of this order form - taxes are subect to being changed				
•••••				
Keep this portion for your record - 2024-2025 UNIT POPPY ORDER				
Order mailed to Department Headquarters on Small poppies (per 100) Large Poppies not available				
Poppies will be delivered	to: District Convention	Mail Pick-up	at Department Headquarters	
Cost of Poppies \$	Total tax	plus \$10 if shipped	TOTAL PAID	

July, 2024 Nebraska State/City Sales Tax

5.50% Alexandria, Allen, Arthur, Aurora,

Barneston, Bartlett, Bartley, Belden, Bloomington, Boelus, Brewster, Bristow, Broadwater, Brunswick,

Carleton, Carroll, Cedar Bluffs, Colon, Comstock, Cook, Craig, Culbertson,

Dalton, Danbury, Davenport, Denton, Du Bois, Dwight, Eddyville, Elsie,

Fairmont, Garland, Glenvil, Hampton, Hardy, Hayes Center, Herman, Hershey, Holstein,

Kennard, Lebanon, Liberty, Lindsay, Lisco, Litchfield, Lynch,

Madrid, Malmo, Maxwell, Miller, Morse Bluff,

Naponee, Newcastle, Newport, North Loup, Ohiowa, Orleans, Overton, Palisade, Pleasant Dale, Polk, Potter, Prague, Primrose,

Ruskin, Scotia, Shelton, Shickley, Shubert, Stamford, Steele City, Swanton,

Table Rock, Talmage, Tobias, Tryon, Union, Valparaiso, Venango, Verdel, Virginia,

Wallace, Western, Weston, Wilcox, Winnebaago, Winside, Wolbach, Wood Lake, Yutan.

6.00% Homer

6.50% Arcadia, Arnold, Auburn, Bayard, Beaver City, Beaver Crossing, Bennet, Bloomfield, Brainard,

Callaway, Cedar Rapids, Chambers, Coleridge, Cortland, Creighton, Curtis, Dakota City, Dannebrog, Daykiin, De Witt, Deshler, Doniphan,

Dakota City, Dannebrog, Daykin, De Witt, Deshler, Doniphan,

Eagle, Edgar, Elgin, Elk Creek, Elm Creek, Elwood, Eustis,

Farnam, Franklin, Grant, Greenwood, Hallam, Hay Springs, Hooper, Hyannis, Jansen,

Laurel, Lawrence, Morrill, Mullen, Nehawka, Neligh, Nelson, Niobrara,

Oconto, Odell, Palmyra, Petersburg, Pierce, Rising City, Silver Creek, Spencer, Springview, Sterling, Syracuse,

Uehling, Wakefield, Wauneta, Wausa

7.00% Ainsworth, Albion, Alliance, Arlington, Ashland, Ashton, Atkinson,

Bassett, Battle Creek, Beemer, Bellwood, Benkelman, Bennington, Benson, Blair, Blue Hill,, Broken Bow, Bruning, Burchard, Burwell,

Campbell, Central City, Ceresco, Clay Center, Clearwater, Cody, Columbus, Cody, Columbus, Crab Orchard, Crawford, Crete, Crofton

Dodge, Dorchester, Elkhorn-Waterloo, Elmwood, Emerson, Ewing, Exeter, Fairfield, Fremont, Friend,

Gibbon, Gordon, Greeley, Gresham, Guide Rock, Hastings, Havelock, Hebron, Hemingford, Hickman, Howells, Humboldt,

Indianola, Jackson, Johnson, Juniata, Kearney,

Leigh, Lexington, Louisville, Madison, McCool Junction, Millard, Milligan, Mitchell, Monroe, Newman Grove, Norfolk,

Omaha, O'Neill, Orchard, Osceola, Osmond, Oxford,

Palmer, Pender, Pilger, Plainview, Platte Center, Plattsmouth, Plymouth, Ponca,

Ravenna, Red Cloud, Riverton, Rushville,

St Edward, Schuyler, Scribner, Shelby, South Sioux, Spalding, Springfield, St Paul, Stanton, Stromsburg, Stuart, Superior, Sutherland, Sutton,

Tecumseh, Thedford, Tilden, Utica,

Valentine, Valley, Verdigre, Weeping Water, Wilber, Wood River, Wymore, Wynot

7.25% Lincoln

7.50% Alma, Beatrice, Cambridge, Chadron, David City, Decatur,

Fairbury, Geneva, Genoa, Gering, Grand Island, Gretna, Humphrey,

Loup City, McCook, Minden, North Platte, Oshkosh, Papillion, Pawnee City, Paxton,

Sargent, Sidney, Tekamah, Wahoo, West Point, York

NEBRASKA AMERICAN LEGION FAMILY VA & R 2024 SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

DOLLAR DAYS - GIFT SHOPS - GIFTS FOR YANKS -

STAND DOWNS - CREATIVE ARTS

STAND DOWN:

Lincoln – Linda Varejcka – Wednesday, October 16, 2024, 9 AM-3 PM Pinnacle Bank Arena,

400 Pinnacle Drive, Lincoln NE

Omaha - Paula Pillen - Friday, November 1, 2024, 9 AM - 2:30 PM

Milo Bail Student Center, 5203 S University Drive Road N, Omaha NE (UNO Campus)

CREATIVE ARTS:

Omaha - Paula Pillen -

Grand Island - Items will be displayed at the State Fair

Please plan to arrive at all events one-half hour before the event time.

AMERICAN LEGION	ΔΙΙΧΙΙΙΔΑΥ	$(\Delta I \Delta)$	VFTFRANS	DOLLAR DAY	DISTRIBUTIONS
VIAITIZALI FEDICIA	AUNILANI		AFIFINAIA	DOFFUI DU	DISTINDUTIONS

MONDAY, NOVEMBER 4, 2024	10:00 A.M.	Omaha VA Medical Center
	2:00 P.M.	Eastern NE Veterans Home, Bellevue
WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 6, 2024	10:00 A.M.	Lincoln Regional Center – Building 5
THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 7, 2024	2:00 P.M.	NORFOLK VETERANS HOME, Norfolk
		NORFOLK REGIONAL CENTER
SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 10, 2024	2:00 P.M.	Western NE Veterans Home, Scottsbluff
TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 12, 2024	10:00 A.M.	Grand Island VA Medical Center – 2 nd floor REC
	2:30 P.M.	Central NE Veterans Home, Kearney
THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 14, 2024	10:00 AM	Papillion Community Living Center

ALA VETERANS MEDICAL CENTER GIFT SHOPS

Set up - Monday, December 16, 2024

10 AM - 3 PM

Omaha VA Medical Center

Gift Shop dates: December 17 - 20, 2024

Set up - Monday, December 9, 2024

10:00 A.M.

Grand Island Medical Center

Gift Shop date: Tuesday, December 10, 2024

AMERICAN LEGION FAMILY GIFT FOR YANKS WHO GAVE

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 1, 2024	2:00 P.M.	Western NE Veterans Home, Scottsbluff
TUESDAY, DECEMBER 3, 2024	10:00 a.m.	Grand Island VA Medical Center – 2 nd Floor REC
,	2:30 P.M.	Central NE Veterans Home, Kearney
WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 4, 2024	10:00 A.M.	Lincoln Regional Center – Building 5
THURSDAY, DECEMBER 5, 2024	10:00 AM	Papillion Community Living Center
FRIDAY, DECEMBER 13, 2024	2:00 P.M.	Norfolk Veterans Home, Norfolk
		Norfolk Regional Center
MONDAY, DECEMBER 16, 2024	10:00 A.M.	Omaha VA Medical Center
	2:00 P.M.	Eastern NE Veterans Home, Bellevue
DATE TO BE DETERMINED		VA Medical Center, Hot Springs, SD
		(Da Adamshanakin Wassassan halid tuha Da Asan Ol

(D1 Membership Tour was held July 31-Aug 3)



150 NW 40th St Unit B Lincoln, Nebraska 68528 402-466-1808 neaux@windstream.net Beverly A. Neel, VA & R Chair 57576 847th Road Wayne NE 68787-7080 402 369 0152 bbneel1912@gmail.com

MEET THE DEPARTMENT OF NEBRASKA ALA VA & R COMMITTEE

BEVERLY A. NEEL	VA & R PROGRAM CHAIR	402 369 0152	bbneel1912@gmail.com
57576 847 th Road	Wayne NE 68787-7080		
MARIA ATTERBERRY	SERVICE TO VETERANS CHAIR	308 325 2863 m	atterberry@hotmail.com
704 Rochelle Street	Elwood NE 68937		
KATHY FISHER	CENTRAL NE VETERANS HOME	308 237 7234 (H)	308 627 4454 (C)
3007 West 22 nd Street	Kearney NE 68845		kmloskill1@charter.net
DONNA SMITH	EASTERN NE VETERANS HOME	402 250 3309	ddjssmith@msn.com
15103 S. 84 th Street	Papillion NE 68046		
LaRee KUBES	NORFOLK VETERANS HOME	402 841 6813	lareekubes@yahoo.com
205 West 10 th Street	Madison NE 68748	,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,	in conduction
CECIL DOSHIER	WESTERN NE VETERANS HOME	308 631 7093	cddoshier@charter.net
1960 Kings Road	Gering NE 69341	. 500 001 , 030	cadosmer & chartennet
PAULA PILLEN	OMAHA VA MEDICAL CENTER	402 630 6583	ppillen2@gmail.com
6001 N 147 th Street	Omaha NE 68116		ppee.kdiii.ee
ELIZABETH PAES	PAPILLION COMMUNITY LIVING	G CENTER	402 677 0278
501 E Gold Rd Apt 3E	Papillion NE 68046		elizapaes@hotmail.com
LINDA VAREJCKA	Lincoln CBOC & Regional Cente	r 402 580 2549	
450 Conestoga Avenue	Hickman NE 68372		varejcka@windstream.net
VICKI CYBORON	GRAND ISLAND VA MEDICAL C	ENTER 402 740 5665	vcyboron@aol.com
2454 7 TH Avenue	Boelus NE 68820		
NANCY GRIFFITHS	ALA GI VAMC Deputy	402 519 1970	ng824933@gmail.com
206 N 5 th Street #3	P O Box 65		Doniphan NE 68832
KAROL LOCKMON	HOT SPRINGS SD VAMC	302 327 2687	(no email)
P O Box 147	Rushville NE 69360		1 0

If your Unit or an individual member wishes to volunteer and or donate to any of our facilities, contact the above individuals for current activities/events and needs.