



Legionnaire

Volume CI

Number 2



“Gifts for Yanks”



The American Legion Family is grounded on four pillars: Veterans Affairs and Rehabilitation (VA&R), National Security, Children and Youth, and Americanism. These pillars are how The American Legion Family chooses the programs to support. VA&R is the largest and can be considered the most important pillar. Each December, members of the Nebraska American Legion Family join together to support and give back to the veterans in the state veterans homes and medical centers by hosting Christmas Gift Shops and Gifts for Yanks.

“Gifts for Yanks” was born out of the WWII era. During World War II, Comedian Eddie Cantor started a fundraising effort focused on providing Christmas gifts for American military members hospitalized in England because of the war. His national project was called “Give to a Yank Who Gave”. Today, throughout the US, American Legion Families have adopted that idea now known as Gifts for Yanks.

In Nebraska, Legionnaires, Auxiliary members, Sons of The American Legion, our Legion Riders are co-sponsors of the Gifts for Yanks program. The donations that are received at Headquarters are redistributed in the form of \$25.00 dollars to any veteran living in a veteran’s home, medical center, or regional center and \$20.00 dollars to any spouse of a veteran living in the facilities. Everyone

at the Gifts for Yanks party receives a calendar as a Christmas gift from the American Legion Family as well. A Christmas Gift Shop is held for the veterans at the medical centers. There they are able to pick out three or four gifts for their family members and the volunteers wrap these gifts for the veteran to take home with them. These items vary from toys, kitchen items, household goods, and many others. For many of the veterans and spouses in the facilities, these are the only gifts they receive throughout the holiday season.

Thank you to everyone who has already donated! Please check to see if your Post family has already donated, and for those who have not, please consider making a donation and volunteering your time to this program and these veterans. Donations can be sent to American Legion Headquarters at 150 NW 40th Street, Unit A, Lincoln, NE 68528. These events would not happen without the generosity of our members, so thank you all.

2025 Mid-Year Conference

The 2025 Mid-Year Conference will be held January 17 - 19, 2025 at the Norfolk Lodge and Suites. The Norfolk Lodge and Suites is located at 4200 W. Norfolk Avenue in Norfolk. The Norfolk Lodge is sold out at this time however, there are other nearby hotel options available.

The DEC meeting will be held on Friday, January 17, at 10:00 am and the Joint Session will be held on Saturday, January 18, at 8:00 am. A reminder that the lottery drawing will be held on Sunday morning during the Joint Session which starts at 9:00 am. Conference registration is \$10.00.

Finally, we will be collecting food pantry items for the Lincoln VA CBOC during the conference. We ask everyone to bring one or two canned goods as a donation to the food pantry. Thank you for helping us take care of our veterans!

Mid-Year Agenda

Friday, January 17, 2025

10:00 a.m. DEC Meeting

Saturday, January 18, 2025

8:00 a.m. Joint Session

1:00 p.m. Training

6:00 p.m. Oratorical Contest

Sunday, January 19, 2025

8:00 a.m. Joint Religious Service

9:00 a.m. Joint Session



Follow us on Facebook!

Are you a subscriber to Nebraska American Legion’s facebook page? The Department posts a lot of good information here and you’ll likely get it quicker than you would in a newsletter or newspaper. Be sure to like and follow Nebraska American Legion. For a Department that has 27K Legionnaires, just 1,400 follow this informative site.

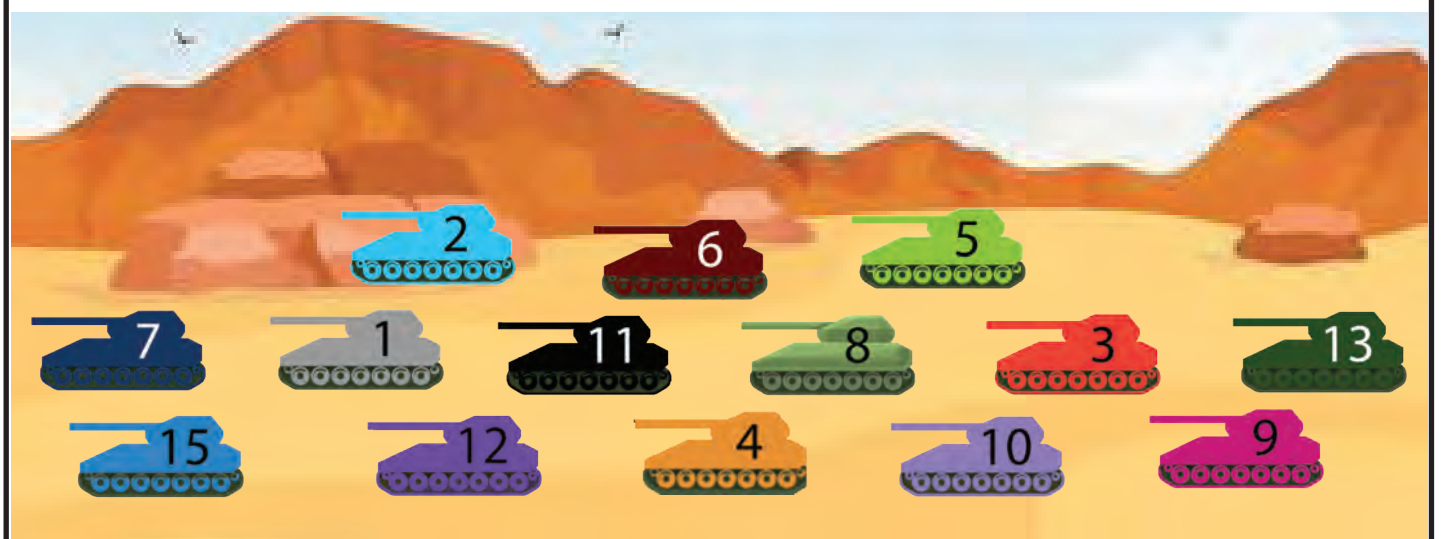
FOR GOD AND COUNTRY

The Nebraska Legionnaire
150 NW 40th St, Unit A
Lincoln, NE 68528

THE ROAD TO SUCCESS

2025 MEMBERSHIP GOAL: 22,300 NOVEMBER 30TH TOTAL: 13,661 - 61.26.%

DISTRICT 7 - 68.15%	DISTRICT 15 - 67.54%	DISTRICT 1 - 66.15%	DISTRICT 2 - 63.73%	DISTRICT 12 - 62.50%
DISTRICT 11 - 62.24%	DISTRICT 6 - 60.36%	DISTRICT 4 - 60.33%	DISTRICT 8 - 60.24%	DISTRICT 5 - 57.30%
DISTRICT 10 - 57.06%	DISTRICT 3 - 54.68%	DISTRICT 9 - 54.33%	DISTRICT 13 - 45.80%	






Commander's Corner
Boyd Yochum
Department Commander

In an earlier edition of the Legionnaire, I had written in our POW/MIA column about Harold "Pappy" Kahler. In the next edition I will include an article about Ronald Stafford. However, in this papers POW/MIA section I am including an article written by Ed Sykes about his search for these two men. I mention this because I was able to spend a few days with Ed Sykes and his son Bart, both retired Air Force Fighter Pilots. As a young Lieutenant, Ed flew with both Kahler and Stafford, both MIA remains not recovered. Ed is working to generate support for more to be done and recover the remains of both pilots. We had a great time and visited the Wing Commander at the Nebraska Air National Guard, (Kahler was once a Nebraska Air Guard Pilot), and the University of Nebraska Air Force ROTC, where Stafford had graduated.

We had a nice visit with John Folsom, who is building The Dunham House in Omaha. The Dunham House will provide combat wounded veterans with top level care and a supportive community where they can live with dignity and independence. John is asking us to help get the information out about his project. For more information, visit <https://dunhamhouse.org>. John's Grandfather Shirley Folsom was one of the original founders of the American Legion.

Several of us attended Fall Meetings at Legion National Headquarters. We attended many great training sessions, luncheons, dinners, and breakfasts. I think I gained 10 pounds on that trip. Most of the sessions were held in the National Executive Committee room. Sitting at the Nebraska desk, I was looking at signatures in the drawer, (guest's sign the drawer), and the one signature that stood out to me was Gerald Gerner. I had been a Legionnaire earlier in life, and Jerry talked me into joining again. I'm sure there are folks from Pleasant Dale and the Nebraska National Guard that remember what a great guy Jerry was.

As Department Commander, I was able to attend a pinning ceremony at the Cedar Bluffs Legion. There, Governor Pillen came out and pinned 20 Vietnam Veterans with the approved by Congress pin. I've been able to sit in on meetings with the Commission on Military and Veterans Affairs and Veterans Advisory Commission. I have also had the opportunity to attend Veterans Day at the school in Cody, Nebraska, and many other events.

As you all know, our Adjutant Dave Salak has announced his upcoming retirement. Our Ad-hoc committee to find a replacement has been busy collecting applications, interviews will be held, and a decision will be made to hire our next Adjutant. We will announce as soon as decisions are made.

Legionnaires, Auxiliary, Sons of The American Legion, our Legion Riders and don't forget our families at home (wives, husbands, kids, grandkids, and neighbors are all part of our family); we are one family, all in this together, for the same purpose. This is the part where I smile and say, now children try to get along. I wish it was that easy, but we are a family, and squabbles go with the territory. It is OK to disagree, but we need to sit down face to face and work it out.

Jackie and I would like to wish everyone a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!!!

"Character, Values, & Integrity"




S.A.L. Notes
Eldon Kramer
Detachment Commander

Greetings from the Detachment of Nebraska Commander Eldon Kramer.

Let us remember that membership is especially important to our organization for upholding the Four Pillars of The American Legion (Veterans Affairs and Rehabilitation, National Security, Americanism, and Children and Youth). As of November 7, 2024, Nebraska Squadrons are sitting at eighth in the Midwest Region, with a total of 2,551 which is 36.03% of membership renewed. Squadrons are currently accepting dues and you can pay your dues online. You can do this on legion.org.

Squadron officers can use mylegion.org for more information, reports, and the ability to pay your members dues online.

Don't forget about "Be The One". The Crisis Hotline number is 988 and then press 1.

Looking ahead, in December, Squadrons can assist Posts in sponsoring Christmas baskets for needy families, helping in seasonal charity fundraising drives, and other goodwill activities. In January, invite public officials, local civic leaders, American Legion dignitaries, and members of the sponsoring post to attend local events. Also, make sure that you are promoting and assisting in the Legion programs: Legion Baseball, Boys State, Junior Shooting Sports, Oratorical Contest, Scouting, and Junior Law Cadet.

Finally, the Department of Nebraska Mid-Year Conference is January 17-19, 2025. Please plan to attend. I am challenging every Squadron in Nebraska to host one fundraiser to raise money for a delegate from your Squadron to attend the Mid-Year Conference and the Detachment Convention this summer. Gentlemen, it would be good to see new faces.

One final thought, Sheryl and I have had a major tragedy with our house burning down on October 4th, we lost everything. We are so thankful to The American Legion Family for all your help and concerns for our wellbeing and livelihood. We have a temporary address: 280115 Co RD P Minatare Ne. 69356. Hope to see everybody at Norfolk at the Midwinter Conference and let's keep marching forward! S.A.L. #Strong

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 Senior Vice Commander..... Judy Walters, Ainsworth
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 Area B Vice Commander..... John Arias, Grand Island
 Area C Vice Commander..... Tom Crisman, Crete
 Area D Vice Commander..... Scott Bell, North Platte
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 Dist. 3..... Nick Tramp, Allen
 Dist. 4..... Kent Holmes, Alliance
 Dist. 5..... Geoffrey Florom, North Platte
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 Dist. 10..... Charles Tuttle, Nelson
 Dist. 11..... Robert Eyers, Jansen
 Dist. 12..... Martin Neal, Hickman
 Dist. 13..... Michael Coffey, Sterling
 Dist. 15..... Ronnie Hindmand, Lincoln



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Did you know you can read the Nebraska Legionnaire online at www.nebraskalegion.net?

If you would rather receive the Nebraska Legionnaire by email or view it online, send in this form. The email and online edition of the newspaper is usually available a week or so before the paper arrives in your mailbox. All we need from you is your email address.


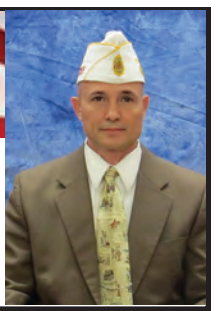
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Name: _____
 Email Address: _____
 Member ID: _____

Mail this form to The American Legion, 150 NW 40th Street, Unit A, Lincoln, NE 68528, or you can email the information to mkallina@nebraskalegion.net




It's History
Jennifer Laux
Department Historian

Straight Talk
Levi Bennett
Department Service Officer



Since becoming your National Historian back in August, I have been busy working with the National Headquarters staff to create a new 2025 Historians Guide. This guide, which is available at <https://legionhistoryshowcase.omeka.net/exhibits/show/2025entries/2025-contest-and-showcase-info>, can be used by county, area, and district historians throughout The American Legion for the development of a well-rounded history, whether the yearbook is entered into a contest or not.

As you read through the guide, you will notice one major change – there will no

longer be a post history contest at the National level. Post yearbooks (either hard copy or digital) will be entered into a National showcase. What does that mean exactly? It means that departments can send one digital post yearbook and one hard copy post yearbook to National to be on display for the entire Legion Family to see. The digital post yearbooks will be “showcased” on <https://legionhistoryshowcase.omeka.net/exhibits> and the hard copy yearbook will be “showcased” at the 2025 National Convention in Tampa. Please note, the hard copy yearbook and digital yearbook can be from different posts.

Although we have not had a department-sponsored yearbook contest since I have been Department Historian, I would like to change that. With that being said, I will be working with Department Headquarters staff to figure out what a contest might look like. Even if we don't have a contest in place by next summer, I would still love to be able to submit to National a digital yearbook from one post and a hard copy yearbook from another post. If you are interested in submitting your yearbook to me for consideration to the National showcase, please use the guidelines contained in the 2025 Historian's Guide to help you develop your yearbook.

To help people navigate through these guidelines and the submission process, I will be providing training at mid-year in January in Norfolk. Would love to see a big turnout!

In addition to developing new guidelines for historians, I have also been working with Department Headquarters to establish a museum in the new Headquarters building. Fortunately a lot of the legwork was already done by Executive Assistant Amanda – she organized and catalogued many of the items in the historical collection and all I had to do was go through and pick some of the neatest items for display in the display cases. On one Saturday in October, we worked to get four of the existing cases set up. There are currently two cases dedicated to WWI and two cases dedicated to WWII.

Next, we will be moving on to the Korean War, Vietnam War, and Global War on Terror (GWOT) – all of which will be displayed in beautiful cases made by Past Department Commander Lyle Bartels. In the process of cataloging the items, we realized that we do not have a lot of GWOT memorabilia. I would like to encourage any GWOT-era Legionnaire, if you have any unique item from your time in service that you would like to donate for potential display in the museum, please email me a description and picture of the item to historian@nebraskalegion.net. I will work with Department Headquarters staff to see if this is something we would like to display in the museum.

Thank you for all you do in providing future generations with histories to help them remember what was done in the past and remain inspired to continue moving The American Legion forward.




Chaplain's Thoughts
Steve Witmer
Department Chaplain

The holidays are upon us and we are all looking forward to spending time with family and friends. In fact, by the time you read this, we all will have celebrated another Thanksgiving. I hope and pray that yours was a time of blessings and happiness. If the weather or other unforeseen problems got in the way, I pray our Lord was with you and helped you through any stress that may have come. As we approach the Christmas season, may God bless you abundantly with the happiness that this time of year brings. As we share gifts with family and friends, let's remember the greatest gift of all. The birth of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ is the still the greatest gift the world has ever received. May we never forget the true reason for the season.

As the new year begins, let's remember that new leadership in our nation will be taking place in January. Remember that all the governments of all the nations of the world have been put in place by God for His purpose and His glory. We, as citizens of the United States of America and Christians have an obligation to not only honor our government, but to continually be in prayer for that government. We need to pray that those that have been elected will seek God's will in all that they do. As we pray for our nations and its leaders, keep in mind 2 Chronicles 7:14, “If my people, who are called by my name, will humble themselves and pray and seek my face and turn from their wicked ways, then I will hear from heaven, and I will forgive their sin and will heal their land”.

May God's blessings be on us all now and in the years to come.

Two-year review of the PACT Act regarding veteran benefits

We recently just passed the two-year anniversary of the PACT Act, August 10, 2024. In reviewing the data for the first two years of the PACT Act there is some very positive news for veterans. The first being that nearly 75% of PACT Act related claims are being granted as service-connected conditions. According to the VA, VBA had received over 1.85 million PACT Act related claims by the first week of August 2024, of which nearly 1.3 million have been completed with more than 1 million approved claims for PACT Act related conditions. The most frequent reason for a denial is “no diagnosis.” The total PACT Act benefits paid to veterans and survivors has exceed 6.8 billion dollars during the first two years. The benefits to Nebraska veterans and survivors have exceed \$46 million during the same period.

During the first two years of the PACT Act the five most frequent conditions claimed being Hypertensive Vascular Disease (hypertension/high blood pressure), Allergic Rhinitis, Maxillary Sinusitis, Bronchial Asthma, and Chronic Bronchitis. I know many veterans are seeing a 0% rating for hypertension, in fact currently, according to the VA, over 82% of hypertension claims approved are being rated at 0%. A 0% rating is still valuable rating for a veteran, for being service connected for hypertension, regardless of percentage of disability assigned, opens the door for claims for secondary conditions which may be considered for further benefits, conditions associated/caused by hypertension often receive a higher disability compensation rating than hypertension. If you are service connected for hypertension and have been diagnosed with a heart disease, kidney disease, sleep apnea, peripheral artery disease (PAD), an aneurysm or have had a stroke, you should discuss this with your local accredited veteran service officer to better determine if a secondary claim to your service-connected hypertension should be submitted to VBA. Another benefit for a hypertension rating, even at 0% is that those who are not rated at 100% P&T or have not been rated at 100% P&T for 10 or more years, think Dependency and Indemnity Compensation (DIC). Hypertension is a serious condition and often is often a contributing factor to a person passing. Most medical professionals consider hypertension to be a serious condition and will list hypertension on a death certificate as a contributing factor. This is important as this does provide another condition for a surviving spouse to use when submitting a claim for DIC. One may also want to consider the option to appeal the rating of 0% for hypertension, if there is clear medical history demonstrating a diastolic pressure predominantly higher than 100 or a systolic pressure predominantly 160 or more. This argument can be made based on the requirement to take continuous medication to prevent blood pressures exceeding medically recommended values. As always working with an accredited service officer is the best method to experience success in navigating the VA benefits you have earned from service to our great Nation.

**Sons of The American Legion Membership
 As of November 30, 2024**

District	2024 Members	2025 Members
1	310	157
2	621	250
3	234	137
4	357	64
5	152	20
6	1,367	741
7	741	283
8	836	499
9	307	131
10	356	68
11	1,111	381
12	236	153
13	126	67
15	135	123
Total	6,889	3,075



POW/MIA

Boyd Yochum
POW/MIA Liaison



Written by Ed Sykes

In 1969 I was a 25-year-old fighter pilot serving in Vietnam flying combat missions in the F-105. During the first four months of 1969, I was assigned to the 34th Tactical Fighter Squadron flying missions out of Korat Royal Thai Air Base. In May of that year the Squadron was converted to F-4E's because the Air Force was running out of F-105's. Also, during that period five of my fellow pilots would end up not surviving the War. In 2009 while visiting the Vietnam Wall I discovered that the remains of three of these men had been left in Southeast Asia and I decided to bring them home. In 2018, after four trips to Laos and extensive involvement with the Defense POW/MIA Accounting Agency (DPAA) we buried the remains of my good friend and roommate Lt. David Dinan at Arlington National Cemetery.

By coincidence my last two friends are Nebraska natives. Major Harold "Pappy" Kahler was born and raised in Lincoln where both of his parents were employed by the State of Nebraska working at the Governor's Mansion and Capital. He enlisted in World War II and flew as a pilot on the B-17 and B-29 as a flight instructor. He never left the states and saw no action. After the war he returned to Lincoln and joined the Nebraska Air National Guard's 173rd Fighter Squadron flying P-51's. He was activated for Korea and served stateside but again did not experience combat. He elected to stay on Active Duty following this Korean War activation. Pappy was due to retire in 1968 but elected to extend for a year so he could participate in Vietnam and serve his country in combat, the combat he had missed during his two previous wars. He was a great warrior and friend, especially to us young lieutenants. He was two decades our senior. He was very much our "pappy" and he always referred to us as his "Whippersnappers." Pappy went missing on his 81st combat mission. It was scheduled to be his final mission, and it was. We are certain that his remains are embedded on a hillside in Northern Laos.

Lt. Ronald Stafford was born and raised in Oxford, Nebraska. After entering the Air Force, he demonstrated outstanding flying skills and was assigned to one of the most dangerous missions of the Vietnam War flying combat missions in the F-105. I flew numerous combat missions with Ron and he always demonstrated a calm, courageous approach to even the most chaotic situations. He clearly displayed these traits on one occasion when he was shot down and forced to bail out of his jet in very hostile territory. He calmly communicated with the rescue helicopter while avoiding capture. The result was his successful rescue. Following his F-105 tour he returned to the states and spent a few years as a jet instructor but, missing the thrill of combat, decided to volunteer for another tour. Ron and his Weapons Systems Officer, Capt. Charles Caffarelli, went missing when their F-111 disappeared on a night bombing mission. We are certain his jet crashed in the shallow waters just off the coast of Vietnam in the Gulf of Tonkin.

Over the past 6 years I have been attempting to affect the recovery of my last two friends as well as Charles Caffarelli. During this period, I have found the task becoming more and more difficult. The primary reason for this is the focus of DPAA moving toward the recovery of World War II remains and the increased emphasis on the growth of their two state-of-the-art laboratories. I certainly applaud the recovery and identification of World War II warriors, a relatively easier job than searching for remains in the countries of Southeast Asia. DPAA's ability to recover remains from marked graves containing unidentified soldiers and returning those remains to their laboratories for identification affords them the opportunity to rack up many recoveries and supply their laboratories with many analysis opportunities.

Experience shows that Vietnam recoveries are very difficult. The climate can be very harsh and many times the terrain is treacherous. Also, there is the issue of dealing with governments that, at times, present obstacles to our efforts to recover our missing. However, the clock is ticking! It has now been a half century since these losses took place and people who are most likely to provide clues that lead to solutions--veterans and witnesses--are rapidly approaching their expiration date. Most importantly, many of the families who knew and loved the missing are still walking on this planet with us.

I am now hopeful that I can generate support within the State of Nebraska that leads to an outcry for more to be done to recover the remains of their Cornhusker warriors. A few weeks ago, I visited Omaha and the DPAA Laboratory at Offutt AFB. It is a very impressive facility and obviously well managed. I then traveled to Lincoln where I was accompanied by the Commander of the Nebraska American Legion, Boyd Yochum. We visited the leadership of the State VFW, the U. of Nebraska, Lincoln (UNL) AF ROTC, the Nebraska Air National Guard and the UUNL DPAA Partnership Team. I was very impressed in every instance. Come on, Nebraska, "Let's get'er done!"



Rider's Rally

Mike Reimers
ALR Liaison



Hello Legion Riders, Legionnaires, Auxiliary, and Sons of The American Legion.

I do not have a lot to write about, just a couple points of interest:

- 1-The Riders would like some more names in the hat for State Romp.
- 2-The next main event that I would like to see a big showing at is Mid-Winter Conference.

I know there is a lot going on in the State with the Riders. Keep up the good work.

If you have a Riders group at your Post, please have them contact me at:

Phone Number is 402-631-9214

Email: mgreimers58@gmail.com

Membership Minute

Steve Bartos, Membership Chairman

Having gotten off to an abnormal start by not receiving the July dues notice, the Nebraska American Legion appears to be doing fairly well playing "catch up." We've gotten off the bottom of the national roster and are pecking our way back to where we should be at this time of year.

Because the membership started flowing as soon as the October dues notice did hit our mailboxes (even though a week later than scheduled), I am encouraged. Some posts had significant numbers of dues to turn in within a few days. I am hopeful that the national and department dues increases are not having a terrible impact on renewals.

No doubt, there will be a few members who may not renew because of the increase, but we must be quick to let those folks know that the "price" of a membership is one thing to consider --- but so, too, is the "value" of membership. American Legion membership offers some tangible values such as Grouper, hotel, car rental, and other discounts, but we cannot overlook the value our membership provides to the youth who participate in our many programs. Or the value our membership might provide to a grieving family when Legionnaires fold the flag at a veteran's funeral. Our American Legion membership certainly has historical value to any veteran who ever benefitted from the GI Bill. These "values" are the reason we should all maintain our organization as strong as it can be.

Since we got off to a slow start this year, I have been trying to encourage posts to collect 2025 dues as soon as they can --- and then get them transmitted promptly. If your post does not transmit dues electronically, it should strongly consider doing so. With not too much preliminary effort to establish an account with the national headquarters to receive your payments from your bank account, you can begin enjoying some benefits. You don't have to write a check and pay postage to mail cards to Lincoln for every transmittal. The membership(s) you are paying are recorded as paid almost instantly. You start getting more love from department headquarters staff because they don't have to handle all those cards you mail in! Everybody wins. If there is sufficient interest from posts wanting to consider paying dues online, we could probably put together a little show-and-tell at the Mid-Year Conference in Norfolk. Let me know.

We've still got some catching up to do, and I hope we're completely back on track by the time we go to Norfolk in January. Please keep working the renewals and getting them transmitted promptly. And keep recruiting new members and reinstating former members,

On behalf of the Department Membership Committee, I wish y'all a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

Have a nice December.

District 11 SAL Membership Award

By: Nathan Deke, District 11 Sons Membership Chairman

The 10th annual District 11 Membership award will be presented at the upcoming District 11 Convention. The recipient of this award is the Squadron having the highest membership percentage on December 31, 2024.

District 11 Convention is scheduled to be held in Fairbury Legion Post 24, on Saturday, March 22, 2025 at 10:00 am. The Squadron Commander and Adjutant should both receive a letter of notification if their Squadron is the recipient of this award in January regarding further details. We are hoping that all Squadrons have returned updated officer forms back to Detachment Lincoln.

The following Squadrons have received this honor in the past: Milligan 2016, Exeter 2017, 2018 & 2021, Geneva 2019, Friend 2020, and McCool Junction 2021, 2022, and 2024, and Hebron 2023.

We would like to thank the District 11 American Legion for the financing of this membership project. Our goal of this award is to promote timely membership turn in and increase the membership of all branches of The American Legion Family. You must remember what the ages and capabilities of the active members of our parent organizations are. I am sure many of you are aware that when one member passes away, their shoes are not easy to fill, so if you know eligible members for one branch of the Legion Family pass it on to get them involved.

Please remember that you are eligible for membership both Sons and Junior Auxiliary Memberships on date of birth. It is true that the Sons and Auxiliary have members with more years of continuous membership than their age. So, if you know of a youngster, or someone, that you would like to see be awarded with a 50, 60, 70, or 80+ year continuous-membership certificate, you need to get them started immediately.

Department Finance Committee Tips for IRA

By: Daniel Stramel, Finance Committee Chairman

Qualified Charitable Distributions (QCD's) via Required Minimum Distributions (RMD's) from your IRA

Greetings from your Department Finance Committee. As I sat and thought about how I was going to write an article on QCD's via RMD's (don't we all just enjoy acronyms... NOT!) I thought, I want to make the article short, concise and to the point. I will now attempt to do just that.

A QCD is a distribution from your Individual Retirement Account (IRA) or any "never been taxed" retirement account directly to a qualified charity. The Department of Nebraska is a qualified charity. You must be age 70 ½ or older to make a QCD. The qualified charity distribution is not taxed, nor is it included in your taxable income. And the good news: You don't have to itemize your tax return to take advantage of a QCD.

Using your RMD as a charitable contribution to the Nebraska American Legion will exclude that amount from your adjusted-gross income (AGI) for the year, which means that in addition to reducing your income taxes, it could also decrease the amount of Social Security that is subject to tax and potentially lower your Medicare premiums. (You may be able to take a QCD from a Roth IRA, but there is no tax advantage.)

If this sounds like a strategy that could work for you, here are some things you need to know:

1. Each person can donate the full amount of his or her RMD, up to a maximum of \$105,000 annually. If you're a married couple filing jointly and you each have your own IRA, you both can use the \$105,000 QCD rule.

2. You should work with your IRA custodian to correctly accomplish a QCD. Be careful not to withdraw the funds or deposit the RMD into your personal account and then write a personal check. The funds must be distributed directly from the IRA custodian to the charity. (Some IRA custodians mail the check to the IRA owner; if that's the case for you, simply give the check to the charity.)

3. Be sure to inform your tax preparer that you did a QCD. Your IRA custodian will send you a 1099-R showing that the distribution occurred, but the amount may not be clearly identified as a QCD. Be sure the QCD is correctly listed on your tax return, or you'll lose the tax break.

4. It's permissible to use less than the full RMD for the charitable distribution. So, for example, if you have an RMD of \$6,000 and you want to give only \$4,000 to charity, you still need to withdraw the remaining \$2,000 and pay taxes on it.

5. You can make a QCD that exceeds your RMD for a given year. However, that extra distribution can't be carried over to meet the RMDs for future years.

6. You can distribute the money to multiple charities if you choose. The \$105,000 per person limit applies to the sum of all QCDs taken from all your IRAs in the tax year. You can make one large contribution or several smaller contributions to one or more charities.

7. Donors cannot receive any benefit for making a qualified distribution to a charity. So, for example, you can't use a QCD to purchase something at a charity auction or tickets to a charity event.

8. For a QCD to count toward your minimum annual IRA distribution, it must meet the same deadline as a normal distribution. (Usually Dec. 31.)

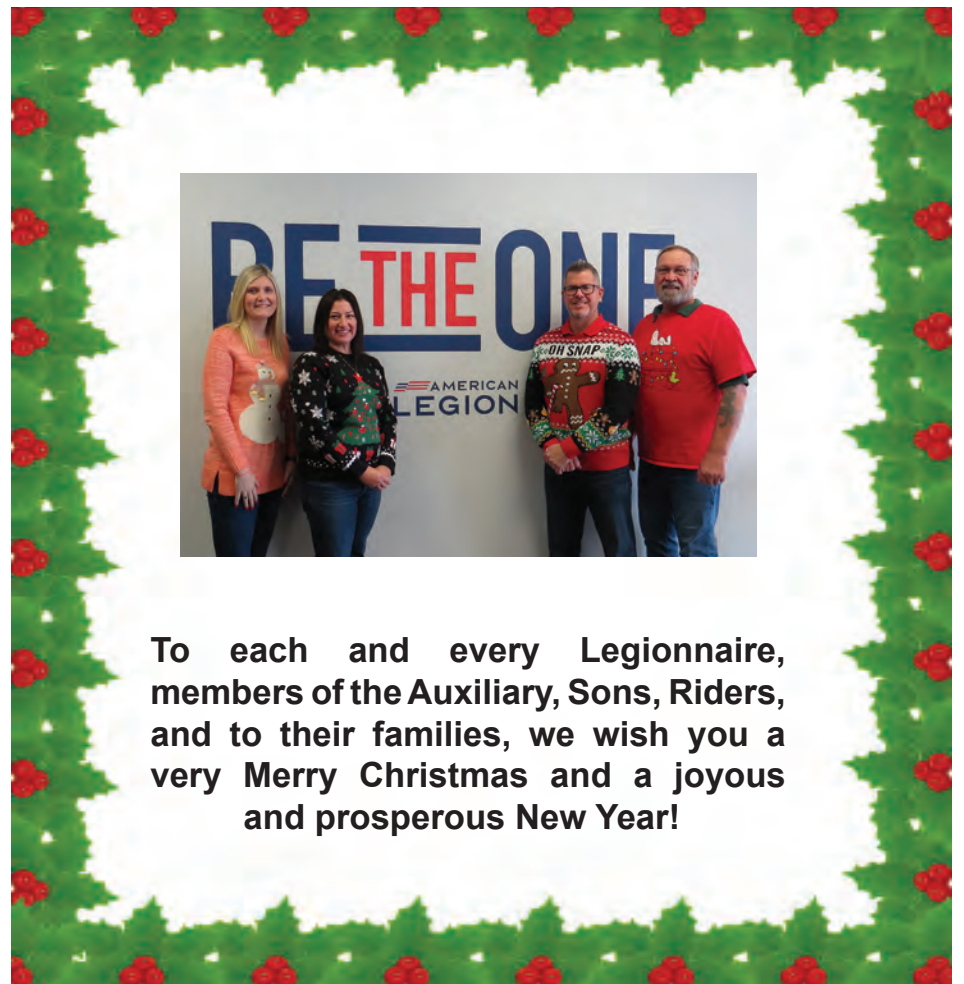
9. Not every organization or cause qualifies for a QCD. The American Legion does qualify for a QCD.

If you're already 70½ but the QCD strategy is new to you, be sure to discuss your specific situation and any questions with your financial advisor and/or your qualified tax professional. If you haven't turned 70½ yet, it's still worth having a conversation about how to prepare to take advantage of this strategy in the future.

I assume you all know where I am going with this. The American Legion Department of Nebraska is always looking for charitable donations. Our dues increase this year was to cover National dues increase as well as all expenses that continually increase. Our department is not exempt from the rising costs of doing business. When taking your RMD this year, or any year, please consider making a QCD to our department or your post to help in the financial liabilities of the Nebraska American Legion.

Again, be sure to discuss your specific situation and any questions with your financial advisor and/or your qualified tax professional concerning RMD's and QCD's.

For God and Country



To each and every Legionnaire, members of the Auxiliary, Sons, Riders, and to their families, we wish you a very Merry Christmas and a joyous and prosperous New Year!

Mid-Year Program

It's time to start putting together our Mid-Year Program and the Department is selling space in the program for individuals or businesses to advertise. Please ask around your community to garner support. All ads and payments must be received before January 6, 2025. The program is 8.5 x 5.5 in size. Please contact Megan at Headquarters.

- \$10 - page split into eight sections
- \$20 - page split into four sections
- \$30 - page split into two sections
- \$60 - Full page

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Emerson Post 60 presented Quilts of Valor to 17 of its members in a Veteran's Day ceremony. Assistant Adjutant Eric Martin was one of the veterans honored.



North Platte Post 163 was presented with a donation for \$2,500. This donation was made possible through the Nebraska AARP. Auxiliary member Michelle O'Dea was awarded the 2024 Andre's Award for community service. She gifted the monetary donation to the Post. Pictured (L to R) Michelle O'Dea, Nebraska AARP President Suzan DeCamp, and Commander Joe Wiezorek.



Wolbach Post 236 presented certificates of continuous membership to its members. Pictured top (L to R) Commander Luke Thompson, Duane Timmons, 60 years. Pictured middle (L to R) Commander Luke Thompson, and Glen Kolar, 50 years. Pictured bottom (L to R) accepting posthumously for Richard Cordes, 50 years, Cordes' daughters Deirdra French, Ronnette Schneider, Dawn Miller, and Commander Luke Thompson.



Arnold Post 130 presented the colors at local parade in September.



Plattsmouth Post 56 and VFW Post 2543 installed new flags on the street side of the parking lot by their Post home.



Cook Post 360 presented a certificate of 70 years of continuous membership to Louis Bentzinger.

Mail Call

Dear Nebraska American Legion,

I want to reach out to express my appreciation for being awarded the Nebraska American Legion Baseball Scholarship. I've had some great experiences and memories playing for Beatrice Legion Post 27. I also had the opportunity to build strong, lasting relationships as well as give back to the community. These funds will assist me as I continue my career at SCC-Beatrice. Thank you for what you have done for me as well as thousands of others!

Thank you again!

Noah Jobman

LegionCare: \$1,000.00 Accidental Death Benefit at NO COST* To You



Anyone enrolled in LegionCare will be covered for as long as they maintain their membership in the Legion Family – TAL, ALA, & SAL. The LegionCare program will continue to cover you for \$1,000 of AD&D coverage. If the accidental loss occurs when on official Legion Family Business, we will cover you for \$5,000 of AD&D coverage.

For more information, Visit www.theLIT.com or call toll-free at 1-800-235-6943.

SOME OF NDVA'S ACCOMPLISHMENTS IN 2024

- Opened Nebraska Resource Center at Offutt AFB
- Received VA's Pillar of Excellence award for Veterans Mission of Mercy Dental Clinic
- Cut ribbon on new Honor Neighborhood at Eastern Nebraska Veterans' Home
- Launched World War II Recognition Program
- Hosted 3rd Annual Women Veterans Symposium

veterans.nebraska.gov

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VETERANS' AFFAIRS



Ahrens, Elden, L., Tekamah, Korea
 Aldag, Dennis, L., Battle Creek, Vietnam
 Anderson, David, G., Miller, Korea
 Anderson, Jerry, Grand Island, WWII
 Ard, Bob, Sr., Minden, Vietnam
 Armstrong, Gary, Ponca, Korea
 Arneson, James, N., Seward, Korea
 Bailey, Richard, A., Omaha, Vietnam
 Barner, Marvin, L., Stapleton, Korea
 Barnes, Roger, R., Gering, Vietnam
 Batt, Leroy, Potter, Vietnam
 Baumert, Marius, West Point, Korea
 Baxa, Daniel, J., Tobias, SAL
 Baxter, Daryl, C., Cairo, Korea
 Baylis, Diana, R., Homer, Gulf War
 Bechtolt, Wilbur, Havelock, Korea
 Bergt, Mark, A., Davenport, WWII
 Berke, Gary, D., Beatrice, Vietnam
 Berlowitz, John, Valparaiso
 Boersen, Larry, R., Grand Island, Vietnam
 Bokowski, Ray, Fremont, Vietnam
 Bose, Harold, Palisade, Vietnam
 Bose, Mike, Weeping Water, Vietnam
 Bosselman, Shawn, Millard, SAL
 Bowen, Charles, E., Oconto, Korea
 Brehmer, Ben, Pender, SAL
 Breitnauer, John, G., Millard, Korea
 Brey, Phillip, M., Valparaiso, Korea
 Bridges, Rodney, A., Burwell, Vietnam
 Broberg, Robert, A., Tilden, Korea
 Brosh, Joseph, R., Havelock, Vietnam
 Brunkhorst, Mickey, A., Wauneta, Vietnam, SAL
 Buhr, Donald, Hastings, Korea
 Bunde, Melvin, D., Hastings, WWII
 Buswell, Larry, D., Oakland, Vietnam
 Cady, Timothy, G., Millard, Vietnam
 Campbell, Robert, N., Stuart, Vietnam
 Carpenter, Waylon, B., Burwell, SAL
 Carr, William, J., Omaha, Vietnam
 Casey, Daniel, J., Papillion, Vietnam
 Cerny, Archie, Rushville, WWII
 Chapman, Jerry, D., Fairmont, Vietnam
 Chlupacek, Ray, Omaha, Vietnam
 Chrastil, Larry, J., Lincoln, Vietnam
 Christen, Carl, Broken Bow, Vietnam
 Clark, Ronald, D., Hemingford, Korea
 Clarkson, Leroy, Neligh, Korea
 Compton, Dwain, P. Fairbury, Korea
 Cox, Marlin, Nelson, Vietnam
 Crockett, Mark, A., Springfield, Vietnam
 Davenport, James, L., Norfolk, Vietnam
 Davenport, Robert, W., Overton, Korea
 Day, Dennis, D., Wymore, Vietnam
 Dejonge, Kenneth, S., Wood River, Vietnam
 Dennis, Stephen, M., Kearney, Vietnam
 Diedrichsen, Fred, J., Holdrege, Vietnam
 Dodd, Joseph, B., Sumner, Vietnam
 Domeier, Bruce, E., Sutton, Vietnam
 Driver, Darrell, C., Wynot, Korea
 Eberly, Gary, Cody
 Eckhoff, Melvin, A., Sutherland, Korea
 Edwards, Steven, C., Havelock, Vietnam, Gulf War
 Estep, Hobert, E., Omaha, Vietnam
 Farmer, Carl, Sidney, Vietnam
 Feighner, Virgil, Falls City, Vietnam
 Feit, Eugene, D., Beatrice, Vietnam
 Feldmann, Eudell, H., Tilden, Korea
 Fiala, Laverne, F., Kearney, Vietnam
 Flick, Dwight, York, WWII
 Fossum, Robert, H., Lebanon, Korea
 Frey, Howard, L., Humboldt, SAL
 Fuchser, Ervin, R., Emerson
 Gabel, Max, Shelby
 Gardner, Steven, Haigler, Vietnam
 Gaver, Jerome, J., Columbus, Vietnam
 Geiger, Laurence, C., Valparaiso, Vietnam
 Gerdes, Christopher, Johnson, GW_Terrorism
 Gerdes, Harold, E., Ashland, Vietnam
 Getzfred, James, R., Elgin, Vietnam
 Gibson, Vernon Jr, C., Fremont, Vietnam
 Gill, Lloyd, E., Stapleton, Vietnam
 Glantz, Jerry, D., Hastings, Korea
 Gorton, Jack, R., Plattsmouth, Vietnam

Graver, Jerome, J., Columbus, Vietnam
 Grenier, Stephen, R., Lincoln, Vietnam
 Gresham, Robert, J., Falls City, Vietnam
 Griess, Leo, E., Sutton, Korea
 Grooms, Alvin, J., Ord, Korea
 Grosserode, Joseph, H., Gering, Korea
 Hallberg, Eugene, D., Seward, Other
 Hanson, Joseph, L., Valentine, Vietnam
 Harlan, Mark, J., Tilden, Gulf War
 Harms, Donald, Hastings, Korea
 Hart, Debora, E., Fort Calhoun, GW_Terrorism
 Harvey, David, Omaha, Korea
 Haskett, Fitzgerald, Naponee, Vietnam
 Hassler, John, P., Exeter
 Hatfield, Steven, D., Denton, Vietnam
 Hauptmeier, Larry, D., Overton, Korea
 Havey, David, L., Benson, Korea
 Hayes, Gerald, C., Norfolk, Korea
 Heimbuch, Floyd, E., Alliance, Korea
 Helm, Jim, Lebanon, Vietnam
 Hoffman, Jack, C., Plainview, Korea
 Hopkins, Glen, E., Riverton, Korea
 Hoyt, Lowell, J., Clay Center, Korea
 Huss, John, B., Lincoln, Vietnam
 Hynek, Adolph, B., Denton, Korea
 Jacobs, Robert, D., Havelock, Vietnam
 Janing, Richard, Geneva, Vietnam
 Jensen, Wayne, Pender, WWII
 Jindra, Ronald, Columbus, Vietnam
 Johansen, William, D., Osceola, Korea
 Johnson, Basil, W., Ruskin, Korea
 Johnson, Dale, L., Wahoo, Korea
 Johnson, Donald, L., Millard, Vietnam
 Johnson, Lewis, W., Valentine, Korea
 Johnson, Morris, A., Valentine, Korea
 Jones, Ronald, Columbus, Korea
 Kahrs, James, G., Bloomington, Vietnam
 Kakuda, Louis, Morrill, Korea
 Karloff, Larry, Yutan, Korea
 Katt, Alan, R., Lincoln, Vietnam
 Kearns, James, R., Rushville, Vietnam
 Keck, Dallas, Wymore, Korea
 Keck, Citis, H., Creighton, Vietnam
 Keyser, James, E., Omaha, Vietnam
 King, Caroll, S., North Platte, Korea
 King, Jack, Hebron
 Kleber, Thomas, E., Davenport, Vietnam
 Klitz, Francis, H., West Point, Korea
 Knapp, Harold, W., Millard, Vietnam
 Kobza, Andrew, E., Brainard, Korea
 Kochler, Graham, A., Newman Grove, Vietnam
 Konken, Gail, L., Ponca, Vietnam
 Kraus, Marvin, H., Friend, Vietnam
 Kripal, Joseph, A., Hebron, Korea
 Kruger, Thomas, P., Grand Island, Persian Gulf
 Kudrna, Delbert, Valentine, Vietnam
 Kuhlman, Willard, A., Gothenburg, Korea
 Lakin, Wayne, C., Burwell
 Landreth, John, Rushville, Panama
 Lang, David, L., Table Rock, Korea
 Larrew, Michel, J., Havelock, Vietnam
 Larson, Erwin, E., Emerson
 Lavene, Alphe, C., Omaha, Vietnam
 Lee, Albert, E., Bristow, Vietnam
 Lemburg, Bill, Boelus, WWII
 Lentfer, Raymond, Bruning, Korea
 Lindsay, R. Boyd, Havelock, Vietnam
 Lore, Robert, C., Gering, Korea
 Mackey, Fred, R., Columbus, Korea
 Mankle, Orville, D., Sargent, WWII
 Marks, Arvid, Tilden, Korea
 Mayfield, Alexander, Auburn, SAL
 McGregor, Terrance, M., Cedar Bluffs, Vietnam
 McMahon, Darrell, Beatrice, Korea
 Meinders, Raymond, R., Bellevue, Korea, Vietnam
 Mellor, George, Spencer, WWII
 Merrill, Richard, C., Hay Springs, Vietnam
 Meyer, Leonard, A., Grand Island, Korea
 Meyer, Robert, Papillion, Vietnam
 Miller, Howard, D., Friend, WWII
 Mollner, Marvin, A., Omaha, Vietnam
 Moon, Donald, F., Atkinson, Vietnam
 Moore, David, C., Lincoln, Vietnam
 Moore, John, Columbus, Vietnam
 Morris, William, R., Omaha, Korea
 Morrissette, Edward, H., Papillion, WWII

Mousel, Samuel, E., Central City, Vietnam
 Muff, David, R., Crete, Vietnam
 Munger, Donald, C., Newman Grove, WWII
 Mussman, Oscar, F., Millard, WWII
 Nelson, Leon, Newman Grove, Vietnam
 Nelson, Myron, J., Newman Grove, Vietnam
 Neme, Elmer, Wilber
 Nesbit, Oliver, Fullerton, WWII
 Nicholas, Gregory, J., Palmer, Vietnam
 Niemann, Bob, Grand Island, Vietnam
 Norris, John, E., Weeping Water, Korea
 Nowak, William, E., York, SAL
 Nuckolls, William, C., Lincoln, Korea
 Oberg, Edward, Farnam, Vietnam
 O'Brien, Timothy, Morse Bluff, Vietnam
 Oertell, Paul, D., Grand Island, Korea
 Ofe, Carl, P., Grand Island, Korea
 Oligmueller, Virgil, Jackson, Korea
 Olson, Paul, Lincoln, Korea
 Paro, Bill, L., North Platte, Korea
 Patience, Michael, C., Osceola, Vietnam
 Pavel, Francis, B., Valparaiso, Vietnam
 Payne, Eldon, Havelock, Vietnam
 Peak, William, L., Omaha
 Penkava, Alfred, D., Denton, Korea
 Perdue, Robert, A., Madison, Vietnam
 Peters, Larry, Loup City, SAL
 Peterson, Stanley, Jr., L., Omaha, WWII
 Pfeifer, Marvin, Madison
 Pinkerman, Delmar, O'Neil, Vietnam
 Plihal, Ervin, J., Wilber, Korea
 Poggensee, Vernon, Fremont, WWII
 Polak, Lawrence, E., Omaha, Vietnam
 Pomajzl, Alvin, C., Crete, Korea
 Powers, Harold, F., Sidney, Korea
 Praeuner, Randall, C., Battle Creek, Vietnam
 Prince, Rueben, J., Norfolk, Korea
 Prochaska, James, L., Shelton, Vietnam
 Quandt, Howard, A., O'Neill, Vietnam
 Raitt, Richard, C., David City, WWII
 Rask, Micheal, N., Gordon, Vietnam
 Rasmussen, Russell, O., Jackson, Vietnam
 Rathe, Dell, Sterling, Vietnam
 Redding, Gerald, Greeley, Vietnam
 Reisdorff, Eugene, J., Shelby
 Reisdorff, Jerome, Shelby
 Reiss, Delbert, Dorchester, Vietnam
 Reynolds, Donald, D., Denton, Korea
 Richard, Conrad, B., Lincoln, Korea
 Richards, James, L., Decatur, Korea
 Riley, William, J., Ord, Vietnam
 Ripp, Charles, Elm Creek, Vietnam
 Roblyer, James, M., Burwell
 Roether, Gene, J., Eustis, Korea
 Ronald, Howerter, Elm Creek, Other
 Conflicts
 Rothermund, Dean, Papillion, Vietnam
 Royal, Gary, B., Syracuse, Vietnam
 Royle, Rodney, A., Shelton, Vietnam
 Russell, Benjamin, T., Loup City, SAL
 Rutten, Sam, Cedar Rapids, Vietnam
 Sandman, John, South Sioux City, Persian Gulf
 Schardt, Harlan, Hebron
 Schliep, Wesley, E., Clay Center
 Schuelke, Johnny, L., Greenwood, Vietnam
 Schwartz, Dennis, A., Denton, Vietnam
 Sealock, Arlen, D., Hastings, Korea
 Sebade, Densil, M., Emerson, Korea
 Shindler, Max, A., Hemingford
 Shockley, Donald, Millard, Korea
 Slaby, Thomas, Havelock, Vietnam
 Small, Larry, A., Hershey, Vietnam
 Small, Terry, South Sioux City, SAL
 Snyder, Alvin, R., Alma, Korea
 Sohl, Gary, Wymore, Vietnam
 Spellman, Jim, Shelton
 Spicka, David, L., Morse Bluff, Vietnam
 Steager, Ben, Brainard, Vietnam
 Stewart, Ivan, Valentine, Korea
 Stolz, Robert, J., Holdrege, Korea
 Stopak, Alfred, M., Silver Creek, Korea
 Streeter, Raymond, D., Hayes Center, Vietnam

Stroup, William, V., Valentine, Vietnam
 Supencheck, Dennis, David City, Vietnam
 Swanson, Clifford, L., Holdrege
 Swedburg, Elund, M., Minden, Korea
 Sweeney, Merle, Bassett, Korea
 Teague, Robert, J., Lodgepole, Korea
 Tillman, Steven, E., Denton, SAL
 Timmons, Duane, G., Wolbach, Korea
 Totten, David, M., Elgin, Vietnam
 Trauernicht, Wayne, Beatrice, Korea
 Trimble, Wayne, A., Kearney, Korea
 Trouba, Marvin, V., Denton, Vietnam
 Turner, Thomas, W., Swanton, Vietnam
 Utemark, Norval, L., West Point, Korea
 Vaupel, Charles, H., Superior, WWII
 Vermaas, Kenneth, W., Lexington, Other
 Vidlak, Leonard, Brainard, Vietnam
 Voboril, Joseph, D., Primrose, Vietnam
 Wagner, Herbert, E., Creighton, Vietnam
 Wagner, Larry, L., Cedar Bluffs, Vietnam

Wagner, Willie, E., Grand Island, Vietnam
 Ware, Larry, C., Millard, Vietnam
 Wasson, Dennis, J., Lebanon, Vietnam
 Watson, Marvin, D., Holdrege, Vietnam
 Weishahn, Richard, D., Valparaiso, Korea
 Wendt, Wayne, W., Spencer, Vietnam
 Wenot, Wayne, Spencer, Vietnam
 Wheeler, Daniel, E., Lincoln, Vietnam
 Whittington, Richard, Crete, Vietnam
 Wildhagen, Conrad, F., Gretna, Vietnam
 Williams, Joe, A., McCook, Vietnam
 Williamsen, Lester, Hampton, WWII
 Wilshusen, Stanley, Osceola, Vietnam
 Wilson, Floyd, St. Paul, WWII
 Wingert, Vernon, L., Oakland, Vietnam
 Witte, Jerome, Orleans, Vietnam
 Wortman, Leonard, Ruskin, Korea
 Wozniak, Richard, M., Sr., Norfolk, WWII
 Wragge, Donald, Pierce, Korea
 Wruble, Richard, Silver Creek, Vietnam
 Wyant, Fred, O., York, Korea
 Ziola, Al, E., Grand Island, Vietnam

Events Calendar

December

24 - 26 Christmas Holiday - Office Closed
 31 New Years Holiday - Office Closed

January

1 - 2 New Years Holiday - Office Closed
 17 - 19 Mid Year Conference (Norfolk) - Office Closed
 20 Martin Luther King Jr Holiday - Office Closed

February

17 President's Day - Office Closed

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Syracuse Post 100 held its annual flag retirement ceremony. They were assisted by Boy Scout Troop 339 of Syracuse.



Polk Post 160 presented certificates of continuous membership to its members. Pictured top (L to R) Don Miller, 70 years and Commander Brad Sundberg. Pictured bottom (L to R) Commander Brad Sundberg, Roger Hanquist, 66 years, and Adjutant Charles Sherk.



Ashland Post 129 presented Quilts of Valor to its members. Pictured top (L to R) Gordon Gilliam, Loyce Breyer, Bruce Hosis, Terry Pallas, Rodger Osborne, Ted Frye. Pictured bottom Lee Yabsley.



Bennet Post 280 recently repainted their building and they held Roger Pearson's 97th birthday on October 14th. Roger (pictured above) is Bennet's oldest member and the only WWII and Korean War Veteran.



Morse Bluff Post 340 presented a certificate of 70 years of continuous membership to Norman Kaven. Pictured (L to R) Commander Galen Johnson, Norman Kaven, and Camdyn Kaven.



Steve and Lorene Bartos made a donation for the new Department Flag Retirement Box located at Department Headquarters. We wish to thank them both for this wonderful donation.



Ceresco Post 244 honored several members of the "Hornung family" who have faithfully served their country in the US military. Pictured back (L to R) Kenny Hornung, Gayle Hornung, Casper Hornung, and Becky Finney, Tom Donahue's daughter. Front (L to R) Kenneth Leroy Hansen, Mrs. Wesley Hornung, Larry Hornung, and Lyle Hornung.



Crawford Post 138, Unit 138, and Chapter 138 hosted a chili feed and car show to raise funds for the Healing Wall. Pictured top (L to R) Jerry Lemmon, Major event sponsors Creighton and April Grant of Northwest Auto Body and Paint, and Darlene Lemmon. Pictured bottom Crawford ALR Chapter and Legend Buttes ALR Chapter members.



Grand Island Post 53 member Larry F. Johnson was presented a Quilt of Valor by Hall County Quilt of Valor representative Tina Johnson. Pictured (L to R) Tina Johnson and Larry F. Johnson.



Hickman Post 105 presented Quilts of Valor to its members for their service. Pictured (L to R) Dean Reicks and Larry Schmidt.



Twenty five Legionnaires from the Brainard, Dwight, and Prague Posts provided military honors at the funeral of Len Vidlak, a Vietnam Veteran and Purple Heart recipient.



The American Legion Auxiliary
Department of Nebraska

The Star

December 2024 - January 2025



DEPARTMENT PRESIDENT - AMANDA WASHBURN



It is hard to believe that it is December already. Most of the Gifts for Yanks and Gift Shop events have been held at the Veterans Homes and Hospitals, and I want to thank everyone who volunteered their time. It means so much to our veterans and their families. There are a few events left, so if you are able to attend, please go and spend your time there. Once you go to one of the events, you won't want to miss attending it. The dates can be found on our website or on the Facebook page.

January brings the Mid-Year Conference in Norfolk, and I hope

many of you will consider attending. It is going to be held January 17 - 19 at the Norfolk Lodge and Suites. The Department Executive Committee meeting will be held from 1:00 PM to 4:30 PM on Friday, January 17. On Saturday, January 18, there will be a joint session with the Nebraska American Legion Family from 8:00 AM to 10:00 AM, ALA training from 10:15 AM to 11:30 AM, ALA training from 1:00 PM to 4:00 PM, and the Oratorical contest from 6:00 PM to 9:00 PM. On Sunday, January 19, there will be a joint religious service at 8:00 AM and a joint session from 9:00 AM to 11:00 AM.

Northwestern Division National Vice President Debra Albers will be making her official visit to Nebraska during the Conference. Let's have a great turnout to show our support for her! All of us here in Nebraska are so incredibly proud of what she is doing!

I am sure I sound like a broken record, but please make sure you are sending in membership as it

comes in. Members who are not paid by January 1 are no longer in good standing, and if they aren't paid by January 31, then they are delinquent.

There are programs that require three years of membership, so please don't be the reason a member is not eligible to apply. We were doing so well sending in membership, but the numbers have started to slow down. As of November 13, we are in 6th place nationally at 59.69% of our goal. We still have 14 units that have 0 memberships sent in. I am asking that all units reach out to their members to remind them to pay their dues.

Dues money goes towards many of our programs and projects each year. If you need any assistance with membership or have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact Department Secretary Roxanne, Membership Chair Loree, or me; and we will do our best to get you the answer.

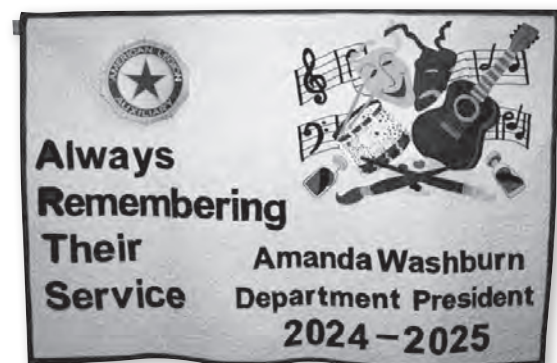
I have thoroughly enjoyed my travels so far this year and am

looking forward to the next ones! I have been able to meet so many members and hear the wonderful things that our members are doing. I know that Nebraska has a special group of members, and we are doing great things to support our veterans, active-duty military, and our children. I know I have said it before, but please let me know if you would like me to come to your meeting or event. I will do my best to make it. Thank you to those who have let me crash for a night at their house on my travels, I really appreciate you.

I am blessed with a wonderful officer team, and we have been able to tag team days when there are multiple events. I want to tell them all Thank You for attending the events that I couldn't. It truly takes all of us to be successful and I couldn't do it without Ruth, Vicki C, Lori, and Vicki O.

I hope everyone has a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year. I am looking forward to what 2025 brings us all!

*Amanda Washburn
Department President*



2025 GIRLS STATE PLANNING HAS BEGUN

Beginning stages of planning the 2025 Girls State began at Department Headquarters on Saturday, November 23, 2024, when the Girls State Executive Board met. As a first-time director, the input from the advisory board and directors is invaluable.

After reviewing the evaluation summary from last year, discussion about the delegates' comments provided some insight into changes for the 2025 session. The dress code was updated to include professional length shorts as appropriate bottoms. The orientation videos will be updated and will utilize previous delegates in presenting the information. A field day will be incorporated as an activity.

2025 Girls State will be held Sunday, June 1 through Saturday, June 7. It was voted to increase the fee to \$425 as the University had a 5.2 percent increase in our contract. Both Girls State and Boys State fee will be \$425.

Plans are to promote Girls State

and Boys State with the News Channel Nebraska through Flood Communications. This will be at no charge to either program.

Another new plan is to contact all schools with an email to the guidance counselors. This will not take the place of individual units contacting the schools, but just an introductory letter announcing the program. Your assistance is needed in this project. For Units with a school in their community, please email the name of the guidance counselor and email address to Morgan Kumm at morgan.kumm@gmail.com by December 31.

We plan to get the Auxiliary Units and members more involved. Following COVID, elections were held electronically. Even though it does speed up the election process, it takes away the real-life process. Therefore, the General Election will be held by ballot on Wednesday. ALA volunteers will be needed that day to help tabulate the ballots.

Another Unit participating activity would be to sponsor a floor with snacks for their evening Town Meeting. With eight floors, we would need 48 units to volunteer (eight units each night, Sunday through Friday). More information will be in an upcoming Newsletter.

With Girls State a program of the American Legion Auxiliary, each day the delegates will learn about what we do. This will include What is ALA?, proper flag etiquette, POW/MIA Empty Table program, Blue Star Banner presentation, Poppy presentation, Parliamentary Procedure, and Scholarships. History of the branches of services will also be shared.

The four-hour plus meeting was productive, and as GS Chair, I'm excited about the 2025 session.

*Vicki Ozenbaugh
Girls State Chair*

FROM THE SECRETARY

Fall Roundups, Dollar Days Events, Gifts for Yanks Who Gave Events, and Gift Shops will probably all be in the bag by the time this comes out in print. I know the events were well funded; so thanks to all who contributed to their success. It is important for our veterans to know they are not forgotten.

It's almost Mid-Year time in Norfolk. Be thinking about coming and participating on Saturday, January 18. I think President Amanda has some fun and educational breakouts and things planned. Please pray for the weather to cooperate for travel.

You should be recording your unit and individual hours and money you have put into all of the many community events you've participated in. Reporting will be going out after

the first of the year.

You should be preparing for Americanism Essays (March 15 to Dept.), Poppy posters (March 15 to Dept.), Scholarships (March 15 to Dept.), and Girls State 2025 Applications (March 1 to Dept.). All of these events take place with the cooperation of our schools. Please be in touch with them for these activities.

In the meantime, having enjoyed our time of Thanksgiving let's now enjoy the Christmas Holiday season with our families and be ready to get back to work for our units after the New Year. Have a great season and hope to see you at Mid-Year in Norfolk!

*Roxanne Hiatt
Department Secretary*



From the Headquarters Staff — Jacki, Vicki, and Roxanne

The 2025 Mid-Year Conference

Norfolk Lodge and Suites

Norfolk, Nebraska

January 17-19, 2025

Tentative Schedule

FRIDAY, JANUARY 17, 2025

1:00 pm DEC Meeting
District Reports
4:30 pm 8 & 40 Mid-Year Pouvoir

SATURDAY, JANUARY 18, 2025

8:00 am Joint Session
10:30 am ALA Training
1:00 pm ALA Programs Training
6:00 pm Oratorical Contest

SUNDAY, JANUARY 19, 2025

8:00 am Worship Service
9:00 am Joint Session

MEDAL OF HONOR WREATHS PRESENTED

The most recent Medal of Honor wreath presentation occurred at Forest Lawn Cemetery in Omaha. PDP Vicki Ozenbaugh continues to complete her project of presenting specially made wreaths at the graves of the thirty-three Medal of Honor recipients buried in Nebraska.

Forest Lawn Cemetery in Omaha is the site of four military service members who were awarded the United States Armed Forces highest military decoration.

On Saturday, November 9 the special ceremony was held at the Historic Forest Lawn Chapel. Omaha Post #1 and Unit #1 assisted in the service. Those honored

were First Lieutenant Simeon T. Josselyn (US Army, Civil War), Lance Corporal Miguel Keith (US Marines, Vietnam), Sergeant John Mott McMahan (US Army, Indian Campaigns), and Corporal Andrw Trayner (US Army, Civil War).

On Veterans Day, the four wreaths were presented as part of the wreath laying program at the Omaha Memorial Park. PDP Vicki shared the history of the Medal of Honor. Four members of Unit #1 placed each wreath as the honoree's name was read.

PDP Vicki has fifteen remaining MOH wreaths to present.



PDP Vicki Ozenbaugh conducts a Medal of Honor ceremony at the beautiful Forest Lawn Chapel that was dedicated in 1913.



Omaha Unit #1 members Patti Wiese, Cindy Siadek, Janet Davis, and Mary Lee Tisdale hold the wreaths that were presented during the Veterans Day Program at Memorial Park in Omaha.



AMERICAN LEGION FAMILY CROSSES STATE BOUNDARIES

American Legion Family members from Nebraska and Missouri worked together during the summer of 2024 to ensure a Navy veteran received a well-deserved Quilt of Valor. Eric Harris of Neosho, Missouri saw another veteran receive a Quilt of Valor at his hometown community celebration in Cook in late June. He commented to his cousin that he wondered how to receive one of these quilts. The Cook American Legion Auxiliary members jumped into action to make this happen.

The ALA Department Secretary in Missouri helped locate contact information for the ALA unit in Neosho. Cook ALA unit member Barb Washburn worked directly with Ellen Arnce, ALA Unit 163 of Neosho. After hearing Eric's story, Ellen contacted Eric directly, and the Neosho Post, Unit, and

Squadron worked together to make Eric's dream a reality.

A little over two months after the start of this quest, Eric was presented with his Quilt of Valor on September 8th, surrounded by family and friends. He said he was humbled by this honor for serving our country and fellow veterans in need. Eric thanked everyone who worked together to make this possible.

Our American Legion Family does not stop at our states' borders; across this country, we work together to honor and support our veterans. The Cook Unit 360 is honored to have been part of this effort, recognizing one of our community's veterans even though he no longer lives in Nebraska.

*Barb Washburn
Bickel-Nelson Cook Unit 360*

Remember to send your assignments a couple weeks before the month they are due.

2024-2025 CENTERPIECE AND TRAY FAVOR ASSIGNMENTS

Month	Grand Island VA Med Center 10 Centerpiece	Central NE Veterans Home 215 Tray Fav	Bellevue Eastern NE VA Home 24 Centerpiece	Norfolk VA Home 20 Centerpiece	Western NE VA Home 13 Centerpiece	Western NE VA Home 90 Tray Fav	Omaha VA Med Center 75 Tray Fav
Dec.	#141 Hampton	#209 Franklin	#222 Shubert	#357 Brunswick	#7 Alliance	#7 Alliance	#240 Milligan
Jan.	Girls State '24	Girls State '24	Girls State '24	Girls State '24	Girls State '24	Girls State '24	#193 Ohiowa
Feb.	#255 Eddyville	#288 Farnam	#264 Dorchester	#16 Norfolk	#7 Alliance	#7 Alliance	#266 Bennington
Mar.	#59 Callaway		#371 Valparaiso	#72 Pierce		#133 Culbertson	#49 Utica
Apr.	#199 Cambridge	#377 Wilcox	#264 Dorchester	#302 Leigh	#13 Wallace	#13 Wallace	#354 Pleasant Dale
May	#240 Milligan	#316 Elm Creek	#3 Lincoln	#283 Platte Center	#200 Bayard	#200 Bayard	Dist. 11 Juniors
June	#126 Broken Bow	#95 Curtis		#175 Jackson	#312 Broadwater	#312 Broadwater	
July	#95 Curtis	#209 Franklin	#283 Platte Center	#80 Humphrey	#301 Dalton	#301 Dalton	
Aug	#251 Arcadia			#302 Leigh	#7 Alliance		
Sep.	#11 Hastings		#353 Louisville	#94 Columbus			
Oct.				#375 Brunswick	#7 Alliance	#7 Alliance	
Nov.	#257 Eustis	#209 Franklin		Private Donor	#17 Sidney	#17 Sidney	

Please read the ABC book under "Service to Veterans." Some facilities have restrictions as to what you can use for decorations. If you have any questions, please contact the facilities contact person.

Service to Veterans Chair: Maria Atterberry, 704 Rochelle St, Elwood, NE 68937 - 308-325-2863



EASTERN NEBRASKA VETERANS HOME

We need you! We are in dire need of members from the American Legion Family to take a step outside of their comfort zone and visit the Eastern Nebraska Veterans Home (ENVH) to see firsthand how you can make a difference in the lives of ENVH members. Yes, I'm writing this aimed at all American Legion Family members, knowing that we have exposure to readers who are not members of the American Legion Auxiliary. We are asking members from all branches of the Family tree to step up.

You may be wondering how you can get involved, what impact can one person make, or what activities can you assist with at ENVH? Here are some of the answers to those and other questions:

A calendar of events and activities is available online. Search veterans.nebr.gov ENVH to view the calendar and read their newsletter.

Contact the ENVH volunteer coordinator, Katie Mahar-Flock, or me to discuss the various ways that you can get involved.

ENVH members love seeing new faces and having the ability to visit with someone other than those that they see on a day-to-day basis.

It only takes an hour or two of your time to make a difference in the lives of a veteran who may not have family within the area or no family at all.

Every dollar donated, no matter how small, impacts the life of a member at the Eastern Nebraska Veterans Home.

Remember --- December 16th at 2:00 PM is the date and time for our Gifts for Yanks program at the Eastern Nebraska Veterans Home. I hope to see you there!

*Donna Smith
Eastern Nebraska Veterans Home Chair*



CODY UNIT 319 - FIRST JUNIOR CHAIR, DANIELLE MILLER

Cody Unit 319 has their first Junior Chair, Danielle Miller! Danielle kicked off her year by having her daughters present much-needed flags to all the Cody-Kilgore Elementary classrooms.

Pictured are Parker Miller (Grade 2) and Paxtyn Miller (Kindergarten)

presenting the much-needed flags to all the Cody-Kilgore Elementary classrooms, along with laminated copies of the Pledge of Allegiance. Receiving the flags is ALA member and First Grade Teacher Joslyn Nollette.



LINCOLN VA CBOC HAPPENINGS

On Wednesday, October 16th, at the Pinnacle Bank Arena in conjunction with the Lincoln Homeless Coalition, the VA Standdown was held. 46 veterans were served by the VA staff.

On Saturday, October 19th, District 12 held their fall roundup. The units and the members brought items for the Lincoln VA CBOC food pantry and gift cards. They were very generous. I had over four large boxes packed to the brim. Thank you.

On Wednesday, November 6th, the Veteran's Dollar Days was held at the Lincoln Regional Center. There had been 13 veterans at the center, but on the day of the event, three were able to be discharged. So, we honored 10 Veterans.

Those from the American Legion Auxiliary attending and honoring the veterans, showing their appreciation, and thanking them for their service were Department

President Amanda Washburn, Past Department President Elizabeth Paes, and Linda Varejcka. They are looking forward to our return for Yanks Who Gave.

Honoring our Veterans took place at the Lincoln VA the week of November 11th. On Tuesday, cookies were furnished by the American Legion Auxiliary. Wednesday was sponsored by Lincoln Unit #3. On Thursday, popcorn was sponsored by the Lincoln Unit Military Order of the Purple Heart Auxiliary. Friday was sponsored by the Daughters of the American Revolution.

The annual holiday giving tree was put up at the Lincoln VA CBOC on November 18th and was decorated with tags of wishes for less fortunate veterans.

*Linda Varejcka
CBOC Liaison for the
Dept. of Nebraska Auxiliary*

MEMBERSHIP

By the time you read this, 2024 will be drawing to a close. Have you turned in your 2025 membership yet? Is your unit closing in on 80%, or better yet 90%, of membership? As someone once told me, "If you haven't paid your dues by January 1, you will become a 'guest' in the American Legion Auxiliary until your dues are paid." So, let's get to it, everyone, and get those dues sent in.

I heard from two units who held a membership event this fall. St. Paul Unit #119 made their event special by honoring four individuals who had each reached 50 years of membership. When accepting her plaque, one woman said, "When I was asked to join the Auxiliary 50 years ago, my immediate reaction was that I had small children and was way too busy. But then I thought, 'You know, I think I would enjoy this organization. If nothing else, at least the meeting night will be a break from my routine.' And here I am, 50 years later, still enjoying this organization." Great job honoring your members, Unit #119!

The other unit I heard from was Bellwood Unit #327. This unit held a membership drive and ended the day with one new member signed up and four more who planned to pay their dues when they attended the next meeting of the unit. Nebraska is looking forward to adding these five new individuals to our membership roster. Way to lead, Unit #327!

If there are any other units out there who have held a membership event, be sure to let me know. I'd love to brag about your efforts in an upcoming issue of The Star.

But, what else can we boast about for the time being? Membership is all about "Leading the Way" – National President Trish Ward's theme for 2024-2025 – using the element she assigned to our Northwestern Division, namely Energy, and combining it with Creativity – which is what Department of Nebraska President Amanda Washburn is supporting through her project of the Veterans Creative Arts Festival.

So let's give a BIG SHOUT OUT to those Nebraska units who put Leadership, Energy, and Creativity together and managed to reach 100% membership by Veterans Day: Morrill Unit #10 (105.56%), Dodge Unit #122 (101.69%), and Potter Unit #291 (100.00%). Congratulations, Auxiliary units, on your impressive determination!!

And now let's check in on how our Districts are doing with their recruiting (as of this writing). This year, each District was assigned a team from the University of Nebraska Athletic Department to cheer on and encourage as we recruit in our own ranks:

• Leading the way is Nebraska Women's Volleyball, as the team has compiled a 25-1 record thus far. They

are currently ranked #2 nationally and are leading the Big Ten Conference. Take heart, District 11, for another 70 members will move you into 2nd place right alongside them.

• Women's Bowling has finished a respectable 1st, 2nd, and 3rd in their respective tournaments, defeating 57 other teams. District 12 is practically matching them strike-for-strike, as they are currently in 4th place in Nebraska with 62.47% of their memberships turned in.

• As of this writing, there are three undefeated (3-0) teams in Husker Athletics, namely Women's Basketball, Men's Basketball, and Men's Wrestling. Districts 7, 5, and 9 are in 2nd, 5th, and 10th places, respectively, with 65.45%, 62.19%, and 54.88%.

• Women's Rifle is off to a decent 6-3 start, with two of those losses being decided by less than 20 points. The team is currently ranked #7 in the nation. Their counterpart, District 8, has been working on membership by passing the 50% mark. Just 100 more members will move your District into 7th place.

• Men's Football is still looking for that elusive sixth win to get the team into a Bowl Game (and I hope they've managed to do so by the time you read this). Their cohort, District 13, has had a bit more success, as they are currently in 3rd place with 63.40%.

• Women's Soccer had a rough year this fall, but that didn't stop District 4 from working on their membership, boosting themselves past the 50% mark with a respectable 55.63%.

• The teams representing our other five Districts have not yet started their seasons, but that hasn't stopped those Districts from working on membership. District 2 (Men's Track and Field) leads the way amongst all Nebraska Districts with a whopping 71.61%, followed by Districts 1 and 3, who are nip and tuck with 60.46% and 60.05%, respectively. Who will win their race, do you think, Women's Track and Field or Men's Baseball? Districts 10 and 6 (represented by Women's and Men's Gymnastics) are struggling a bit, but they'll find their way. In fact, District 6 needs just 10 more members to push them past the 50% mark.

We truly are making great progress, everyone! And every new and rejoined member gets the Department of Nebraska one step closer to our goal. Just remember that everything we do, every time we are out in our communities, is a "Membership Moment." So make those moments shine, and together, we will get Nebraska back to 100% membership in 2025.

*Loree Hendrickson
Membership Chair*



National Executive Committeeman Jim Costello, also an ALA member, beat out the mob to sign up the first new member of the year for Cody Unit 319. Jim signed up Jennie Nollette of Niobrara Valley Vineyards in Nenzel during the District One Tour in August.

LEGISLATIVE CHALLENGE

Please consider accepting the Legislative challenge that I shared earlier this year. The National Legislative Committee is now promoting it also!!! Let's get more members to sign up for the Grassroots Action Center. Here are the rewards!!!

The department winner will

receive a \$20 donation in their name to the National President's project from the national chair each quarter, with the division receiving bragging rights. The year-end overall department and division winners will be announced at the pre-convention meeting, each receiving a \$50 donation to the

National President's project.

Support of the challenge benefits our mission, the National President's project, and bragging rights to all Auxiliary members advocating for the Legion's Legislative Agenda.

Barb Washburn

American Legion Auxiliary Legislative Newsletter

November 2024

National Legislative Committee Challenge

The challenge is for each department and division to have the highest percentage of correspondence numbers based on 2025 paid memberships each quarter in response to the Legion's Action Alert.

Challenge Guidelines

- The challenge start date is November 10, 2024.
- The Legion's quarterly report and Auxiliary's membership report data will be used to calculate percentages.
- Correspondence: The emails/letters sent to legislators when a member goes through the Action Alert located in the Grassroots Center.
- Correspondence Number: Each time a member sends email/letter, regardless of the number of recipients, on a specific alert request will count as "1" for the department.
- Department Membership: The number of 2025 paid members as of the end of the quarter (Membership Report nearest to quarter end).
- The quarterly department and division winners will be determined by highest percentage calculated by **Correspondence Number divided by the department membership.**
- Year-end department and division winners will be calculated by combining the total department correspondence numbers for the year divided by membership entered in the ALAMIS member database by July 26, 2025.

Example of Department Data for Quarterly Challenge Using data as of 11-6-2024 Membership Report & 10-23-2024 Legion Quarterly Action Alert Report

Department	Correspondence Per Action Alert as of 10-23-24	Paid Members as of 11-6-2024	% of Correspondence to Paid 2025 Membership	Department	Correspondence Per Action Alert as of 10-23-24	Paid Members as of 11-6-2024	% of Correspondence to Paid 2025 Membership
AK	10	1253	0.80%	MT	6	1342	0.45%
AL	31	1887	1.64%	NC	39	3318	1.18%
AR	18	785	2.29%	ND	5	3480	0.14%
AZ	82	8068	1.02%	NE	26	8674	0.30%
CA	123	10156	1.21%	NH	18	3479	0.52%
CO	27	2135	1.26%	NJ	118	4861	2.43%
CT	13	1653	0.79%	NM	16	1453	1.10%
DE	12	2131	0.56%	NV	15	183	8.20%
FL	186	23970	0.78%	NY	103	18498	0.55%
GA	25	2973	0.84%	OH	131	17339	0.76%
HI	1	81	1.23%	OK	27	1147	2.35%
IA	27	10814	0.25%	OR	15	1887	0.79%
ID	7	732	0.96%	PA	52	19808	0.26%
IL	74	9844	0.75%	RI	5	252	1.98%
IN	88	20683	0.43%	SC	31	1851	1.67%
KS	22	4065	0.54%	SD	9	4753	0.19%
KY	20	1972	1.01%	TN	28	1912	1.46%
LA	9	1951	0.46%	TX	92	6943	1.33%
MA	16	2232	0.72%	UT	12	444	2.70%
MD	30	11308	0.27%	VA	35	2717	1.29%
ME	11	2518	0.44%	VT	9	2632	0.34%
MI	30	14013	0.21%	WA	13	2384	0.55%
MN	39	14485	0.27%	WI	135	10249	1.32%
MO	44	3781	1.16%	WV	24	2286	1.05%
MS	9	933	0.96%	WY	6	1268	0.47%



Mildred Coleman, a member of Broken Bow Unit 126, was presented with a Certificate for 50 years of continuous membership. The certificate was presented by Unit President Nancy Harrold.



Norfolk Unit #16 put up and decorated a tree for the Parade of Trees at the Norfolk Arts Center.

CHAPLAINS CORNER

The Legend of the Candy Cane

When you look at the Candy Cane,

What do you see?

I see stripes that are red like His blood shed for me.

White is for my Savior who's sinless and pure.

J is for Jesus my Lord I adore.

Turn it around and a staff you will see.

Jesus my shepherd who was born and died for me.



For the Christmas program Write a letter to Our Heroes!

I invite everyone to join in on the Journey of saying "Thank You" to All Who Serve. Please go to operationgratitude.com for all of the letter-writing tips. On the website, there are also different coloring pages that the younger children can color to send to Our Heroes.

For he hath made him to be sin for us, who knew no sin; that we might be made the righteousness of God in him. 2 Corinthians 5:21

Let us Pray:

Heavenly Father,

Thank you for the gift of righteousness that we have through Jesus Christ. Help us to fully grasp the magnitude of what you have done for us on the cross. May your grace and forgiveness lead us to a life of obedience and love. Empower us to reflect your righteousness to the world around us.

In Jesus' name,
Amen

The Rules and Guidelines for the Prayer Book were sent out in the November newsletter. The guidelines are also on the Nebraska American Legion Auxiliary website.

Lori Reimers
Department Chaplain

AMERICANISM

My name is Cie Kauth. I am the Americanism Chairman.

This year's essay topic is "What does America the Beautiful mean to me (regarding veterans and our military)?"

I would like the units to receive the essays from the schools by February 15th so you can have some extra time to judge them before sending them to me by March 15th. Then, I will have time to judge them before they are due to national by April 15th.

I also hope that all the units are helping with Americanism by getting the information out about the proper knowledge of the flag and its history, etiquette, proper disposal, and promotion of our flag to our youth.

Cie Kauth
Americanism Chair

EDITOR'S NOTE

Please send articles and pictures for future editions of "THE STAR" to Lorene Bartos, Editor at 7441 San Mateo Lane, Lincoln, NE 68516 or email to: ALATheStarNE@yahoo.com. Send photos as jpg attachments. Material for the next issue needs to be submitted by
JANUARY 10, 2025.

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2025 CHALLENGE FOR EACH OF YOU

The Boelus American Legion Post Family's official name is Shipmann Mogensen Post Family #20. Does your Post Family have a name in honor of someone? Do you know what it is? If not, that is my challenge to get to know the history of our Post Family.

Let's find the history of the name of each of our Post Families and report it. Share with me, and I would love to share it with everyone.

Also, the guidelines for the History Book contest were sent out in the November newsletter. The guidelines are also on the Nebraska American Legion Auxiliary website.

Merry Christmas to each of you, and I'm looking forward to an amazing 2025.

Vicki Cyboron
Department Historian

DATES TO REMEMBER

DECEMBER

- 7 Pearl Harbor Day
- 24-25 Christmas Holiday - Department Headquarters Closed
- 31 New Year's Eve Holiday - Department Headquarters Closed

JANUARY

- 1 New Year's Day - Department Headquarters closed
- 10 Articles due for the February/March issue
- 17-19 Mid-Year Education Conference – Norfolk Lodge and Suites – Norfolk
- 20 Martin Luther King, Jr. Day - Department Headquarters closed

FEBRUARY

- 1 Four Chaplains Sunday
- 14 Valentine's Day
- 17 Presidents Day – Department Headquarters Closed

FOR YOUR ADVANCED PLANNING

- June 1-7, 2025 ALA Cornhusker Girls State – UNL Campus – Lincoln, NE
- June 26-29, 2025 Department Convention
- August 22-28, 2025 National Convention, Tampa Bay, Florida



FLAG RETIREMENT CEREMONY



The Bellwood unit recently had a membership drive and signed up 6 new ALA members. The Legion had a flag retirement ceremony.