



# American Legion Auxiliary

## District 11 Newsletter



February 2026

### New News:

From the York County Veterans Service Office in the York County Courthouse.

We have been busy in this office getting Veterans for LB650 this is the Disabled & Blind Vehicle Tax and Fee exemption. Veterans can get one of their vehicles registered for that exemption.

We are also getting ready for the Homestead Exemption. Please look up on the Nebraska Department of Revenue's website and type in Homestead Exemption in the search bar to get an Information Guide to see if you are eligible for this exemption. If your veteran has 100% service-connected permanent disability you are eligible for this without being income based. If you are a widow and your spouse was at this level when they passed you are also eligible for this exemption.

Give us a call if you have any questions or contact your local Veteran Service Officer.

Depression is one of the leading causes of death among our Veterans. So please "Be The One" if you know of one of our Veterans struggling with depression. Veterans Crisis Line is Dial 988 press 1. You may also sign up for "Be the One" training on the American Legion's website <https://www.legion.org/> under the Information Center tab there is a calendar tab from there you can see the dates and times that are available. These are via zoom and are free to do. This is very informative and may give you some tools to help a Veteran in need.

My theme for this year is along with our Legion's "Be The One" initiative. My focus is on our Veteran's PTSD and mental health issues.

Let's **BUILD** each other!

**B** – Be the One!

**U** – Unite and help each other achieve our goals!

**I** – Inspire and motivate one another!

**L** – Listen to each other!

**D** – Dedicate ourselves to helping each other!



My project for this year is to raise money for a program named JAVELAN.

I will be raffling off a couple things to make money for a donation to this program. The 1st prize is an Eagle lawn Decoration and a Patriotic picture of bird houses and cardinals. The 2<sup>nd</sup> Prize is a Patriotic picture of dogs in the back of an old pickup and flag and a patriotic table centerpiece. I will also take straight donations for this project if you do not want any raffle tickets. I will try to display these at County meetings that I am available to attend please let me know if you have any questions or if you know anyone that would benefit from a service dog and need more information.

I have my raffle items at the York County Veterans Office displayed if you want to come in and see them. We would love to have you come in and say Hi.

**Prayer Books** – Please have your prayer books to the District 11 convention in the morning before the Convention begins to be judged. You may also send Vicki Colson our Department Chaplain your favorite prayers that you would like to be included in President Ruth's Prayer Book.

Please make sure your schools in your area have all the application information or at least know where to go to get the Scholarship information and eligibility. Please check out ALA's website for more information.

<https://nebraskalegionaux.net/>

This might be a good incentive if you are looking for a Girls or Boys State candidate. If you are a high school junior who will be attending an American Legion Boys State or Auxiliary Girls State program this summer, you may be eligible for the Samsung American Legion Scholarship. The Samsung American Legion Scholarship is available for high school juniors who participate in the current session of American Legion Boys State or Auxiliary Girls State and are a direct descendant (or legally adopted child) of a U.S. military veteran who served honorably on active duty during a period of war (April 6, 1917-Nov. 11, 1918; or Dec. 7, 1941, until a date as determined by Congress). The scholarship awards up to \$10,000 for undergraduate studies (e.g., room and board, tuition and books). This Scholarship along with many other opportunities for scholarships on the State website - nebraskalegionaux.net and on the National level the National website - member.legionaux.org.

### **Let's talk Dues Ladies,**

Let's try to get those dues in **please!** District 11 jumped up to 2<sup>nd</sup> place!! Great job Ladies!! We really need to keep working on getting them dues in. Please be making those calls to your members that don't regularly come to your meetings. Our organization cannot run without them. Please, be getting your dues in as early as you can and don't hold to them, get them sent in as soon as you receive them. I would really hate to see someone miss out on a chance to use the Auxiliary Emergency Fund because the membership chairman didn't send in dues right away. If you need help calling or texting people in your Unit let me know. Let's make District 11 #1 again this year!!

### **Unit Awards:**

There is a Drawing for the following:

85% Award by TAL Birthday, March 15<sup>th</sup>, 2026 – one \$85 award

(Our Department needs to reach this Goal to be considered for the Merit Medallion Award at National)

100% Award by President Ruthie's Birthday, June 10, 2026 – 2 \$100 awards.

### **National Awards –**

- Family 3 – Member recruiter who recruits 3 New Legion members, 3 New Auxiliary members, and 3 New Sal Members and dues paid by June 1, 2026.
- Recruit/Rejoin 10- Members who recruit and/or rejoin 10 junior or senior Auxiliary members for the 2026 year. Rejoins must not have paid membership dues since 2022 or earlier.
- Unit Award- 100% Unit Award.

**Poppies** – the Department is low on Poppies so if anyone would like to learn how to make them please contact Roxanne at the Department Office 402-466-1808 and she could point you in the right direction. I have started making some and it is not very hard.

**Deadlines** – Make sure you are paying attention to the deadlines for the Scholarship, Essay Contest, Poster Contest and Girls State. Contact your schools in your area and make sure they have the information they need and know the deadlines. Girls & Boys State will be held May 31<sup>st</sup> – June 6<sup>th</sup> the deadlines in getting the applications in is March 1<sup>st</sup>. Junior Law Cadet Program is Boys June 22<sup>nd</sup> – 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2026 and Girls is June 24<sup>th</sup> – 25<sup>th</sup>, 2026. The Legion's deadline for this is March 1<sup>st</sup>.