



American Legion Auxiliary District 11 Newsletter

June 2026



New News:

Hello Everyone,

I had to get this out to you early. I am going to be out of town doing some training for my position here at the Veteran Service Office and on a small vacation.

From the York County Veteran Service Office:

Homestead –

¹Nebraska Homestead Exemption is a property tax relief program for qualifying homeowners, including veterans totally disabled by a service-connected accident or illness, qualified totally disabled veterans or their surviving spouse, and veterans whose home was substantially contributed to by the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs, and their widow(er)s.

²Category 4V: Qualified Disabled Veterans with 100% Service-Connected Permanent Disability and Veterans Receiving a 100% Individual Unemployability Rating (IU)

- Own and occupy a homestead from January 1 through August 15.
- Nebraska Homestead Exemption Application, Form 458 and a certification of disability from the VA are required when first applying and in years ending in 0 or 5. The VA certification must state that the veteran has either:
 1. a 100% permanent service-connected disability or
 2. 2. a 100% Individual Unemployability Rating (IU).
- Effective date of the 100% permanent disability rating or 100% Individual Unemployability Rating (IU) must be on or before January 1 of the application year.
- Veterans with less than 100% disability rating who have a 100% Individual Unemployability Rating (IU) that was certified on or before January 1, 2026.
- Failure to file all forms with the county assessor after February 1 and on or before **June 30** in required years will result in a veteran not qualifying for the homestead exemption for that year and having to apply the following year.
- The five-year period between years when homestead exemption applications and VA certifications are required is referred to as the exemption period. If a category 4V veteran passes away during the exemption period and has a surviving spouse, that spouse receives the homestead exemption for the remainder of the exemption period. After the conclusion of the exemption period, the surviving spouse must apply annually under category 4S.

¹ Veterans.nebraska.gov/homestead-exemption

² Nebraska Homestead Exemption Information Guide, February 19, 2026, Pg 7

FYSA – Registration for the VetMOM Dental Clinic is now live as 5/21/2026.

Please find the links to the two registration forms below, along with attached step-by-step instructions to assist anyone who may experience issues during the registration process. I've also attached our 2026 VetMOM Flyer for Patients. If you have the opportunity to assist a veteran or spouse with completing their registration, your support is encouraged and appreciated.

As a reminder, Dentures are limited to 90 appointments, so if you know someone who wants an appointment, have them register quickly. Make sure they can come to both days of the clinic to get the proper fit.

Patients: <https://vetmom2026.rsvpify.com>

Volunteers: <https://vetmom2026volunteers.rsvpify.com>

Link to the website with more information on the VetMOM: [2026 Veterans Mission of Mercy Dental Event](#)

District 11 News

I am once again going to have JAVELAN as my project for this coming 2026-2027 year. I think this is such a great service for our veterans and first responders. I will have raffle items again this year, below is a picture of them. Again, this year I will have 1st and 2nd prizes, and the winner will have their pick on which bundle they want. The Eagle and Pledge of Allegiance picture will be one and the Patriotic Dog and wreath will be the other one. The raffle tickets will be on sale for \$1 for one and 6 for \$5. I will have them displayed in the York County Service Office in the York County Courthouse. I will also bring them with me to County Meetings and other events that I am invited to.

Suicide is the 2nd leading causes of death among our Veterans under 40 years old. Based on my personal experience and my work at the Veterans' Service Office, it's important for everyone to stay aware and ready to support others who may be facing challenging times in their lives. So please "Be The One" if you know of one of our Veterans struggling with depression. Veterans Crisis Line is Dial 988 press 1. The crisis line is available not only to Veterans, but also to friends and family members who are concerned about their loved ones and require guidance on supporting someone who is experiencing difficulties.

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.



Be The One

B – Be the One!
E – Encourage others

T – Teamwork
H – Help each other
E – Embrace one another

O – Offer Assistance and Support
N – Notice and be aware
E – Empathize

Unit Awards:

There is a Drawing for the following:

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

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.

Vicki Ozenbaugh, our Girls State Chair, is looking for donations for the Girls State snack night. If your unit wants to donate \$30 to this it would be appreciated. She will be taking the first 40 Units who donate to this and any other donations will be directed toward the Mercy Meals Community Service Project. You may also donate directly to this as well. They will also be making sleeping mats again and will be taking plastic bag donations. Please have the bags clean and have them empty of all receipts, items, etc. Vicki is also looking for volunteers for Wednesday, June 3 to help with General Election. They need 16 -20 volunteers. Volunteer drivers are also needed on Thursday, June 4th to take girls to office visits following the inauguration ceremony. You may email Vicki and let her know if you are available for either or both dates above to volunteer and where to send your plastic bags at ala.ozenbaugh@gmail.com

District 11 Get Together – There will be **no** Get Together evening this month due to the Convention.

Headquarters is going to be having an Open House June 20th from 1-5 at their new location at 150 NW 40th St. Unit A, Lincoln, NE.

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Nebraska State Legislature

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COMMITTEES

Chairperson – Building Maintenance
Vice Chairperson – Education
Natural Resources
Education Commission of the States
Midwest Higher Education Commission

May 7th, 2026

Dear Valerie,

Thank you for reaching out about the Poppy Program and veterans making them while in prison. I reached out to the Inspector General of the Nebraska Correctional Systems to ask about the delay in reinstatement of veterans group being able to meet. They looked into it and shared that the clubs were originally suspended temporarily due to a staff member being on longer-term leave, but the suspension has obviously continued for quite a long time now. The Nebraska State Patrol told the Inspector General that they have hired a new staff person who starts next week, which will allow clubs to resume meeting. I assume this includes the veterans groups. The new staff person will need some training when they first arrive, so the State Patrol is hoping clubs can resume later in May.

Thank you again for reaching out about the Poppy Program. This is something important for Nebraska, our inmate veterans in the prison system and so the American Legion and other veterans' organizations can utilize the Poppy Program to honor the brave members of our military.

Sincerely,

A blue ink handwritten signature of Senator Jana Hughes, featuring a large, stylized 'J' and 'H'.

Senator Jana Hughes
District 24