

Legionnaire

Volume C

Number 2



All Things Are Possible When Working Together



BE THE ONE is not just a tag line. It is an invitation to connect and empower veterans, servicemembers, their family members and civilians to act appropriately when a veteran may be at risk. This mission is bringing more awareness to the problem while providing resources to those who may be able to help save the life of a veteran. It is a given that through the holidays we connect more with family and friends. But what about the other 10 months. The months where people may feel forgotten or alone. We can all BE THE ONE to make a difference in a veteran's life. Let us not wait for a hand to reach out for help but move toward the silence of those who have lost hope and are struggling. One of the many great things about this mission is that it only takes a phone call to a veteran or a home visit when appropriate. When each one of us connect to one veteran the benefits are far beyond the efforts. Let's destigmatize asking for mental health support, provide peer – to – peer support and resources, and educate everyone on how they can BE THE ONE.

Another fun way to reach out to veterans is through the **Gifts for Yanks** program. It can get lonely when having to be homebound or living in a facility. Sometimes family members are too busy or keep putting off that important visit to the loved one. Legion family members go out like Santa's elves and have been doing so for over 70 years. They deliver blankets, cardigans, sweat suits and gift bags filled with everyday necessities to veterans. Not only is the recipient blessed, but you will also be blessed as well. This is possible through fundraising, a little work, and your time. Involve your local community and schools. Teaching young people to serve is a skill that will benefit them in all their future endeavors.

The American Legion is a well respected and committed organization that continues to thrive through your efforts. Thank you for your donations, volunteering your time, and commitment to serving our community of veterans, service members, their families and civilians. Let's all do our best to BE THE ONE to save our veterans and provide a quality of life we all strive for. Give to those who gave to us.

See websites legion.org and BeTheOne.org for more information on BE THE ONE.



2024 Mid-Year Conference Make Your Reservations Now

The 2024 Mid-Year Conference will be held January 19 - 21, 2024 at the Kearney Holiday Inn and Convention Center. The Holiday in is located at 110 2nd Avenue in Kearney.

Rooms are \$114.95 per night and includes breakfast. Contact 308-237-5971 for your reservation. Do not call the toll free number when reserving a room.

The DEC meeting will be held on Friday January 19 at 10:00 am and the Joint Session will be held on Saturday January 20 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 registraion is \$10.00 and will start at 12:00 on Friday. If you would like more information or have questions, please contact Adjutant Salak at Headquarters.

New Admin. Assistant/Media Specialist



The Headquarters Staff would like to welcome our newest employee to the group; Carol Foutz.

Carol is enjoying her new adventure as the Administrative Assistant/Media Specialist and continues to work with Amanda to familiarize herself with our newspaper, social media sites, and other aspects of The American Legion. She has completed the American Legion Basic Course and is learning more about The American Legion every day.

Carol is from California and has lived in HI, ID, NM, TX and absolutely loves Nebraska. Though she is from a big city she has realized she has a country heart. Stop by Headquarters and say "Hello".

FOR GOD AND COUNTRY

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

THE ROAD TO SUCCESS

2024 MEMBERSHIP GOAL: 23,418 NOVEMBER 13TH TOTAL: 16,548 - 70.66%

DISTRICT 15 - 77.42%	DISTRICT 7 - 76.98%	DISTRICT 1 - 74.97%	DISTRICT 2 - 73.15%	DISTRICT 10 - 71.83%
DISTRICT 12 - 70.86%	DISTRICT 8 - 69.97%	DISTRICT 11 - 69.14%	DISTRICT 6 - 68.39 %	DISTRICT 4 - 68.13%
DISTRICT 3 - 66.64%	DISTRICT 5 - 66.19%	DISTRICT 13 - 61.02%	DISTRICT 9 - 60.54%	






Commander's Corner

John-Henry Percy
Department Commander

We are now into our fifth month of our Legion membership drive for the year 2024. Overall, we are sitting at 63%. That is a good start; however, we still have Posts with zero membership reporting and quite honestly that is unacceptable. Adjutants and membership chairmen please do not hold onto membership cards until you reach a certain amount. You should be transmitting your posts membership renewals at least every two weeks to Department. Our goal is to be at 100% by December 31st. Reaching this goal will ensure we keep our members from becoming delinquent. Continue to work your membership drive hard. I would like to see our department at 80% by the end of November. Yes, it is a challenge, but I believe we can achieve this goal. Remember to be proactive in notifying your members for their dues and don't wait for national to provide membership renewal notices. Call your members or visit their houses for a personal visit. For all our members who have not paid your dues for 2024 yet, please do so. Your membership is very important to the success of our four pillars and youth programs.

Everyone should be familiar with our **Buddy Check** call program. If you have not been doing them; then I ask that you began to do so. The main reason for our **Buddy Check** phone calls is to ensure our veterans, spouses, and family members are doing well and if they need help or assistance, we are there to help them. What has come out of the **Buddy Check** initiative is a new program by our national organization called **BE THE ONE**.

Here is the catch. The American Legion National Commander in conjunction with the National Auxiliary President and the Sons National Commander have made the **BE THE ONE** not to be just a new initiative or program, but rather a new **MISSION** for all Legion, Auxiliary, and Sons members to be actively participating in. The purpose is to engage your fellow veterans, spouses, and family members like we do in a **BUDDY CHECK** program; but, to take it one step farther. Follow the acronym ALR (no not the riders). The first step is for "A" and **ASK** the individual how they are doing. Next, is step number two "L". Here **LISTEN** to what they have to say. This is the most important step. Finally, is step number three "R". If necessary, **REFER** the individual for help and steer them into the right direction to get help.

If we can reach just one veteran, spouse, and family member from committing suicide then our actions under this new mission will have proven to be valid and a worthwhile objective. Saving one life is very important. No, we are not trying to make anyone a counselor or professional mental health person. But, just by engaging someone who you know might be depressed or a little off their game and getting that individual help or assistance is worth all the effort we put into this mission. This is not a just a year-long mission. Consider it a new **LIFETIME MISSION**. Please, do not use the **BE THE ONE** mission for membership drives.

"Lead by Mentoring"




Rider's Rally

John Arias
Department ALR Liaison

Fellow Riders,
As some of you may know and for those who do not, I was appointed interim ALR Liaison until a Legionnaire steps up to assume the position of Nebraska ALR Liaison. After Mike Sheridan stepped down for personal reasons, I called Commander John Henry-Pearcy and offered my services "if" no one else stepped up. ALR Chapters have supported veterans and their families at the Post, community and state level. I would like to ask all Riders Chapters to send representatives to our Mid-Year meeting in Kearney on January 21, 2024 at the Holiday Inn. If entire Chapters want to attend, that would be great! We do what we do "for the cause, not the applause."

I will be giving the ALR Liaison report on Saturday, January 21st so Directors, please send me the total miles ridden, the total hours of volunteerism, and the amount of money donated/spent. I would greatly appreciate it and thank you in advance. I am planning the 2024 Legacy Run Across Nebraska, July 12-14: (Day 1) starting at the Department Headquarters Office parking lot. We will travel along Hwy 6 to Imperial and spend the night in Ogallala; July 13: (Day 2) we will then travel to Bridgeport, Chadron and spend the night in Valentine; July 14: (Day 3) we will travel to Norfolk, Valparaiso and end back at Headquarters. It is roughly 950 miles. I am still working on it and hope to finalize it by Mid-Year with hotel costs, etc. The American Legion Legacy Scholarship Fund is self-sufficient now, and the IRS basically said that was enough. All monies will now be going to the Veterans and Children Foundation. "The American Legion Veterans & Children Foundation feeds and houses children of military personnel and veterans facing urgent, unexpected hardships. It prevents eviction, keeps the power on and fulfills basic needs to hold a family together through difficult times. Since its inception in 1925 as the American Legion Endowment Fund, the foundation has assisted millions of veterans, their families and children in need. In 2019, the American Legion Endowment Fund began doing business as the American Legion Veterans & Children Foundation to more clearly state who benefits from tax-deductible donations to the separate non-profit 501c3 element of the nation's largest veterans organization."

I will have more details at our Mid-Year meeting in Kearney. Please attend and offer any input or suggestions. I hope to see you all there!

NEBRASKA AMERICAN LEGION

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- Area B Vice Commander..... Don Patras, Columbus
- Area C Vice Commander..... Brendan Moore, Lincoln
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- Dist. 4..... Steve Stanec, Alliance
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- Dist. 7..... Adam Schweitzer, Fremont
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- Dist. 10..... Don Nelson, Clay Center
- Dist. 11..... Tom Crisman, Crete
- Dist. 12..... Martin Neal, Hickman
- Dist. 13..... Scott Buss, Sterling
- Dist. 15..... Bruce Gubser, 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.

I no longer wish to receive a printed copy of the Nebraska Legionnaire.

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



It's History

Jennifer Laux
Department Historian




Straight Talk

Levi Bennett
Department Service Officer



Last month many of you likely participated in a Veterans Day celebration or took advantage of “Veterans Day” sales at your favorite retail store. Whether you were honoring the veterans in your life or scoring a great deal, hopefully you took a moment to reflect on the true meaning of Veterans Day. I was fortunate enough to be invited to speak at this year’s Veterans Day event held at South Omaha Post 331. To everyone who participated, it was an absolute HONOR to spend the evening with you – especially WWII Navy veteran Carl Schratt. As the oldest and youngest veterans in attendance, Carl and I had the pleasure of cutting the cake together!

History of Veterans Day



Department Historian Jennifer Laux and WWII Veteran Carl Schratt (Post 331) cut the cake together at the Veterans Day celebration held at South Omaha Post 331.

Veterans Day, originally known as Armistice Day, was first commemorated, by proclamation of President Woodrow Wilson, on November 11, 1919 to honor those who served in World War I. Wilson stated “To us in America, the reflections of Armistice Day will be filled with solemn pride in the heroism of those who died in the country’s service and with gratitude for the victory, both because of the thing from which it has freed us and because of the opportunity it has given America to show her sympathy with peace and justice in the councils of the nations...” On that day, two minutes of silence were observed at 11am, the time when the armistice, or temporary cessation of hostilities, went into effect between Germany and the Allied Nations. This tradition continues today.

On June 4, 1926, Congress passed a resolution calling for the President of the United States to issue an annual proclamation observing the importance

of Armistice Day. Twelve years later, on May 13, 1938, Congress passed a special act making Armistice Day a federal holiday with the expressed purpose of promoting world peace and mutual understanding between nations.

Although WWI was known as the “war to end all wars,” we know that was unfortunately not the case. Over 16 million people served in WWII and 5.7 million people served in the Korean War. In light of these two wars, veterans’ service organizations lobbied Congress to amend the 1938 act to change Armistice Day to Veterans Day in order to honor veterans of all our wars, not just WWI. That legislation was signed by President Dwight Eisenhower on June 1, 1954.

Veterans Day is not to be confused with Memorial Day - a common misunderstanding, according to the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs. Memorial Day (the fourth Monday in May) honors American service members who died in service to their country or because of injuries incurred during battle, while Veterans Day pays tribute to all American veterans - living or dead - but especially gives thanks to living veterans who served their country honorably during war or peacetime.

Many of these veterans continue serving their communities even after their discharge from the military. A prime example is the work being done by Legionnaires in Nebraska. Whether it’s raising money for Legion programs, mentoring children through baseball or scouting programs, visiting the elderly or sick in our veterans’ homes and hospitals, or honoring our fallen at graveside ceremonies, Nebraska Legionnaires contribute positively to the health and well-being of our society. So, not only on Veterans Day, but every day of the year, I’d like to say thanks to all our veterans for everything they have done, and continue to do, for our Nation.

Urgent Care Access for Veterans Enrolled in USDVA Health Care (VA)

We are in the flu and cold season and some options to where to receive prompt care for minor symptoms as well as obtaining the flu vaccine to fit within our busy schedules may be eluding veterans who currently use VA health care.

Veterans who are eligible for VA healthcare and have received care through the VA or a VA community provider within the previous 24 months are eligible to use the VA urgent care benefit. You may verify your eligibility by contacting your local VA medical facility should you not recall if you have received care in the past 24 months. You may also call 800-698-2411 (as with most phone calls to VA this is an arduous method).

Urgent care is for treatment of minor injuries and illnesses, such as minor skin infections, colds, and sore throats. This benefit is offered in addition to receiving care from a VA provider and offers the opportunity to be seen the same day without going to an emergency room. The urgent care provider must be part of the VA’s contracted network of community providers (note urgent care does not include preventive care and dental care).

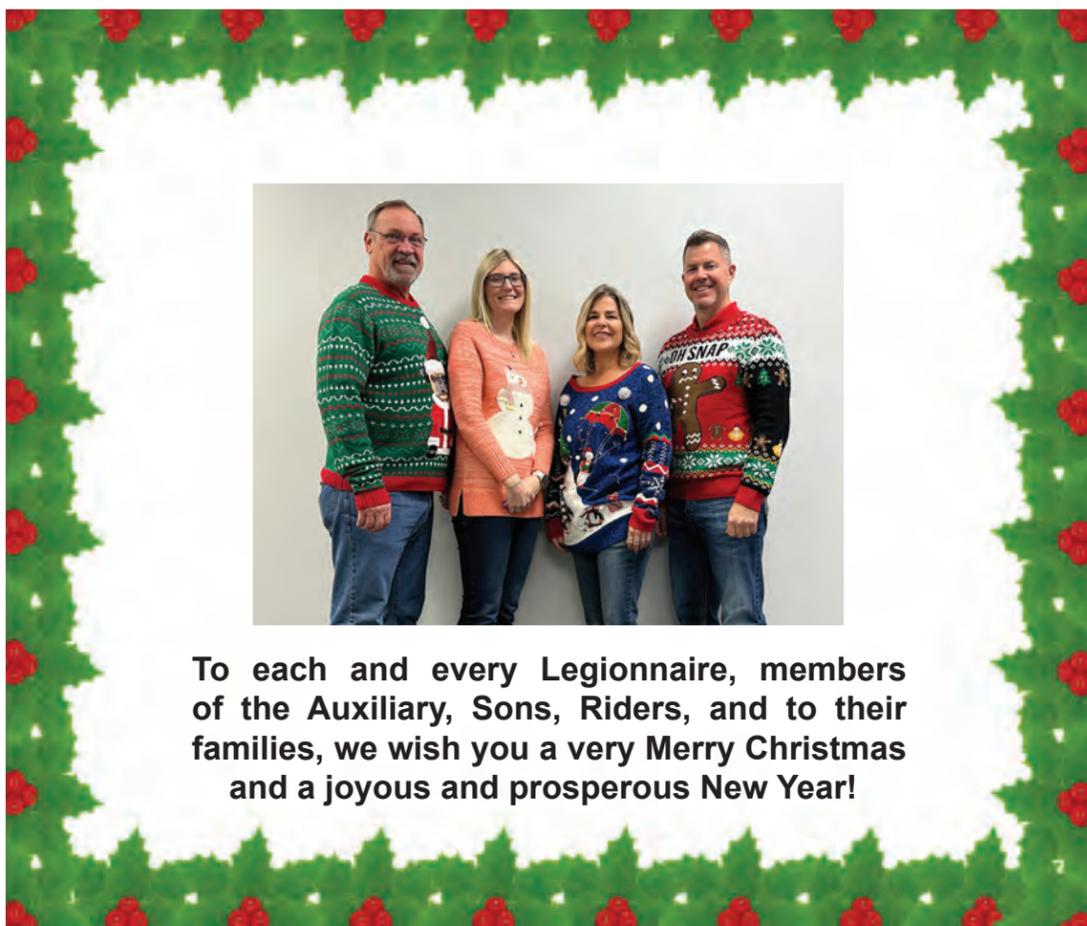
To find an available urgent care provider in your area who is in the VA’s contracted network, visit the website <https://www.va.gov/find-locations/>. Type in your city or zip code, choose “Urgent care” and select “Search.” You may also contact your local VA team and ask that they provide you with a list of urgent care providers.

Depending on your individual eligibility and private insurance(s), the billing for urgent care should be billed by the urgent care provider to a VA Third Party Administrator. Depending on the Veteran’s individual priority group assignment the VA may bill the Veteran a copayment if applicable.

Priority Groups 1-5, \$0 co-pay for first three urgent care visits (per calendar year) and \$30 co-pay for the fourth and greater visits during the same calendar year. Priority Group 6, if related to a condition covered by a special authority, \$0 co-pay for first three urgent care visits (per calendar year) and \$30 co-pay for the fourth and greater visits during the same calendar year. If the condition is not covered by a special authority the co-pay is \$30 per visit. Priority Group 7-8, co-pay is \$30 per visit. There is no co-pay for any priority group (1-8) for a visit consisting of only a flu shot. For more information on VA priority groups for health care please visit the website <https://www.va.gov/health-care/eligibility/priority-groups/>.

Flu Shot Access for Veterans

Veterans who are enrolled in VHA health care and have received care through the VA or a VA community provider within the previous 24 months are eligible to receive the flu vaccine from the VA or local provider in the VA’s community care network at no-cost to the veteran. To locate a no-cost flu shot near you, you may use the same VA locator (<https://www.va.gov/find-locations/>).




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!

Sons of The American Legion Membership As of November 13, 2023

District	2023 Members	2024 Members
1	314	136
2	610	245
3	215	91
4	367	44
5	149	47
6	1,350	644
7	695	160
8	847	381
9	314	112
10	354	95
11	1,111	299
12	236	99
13	129	38
15	143	115
Total	6,834	2,506



POW/MIA

Boyd Yochum
POW/MIA Liaison

Lieutenant Junior Grade Michael Steele Confer entered the U.S. Navy from McCook, Nebraska and served with Attack Squadron 23 aboard the aircraft carrier USS Coral Sea.

On October 10, 1966, he piloted an A-4E Skyhawk (151150, call sign Lawcase 340) that launched from the USS Coral Sea on a nighttime armed reconnaissance mission against targets in North Vietnam. After the target was illuminated with flares, LTJG Confer radioed to his flight leader that he was rolling in for a rocket run. He launched his rockets at the target, and the flight lead saw the rockets impact; he also saw another larger flash. When he could not contact his wingman, his lead realized the larger explosion was Confer's aircraft impacting the ground. There was no evidence that Confer ejected from his aircraft before impact. An extensive search was conducted, but LTJG Confer could not be recovered. Further attempts to locate or identify his remains have been unsuccessful. His remains have not been repatriated.

The official Navy report indicates that Confer's aircraft was likely struck by a surface to air missile and exploded, and that he was unable to eject. Confer was listed as "killed in action/body not recovered." The file is classified, and no further information is available.

Michael has three brothers, Rod, Kent, and Dr. Dennis Confer. Dennis spoke to a 2012 Memorial Day ceremony in the Culbertson cemetery. He explained that the life of a big brother is never forgotten, and that the sacrifice made by a good person and a true American service man has the power to impact the world even years later.

Dr. Confer went on to say that he had been in Hanoi on a business trip and discovered that he was 100 miles from where Mike had died. After a four-hour bus ride from the hotel in Hanoi, Dr. Confer found a witness to his brother's crash, Mr. Tran Huu Khue. Mr. Khue knew everything about Mike's crash into the Gulf. Mr. Khue's story was like the Navy's investigation, with one exception. Mr. Khue thought that Mike's plane was disabled, and that Mike was trying to keep the plane from crashing on land where villagers lived, and tried to ditch in the water, but the plane exploded before he could eject.

Vietnamese are respectful of the dead. Villagers gathered Mike's remains and buried them on a sandbar that has since washed away. Villagers recovered parts of Mike's aircraft and used the metal to make tools. Mr. Khue gave Dr. Confer a small square made from the aircraft. Dennis vowed to keep it forever.

LTJG Confer is memorialized on the Courts of the Missing at the National Memorial Cemetery of the Pacific and inscribed on the Vietnam Memorial Wall in Washington D.C.

Mike graduated from McCook High School in 1960 and is memorialized at the school's Weiland Football Field. The memorial is decorated with a Veterans Poppy, and the sign is a quote from Michael: "Tisn't life that matters, it's the courage you bring to it."



S.A.L. Notes

Eldon Kramer
Detachment Commander

Greetings from the Detachment of Nebraska Commander Eldon Kramer. Fellow Legion family, I hope your year is not going as fast as mine is. The national membership report, as of 11/6/2023, has Nebraska sitting at 32nd in the nation with 2,355 members paid for 33.68% of goal. Remember that the Detachment set a goal to achieve 100% membership by December 31. Let's make that push and get membership turned in. My Membership Committee and officers had a Zoom meeting on October 17th. Squadron Commanders and Adjutants will be getting a call from the Membership Committee or a Detachment Officer to discuss the low numbers of membership renewals. It's possible you may be getting a call from your Post Commander dealing with membership numbers. It's very important that you pay your dues before December 31st so that your membership does not expire. Get with The American Legion family at your Post and have a membership drive with a meal. Remember, we are "representing more than me." Remember the sacrifice that was paid for your membership and to represent as a proud possessor of a priceless heritage. Gentlemen, remember to use the tools that we have. Visit mylegion.org, it has lots of information on there to help you with your job as an officer in your Squadron.

My Commander homecoming was a success and had lots of training, good food, and great camaraderie. Thank you to all that attended the homecoming. I attended the Custer County Convention in Comstock, I also attended the District 4 and 6 Fall Roundups, I attended the funeral of the Detachment of Nebraska Sergeant-At-Arms and Squadron 16 Commander David L. Kohl, Sr. on October 20, and I attended numerous Veterans Day programs within District 4. We held another 13 fold ceremony for the Gering 5th grade students on November 29th. The District 1 Tour is a highlight every year. I plan to attend Dollar Days, Gifts for Yanks, and a Christmas party at the WNVH.

Congratulations to Stuart, Hyannis, Stromsburg, Blair, Ohio, Adams, and Bennett Squadrons on achieving 100% membership. Remember to retain and recruit. Congratulations to Winside Squadron 252 for raising \$5,068.57 for Special Olympics. Congratulations to Morrill Post & Squadron 10 for holding a flag etiquette class for the 6th graders. I encourage the Legion Family to also take part in Flying Flags for Heroes. I hope everyone has a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!

Membership Minute

Steve Bartos, Membership Chairman

As this article is being written in early November, I'm glad to report that Nebraska is, as is usual, off to a fairly good start. We achieved our goals for September and October - and have already surpassed the 65% goal for November 15th. Next up is the 75% Pearl Harbor target date on December 13th. I'd really like to see us get a goal ahead and achieve 80% of goal by that date. That's only possible with teamwork!! Unpaid members renew promptly, and Adjutants transmit dues to meet the deadline.

I have a hunch that Legionnaires statewide generally renew at about the same rate. However, the Department membership analysis shows that there's a wide range of renewal rates for our Posts. Some are drastically behind the target date percentages, and that's a likely indication that the dues are paid - but just not transmitted.

Do you know that a current copy of the Nebraska Membership Report is available on the Department website? Please take a look at it. If your Post is lagging behind, you can do us all a favor by poking somebody with a stick!! All dues that have been collected need to be forwarded to Headquarters promptly.

As we experienced last year, it appears that the Early Bird Award drawing generated an increase in early renewals - and I really appreciate that. Drawn by Commander Percy were the names of 5 Legionnaires who qualified for the drawing (\$200 each.) They were Jack Gomez (York Post 19), Don Hull (Wahoo Post 82), Dennis Tomka (Howells Post 155), Dan Edmonson (Kearney Post 52), and Kasey Ord (Red Cloud Post 238). Congratulations!!

As you may or may not have heard, the National Convention increased national dues by \$5.00 effective with the first dues notices that go out next summer for 2025 dues. Additionally, as our numbers continue to decline, the Department will likely be looking for a similar dues increase. And, Posts will need to consider their budgets, too.

The thought of a dues increase is never pleasant, but it's a fact of life. I encourage everyone to look at the certain - and potential - dues increases in a positive light and keep any dues increase in perspective. A \$10.00 total increase in state, national, and local annual dues is still cheaper than a cold beer at a basketball game at Pinnacle Bank Arena!

While a Paid-Up-For-Life (PUFL) membership is admittedly expensive and perhaps not for everyone, this may be a good time to consider that option. While presented in a different manner than they used to be, the cost of a PUFL is still calculated based on the Legionnaire's age and \$48.00 Post dues. You can determine your cost for a PUFL by checking out the following national website address: legion.org/join/pufl and there's also a phone number there for help.

On behalf of the Department Membership Committee, allow me to wish you 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 9th 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, 2023.

District 11 Convention is scheduled to be held in Wilbur, on Saturday, March 24. 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 and 2022, 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 as well. 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. Please remember shopping does not get much easier than purchasing them a membership.



Chaplain's Thoughts

Father Alexander Borzych
Department Chaplain



“And the word was made flesh and dwelt among us.” John 1:14

It is that time of the year when we turn our focus on one of the great feasts on the Christian calendar, Christmas. It seems that from the day after Thanksgiving, Black Friday, until the stores close their doors on December 24th everyone's focus is on Christmas. Shopping for the best bargains, being persuaded by the pleather of advertisements telling us what would make our holiday great, the holiday parties, school programs, preparing the house for company. It is all because of this one holiday.

I remember a lady telling me once, that her house was so spic and span, that when her kids came home for the holiday, they could eat off the floor!

We all know the many hours that are spent on the external elements of Christ's birth, but most fail to focus on the real reason: Christ's birth. The birth of the one who was born a man to bring salvation to the world.

How do we prepare ourselves personally and spiritually for this day, without feeling like the burden is lifted on the 26th of December? How do we make the most of the season leading up to December 25th without feeling exhausted and getting sick? One needs to care for oneself, in the best way they see fit. That could be by limiting the time you spend running around and by being selective to the number of events you attend. Spending some time every day in a quiet space in your home, reading the annunciation and the Christmas stories from the Bible. Take some time to reflect on what each of the individuals involved in the story experienced. How the gospels differ in their presentation of their versions of Christ's birth. Consider the people in your life that you might have neglected and give them a call to see how they are doing. Especially remember those friends, family members and neighbors living alone or in care facilities. Sit back in your easy chair and recall all the blessings you have received since last Christmas. No matter how you prepare yourself for Christmas, be good to yourself and enjoy the blessing Christmas and the Christ Child have to offer.

I leave you with a biblical Christmas quiz for you to see what you really know about the birth of Christ and the scriptures.

- Which Gospel(s) speak of the events surrounding Christ's birth?
 - Mark and John, B. Matthew and Luke, C. Luke only, D. Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John
- How many magi visited Christ shortly after his birth, according to the Bible?
 - An undisclosed number, B. One, C. Three, D. None
- According to most English translations of Matthew 2:11, where is Christ when the magi come to visit Him?
 - In a house, B. In the temple C. In the manger, D. In the womb
- The magi ask Herod where Christ is to be born. Herod summons his priests and scribes, who know the location of the birth because of the prophecy of this man.
 - Jonah, B. Micah, C. Amos D. Joel
- In a dream, an angel tells Joseph to name his child Jesus, for it was prophesied that a virgin would give birth and call her son Immanuel. What does Immanuel mean?
 - Jesus saves, B. God with us, C. God in flesh, D. God is born.
- Herod's slaughter of the children two and under, according to Matthew, fulfills a prophecy uttered by what man?
 - Joel, B. Micah, C. Jeremiah, D. Jonah
- How much younger was Jesus than his cousin John the Baptist?
 - One year, B. Six months, C. Two years, D. Twelve days
- Who speaks words to the pregnant Mary that have become a part of the Catholic Church's "Hail Mary"?
 - Anna, B. Elizabeth, C. Simeon, D. Zechariah
- Where do we find "the Magnificat"?
 - John, B. Matthew, C. Luke, D. Mark
- Why was Jesus born in Bethlehem, according to the Gospel of Luke?
 - His mother went to visit Elizabeth, B. His earthly father went to Bethlehem for a census, C. That's where both his parents lived, D. He wasn't he was born in Nazareth.

Answers to the Quiz. 1. A, 2. A, 3. B, 4.A, 5. B, 6. D, 7. B, 8. D,

From the Desk of the Department Adjutant

Dues increase!

At the 2023 National Convention in Charlotte, the convention body voted for a \$5.00 National dues increase that will go into effect on July 1, 2024. The last National dues increase was back in 2016. At our Department Convention in Kearney in June of 2024, it is highly likely a Department dues increase resolution is going to be voted on as well. This should not be a surprise to anyone as the Finance Officer briefed it to the convention body at our 2023 Department Convention in Kearney. The last Department dues increase came in 2018.

I understand no one likes dues increases but these minor increases don't even cover the cost of inflation over the years so neither are inflated.

LegionCare: \$5,000.00 Accidental Death Benefit at NO COST* To You

Did you know that starting 1/1/2015, anyone enrolled in LegionCare will be covered for as long as they maintain their membership in the Legion Family – TAL, ALA, & SAL. This new "one and done" approach will save you from needing to re-enroll every five years. 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.*

All dues-paying Department members have the opportunity to enroll in LegionCare; a complimentary, no cost to you accidental death coverage provided to members of Your Department.

Your Department of The American Legion works hard to provide the most comprehensive benefits to you and its members. As a Legionnaire in good standing, you are eligible for LegionCare. Your Department is committed to protecting Legionnaires and their families, so they've worked with the Legionnaire Insurance Trust (LIT) to arrange this benefit for you. Don't pass up your opportunity to activate LegionCare! You are guaranteed this NO COST coverage with no health questions, no hidden qualifications and no reason to pass up your opportunity for this important coverage.

Although coverage is available at NO COST to you and paid for by the LIT, you must enroll to receive the coverage. Visit www.theLIT.com or call toll-free at 1-800-235-6943 today to activate up to \$5,000.00 in protection.

*For purposes of the LIT, a member of The American Legion, with current year's dues paid, could be eligible for the \$5,000.00 Accidental Death benefit if he/she is traveling to, attending, or returning from an official function at which the Legionnaire represents their Post, District, Department, or National Organization in an official capacity.

Department Flagpole Fundraiser

Department Headquarters is currently accepting donations toward a set of flagpoles for the new location. Please send donations to 150 NW 40th Street, Unit A, Lincoln NE 68528. Contact Adjutant Salak with any questions.

BE A BUDDY

CHECK IN ON YOUR FELLOW VETERANS

Veterans Crisis Line
DIAL 988 then PRESS 1

NEBRASKA
Good Life. Great Sacrifice.
VETERANS' AFFAIRS

Nebraska Post 3 ALWS Runner-Up



Carpet Land's "Rugs" pose with the American Legion World Series Runner-Up Trophy.

A tremendous ride through the spring high school and summer American Legion baseball seasons came to an end in defeat for Carpet Land of Lincoln East. The "Rugs" fell 1-0 to League City, Texas ending a miraculous run.

The Lincoln East "Rugs" Baseball Team, sanctioned by Post 3 and sponsored by Carpet Land of Lincoln, fell one run short of becoming Nebraska's first American Legion World Series Champion in 84 years when Creighton Prep won the crown in 1939.

The "Rugs" reached the World Series as champions of the Central Plains region. They reached the semifinals with a win over Cedar Rapids, Iowa. The opponent, League City, Texas punched its ticket to the semifinals when Cheyenne, Wyoming beat defending champion, Troy, Alabama, leaving League City as the only unbeaten team remaining in its pool.

The "Rugs" came up short in their first ever bid in the American Legion World Series in the championship game in Shelby, North Carolina. They finished as the NSAA Class A State Champions, Class A State Legion Baseball titleholders and champs of the American Legion Central Regional with a combined 84-16 record.

Congratulations, "Rugs"! Truly, a tremendous accomplishment.

A welcome home celebration for the baseball team was held on Saturday, September 2nd at Haymarket Park.

Veteran's Name Lives On



The first house built by Uncle Sam at Fort Wrangell, Alaska. The Merlin Elmer Palmer Post now occupies it.

Merlin Elmer Palmer was born to Judson and Julia Palmer in Stamford, Nebraska on February 14th, 1893. Perhaps being born on Valentines Day gave Merlin the heart for serving his country and his passion for engineering. In 1912, Merlin moved to Wrangell, Alaska and lived with his brothers. He worked on a logging crew for some time and then bought a local restaurant with a friend of his. After six months, Merlin sold his share and headed back home.

Merlin's adventurous nature kicked in again and he headed to college in Des Moines, Iowa. It was there he discovered his natural ability in running cross-country. He won the "Abbreviated Marathon" his first year. Merlin left college with his Electrical Engineering degree and in the fall of 1917, Merlin became an electrical engineer and worked at the Alma power-plant.

When President Woodrow Wilson, asked Congress to declare war on Germany on April 2, 1917, Merlin knew what he needed to do. He joined the U.S. Marine Corps just one day before his 25th birthday.

After training at Paris Island, the young Marine boarded the transport ship, USS Henderson and headed across the Atlantic Ocean. Marines were not always well known publicly, and World War 1 transformed the Marines to well-known, battlefield warriors.

The toughest assignment, after months of battles, would be Blanc Mont Ridge. Germans occupied "pill boxes" for four years. These were sloped hills with bunkers which gave them the maximum advantage.

In December 1919, Alaska's American Legion was assembled, and they voted to name the post after Merlin. The Merlin Palmer Post No. 6 continues to provide space for large gatherings and community events. The second post name after Merlin is in Stamford. Merlin Palmer Post No. 233 is active in public service and patriotic exercises.

For more details, photos and history on Merlin Elmer Palmer go to: wrangellhistoryunlocked.com

Candidate Announcement

John-Henry Percy Alternate National Executive Committeeman



John-Henry Percy has announced his candidacy for the high office of Alternate National Executive Committeeman 2024 - 2026. He is eligible for membership in The American Legion through his service in the United States Air Force. His career spanned 29 years that included both enlisted and officer time. He is a 50-year member of The American Legion and is a Paid Up For Life Legion member at Papillion. He has proven leadership at the Post, County, District, and Department levels serving currently as your Department Commander.

He graduated from The American Legion College in 2009. In addition, he has completed the Extension Institute course (2006, 2012, and 2017) to include the new online Basic Training Course in 2019. John-Henry

has attended 15 National Conventions and served on the Aerospace Committee for over 10 years.

He is a dual member with 60 plus years as a member of the Sons of The American Legion. He has held many leadership positions at the Squadron, District, and Detachment levels. John-Henry is fully retired and can dedicate the necessary time and energy to The American Legion and its four pillars.

He looks forward to seeing everyone at the Mid-Year Conference in Kearney and would truly appreciate all of his fellow Legionnaire's support to take on the role as Alternate National Executive Committeeman at the June convention. It would be both an honor and privilege to continue to serve my fellow Nebraska Legionnaires as your new Alternate National Executive Committeeman.

Mid-Year Conference Program

It's time to start putting together our Mid-Year Conference 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 8, 2024. The program is 8.5 x 5.5 in size. Please contact Carol 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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Ambrose, David, North Platte, Persian Gulf
 Amos, Leonard L., Sargent
 Anderson, Donald E., Grand Island, Korea
 Anderson, Jerry, Ohio, SAL
 Anderson, Ronnie A., Bancroft, Vietnam
 Anderson, Sidney E., Lincoln, Korea
 Anderson, Thomas M., Madrid, Gulf War
 Anson, Lynn, Fremont, Vietnam
 Arellano, Sam T., Bayard, Vietnam
 Arndt, Danny R., Hampton, Vietnam
 Bacon, Robert, Hebron, Korea
 Barbaglia, Joseph J., Columbus, Vietnam
 Barker, Loyd L., South Sioux City, Vietnam
 Barry Jr., George W., West Point, Vietnam
 Battreall, Ronald, McCool Junction, Korea
 Behne, Dean A., Wilber
 Bell, William P., Rushville, Lebanon/Grenada
 Bennett, Glenn, Nebraska City, Vietnam
 Bernt, Wilfred, Monroe, Korea
 Beutler, Duane L., Bancroft, Korea
 Beyer, Robert A., Dalton, Vietnam
 Blain, Michael A., Edgar, Lebanon/Grenada
 Blaser, Ronald L., Monroe, Korea
 Blumenkamp, Allen F., North Platte, Korea
 Bolek, Gary L., Hemingford, Vietnam
 Borges, John F., Dalton, Vietnam
 Bowman, Michael R., Central City, Vietnam
 Boyer Donald, Battle Creek
 Brown, Forrest D., Daykin, Vietnam
 Brunswig, John E., Haigler, Vietnam
 Bryant, Gerald D., Elk Creek, Vietnam
 Bueche, Leroy D., Tecumseh, Korea
 Buhl, Dale, Newman Grove, Vietnam
 Bullington, Jack, Columbus, Korea
 Burke, Rosella A., Genoa, Vietnam
 Buss, Ralph R., Norfolk, Korea
 Casey, John L., Omaha, Vietnam
 Chaffin, Harry, Palmyra, Vietnam
 Chamberlain, Eugene, Tekamah, Korea
 Chambers, Rue D., Lincoln, Korea
 Christen, Richard, Table Rock, Korea
 Clark, Thomas, St. Edward, Korea
 Cole, Robert A., Auburn, Vietnam
 Cowan, Charles T., Denton, Korea
 Cox, Leland J., Johnson, Vietnam
 Crouse, Harold D., Bloomington, Korea
 Crumbliss, Robert, Edgar
 Dallam, Jerry E., Trenton, Korea
 Darnell, Robert, Ogallala, Korea
 Day, Robert G., Plattsmouth, Vietnam
 Deines, Donald E., Beatrice, Korea
 Denison, Gary, Arlington, Persian Gulf
 Downing, Dale L., Gordon, Korea
 Dunbar, Floyd, Sargent
 Duren, David L., Columbus, Korea
 Eberhardt, Galen E., Deshler, Vietnam
 Egging, Lawrence L., Dalton, Korea
 Eichler, Harold E., Pender, Korea
 Ellingson, Peter T., Callaway, Vietnam
 Engle, George A., Geneva
 Enzminger, Carroll A., Columbus, Korea
 Ernst, Daniel A., Columbus, Vietnam
 Fehringer, Frederick G., Newman Grove, Vietnam
 Ferris, Charles A., Genoa, Korea
 Fink, John R., Hebron, Vietnam
 Fisher, Ranold, Tryon, Vietnam
 Foral, Donald D., Schuyler, Vietnam
 Foreman, Jeffrey E., Albion
 Forslund, Ronald F., Norfolk, Vietnam
 France, Leonard, Gothenburg, Korea
 Frank, Robert V., Deshler

Fredrick, Richard M., Palmer, Korea
 Freimuth, Joseph M., Omaha, Vietnam
 Frisbie, L D., Campbell, Korea
 Fulk, Ronald A., Morrill, Korea
 Garner, Kenneth L., Chadron, Vietnam
 Gideon, Stephen Z., Burwell, Vietnam
 Gobel, Deane T., Crofton, Vietnam
 Hall Sr., Donald E., Lincoln, Vietnam
 Halsted, Shawn D., Hildreth, Persian Gulf
 Hamilton, Donald E., Gordon, Vietnam
 Harold, James R., Litchfield, Vietnam
 Harris, Charles J., Springfield, Korea
 Harrison, Richard E., Crawford, Vietnam
 Harsch, Phil, Stanton, Korea
 Harstick, Willard, West Point, Korea
 Hart, Donald, Creighton, Korea
 Haynes, Orville D., Tryon, Korea
 Heiden, Gregory L., Bertrand, Vietnam
 Heithoff, Harold, Elgin, Korea
 Heyden, William H., Omaha, Korea
 Hoins, Richard L., Hebron
 Hoselton, Jim, Eustis, Vietnam
 Housh, Tommy M., Crete, Korea
 Huryta, David, Loup City, Vietnam
 Johnson, Richard L., Wausa
 Jurgens, Roger G., Beatrice, Vietnam
 Kabourek, Ernest, David City, Vietnam
 Kallweit, Leroy, Columbus, Korea
 Kastanek, Thomas A., Swanton, Vietnam
 Katrouzos, Gus G., Grand Island, Korea
 Keehn, Delmar, St. Edward, Korea
 Kehn, Robert, Hastings, Korea
 Kelle, Steven D., Bennet, Vietnam
 Kesselring, Michael A., Crawford, Vietnam
 Kindschuh, Robert J., West Point, Korea
 Kirkpatrick, James B., O'Neill, Vietnam
 Klein, Danny, Albion, Vietnam
 Kluge, Clarence, Scribner
 Kohler, Robert W., North Platte, Vietnam
 Kratky, Bernard, Morse Bluff, Korea
 Kronhofman, Glenn, Tobias, Vietnam
 Langseth, James A., South Sioux City, SAL
 Lapage, Roger K., Lincoln, Vietnam
 Lau, Glen F., Lincoln, Korea
 Layman, Allan J., Adams, Vietnam
 Lee, Dennis A., Newman Grove, Korea
 Lindstrom, Vincent, Oakland, Korea
 Lingg, Wayne, Alma, Korea
 Logston, James C., Orleans, Korea
 Lokke, Henry J., Omaha, Korea
 Lottman, David, Diller, Vietnam
 Lutkemeier, Loren, Campbell, Vietnam
 Mahrt, John A., Cedar Bluffs, Vietnam
 Mandl, Richard G., Tilden, Korea
 Mann, David G., Gothenburg, Vietnam
 Maschka, Kenneth C., Ashton, Korea
 Mayer, Gerald, Humboldt
 McClain, Timothy K., Hickman, Vietnam
 McCullough, Brien E., Millard, Panama
 McLean, James, Stromsburg, Korea
 Messenger, Charles L., Crete, Korea
 Miers, Dick L., Seward
 Miller, David A., Millard, Korea
 Miller, Phillip A., Lincoln, Vietnam
 Miller, Walter A., Omaha, Korea
 Milos, Harvey, Bellevue, Vietnam
 Monie, Gary, Franklin, Vietnam
 Moore, Robert L., Gordon, Korea
 Morfeld, Gilbert, Stanton, Korea
 Moseley, Tom L., South Omaha, Vietnam
 Mueller, Marvin L., Creston, Korea
 Nelson, David F., Omaha, SAL
 Nickell, Mack D., Denton, Vietnam

Noonan, Joseph E., Columbus, Korea
 Novacek, Charles J., Dwight, Korea
 Nutter, John R., North Platte, Korea
 Osterholm, Lynn E., Millard, Korea
 Ott, Leslie, Beemer, Vietnam
 Payne, Percy W., Elgin, Korea
 Peters, Roger L., Elk Creek, Vietnam
 Peterson, Charley W., Stuart, Vietnam
 Petrini, Pietro, Millard, Korea
 Phillips, Kent D., Columbus
 Pilmore, Gordon L., Dodge, Korea
 Plants, David H., Loup City, Vietnam
 Plock, Glen C., Milligan, Vietnam
 Pope, Kenneth H., Shelby
 Poppe, Jimmie A., Crofton, Vietnam
 Poppe, Leroy D., West Point, Korea
 Rennerfeldt, Dallas, Oakland, Korea
 Rezac, Anton P., Valparaiso, Korea
 Robinson III, Glenn D., Omaha, SAL
 Rottman, Richard A., Humboldt, Vietnam
 Ryan, Thomas J., Columbus, Korea
 Saathoff, Hervy A., North Platte, Vietnam
 Schaf, Bernard E., Columbus
 Schmutte, Larry, Denton, Korea
 Schoen, Richard L., Gering, Korea
 Schroeder, Dennis E., Leigh, Korea
 Scow Sr., Thomas D., Shelby, Vietnam
 Sell, David, Oshkosh, Vietnam
 Sevenker, Edward L., Ord, Korea
 Shald, Pat, Gordon, Vietnam
 Shannon, Wesley F., Minden, Vietnam
 Shaw, Edward C., Lincoln, Korea
 Shubert, Jack L., Elm Creek, Vietnam
 Sieczkowski, Richard F., Ravenna, Korea
 Sladky, Joseph L., Papillion, Korea
 Smith, Kenneth, Wauneta, Vietnam
 Smith, Louis R., Omaha, Vietnam
 Stalp, Paul, West Point, Korea
 Stempek, Ron, Silver Creek, Vietnam
 Stockton, Earl R., Homer, Vietnam
 Strain, Richard A., Crete, Vietnam
 Strong, Robert P., Newman Grove, Vietnam
 Suey, Walt, Springfield, Vietnam
 Swanson, Jack L., Alliance, Vietnam
 Swierzb, Thomas G., Papillion
 Swinney, Lee, Wayne, Vietnam
 Temme, Ronald A., Wayne
 Ternus, Donald R., Creston, Vietnam
 Tetschner, Jay D., Burwell, Vietnam
 Thelen, Steve, Osmond, Vietnam
 Thompson, Harold D., St. Edward, Korea
 Thompson, Terry L., North Platte, Vietnam
 Thomsen, Neil, Superior, SAL
 Toberer, Dennis K., Eustis, Vietnam
 Turner, Tony, Genoa, Vietnam
 Vanwinkle, Orin L., Cody, Vietnam
 Vitosh, Walter J., Odell, Korea
 Voborny, Dewayne R., Neligh, Persian Gulf
 Vosicky, George, Central City, Korea
 Wasenius, Kenneth, Stamford, Korea
 Webster, James W., Millard, Vietnam
 Webster, Philip L., North Platte, Vietnam
 Weider, Cary A., Millard, Persian Gulf
 Weihe, Merle, Gordon, Lebanon/Grenada
 Wennekamp, Milton, Columbus, Korea
 White, Charles, Pleasant Dale, Korea
 Widhalm, Norbert A., Humphrey, Vietnam
 Wiegand, Leonard, Kearney, Korea
 Wieser, Terry J., Columbus, Panama
 Wilson, Jennis, Bellevue
 Witt, Gary B., Syracuse, Vietnam
 Witte, Walter G., Lawrence, Korea
 Woebbecke, Kirby L., Denton, Vietnam
 Wolken, David, Tecumseh, Korea
 Wondercheck Jr., WD, Newman Grove, Korea
 Zavala, Ralph A., Hickman, Vietnam

Events Calendar

December

22 - 26 Christmas Holiday - Office Closed
 29 Office Closed

January

1 - 2 New Years Day - Office Closed
 15 Martin Luther King - Office Closed
 19 - 21 Mid - Year Conference - Kearney

February

2 Legislative Day
 19 Presidents Day - Office Closed
 25 - 29 Washington Conference - Washington DC

Check www.nebraskalegion.net under the meetings tab for upcoming National, State, and District events.

Mail Call

Dear Nebraska, American Legion,

Thank you so much for selecting me as a recipient of this generous scholarship. The money will be put to great use, for my tuition at Concordia University. I loved my time playing legion baseball, and I'm so grateful to receive this scholarship. I plan to major in secondary education to become a math teacher. I also want to receive a coaching endorsement. I chose Concordia because of the Christ-Centered atmosphere. Have a blessed day and thank you once again!

Sincerely,
 Andrew Brosius

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Morse Bluff Post 340 presented certificates for 70 years of continuous membership to two of its members. Pictured (L to R) Frank Lodl and Commander Galen Johnson. Not pictured George Odvody.



Grand Island Post 53 presented certificates for 50 years of continuous membership to its members. Pictured (L to R) Steve Wardyn, Robert Borgheijnck, Elmer Pollock, Steven Manolidis, Mike Ponte, Richard Simpson and Julie Schnitzler.



O'Neill Post 93 member Ken Stenka presented a certificate, pin, and flag to commemorate Legion member Harry Funk's Vietnam Service. Pictured (L to R) Ken Stenka, Harry Funk and Kristy Sigler.



Plattsmouth Post 56 combined color guard presented the flags on Memorial Day. Plattsmouth Post 56 member Mike Pauly instructed students on where to place flags on veteran grave markers for Memorial Day.



Millard Post 374 member Dennis L. Pavlik, who is believed to be the last living POW of the Korean War from Nebraska, was honored by Representative Don Bacon during the Congress Session.



Exeter Post 218 member John McCabe was presented with a Quilt of Valor. Pictured (L to R) David Crabtree, John McCabe, Jane Drake, Cindy McCabe, Beth Crabtree, Judy Dinneen and Richard Crabtree.



Malmö Post 232 presented 50 year certificates for continuous membership to its members. Pictured (L to R) Commander Don Proett, James Sousek Jr., Merlin Kempke, and Tom Holtorf.



Allen Post 131 presented Harold Isom with a certificate for 50 years of continuous membership.



Cortland Post 253 presented Quilts of Valor to its members. Pictured (L to R) Ronny Aden, James (Ted) Fuhrman, Gerald Guenther, Richard Harms, Rodney Rose, and Timothy Young.



Palmer Post 120 presented with his 2024 membership card for 78 years of continuous membership at his 100th birthday. Pictured (L to R) Don McClellan and Adjutant Ron Kunze.



Bennington Squadron 266 was presented with its official charter. Pictured Past Detachment Commander Chris Casey and Eastern Area Vice Commander James Keyes with members of Bennington Post and Squadron 266.



Utica Post 49 participated in the annual Utica parade.



Burwell Post 298 presented Dave Winkler a prize from their recent fundraiser. Pictured (L to R) Adjutant Bill Weber, Dave Winkler and Bill Warren.



Omaha Post 1 and Unit 1 hosted an information table at the Douglas County Fair. Pictured (L to R) Diana Biggs and Michael Sheridan.



Commander John-Henry Percy, Area A Vice Commander Robert Neel, District 3 Commander Nick Tramp attended the 219th award celebration for the Hedawachi tribe in Macy.



The American Legion Auxiliary
Department of Nebraska

The Star

December 2023 - January 2024



DEPT. PRESIDENT - LISA MOORE



I think Fall is finally here. Brisk mornings and warm afternoons sure make the spirit leap.

Do you know what really makes my spirit jump for JOY? We have a Secretary. Hired and approved by the DEC. Wait for it. This person is extremely qualified. She has been a member for a long time. She was even Department President. She has been entering membership for the Department for three years. Roxanne Hiatt has finally decided to be our Secretary!!! She started on November 6th. Welcome aboard. I know you will be great.

Speaking of the Mid-Year Conference, I hope you are planning on attending. We are going to learn more about our programs and my President's Projects.

Don't forget. If you have questions about any of our programs, this year's chairmen will have the answers. You can find their information in the Department Directory.

Get your reservations made for Mid-year. I look forward to seeing everyone January 19 - 21 at the Holiday Inn in Kearney.

Get registered for Mission Training to be held on Saturday, February 3, 2024 at the Cornhusker Hotel in Lincoln. It's a great way to meet other like-minded individuals and get updated information to questions about our programs. Come on NEBRASKA! Get registered. It will be FUN!

I'm still looking for a unit or units to help me out on August 5th with the National President's visit. If you have an idea or if you would like to show off your unit, give me a call.

See you all in Kearney!!!

Have a terrific Holiday Season.

Lisa Moore
Department President



Greetings from the Department Secretary!

Yes, we finally have someone in the office full-time.

Hello. I'm Roxanne Hiatt, and most of you know I have been in the department office for the last four years working part-time as the Membership Clerk. I will continue to do the membership, but began full-time duties as Department Secretary on November 6.

I will be in the office from 8:00 AM to 5:00 PM Monday-Friday. Our phone is 402-466-1808, and the email address is neaux@windstream.net.

A little background on me. I joined the American Legion Auxiliary in 1963 as a Junior member and have been a member of the Venango Unit 270 for 60 years. I have been invested in the Auxiliary continuously over the years --- with some special highlights to those years being 5 years as Department VA & R Chairman, Department President in 2005-06, and Girls State Secretary for the last 9 years. My husband and I have lived in Lincoln for the last 12 years. We have 2 sons and 2 granddaughters.

I have great mentors to guide me on this new adventure. Past Department Secretary Jacki O'Neill will remain as Department Treasurer and Bookkeeper. Past Department

FROM THE SECRETARY

President Vicki Ozenbaugh has consented to continue working with the Department Newsletter.

Department President Lisa Moore, who is also a Past Department Secretary, has placed her confidence in me. I hope I do not disappoint. I think all bases are once again covered in the office, and we can get the

Department back up to running on an even keel. Thank you in advance for your patience as I become familiar with this new chapter in my American Legion Auxiliary life.

Roxanne Hiatt
Department Secretary



CHILDREN & YOUTH FUND DONATION



Each year, the Children and Youth Fund makes a donation to a worthy cause. This year, the donation was given to the Omaha Children's Hospital Foundation. Children's Hospital and Medical Center treats children from the tiniest pre-mature babies to teenagers with complex medical needs.

Pictured is Alyssia DeFrain of the Omaha Children's Hospital Foundation accepting a check for \$750 from Deb Albers, the 2023 American Legion Auxiliary Children and Youth Chairman.

CLEANING VETS' HEADSTONES

On October 3rd, three members of American Legion Auxiliary Unit 59 began their community service project of cleaning veterans' headstones. Nine Civil War veterans' stones were cleaned on the Kingsbury cemetery northeast of Callaway.

A product designed especially for lichens, moss, mold, and discoloration was used with great success. The Auxiliary members continued in Rose Hill Cemetery and will proceed with the project as time permits.



Pictured are MaryAnn Boldt, and Shirley Trout. Also helping, but not pictured, was Jo Chesley.



The 2024 Mid-Year Conference

Holiday Inn
Kearney, Nebraska
January 19-21, 2024

Tentative Schedule

FRIDAY, JANUARY 19, 2024

9:00 am DEC Meeting
Candidate Announcements
1:00 pm General Session
District Reports
4:30 pm 8 & 40 Mid-Year Pouvoir

SATURDAY, JANUARY 20, 2024

8:00 am Joint Session
10:00 am Conference Reconvenes
Department President's Project
Department Honorary Junior President
11:30 am Recess for Lunch
1:00 pm Conference Reconvenes
Department President's Project
Candidate Introductions
6:00 pm Oratorical Contest

SUNDAY, JANUARY 21, 2024

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

GIRLS STATE

The Girls State planning meeting was held Saturday, November 4, 2023.

The dates for 2024 Cornhusker Girls State will be June-2-8 and will be held in person on the UNL City Campus.

With a successful year of 282 girls last year, we look forward to doing so again this year. We are hoping we will continue to see the numbers rise, and we can accept up to 350 girls once again. The application fee will remain at \$400 for this year (2024), but the activity/picture fee has been raised to \$25. Because UNL's costs continue to go up and impact the cost of running the program, we are discussing other avenues of

fundraising.

Orientations will once again be on our website, and delegates will be signing up for a Q & A sessions. They will receive the information in their Welcome Letter.

Again this year, due to campus renovations, there will be no band or chorus options. We know it is a program favorite --- but an impossibility for now.

Letters of announcing the Girls State program will be sent to schools in mid-December, and unit packets with the application AND pledge form will be put into the mail the first working day of January. Unit Presidents, please check with your schools to be sure they have received

their letter from Girls State and be looking for your unit packet with instructions the first week of January. If you do not have this by mid-January, please let Girls State / Department know.

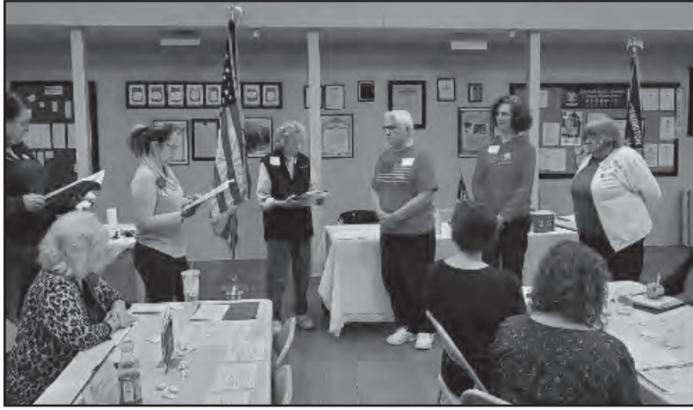
We appreciate your continued support of our program. That support allows our volunteers to bring forward an enriching and life-changing experience each year. We can't thank you all enough; and, with your help, we look forward to a great 2024 Girls State session.

Brittany Masek
ALA Girls State Chair

DOUGLAS COUNTY CONVENTION

The annual Douglas County ALA Convention occurred in October at the Bennington American Legion Post #266. Elected as the officers for 2023-2024 were: President Kathryn Cox (Benson ALA Unit #112), Vice

President Paula Pillen (Elkhorn/Waterloo ALA Unit #362), Secretary/Treasurer Diane Warrick (Bennington ALA Unit #266), and Chaplain Pat Clausen (Valley ALA Unit #58).



Pictured (L to R): District 8 Chaplain Becky Saathoff and District 8 President Lindsay Brown installing the 2023-2024 Douglas County ALA Officers: Pat Clausen, Kathryn Cox, Paula Pillen, and Diane Warrick.



The Bruning American Legion Auxiliary treated their local American Legion veterans to lunch at Betty's Cafe following the Veterans Day program held at the Bruning/Davenport High School on November 13, 2023.



Kearney Unit 52 donated a Keurig Coffeemaker and coffee to the Central Nebraska Veterans Home. Pictured are Unit 52 President Denise Fenster and Activity Manager Jessica Modlin.



Norfolk Unit 16 is sending gift cards to four soldiers who are grandchildren of our Auxiliary member, Janice Doering. Janice is pictured with cards being sent.

CORRECTIONS TO CAPTION IN JUNE ISSUE

District 8 units agreed to purchase 2 chairs @ \$400 for the Fisher House in Omaha. Benson Unit 112 donated \$400 to purchase 2 rocking chairs. A total of 4 rocking chairs were donated, and Fisher House purchased the red, white, and blue cushions for the chairs. Brass plates were purchased to place on the chairs identifying who donated them.

Also, a Wii console was purchased for the 5th floor of the Midlands VA Care Center by the District 8 units (Washington, Douglas, and Sarpy County). \$200 was allowed for this system.

Leatrice Doolen



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

2023 - 2024 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.	#257 Eustis	#11 Hastings		#302 Leigh	#10 Morrill	#133 Culbertson	#243 Plymouth
Jan.	#288 Farnam	#377 Wilcox	2023 Girls State	#16 Norfolk	#7 Alliance	2023 Girls State	#264 Dorchester
Feb.	#251 Arcadia	District 6 Juniors	#353 Louisville	#80 Humphrey	#301 Dalton		#354 Pleasant Dale
Mar.	#126 Broken Bow	#285 North Loup		#70 West Point		#213 Wallace	#374 Millard
Apr.	#255 Eddyville	#288 Farnam			#213 Wallace		#264 Dorchester
May		#52 Kearney	#264 Dorchester				
June				#127 Craig			
July	#310 Gibbon			#283 Platte Center			
Aug.				#176 Blue Hill	#7 Alliance		
Sept.							
Oct.				#307 S Sioux City			
Nov.							

Units, please check with your (Med Center) Assignments to see if they are accepting items before you make or send them.

Service to Veterans Chair: Mary Krause, 339 N Osborne Street, Ainsworth, NE 68210

THE ALA COMMUNITY SERVICE PROGRAM --- "SERVICE NOT SELF"

Keep visible in your communities, work with other community organizations, wear the "brand," and Be The One! Keep records of your projects (hours, miles, money spent, volunteer numbers, etc.).

There are three national awards for this program. Two of them are Unit Awards, and one is a Department Award. When submitting your ALA Nebraska Report Form for End-of-Year Reports, also submit a narrative of one of your special Community Service Projects --- along with photographs and any other supporting information you

may have.

These reports are due to Department mid-April. From the entries submitted, I will select the best in each category to submit from the Department of Nebraska to National. Entries must be submitted by me to National (electronic form) on or before June 1, 2024.

- Unit Award: Most Outstanding Unit Community Service Program (per division)

- Unit Award: Best Promotion of American Legion Family Day (last Saturday of April) which was April 29, 2023

- Department Award: Best Department Community Service Program

Excellent sources of information and ideas are:

- legion-aux.org (National website)

- nebraskalegionaux.net

Please go to the National website and search Community Service. Click on the "Community Service Program Awards." You can print this page and add it to your ABC Book.

Marla Furrow

Community Service Chair

NATIONAL SECURITY

Although National POW/MIA Recognition Day is in September (third Friday), it does not mean that we cannot continue to remember them throughout the rest of the year. With approximately 80,000 veterans captured or still missing from wars in which the United States has participated, do we not owe it to their families to continue to seek accountability in finding their loved ones?

In 1979, Congress passed a Joint Resolution (Public Law 95-349), and President Jimmy Carter's Proclamation 4664 -- National POW-MIA Recognition Day -- made it official. The very first one was on July 18, 1979.

As Americans, we enjoy the blessings of peace. We need to recognize the special debt owed

those Americans held prisoner during wartime as well as remembering those who are still missing. I cannot even imagine the pain the families, relatives, and friends of those whose fate is unknown experience daily.

I urge you as you plan any public event to incorporate the Missing Man Table to remind people that we still have prisoners of war and missing in action military. Two great resources to help you plan this ceremony are:

- <https://www.dpaa.mil/Portals/85/2019%20Toolkit.PDF>

- <https://www.pow-miafamilies.org/missing-man-table-and-honors-ceremony.html>

The first one provides a complete tool kit with press releases, script, fact sheets, a sample speech, and more. The second one provides the ceremony for six empty chairs

representing each of the services --- Army, Marine Corps, Navy, Air Force, Coast Guard, and civilians. It also has a candlelight ceremony guide.

By including the Missing Man Table in your events, you are helping to raise awareness of POW/MIAs. And that's part of our National Security program!

No matter what you might do for National Security, remember to take pictures and share them with me so that I can pass them along to the National Security Facebook page. You will also want to keep track of your time, money, miles, and number of people involved to report in April.

Vicki Ozenbaugh

National Security Chair



Pierce Auxiliary Unit 72 donated clothing protectors to the Norfolk Veterans Home. Pictured are LeAnn Herbolzheimer (seamstress) of Pierce and Stephanie Eckert of the NVH.

BLUE STAR SERVICE BANNERS



Blue Star Service banners are displayed by families who have a loved one --- son, daughter, brother, sister, wife, husband, cousin, grandchild, etc. --- serving in the Armed Forces, including activated members of the National Guard and Reserves.

On behalf of American Legion Auxiliary Unit 79, Support Our Troops Chairman Mary Halvorsen presented a banner to Kevin and Sarah Price. Their son Wyatt will be deployed to Estonia for 9 months with the 3rd Brigade from Ft. Campbell. Their other son, Wichita, is stationed at Lackland Air Force Base in San Antonio, Texas.



AUXILIARY EMERGENCY FUND (AEF) “MEMBERS HELPING MEMBERS”

There are some important changes in the AEF program.

First, and most exciting, both grants have been renamed; and the amount of the grants has been increased. There are now the Disaster Assistance Grant and the Hardship Assistance Grant. Grants are now awarded up to \$3,000. To be eligible for an AEF grant this year, you must be a member for three years. That means you must have paid your 2022, 2023, and 2024 dues.

Applications are found in the ABC

Book and online at alaforveterans.org. On the online home page, use “How We Serve” and scroll over to the Disaster Relief/Emergency Fund tab. You will find: AEF facts and questions, an AEF brochure, and applications for both grants. These applications may be filled out online and sent with documentation directly to National.

All applications and grants are strictly anonymous! APPLICATIONS ARE NOT SENT TO THE DEPARTMENT.

This program relies on your generous contributions. There are no assessments or line items on the budget. We rely on each other to fund this program. We never know when we will need to reach out for just a little help. Situations change in a moment, and it is good to know we can reach out our hands to our members with help that makes an impact.

*Elizabeth Paes, Chair
Auxiliary Emergency Fund*

JUNIORS

Juniors have a great opportunity to learn more about the American Legion Auxiliary and learn about service to others on February 3, 2024, at the National Junior meeting at the Cornhusker Marriott Hotel in Lincoln.

Registration for the Northwestern Division National Junior meeting is found at www.legion-aux.org/meetings/national-junior-meetings. We really have few excuses to not send our junior members. If they are eight or older, junior members need to plan to attend. In fact, Department President Lisa Moore has designated part of her president’s project to reimburse units or members the \$65 registration fee upon completion of the meeting.

So, instantly, one of the quick excuses of a high cost is no longer a factor. Undoubtedly, time will be an excuse. Let’s make the time for this. Nebraska is fortunate enough to host this meeting. Plus, the National Junior Activities Chairman, Barbara Washburn, also hails from Nebraska. Let’s help

give a warm February welcome to those who attend the meeting.

What can juniors expect at this meeting? Well, meeting and making new friends, focusing on our ALA mission, supporting our veterans, crafting, filling Socks of Love, and gaining an exclusive poppy design t-shirt. Plus, attendees will earn a new special patch just for participating. Follow ALAJuniors on Instagram for more details about what will take place at the meeting.

Honestly, the entire registration process takes less than 10 minutes (and I think six of those were me trying to find my daughter’s membership card). (Added bonus: If you and your junior member happen to be coming in the night before, we will be glad to see you in the hotel lounge.)

Remember, any member 17 and under is considered a junior member. Why not help strengthen the future of our organization by ensuring that we have strong leadership in the future?

In addition to the Northwestern Division Junior meeting on February

3, we have another resource (if juniors are too busy to attend our meetings). They can sign on to ALAforVeterans.org with their MyAuxiliary account. If they do not have an account, you can help them set up an account using their membership number. Once they have logged into their account, they click on **Meetings/Training-ALA Academy**. After clicking on **Launch ALA Academy**, the Junior can click on **Browse Catalog** and search for **ALA Juniors E-Learning Course**. This course is designed for our younger members. They will learn about the purpose of our program, how to excel as leaders, tips for speaking to groups, and much more. They can proceed in this course at their own speed. (The average time to complete the course is 40 minutes.) Senior members can take the course, too. There are also great courses on Mentoring. There is even a certificate when they complete the course.

*Crys Bauermeister
Junior Activities Chair*

CELEBRATING 50 YEARS

Paxton Unit 303 celebrated its fifty-year members. They met at Lindon Court in North Platte in August. Family and members were invited, and some went to lunch afterward.

Pictured left to right: Kathryn Holz Callihan, Roxie Snyder,

Nona Gries (who accepted for her sister, Irma Anderson), and Hazel Gifford. Hazel accepted for her sister, Margaret Gifford --- making a total of five fifty-years members for the unit.

Congratulations, ladies!



MEMBERSHIP

Nebraska Strong and Faithful by Serving Veterans Always. We probably all recognize this as Department President Lisa Moore’s theme for 2023-2024. But, after a few months of working hard on membership, are we all still staying “Strong and Faithful?” It’s easier said than done, isn’t it? Renewal notices arrived late this year, perhaps your unit lost one or more members, or maybe you’ve been unable to get those last five unit members to send in their renewals. Yes, working on membership can sometimes be disheartening. So, let’s focus instead on that last part of President Moore’s theme: “Serving Veterans Always.”

If Nebraska units are working our American Legion Auxiliary (ALA) programs, we are already serving veterans. And, if we are serving veterans, we become visible in our communities. And, if we are visible to our fellow citizens, others will want to come join us. Trust me --- every one of those new members will return your attitude to “Strong and Faithful.”

So, what are some examples of program focus?

• **Poppy Program**—Past National President Nicole Clapp tells a

wonderful story from her childhood about going to the store with her mother. Outside the store were some Auxiliary members handing out poppies. Five-year-old Clapp immediately fell in love with this beautiful flower and asked her mom if they could join. The Auxiliary unit gained three new members that day – Clapp, her mother, and her aunt. And as Clapp rose through the organization to serve as National President, we can probably all agree that the ALA gained some really great ones.

• **Children & Youth** – Cody American Legion Family #319 hosted a back-to-school picnic in their community this past August. Their ALA unit offered an incentive to any member – including new members – who paid their dues by the date of the picnic that their names would be placed in a drawing for gift cards to local businesses. Those efforts renewed 23 members and signed up 4 new ones with promises from 3 more potential members. Way to be “Strong and Faithful,” Cody Unit!

At this time of year, it’s easy to get distracted from focusing on membership, working the ALA

programs, and ultimately serving America’s veterans. I have no doubt, though, that Nebraska’s units and our membership chairs will fight through the distractions and challenge themselves to “Serve Veterans Always.” And, let’s hear those success stories. Did an event you worked on result in new members for your unit? If so, drop me an e-mail or share the story on Facebook. You may very well inspire someone else to find another level of “Strong and Faithful.”

Just remember, every program event hosted by our units is an opportunity to gain a new member. Your efforts must already be working, as nearly 63% of our units have surpassed the halfway point in their membership totals. As a result, our Department is currently leading the Northwestern Division for membership percentage.

So, keep it up, Pony Express Riders. Let’s make President Moore proud and prove to all of the ALA that we are “Nebraska Strong and Faithful by Serving Veterans Always!”

*Loree Hendrickson
Department Membership Chair*

ANNUAL MILLARD SCHOOL SUPPLIES DRIVE



After their August meeting, Millard American Legion Auxiliary Unit 374 members, including District 8 President Lindsay Brown and District 8 Secretary/Treasurer Kathy Mazur, sorted and divided out the generous donations of school supplies received during their annual school supplies donations drive for Millard Public Schools.

Through the generosity

of donations from American Legion Family members and the community, including the Millard United 6U Panthers Baseball team, five Millard Public Schools were helped. Schools that received a box filled with school supplies and a monetary donation were Central Middle School and the following elementary schools: Cody, Holling Heights, Norris, and Sandoz.

MOH Wreath Presentation

Past President Vicki Ozenbaugh was a guest of ALA Shubert Unit 222 on Sunday, September 17, 2023. One of her projects while President was to place a wreath on the grave of every Medal of Honor recipient in the State of Nebraska.

One of the 33 recipients, Corporal Francis W. Lohnes, is buried in Maple Grove Cemetery near Falls City. Corporal Lohnes was issued the award on July 24, 1865, for his actions as a private with Company H, 1st Nebraska Veteran Volunteer Cavalry, US Army, on May 12, 1865, at Gilman’s Ranch near Fort Kearney, Nebraska. It was there where his

unit fought in a skirmish with the Sioux and Cheyenne Indians on the Overland Trail. His Medal of Honor citation simply reads: “Gallantry in defending Government property against Indians.”

Past President Ozenbaugh held a short ceremony with members and guests of the Shubert American Legion Auxiliary, and a patriotic wreath was placed on Corporal Lohnes’ grave. Shubert ALA accepted the honor of being accountable for the displaying and safekeeping of the Medal of Honor wreath on Memorial Day, Veterans Day, or any other special occasion.



Pictured are Jana Wheeler, Judy Schlosser, Dona Hall, Lonnie Wing, Vicki Owings, Amber Last, Tana Brown, and Vicki Ozenbaugh



Kindergarten teachers Macie Coffey and BJ Freeman are pictured with the supplies Shubert Unit 222 gave them for “10 for Education”.



Beemer Unit 159 had an entry for the Beemer Play Days parade. Pictured with canine “Sully” are Kathryn Schoch, Mariah Delmont, Angie Toelle, and Jackie Delmont, who handed out American flags on the parade route. Mariah and Angie are Auxiliary members and Legion Riders.

CHAPLAIN'S CORNER

2023 December Advent Calendar

Can you believe it is already the Christmas Season? One thing I decided to do this season is to read some bible verses each day as we prepare for the coming of Christ. Please join me and read the below list of bible verses of "24 Days of Christmas" by Christian Life Ministry.

Have a wonderful Christmas Season!

Vicky Cyboron
Dept. Chaplain

Dec. 1	<i>John 1:1-5</i>	Dec. 13	<i>Luke 2:1-5</i>
Dec. 2	<i>Isaiah 9:2-7</i>	Dec. 14	<i>Luke 2:6-7</i>
Dec. 3	<i>Isaiah 11:1-10</i>	Dec. 15	<i>Luke 2:8-12</i>
Dec. 4	<i>Jeremiah 33:14-16</i>	Dec. 16	<i>Luke 2:13-14</i>
Dec. 5	<i>Luke 1:5-10</i>	Dec. 17	<i>Luke 2: 15-18</i>
Dec. 6	<i>Luke 1:11-17</i>	Dec. 18	<i>Luke 2:19-20</i>
Dec. 7	<i>Luke 1:18-25</i>	Dec. 19	<i>Micah 5:2-5</i>
Dec. 8	<i>Luke 1:26-38</i>	Dec. 20	<i>Matthew 2:1-2</i>
Dec. 9	<i>Matthew 1:18-21</i>	Dec. 21	<i>Matthew 2:3-6</i>
Dec. 10	<i>Matthew 1:22-25</i>	Dec. 22	<i>Matthew 2:7-8</i>
Dec. 11	<i>Luke 1:39-45</i>	Dec. 23	<i>Matthew 2:9-12</i>
Dec. 12	<i>Luke 1:46-56</i>	Dec. 24	<i>John 1:14</i>

NOTHING LASTS

I always get a bit melancholy at this time of year looking over the garden and flowerbeds into which I put so much love and work drift off to sleep under their blanket of leaves. I want to look at my flowers forever, but how boring would that be?

Our human natures want all the good things --- the good people, the good flowers, good health, good homes --- to stay around forever. But, for every good thing we lose, we lose some of the bad stuff, too. So, change must be so. And with the change, the hope for Spring starts to grow.

But, not music. Music is eternal; music never leaves us; music wraps up our memories and tucks them away to come visit when we need them. So, cherish your good memories and throw away the bad. Let go of the fears of the past and take this time to rest your soul until the warm Spring sun spouts our new hope.

And keep singing!

Jean Vackiner
Dept. Music Chair

DOUGLAS COUNTY FAIR

The Douglas County Fair was a great outreach opportunity. A Veterans Affairs Outreach Specialist, David Conrad (pictured), and American Legion Family members worked alongside each other at a table on July 22nd and July 23rd. Thank you to Dave and American Legion Family volunteers Lynn Bergman, Diana Biggs, Douglas County ALA President Lee Brauer (pictured), Karen Brink, Linda Davis, Pat and Phillip Clausen, and Michael Sheridan.

We displayed all the current literature for our organizations, and the VA representative was great at counseling people. We also gave away sanitation wipes, flag pins, eagle pins, and lollipops. The Fair was a delightful experience, with lots of free entertainment for kids and many vendors.



DEPARTMENT DEADLINES

The following are all due prior to the **end of 2023**. If your unit has not submitted them to headquarters, please do so ASAP:

• **ALAMIS Unit access forms with annual fees.**

• **Form 8822b with the verified correct or updated unit information.**

• **2024 Membership dues.**

The **UNIT DATA FORM** will be arriving in the January Newsletter and is due back to Headquarters by **March 1**. It shows us what your unit dues will be for the 2025 membership year and provides the name and contact information for your Unit Membership Chairman who processes your unit membership payments to Department.

MID-YEAR HOUSING INFO

Mid-Year Conference is scheduled in Kearney for January 19-21, 2024 with the DEC meeting on January 19. The location is the Kearney Holiday Inn & Convention Center located at 110 2nd Avenue.

For reservations, call (308) 237-5971. **(DO NOT CALL THE TOLL FREE NUMBER FOR RESERVATIONS.)**

Room Rates: \$114.95/night + tax
You can also view this information at http://www.nebraskalegion.net/Meetings/Department_MidYear.html



Halloween coloring books and crayons were given to the Bruning/Davenport kindergarten and 1st-grade classes from the Bruning American Legion Auxiliary. Pictured with the children are (l to r): Unit Vice President and substitute teacher Pat Remmers, unit member and school secretary Denise McGinley, and Unit President Liz Rinehart.

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 **JAN 10, 2024**

DATES TO REMEMBER

DECEMBER

7	Pearl Harbor Day
25	Membership Goal 75%
22-26	Department Headquarters Closed- Christmas Holiday
29	Department Headquarters Closed - New Year's Holiday

JANUARY

1	New Year's Day - Department Headquarters closed
1	Poppy Orders Due
10	Articles due for the February/March issue
15	Martin Luther King, Jr. Day - Department Office closed
19-21	Mid-Year Education Conference - Holiday Inn Kearney
27	International Holocaust Remembrance Day

FEBRUARY

1	National Freedom Day
1	National Wear Red Day
2	Four Chaplains Sunday
19	Presidents Day - Department Office Closed

FOR YOUR ADVANCED PLANNING

June 2-8, 2024	ALA Cornhusker Girls State - Lincoln
June 20-23, 2024	Department Convention, Kearney, NE
Aug 23 - Aug 29, 2024	National Convention, New Orleans, LA

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NEWSLETTER INFORMATION

In the months since our last edition of "The Star," the following information was sent out in the last four Department Newsletters and can be found on the Nebraska website-nebraskalegionaux.net:

August:

New Address reminder
Membership
Pre-DEC minutes
Donation forms - General,
VA & R, Gifts for Yanks
Poppy order form

September:

New Address reminder
Membership
Girls State Scholarship info
Dollar Days, Gifts for Yanks,
and Gift Shop Schedule
Correct PUFL application
Veterans Home/Gift Shop Assign.

ALAMIS sign-up
8822b information verification

October:

Membership
AEF
County Government
National Security
Phone caddy instructions
Department Scholarship applications

November:

Directory Corrections
National Security
VA & R
National Scholarships
Service to Veterans
Chaplain - Christmas Ceremony
Community Service
Junior National Meeting Info
AEF application forms

PATRIOTS DAY COOKIES

Papillion Auxiliary Unit 32 delivered a large tray of cookies to the Sarpy County Sheriff's Department on Patriots Day (September 11th) to honor their service to our community.

We also delivered five other trays to the two Fire Stations, Papillion Police, the County Corrections Center, and the Juvenile Center.

Pictured (L-R) are: President Kris Laeding, Elizabeth Paes, two deputies, Margaret Southworth, and Leatrice Doolen. This is the fifth year we have delivered cookies. Each year, we end up doing more than the

year before. This was started my first year as President as my project. I am in my fifth year.

Kris Laeding
Papillion Unit 32

