

“Better Together!”



American Legion. They have two daughters and two grandchildren.

National Sons Commander William “Bill” Clancy is a charter member of Squadron 156 in City Island, New York. He is eligible for SAL membership through his father and grandfathers. Bill and his wife, Kyrstal, have two sons who are also active Sons members.

Landkamer Elected National Vice Commander

Jerry Landkamer of Norfolk was elected as the National Vice Commander (Midwest Region) for The American Legion.

Landkamer’s eligibility in The American Legion comes from his service in the U.S. Navy during the Vietnam era.

Landkamer is a member of American Legion Post 16 in Norfolk. He has held offices at every level, including Post, County, District and Area. He served as Department Commander 2006 - 07, Alternate National Executive Committeeman 2008 - 12, and National Executive Committeeman 2012 - 16.

Landkamer served on numerous national committees including Americanism, Law & Order and Homeland Security, Veterans Preference Committee, National Executive Committee liaison, Legislative Committee, and Committee on Committees.

Landkamer is a member of the Sons of The American Legion, ANAVICUS, Past Department Commander’s Club, the Knights of Columbus, and is a lector and Eucharistic Minister of Holy Communion at Sacred Heart Catholic Church in Norfolk. He is employed by Lou’s Thrifty Way Grocery Store in Norfolk. In his spare time, he enjoys making cabinetry, furniture and other woodworks.

Married to his wife, Starla, since 1992, the couple has one son Thomas and his wife Emilea, all of whom are American Legion Family members.

Casey Elected National Vice Commander

Chris Casey of Blair was elected the National Vice Commander (Central Region) for the Sons of The American Legion.

Casey is a member of Benson Squadron 112. His eligibility is through his grandfather, David L. Harvey, a United States Air Force Vietnam veteran, who served from 1953-1969.

Casey served as the Nebraska Detachment Commander from 2021 to 2023. On the national level, he served as a member of the Membership Training and Development Committee, Membership and Squadron Activities Committee, Chairman of the Americanism Commission and is currently the Membership Chairman.

The Department and Detachment of Nebraska want to wish Chris a successful year as NVC!

FOR GOD AND COUNTRY

The Nebraska Legionnaire

150 NW 40th St, Unit A

Lincoln, NE 68528

COMPASSION, CHARACTER, & COMPETENCE

2026 MEMBERSHIP GOAL: 20,388 SEPTEMBER 15TH TOTAL: 10,493 – 51.47%

DISTRICT 15 - 59.49%	DISTRICT 8 - 55.42%	DISTRICT 7 - 55.12%	DISTRICT 12 - 52.49%	DISTRICT 6 - 52.08%
DISTRICT 2 - 51.44%	DISTRICT 5 - 50.78%	DISTRICT 11 - 48.77%	DISTRICT 10 - 46.34%	DISTRICT 13 - 46.03%
DISTRICT 3 - 45.26%	DISTRICT 1 - 43.34%	DISTRICT 9 - 43.08%	DISTRICT 4 - 41.98%	



Commander's Corner

Judy Walters
Department Commander



It's been a busy few months, and it does not appear to be slowing down much. In August, we attended the Membership Workshop in Indianapolis. We had only two District Commanders join us on the trip. It is good information and an opportunity to meet other Legionnaires from across the United States. Hopefully, next year, there will be more of the new District Commanders to take advantage of this training.

I also had the opportunity to attend a few days at the American Legion World Series Baseball tournament in Shelby, North Carolina. I was honored to attend and represent Nebraska as they celebrated 100 years of Legion baseball. I had the opportunity to watch the Nebraska "Rugs" in two of their three games. I got to shake the hand of each player as they were introduced for the second game. That's the game that they won (not saying I gave them some good luck).

At the end of August, over 50 members of our Nebraska Legion family attended The American Legion's 106th National Convention in Tampa, Florida. New leadership was elected: National Commander: Dan K. Wiley of Kansas, a retired state district court judge and Air Force veteran, was elected and sworn in as the 2025-2026 National Commander. He affirmed his commitment to the "Be the One" suicide prevention program. His theme is "Better Together". American Legion Auxiliary National President: Pam Ray from the Department of Illinois was elected. Sons of The American Legion National Commander: William "Bill" Clancy III from the Detachment of New York was elected. Jerry Landkamer of Norfolk, Nebraska, was installed as the Midwest National Vice Commander. Secretary of Veterans Affairs Doug Collins addressed the convention, urging attendees to support the Legion's "Be The One" initiative. This campaign encourages veterans to check on their peers proactively. A multi-day VA Claims Clinic was held at the convention, which assisted hundreds of veterans with their benefits claims.

I had my Leadership Training and Homecoming the scond weekend in September. Leadership Training included an interactive study of resolutions and a discussion on legion protocol and etiquette. It was a great turnout. I am thankful to all who attended and humbled by all the support I continue to receive from the Nebraska Legion Family. I received a little over \$1,000 to go towards my project, the domiciliary unit at the Hot Springs, VA, Medical Center. A big thank you to the Post 79 Legion Family for all they did to help make the day a success. I also want to thank Amanda and Eric for all their continued support and assistance.

I look forward to continuing my travels across the state, visiting posts and the members of the Nebraska American Legion Family.

“Compassion, Character, & Competence”



Rider's Rally

Dan Willets
ALR Liaison



Greetings fellow American Legion Riders and American Legion Family! Fall is upon us and as the temperatures begin to cool the riding season for the year will begin to slow, except for the Polar Bears in the group. However, this does not mean that there will not be opportunities to serve in the coming winter months. Various Legion Programs that will take place; District Legion Meetings, Mid-Year Conference, Veterans Day programs, Christmas events, Valentines Day events in 2026, and many other activities that will take place in your Districts and local American Legion Posts.

This is also a good opportunity to reflect on the many activities that have taken place over the past few months since the Annual Convention at the end of June; Nation of Patriots ride, Flags for Vets with Iowa ALR (more to come in the next newsletter), participation in AL District Meetings, numerous Poker Run fundraisers, POW/MIA memorial rides/ceremonies, new Vietnam Veterans Memorial dedication in Gordon, State Fair Veterans Program and Parade, 4th of July and many other local parades, Flag lines and escorts to honor our deceased Veterans, and I'm sure other various events/programs that I have forgotten to mention. Overall, it has been a busy summer for the ALR and I want to thank all of you for your participation in these events.

In reference to Commander Walters article in the previous Legionnaire I would like to ask you all a simple question, who do you serve, why do we do what we do? Is it to obtain titles, awards, personal recognition, etc. or is it to be servants in an organization that strives to improve the lives of those around us and to help ensure that the sacrifice and service of so many before us are not forgotten? To have a true servant or service mentality is to mean that we do so without any expectations of gratitude, reward, recognition, etc. We should do so because it is who we are, not only out of what we may see as a duty or obligation but to do so willingly with humility and grace. Awards, titles, recognitions, etc. are but fleeting mementos, the true rewards are those that are a simple thank you, a hug, a smile and best of all the unspoken internal reward from knowing that you affected another individuals life in a positive way.

Please remember to forward all your Chapter activities, i.e., mileage, group events, volunteer events and hours, or any other information you feel is noteworthy to me. Also, I would like to receive a listing of all Chapter officers and contact information for the Chapters so I can compile a master list.

I am available by phone 308-550-2648, email: dwillets61@gmail.com, FB, or Messenger. My Chapter email is grandislandne.alr53@gmail.com. Two of our most valuable tools are communication and coordination and we as a statewide organization need to utilize these tools to be truly successful.

As always, ride safe and God Bless America and the Legion family!

NEBRASKA AMERICAN LEGION

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Area C Vice Commander.....	Martin Neal, Hickman
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Alternate NECman.....	John-Henry Percy, Papillion

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Dist. 2.....	Gerald Bouska, Atkinson
Dist. 3.....	Jeff Finken, South Sioux City
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Dist. 11.....	Robert Eyer, Jansen
Dist. 12.....	David Stander, Weeping Water
Dist. 13.....	Kevin McKinney, Tecumseh
Dist. 15.....	Ronnie Hindmand, Lincoln



Official Publication of and Owned Exclusively by
The American Legion Department of Nebraska.

Amanda Washburn, Editor
Eric Martin, Publisher's Representative

First published in 1923, The Nebraska Legionnaire is in its 102nd year of publication. It is published bi-monthly; February, April, June, August, October, and December by The American Legion, Department of Nebraska, 150 NW 40th St, Unit A, Lincoln, NE 68528. Periodicals postage is paid at Lincoln, Nebraska at additional mailing offices. The Nebraska Legionnaire is a member of the Nebraska American Legion Press Association.

Subscription: \$10 for non-members. Members receive the Legionnaire as part of their dues.

Advertising Rates: Contact Amanda Washburn at 402-464-6338.

Publications Committee: vacant
150 NW 40th St, Unit A, Lincoln, NE 68528.
Nebraska Legionnaire, (USPS 376-180) (ISSN 0028-1875)

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

Name: _____

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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 awashburn@nebraskalegion.net



It's History

Jennifer Laux
Department Historian



American Legion Department of Nebraska History Word Search

N C I E Y V P L T D J H U P V
A O B H S X L G R N I T M I S
Q Z R A S A F B E A K N N H C
S A C F B Y S D E L N E T S U
E O Y T O V R B Q E N V U R K
N C O V Y L T A T V G E U E B
G O U Z G V K B I E Y S D B I
F M S C O T T S B L U F F M L
R E G N I R P S Q C I F F E L
B D M N N W M C K X A X T M V
S Y U S W N L A P T K G U Z O
I O O E N O T R O M G U R A Q
X I P Z S H D U C T N N H D U
L L G M Q S Q S E J E H T O C
N I E G P O T M C N E E L E Y

Directions: Search up, down, forward, backward, and on the diagonal to find the bolded, underlined words described below.

October 1932 (93 years ago)

- A **MEMBERSHIP** meeting will be held in Lincoln on Saturday, November 12th. At that time, it is believed 10,000 members can be reported. A banquet will be held in the evening – other events of the day include an executive committee meeting in the morning followed by attendance at the Nebraska-Pittsburgh **FOOTBALL** game in the afternoon. A big block of seats will be reserved for Legionnaires. Ticket prices are \$2.50 plus tax.
- Any Legion member in Nebraska who has an argument with the Missus about going to a Legion meeting, or any wife of a Legion member who wants to make sure her husband goes to the meeting he says he is going to, can well envy Mr. and Mrs. Frank **MCNEELEY** of **NORFOLK**. The McNeeleys are one of several pairs in Nebraska where both husband and wife served during the war.
- One of the ceremonies at the recent national convention in Portland was the planting of a **TREE** in **SOIL** brought from the Nebraska City home of J. Sterling **MORTON**. Mrs. Lottie Rosencrans, Department **AUXILIARY** President, took with her to national convention some soil from around a tree at the Morton home which had been planted by President **CLEVELAND**.

October 1942 (83 years ago)

- **SCOTTSBLUFF** Post 5 recently voted that **DUES** of members in the armed services be paid by the post. It is estimated that about 12 members are now in the service.
- The American Legion **BILL** for the amendment of its 1919 charter to open membership to veterans of the second world war has cleared the first hurdle. On October 14, the House passed **SPRINGER** Bill (H.R. 7675) and sent it to the Senate.
- The SEVENTH District continues in the lead on 1943 membership standings, with more than three-fourths of its **QUOTA** already in.



Chaplain's Corner

Steve Witmer
Department Chaplain



Over the Labor Day weekend, my wife and I joined some friends for a campout at Ponca State Park. It had been over 30 years since we had been there, so I opened up Google Maps to show me the way. I didn't pay close attention to the path that Google was taking, I just trusted that it would get me there. We ended up going on the most direct path possible which took us through a lot of small towns, down county spur roads, and even six miles of gravel. Needless to say, getting there was a major challenge. Going home we stayed on the main highways. It wasn't the shortest route, but it was the fastest and easiest.

Sometimes we can, and do, take the wrong roads in our spiritual life. Most of the time, this happens when we look and listen to the ways of the world and not the ways of God. Social media and other sources show us ways that, on the surface, look pretty easy and sometimes even glamorous. While they always look good, they also always lead to sin. We must stay focused on what the Lord has for us and not what we think we want or need. In John 14:6 Jesus says "I am the way, the truth and the light. No one comes to the father except through me." As we travel through life, we need to make sure we are on the right path. The only way to do that is to make sure we have the right guide. We do that by following the right GPS, God's Perfect Son. That is one mapping system that will never send you down the wrong road.



Straight Talk

Levi Bennett
Detachment Service Officer



Engaging the VA Through Technology: Secure Access, Communication, and Benefits

This month I am focusing on how in today's digital world, veterans have more opportunities than ever to securely connect with the benefits and services they've earned. As a Veteran Service Officer I use technology to communicate with both veterans and the United States Department of Veterans Affairs (VA). VA currently provides several mobile applications allowing veterans to manage health care, access benefits, and communicate directly with VA staff—all from their personal devices. Two critical gateways, **Login.gov** and **ID.me**, paired with VA's suite of mobile apps, make the process more convenient, secure, and efficient.

Login.gov (www.login.gov) is a government-provided sign-in service that lets veterans use a single account across multiple agencies. Instead of keeping track of different usernames and passwords, veterans can log in once and access:

- **VA.gov** (benefits and health resources)
- **My Social Security** (Social Security Administration)
- **USAJOBS** (federal employment opportunities)

ID.me (www.id.me/individuals) functions like a secure digital identity wallet. After completing a one-time verification process, veterans can use their credentials across government platforms, health care systems, and private businesses.

For Veterans, ID.me goes a step further by verifying military affiliation. This not only provides access to VA.gov and My HealtheVet but also unlocks exclusive military/veteran discounts from hundreds of retailers and service providers.

Why Veterans Should Consider Both

While Login.gov and ID.me provide similar services, not all agencies or companies accept both. VA allows veterans to use either platform, but many private companies rely solely on ID.me for military verification. By setting up both accounts, veterans maximize their access to government services and private benefits while also having a backup option if one system is temporarily unavailable.

VA Mobile Apps: Connecting on the Go

Once identity is verified through Login.gov, ID.me, or DS Logon, veterans can use VA mobile apps to manage their benefits and health care:

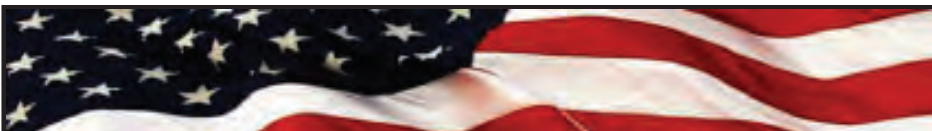
- **VA Health and Benefits App** – A one-stop shop to view and download benefit letters, access digital VA ID cards, manage appointments, send secure messages, and check claims status.
- **My HealtheVet and Secure Messaging** – Communicate directly with providers, request prescription refills, view test results, and download medical records.
- **VA Video Connect** – Attend secure video appointments with VA health care providers from home, particularly valuable for rural veterans.
- **Other Apps** – Annie (text-based health reminders), PTSD Coach, and MOVE! PTSD Coach provides additional support for wellness and mental health.

Through these apps access communication with the VA is streamlined, veterans can:

- **Communicate securely** with VA staff via messaging or video appointments.
- **Download official letters instantly**, including disability verification, homestead eligibility verification letters and service letters.
- **Access support 24/7**, whether through health reminders or mental health resources.

By creating Login.gov and ID.me accounts and downloading VA mobile apps, veterans gain secure, streamlined access to health care, benefits, and official documentation. These tools reduce paperwork, cut down on travel to VA facilities, and put control directly in veterans' hands. An accredited Veteran Service Officer can provide further one-on-one information regarding veteran benefits, go see one today.

“Legionnaire in the Spotlight” is a new article in each issue. Please send in submissions to awashburn@nebraskalegion.net or mail them to Headquarters. Please limit them to 800 words and two pictures. Please call Amanda at 402-464-6338 with any questions.



POW/MIA

Boyd Yochum
POW/MIA Liaison



Over the years, I have had email communication and phone calls with Ann Mills-Griffiths. Ann is Chairman Emeritus and Acting CEO of the National League of POW/MIA Families, chartered in May 1970. Ann has led the organization since August 1, 1978.

Their mission is simple, “seeking answers on the missing.” At National Convention in Tampa, I was able to sit down with Ann and Ed Sykes for a long conversation about the POW/MIA issue, and what we are doing at the Nebraska American Legion.

Ann was at the convention to receive the American Legion Auxiliary Public Spirit Award, for contributions that positively impact communities through service to our veterans, and their families. Ann started her mission in honor of her brother, Commander James B. Mills, U.S. Navy, listed as MIA September 21, 1966, when his Navy F4B disappeared off radar. Due to a nearly miraculous site discovery, and dedication by DPAA’s underwater archeologists, Mills remains were recovered and identified in August 2018. He was interred with full military honors at Arlington National Cemetery on August 24, 2019.

September 5, 2025, at a Blackhawk Association Meeting, I was visiting with another Blackhawk, Vic Musante, who works with Tours of Duty. Their primary focus is locating and recovering POW/MIA remains. Vic pointed out that our Blackhawks lost two Cobra Aircraft and four aviators in 1971. Vic has been working with Ed Sykes, and one of our aircraft that went down near where “Pappy” Kahler, one of our Nebraska MIAs went down. Such a small world.

This edition, I want to talk about Commander Charles H. Peters, of West Point, Nebraska. Peters was a member of Attack Squadron 155, Carrier Air Wing 15, aboard the USS Constellation. On July 1, 1966, he piloted an A-4E Skyhawk 150017 on a strike mission over North Vietnam. While returning from the mission, the Skyhawk was shot down by enemy ground fire, and Commander Peters was killed. Hostile presence in the area inhibited search efforts at the time. In 1988, the Vietnamese government repatriated remains.

On October 14, 1989, the Central Identification Lab – Hawaii, (now DPAA), identified the remains of Commander Charles Henry Peters, missing from the Vietnam War.

Commander Peters is memorialized on the Courts of the Missing at the National Memorial Cemetery of the Pacific. His name is also inscribed along with all of his fallen comrades on the Vietnam Memorial Wall in Washington, D.C.

Tours of Duty and Task Force Omega have questioned why, after all these years, so much information on our missing heroes is classified. We have questioned what “they” are hiding. Many of us have asked that the so-called McCain Act of 1993 be reversed so that information can be declassified. In my conversation with Ann Mills-Griffiths, she said, “no, don’t do that;” and went on to suggest that declassifying information would only fuel the conspiracy theorists, and not help our quest to find the missing remains of our heroes.

We are encouraged, all of us, to promote awareness of our still missing and unidentified Soldiers, Sailors, Airmen and Marines from all wars and conflicts; and continue to support the mission of No Service Member Left Behind.

Candidate Announcement



Richard Colson has announced his candidacy for Senior Vice-Commander of the American Legion Department of Nebraska. Richard lives in Paxton, Nebraska, where he and his wife, Vicki, raised their 5 children.

Richard earned his eligibility for The American Legion by his service in the United States Coast Guard. He is a 54 year member of Hankins-Miller American Legion Post #303 in Paxton, currently serving as adjutant. Richard has held every officer position in the Post, including being Post Commander 3 times, and served 6 years as Keith County Commander.

Richard’s family members all belong to The American Legion Family. His wife, two daughters, and two grand-daughters are Auxiliary members. His three sons all belong to the Sons of the

American Legion, as well as his three grand-sons. His son George is also a member of the Post, having spent eight years in the Navy.

He has been active in the Legion at all levels, having served as District 5 Commander (3 times) and as Area D Commander (twice). He has attended several National Conventions as a Delegate, and has been assigned to various committees at the National level. He is currently on the National Legislative Convention Committee, and at the latest National Convention, served on both the Legislation Committee, and the Health Administration Committee. Richard is in his third year on the Cornhusker Boys’ State Committee, and is on its’ Board of Directors.

Richard was the manager of a lumber yard, and hardware store, where he worked for 31 years. He then spent 7 years as the County Veteran Service Officer of Keith, Arthur, and Garden counties. His community service includes 24 years on the Village Board, and 20 years on the West-Central Nebraska Development District Board, having held all positions in each. He is a member of St. Patrick’s Catholic Church, in Paxton, and a member of the Sons of the American Legion, 40 & 8, Knights of Columbus, Lions Club, and Moose Club. He received the Cody-Kerr Award from the Nebraska American Legion in 2015. He is an amateur pool player and an avid coin collector.

Richard would appreciate your support to be elected to the position of Senior Vice-Commander of the Nebraska American Legion for the 2026-2027 year. If you want to get something done, give it to a busy man.



S.A.L. Notes

Todd Kabella
Detachment Commander



Greetings American Legion Family!

Membership renewals need to continue to be a priority. To demonstrate this, the detachment has implemented a “membership renewal reward program” where a squadron member could win \$1,000 if their squadron has achieved 100% membership by October 31st. Squadron commanders and adjutants have been given details of how the program works, so reach out to them for specifics.

Veteran suicide continues to be an extremely important issue, so don’t forget about the “Be The One” initiative. You can download the “Be The One” app if you have a smartphone. If you or someone you know needs help, remember that the crisis hotline number is 988 and if you are a veteran press 1.

It was an honor to attend the National Convention in Tampa and witness the installation of Detachment of Nebraska Adjutant Chris Casey as National Vice Commander for the Midwest region. Congratulations to Chris on this well-deserved honor. I know he will make us proud.

We need every squadron to make sure that headquarters has valid contact information for your squadron officers. It is vitally important that we have valid email addresses and phone numbers so we can quickly disseminate information to all squadrons throughout the state.

Keep the Four Pillars of The American Legion in mind when planning events: Veterans Affairs and Rehabilitation, National Security, Americanism, and Children and Youth. Some ideas could be a Halloween “Trunk or Treat” for the kids in your area, hosting a Veterans Day meal to honor those that have served or something as simple as a pizza party on game day at one of our veterans homes.

2025 Player of the Year



This year, the Nebraska American Legion selected Tyler Olson of Concord as the 2025 Nebraska American Legion Baseball Player-of-the-Year. Tyler is the son of Mark and Tiffany Olson, and he played for the Pender Senior Team sponsored by Pender Post 55. Tyler has shown extensive dedication to academics at Laurel-Concord-Coleridge High School, supporting his peers, and volunteering in his community.

Olson participated in baseball, cross county, basketball, and track and has received many awards in these activities to include Nebraska Chiropractic Physicians Association Award, four years; and Nebraska State Colleges Multi-Activity Student Award, four years; Male High School Athlete of the Year at Laurel-Concord-Coleridge High School. He graduated Magna Cum Laude in 2024.

Olson attends Northeast Community College pursuing a degree in Electrical Construction and Control.

Olson was also named to The American Legion All-Academic Team.

Jim Hurlbert Memorial Scholarship

The Nebraska American Legion selected Seth Dean of Douglas and Anthony Barone of Omaha as the recipients of the Jim Hurlbert Memorial Scholarship. They each will receive a \$500.00 scholarship.

The Jim Hurlbert Memorial Scholarship is named in memory of Past Department Service Officer Jim Hurlbert. Hurlbert was a strong supporter of The American Legion Baseball program and gave back to the youth who participated.

The Jim Hurlbert Memorial Scholarship is awarded based on the players’ leadership, scholarship, citizenship, and financial need. Recipients are nominated by their team manager, along with additional endorsements from other community leaders.

For the 36th consecutive year, the Nebraska American Legion has done its part in helping Nebraska students with scholarship money.

Membership Minute
Membership Chairman Steve Bartos

I'm glad to see that we're off to a much better start than we were last year. Because of the department and national dues increases, some members chose not to renew for 2025. Because we didn't get our first dues notice from Indianapolis until October, we fell behind the rest of the country on renewals.

The dues increase was probably the most impactful event on our disappointing results. However, just about every department in the American Legion struggled to achieve its goal. The national organization admitted at the National Membership Workshop that the declines were not totally unexpected --- and adjusted 2026 goals accordingly.

The first national membership target date was September 10th (50% of goal). Nebraska achieved that and surpassed that goal by having 10,465 paid members on that date. 51.33%. Thanks to everyone who transmitted dues to help us meet that goal.

Early and prompt renewals by our "regular" members are always a big help in kick-starting our membership year. The drawing for our "Early Bird" winners was held at Commander Walters' homecoming in Ainsworth. Congratulations to the following five members who will each receive a \$200 prize: Mary Beth Sueppel Hewitt of Bellevue --- Papillion Post 32; Arthur Bickley of Piedmont, Oklahoma --- Madison Post 35; Kenneth Bright of Wilber --- Wilber Post 101; Neal Anderson of Ansley --- Ansley Post 153; and Michael Cain of North Platte --- Hershey Post 279

The second national target date occurs on October 15th, and we should be at or over 55% of goal by then. I'd like to see us at 65% --- a full "target date ahead!" The second renewal notice from Indianapolis is scheduled to be mailed October 4-10, so there should be a fresh influx of memberships just before the target date. Be prepared to process them!!!

While it's important to keep processing memberships, we can't lose sight of the fact that our membership continues to decline. We must find a way to add "new" members to our rosters.

Losing members to non-renewal and losing members to the Post Everlasting are issues that won't go away. The losses to the Post Everlasting are probably of greatest concern. Our membership is generally top-heavy with older veterans, and the losses are more likely to come from that age group.

A feature that was lost when the "new" version of MyLegion was created was the ability to search for and sort the members of our Headquarters Post 500 by "join date." That was a very handy feature, because you could then create a list on a regular schedule, sort by "join date," and quickly see who the best prospects were to invite to transfer to your post ----- those being the names at the top of the list. They are members who have just RECENTLY joined the American Legion and are probably most likely to transfer. This feature has now been restored, and I encourage every post to use it. Members renew at a higher rate in the local posts, so let's get more of the Post 500 members transferred into one.

Renew. Reinstate. Recruit.
Have a nice October.



Legionnaire in the Spotlight
Ian Kotrous



Ian Kotrous of Verdigre Post 259 joined the Air Force in May of 2015 and spent 6 months at Lackland Air Force Base in San Antonio, TX. He went to basic training and then technical school to become a Security Forces MP. From there, he went to Incirlik Air Base in Turkey, and he spent 16 months providing asset and flight line security. He then returned home in April of 2017 to Offutt Air Force Base in Omaha where he worked law enforcement and dispatch. In May 2020, he deployed out of Offutt to Ali Al Salem, Kuwait where he spent 6 months managing the vehicle fleet and running convoy ops to various countries in the area. Following his deployment, he returned back to Offutt AFB to finish out the remaining 5 months of his enlistment for a total of 6 years on active duty.

After he was discharged from the Air Force, Ian joined the Verdigre American Legion Post 259. He currently serves as the Post Commander.

**Department Seeking Applications
for Assistant Adjutant**

The Assistant Adjutant position is currently vacant and the Department is looking to get a replacement onboard quickly.

The majority of time as Assistant Adjutant is spent managing Department Programs like Legion Baseball, Junior Law Cadet, Oratorical, Scholarships, and County Government Day. The Assistant Adjutant also assumes other duties as directed by the Department Adjutant. The job is full-time with very good benefits.

Please submit resume/application (and redacted DD-214) to HQ's no later than October 24th with interview(s) following shortly after. For more information please contact Adjutant Martin at HQ and he will be happy to answer them.

2026 Mid-Year Conference

The 2026 Mid-Year Conference will be held January 16 - 18, 2026 at the Norfolk Lodge and Suites. The Norfolk Lodge and Suites is located at 4200 W. Norfolk Avenue in Norfolk.

The DEC meeting will be held on Friday, January 16, at 10:00 am and the Joint Session will be held on Saturday, January 17, at 8:00 am. The oratorical contest will be held on Saturday, January 17, at 6:00 p.m. A reminder that the lottery drawing will be held on Sunday, January 18, during the Joint Session which starts at 9:00 am. Conference registration is \$10.00.

Junior Shooting Sports Program

Has your Post been wanting to get more youth involved? If so, the Junior Shooting Sports Program may be something to consider. This is a gun safety education and marksmanship program that provides the basic elements of safety, education, enjoyment, and competition. Participants of any gender, ages 14 through 20. Handicapped youth are encouraged to participate. First round postal match competition target sales and registration opens September 1 and closes December 15. Full information can be found at www.legion.org/shooting/resources. Contact our Department Liaison, Doug Frahm, if your Post is interested in pursuing this program.



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NORFOLK ★ SCOTTSBLUFF

veterans.nebraska.gov/homes

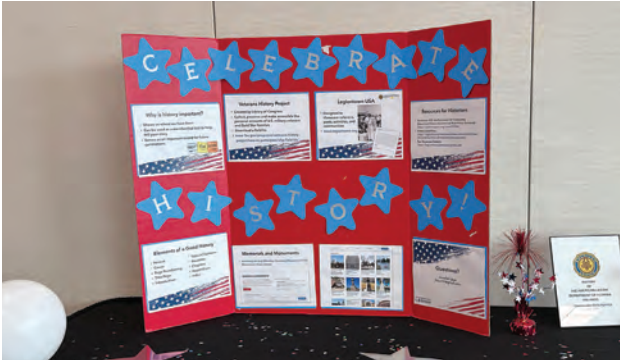
2025 National Convention - Tampa, FL



Members of the Nebraska American Legion Family attended the National Commander's "Jimmy Buffett" themed banquet during the convention.



Nebraska was recognized for 100% Consolidated Post Reporting for 2024-2025. Pictured (L to R) Commander Judy Walters, PDC Boyd Yochum, and Adjutant Eric Martin.



The Nebraska American Legion family made several donations to the Child Well Being Foundation. Pictured (L to R) PDC Boyd Yochum, PDC Don Suchy, Commander Judy Walters, National Commander James LaCoursiere, NEC Jim Costello, and ANEC John-Henry Pearcy.



During the National Convention, Nebraska's Law Enforcement Officer of the Year, Sgt. Shane Maloley of the Beatrice Police Department was chosen as the 2025 National Law Enforcement Officer of the Year. Pictured (L to R) Adjutant Eric Martin and Sgt. Shane Maloley.

National Historian Jennifer Laux hosted the first ever Post History Showcase during the convention. Post Historians were recognized for their work on their Post History. Nebraska is so proud of her and all of the work that she does!

2025 Leadership School and Homecoming Banquet



Department Commander Judy Walters held her Leadership School in Ainsworth. Pictured (L to R) Don Nelson, Commander Walters, Tina Nelson, and Senior Vice Commander Doug Frahm.



This year's Department Leadership joined together to celebrate Commander Judy at her Homecoming Banquet. Pictured (L to R) President Ruth Hietbrink, Commander Judy Walters, and Sons Commander Todd Kabella.



NEC Jim Costello was the MC for the Commander's Banquet. Pictured (L to R) Sons Commander Todd Kabella, PDP Deb Albers, President Ruth Hietbrink, NEC Costello, Commander Judy Walters, NVC Jerry Landkamer, and PDC Fred Craigie.

ID Resolve From The LIT

In today's world, identity theft is one of the fastest growing crimes in America. If you or your spouse fall victim to identity theft what would you do? Where would you turn? With Legionnaire ID Resolve you'll have 24-hour identity theft resolution that helps protect your money, your time and your financial reputation.

If you haven't fallen victim to identity theft yet, don't think you're safe. Data breaches happen every day, where thieves can steal your name, date of birth, credit card information, medical records, and your Social Security number. That's why your Department of The American Legion has endorsed ID Resolve. A new program to help Legionnaires fight back instead of being a victim and not knowing where to turn.

ID Resolve helps you eliminate the uncertainty, by putting ID experts on your side to clean up the mess and help restore your name. You can be confident you're getting the protection you deserve when it comes to your money, accounts, credit cards, and financial records. Plus, our no-obligation money-back guarantee allows you a full 30-day examination period in case you change your mind about this identity resolution.

Non-political Organization

This is a reminder that The American Legion Family is a non-political organization. Do not wear your cover, branded shirt, or any other branded item at any political rally or at any campaign event. Furthermore, any Post holding a political forum must extend an invitation to all those running for office and remember to remove any trademark items from view. Contact Adjutant Martin with any questions.



Abbott, William J. Jr., Dalton, SAL
Aden, Ronny, Cortland, Vietnam
Anderson, Dean, Holdrege, Korea
Andrews, Loyd R., Kearney, Vietnam
Appelget, E. K., Tecumseh, Korea
Atkin, Wilbur L., Havelock, Vietnam
Bailey, Glen L., Palmer, Vietnam
Bartunek, Dave A., South Omaha, SAL
Beeman, Dennis E., Lincoln, Vietnam
Belsky, Donald E., Gordon, Korea
Benker, Donald L., Minden, Vietnam
Bennett, Richard, David City, Vietnam
Bernt, Leevon, Shelby, Vietnam
Bienhoff, Roger, Minden, Vietnam
Boham, John R., Benson, Korea
Bollish, Vern, Ogallala, Vietnam
Boyer, Kenneth, Newport, Vietnam
Boysen, Harold R., Omaha, Vietnam
Bruns, Todd E., Dorchester, SAL
Carlson, Lynn, Shickley, SAL
Chambers, Frank H., Lincoln, WWII
Chester, John G., Papillion, Vietnam
Chittick, James S., Pawnee City, WWII
Disney, Donald G. Sr., Carleton, Vietnam
Drueke, Henry W., West Point, Korea
Eaton, Larry, Lincoln, Korea
Faulkner, Daniel J., Bellevue, Vietnam
Ferguson, Edwin D., Ansley, Korea
Filipi, Charles D., Wilber, SAL
Finkner, John R., Minden, WWII
Frankhauser, Jay, Humboldt, Korea
Freiburghouse, William L., Niobrara, Korea
Gake, Wallace L., Lincoln, WWII
Galindo, Julian, Lyons
Gdowski, Benny J., York, Korea
Gentrup, Thomas, Emerson
Gobber, Robert L., Elk Creek, Vietnam
Gray, Roger, Osmond, Vietnam
Greguras, William J., Howells, Vietnam
Grossnicklaus, Jan, Shelby
Ground, William P., Juniata, Vietnam
Gruhn, Virgil, Boelus, Vietnam
Hale, Stanley J., Tekamah, Korea
Hansen, Herbert L., Omaha, WWII
Harris, Larry A., Tilden, Vietnam
Hatfield, Keith L., Lincoln, Vietnam
Heitshusen, Dale W., Uehling, Korea
Helberg, Mick, Hayes Center, Korea
Hemberger, Gerald D., Juniata, Vietnam
Hess, Bob, Kenesaw, Vietnam
Hickock, Verne O., Atkinson, Korea
Hirschert, Rodney A., Benson, Vietnam

Hoagland, Dale D., Grand Island, Vietnam
Hoffman, Jackie R, Friend, Vietnam
Hogan, Dale C., Lincoln, WWII
Hogg, James L., Yutan, Vietnam
Hohnroth, Allen L., Prague, Vietnam
Holmes, Don P., Gothenburg, Korea
Hostert, Paul S., Butte, Korea
Huddle, Burton C., Mullen
Hughes, Bill, Chappell, Korea
Hunzeker, Vernon H., Lincoln, Vietnam
Jacobs, Ronald L., Chappell, Vietnam
Jeffers, Dick J., Valentine, Vietnam
Joe, Lloyd L., Valparaiso, Korea
Johnson, Clayton C., Verdigre, Korea
Johnson, Dennis, Pender, Vietnam
Jones, Duane D., Osceola, Korea
Kalk, Howard L., Bellevue, Lebanon/Grenada
Kaup, Rodney A., Stuart, Vietnam
Kemmet, Willard R., York, Korea
Kraft, Robert G., South Omaha, SAL
Krejci, Allen E., Schuyler, SAL
Kunz, Max, Stuart, Korea
Kunze, Calvin L., Milford, Vietnam
Lafleur, Jim P., Madison, Korea
Lancaster, Ronald H., Cody, Vietnam
Lindemann, Charles F., Lincoln, Vietnam
Lombardo, Sebastian, Falls City, WWII
Lorenz, William J., Crete, Vietnam
Maguire, Mike, Plymouth, Vietnam
Masek, Lawrence D., Weston, Vietnam
Mays, James E., Omaha, Vietnam
McLaughlin, Elmer L., Alliance, Korea
McNeff, Barbara A., Omaha, Vietnam
McWhirt, Vernon, Omaha, Vietnam
Meiergerd, Raymond, West Point
Meyer, Frederick A., Plymouth, Vietnam
Miller, Kenneth L., Ravenna, Vietnam
Morris, Edward R., Omaha, Korea
Murphy, Joseph B., Morse Bluff, Lebanon/Grenada
Musgrave, John R., Hebron, WWII
Nadrchal, Dennis J., Fremont, Vietnam
Nisely, Jay A., Syracuse, Vietnam
O’Brien, John E., Burwell, Vietnam
Ochsner, David A., Nelson, SAL
Odvody, Geroge H., Morse Bluff, Korea
Oldenkamp, Duane, Omaha, Vietnam
Pelc, Arnold, Butte, Vietnam
Peterson, Kenton, Holdrege, Vietnam
Piper, Donald S., North Platte, Vietnam

Plugge, David, Madison, Vietnam
Preitauer, John, Stamford, Vietnam
Pruitt, Charles L., Edison, Vietnam
Pugsley, Charles S. III., Omaha, Persian Gulf
Rasmussen, Roland M., Blair, Korea
Ratliff, James L., Ogallala, Korea
Reiselman, Bernard J., Ogallala, WWII
Reiser, Harold D., Butte, Korea
Rhynalds, Phillip L., Oxford, Vietnam
Richards, Lyle E., Millard, Vietnam
Richardson, James F., Tecumseh, Vietnam
Riedman, Al III., Valley, SAL
Robison, James D., Elk Creek, Vietnam
Robotham, Carol, Aurora, WWII
Roeber, Lester A., Ashland, Vietnam
Rollings, Michael, Dalton, Vietnam
Rose, Virgil D., Cowles, Korea
Rudeen, Bruce W., Lincoln, Vietnam
Rupert, Dennis W., Atkinson, Vietnam
Schnoor, Dale W., Scribner, Korea
Schuchman, Martin C., Lincoln, Persian Gulf
Shaver, Wayne B., Hemingford, Vietnam
Sila, Russell L., Norfolk, Vietnam
Sinn, Christian C., Hastings, Korea
Smith, Douglas A., Carleton, Vietnam
Speirs, Christopher A., Hay Springs, Persian Gulf
Stapleton, Glenn W., Ponca, Vietnam
Stark, Larry, Ceresco, Korea
Steffensmeier, Kenneth J., Arlington, Vietnam
Stokebrand, Norman, DeWitt, Korea
Swanson, Wayne, Ogallala, Vietnam
Taylor, Robert H., Lincoln, Korea
Throener, Wilbert F., West Point, Korea
Tichota, Ralph, Clearwater, Vietnam
Tomes, Robert B., Schuyler
Uehling, Douglas, Uehling
Vath, Greg, Dalton, Panama
VonMinden, Diedrich L., Minden
Vonseggern, Roger R., Scribner
VonSpreckelson, E. J., Clay Center, Korea
Warneke, Paul, Norfolk, Korea
Wedergren, Arlen D., Uehling, Korea
Wheeler, Duane H., Dorchester, Vietnam
Wobken, Ronald W., Pender, Vietnam
Wooters, Eldon W., Lincoln, Vietnam
Yilk, William J., Cedar Rapids
Zulfer, Gerald, Omaha, Korea

Correction: James A. Graham of Ashland is alive and well. Roger Pearson of Bennett was a WWII and Korea veteran.

Events Calendar

October

5 - 9 Fall Meetings - Indianapolis, IN
19 - 24 DSO Training - Indianapolis, IN

November

11 Veteran's Day - Office Closed
16 - 21 National Legion College - Indianapolis, IN
27 - 28 Thanksgiving - Office Closed

December

24 - 26 Christmas - Office Closed
31 - 2 New Years - Office Closed

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

UNITED STATES POSTAL SERVICE® (All Periodicals Publications Except Requester Publications)			
1. Publication Title The Nebraska Legionnaire		2. Publication Number 376-180	3. Filing Date 9-24-2025
4. Issue Frequency Bi-Monthly		5. Number of Issues Published Annually 6	6. Annual Subscription Price \$10.00
7. Complete Mailing Address of Known Office of Publication (Not printer) (Street, city, county, state, and ZIP+4®) 150 NW 40th St, Unit A, Lincoln, NE 68528			Contact Person Eric Martin Telephone (include area code) (402) 464-6338
8. Complete Mailing Address of Headquarters or General Business Office of Publisher (Not printer) 150 NW 40th St, Unit A, Lincoln, NE 6852805			
9. Full Names and Complete Mailing Addresses of Publisher, Editor, and Managing Editor (Do not leave blank) Publisher (Name and complete mailing address): The Nebraska Legionnaire, Department of Nebraska, 150 NW 40th St, Unit A, Lincoln, NE 68528 Editor (Name and complete mailing address): Amanda Washburn - 150 NW 40th St, Unit A, Lincoln, NE 68528 Managing Editor (Name and complete mailing address): Eric Martin, 150 NW 40th St, Unit A, Lincoln, NE 68528			
10. Owner (Do not leave blank. If the publication is owned by a corporation, give the name and address of the corporation immediately followed by the names and addresses of all stockholders owning or holding 1 percent or more of the total amount of stock. If not owned by a corporation, give the names and addresses of the individual owners. If owned by a partnership or other unincorporated firm, give its name and address as well as those of each individual owner. If the publication is published by a nonprofit organization, give its name and address.) Full Name The Nebraska Legionnaire Complete Mailing Address 150 NW 40th St, Unit A, Lincoln, NE 68528			
13. Publication Title The Nebraska Legionnaire		14. Issue Date for Circulation Data Below 10/10/2025	
15. Extent and Nature of Circulation		Average No. Copies Each Issue During Preceding 12 Months	No. Copies of Single Issue Published Nearest to Filing Date
a. Total Number of Copies (Net press run)			
b. Paid Circulation (By Mail and Outside the Mail)	(1) Mailed Outside-County Paid Subscriptions Stated on PS Form 3541 (include paid distribution above nominal rate, advertiser's proof copies, and exchange copies)	29,920	28,220
	(2) Mailed in-County Paid Subscriptions Stated on PS Form 3541 (include paid distribution above nominal rate, advertiser's proof copies, and exchange copies)		
	(3) Paid Distribution Outside the Mails including Sales Through Dealers and Carriers, Street Vendors, Counter Sales, and Other Paid Distribution Outside USPS®		
	(4) Paid Distribution by Other Classes of Mail Through the USPS (e.g., First-Class Mail®)		
c. Total Paid Distribution (Sum of 15b (1), (2), (3), and (4))		29,920	28,220
d. Free or Nominal Rate Distribution (By Mail and Outside the Mail)	(1) Free or Nominal Rate Outside-County Copies Included on PS Form 3541	0	0
	(2) Free or Nominal Rate In-County Copies Included on PS Form 3541		
	(3) Free or Nominal Rate Copies Mailed at Other Classes Through the USPS (e.g., First-Class Mail)		
	(4) Free or Nominal Rate Distribution Outside the Mail (Carriers or other means)	165	165
e. Total Free or Nominal Rate Distribution (Sum of 15d (1), (2), (3), and (4))		165	165
f. Total Distribution (Sum of 15c and 15e)		30,085	28,385
g. Copies not Distributed (See instructions to Publishers III (page #3))		0	0
h. Total (Sum of 15f and g)		30,085	28,385
i. Percent Paid (15c divided by 15f times 100)		99.48	99.48
16. Signature and Title of Editor, Publisher, Business Manager, or Owner Amanda Washburn			Date 9/24/2025

I certify that all information furnished on this form is true and complete. I understand that anyone who furnishes false or misleading information on this form or who omits material or information requested on the form may be subject to criminal sanctions (including fines and imprisonment) and/or civil sanctions (including civil penalties).

Sons of The American Legion Membership As of September 15, 2025

District	2025 Members	2026 Members
1	299	107
2	564	115
3	237	90
4	341	46
5	138	8
6	1,317	175
7	785	129
8	856	219
9	289	59
10	303	50
11	1,005	166
12	257	35
13	126	7
15	133	138
Total	6,650	1,314



Waverly Post 204 presented a certificate for 50 years of continuous membership to Dale Filipi. Pictured (L to R) Adjutant Larry Seawall and Dale Filipi.



Palmer Post 120 presented membership cards to father and son members of their Post. Pictured (L to R) Kenneth Meyer, 21 year member and Albert Meyer, 68 year member.



Verdigre Post 259 presented certificates of continuous membership to its members. Pictured (L to R) Charles Kucera, 50 years, Commander Ian Kotrous, and Norman Haverkamp, 70 years.



South Omaha Post 331 American Legion Family members participated in the annual Ralston Fourth of July Parade.



Elwood Post 290 color guard marched in the Gosper County Parade. Pictured (L to R) Department Commander Judy Walters, District 9 Commander Amie Moores, Hunter Rios, Commander Connie Houlden, and David Beck Jr.



Rushville Post 161 member Amos "Bud" Knight was presented with a World War II Recognition Citation and Pin. Pictured (L to R) Jerry Knight, Amos Knight, and Area D Vice Commander Cliff Rininger.



Dodge Post 122 hosted school talk presentations on Americanism and their military service at St. Wenceslaus Elementary, Howells-Dodge Elementary in Dodge, and St. John Newman in Clarkson. Pictured (L to R) Tom Mlnairk, Lumir Cech, Lenny Kempf, Richard Archuleta, and Jerry Schulte.



Grand Island Post 53 sponsors Grand Island Troop 119. For his Eagle Scout project, Ethan Millies of Troop 119 planned and constructed a new 10x12 shed for the United Veterans Club.



Butte Post 51 presented a certificate for 50 years of continuous membership to Gene Soukup.



Morse Bluff Post 340 members, listed above, received Quilts of Valor from the Material Girls Quilt Guild. Also awarded a QOV but unable to attend were Kevin Claussen and Steven Arneal.



Lincoln Post 3 members participated in the Scheels Sporting Goods annual flag exchange program. Customers could exchange their 3 X 5 American Flags for a new one. Post 3 later held a retirement ceremony for these exchanged flags.



DEPARTMENT PRESIDENT - RUTH HIETBRINK

the American Legion Auxiliary Unit #243 of Plymouth, Nebraska. There I witnessed the homecoming service and burial of Private Erwin Schopp of Plymouth. He was considered a POW/MIA for 82 years. His remains were returned home to rest in peace alongside his parents.

I attended the National Convention in Tampa, Florida. I will tell you that August is not a wonderful time to visit beautiful Tampa! It was hot and humid, not to mention that it rained every day. I did not go for that kind of weather! I was able to hear about all the activities departments, districts, and units did to support our veterans throughout the USA. I was also able to meet Department Presidents from other states.

I am sure you will hear more about the convention from Roxanne Hiatt when you read her report.

My calendar is filling up. I have several invitations to Fall Round-ups. I would love to attend them all, but I would need a clone. Do not worry; we have a plan. You will see officers and chairpersons filling in for me. They are full of information for you and will help you however help is needed.

National's Mission training has been scheduled, and spots are already filling up. Minneapolis, MN, and Albany, NY, will be this fall. Las Vegas, NV, Indianapolis IN, and Atlanta, GA, will be in January and February. Any member can register for these meetings at member.legionaux.org/meeting/mission-training.

The ABC book is currently being printed, with the intention of completion and distribution by the Leadership Training. If you are unable to attend, they will be mailed to District Presidents, Unit Presidents, and Department Officers and Chairs after the training. If you have questions, please contact Roxanne Hiatt or me.

Do not forget to block out the dates of January 16-18, 2026, for the Mid-Year Conference in Norfolk, Nebraska. This will be at the Norfolk Lodge and Suites. Please look for the schedule of events in upcoming information.

Please let me know what your units are doing to stir up members! I can't wait to share your ideas with other units. Just remember that each of you is making a significant

difference in the lives of our veterans, as well as their families.

Also, always be on the lookout for that special veteran, member, service member, or hero who deserves an award!

*Ruth Hietbrink
Department President*



POSITION AVAILABLE: DEPARTMENT TREASURER

NEBRASKA AMERICAN LEGION AUXILIARY

Part-time position. 24 hours weekly.

Comprehensive accounting functions include receiving and recording all revenues, investing funds, processing expenditure transactions, and preparing management reports. Works with the Auxiliary Secretary to serve all administrative functions of the organization.

Reports to the Secretary. Interacts regularly with the Finance Committee and Department President.

Must be a current American Legion Auxiliary member. Must have demonstrated accounting abilities.

NATIONAL POPPY DAY



This coming year, National Poppy Day is May 22, 2026, but the Poppy is something that should be promoted all year.

We have different contests throughout the year that help promote the Poppy. These things include, but are not limited to, the Poppy Poster Contest, Poppy Day, Poppy Centerpiece Contest, Little Miss Poppy Contest, and Juniors Poppy Craft projects that the Junior members show at Junior Convention. I created an information flyer on the Poppy

Poster contest to help you share information. It was in last month's newsletter or can be found on the Nebraska ALA website under the Poppy tab.

If your unit participates in the Little Miss Poppy Contest, please let me know. I think this is a great contest to get your Junior members involved. I am curious if you follow the National guidelines or what criteria you follow. Please share this information with me.

I will continue to provide information about the different contests throughout the year. If you have any questions, please reach out to me at 402-389-0537 (call or text) or jbirkel.ala@gmail.com. Let's have a fun year promoting the poppy while we are Stirling Up Members with President Ruth!

*Justina Birkel
Poppy Chair*

MEMBERSHIP FOCUS



A member for 85 years, Leona (Lee) Braasch of Stromsburg became a member of the American Legion Auxiliary in 1939 when her mother was president of Unit #273 in Brainard, Nebraska. She started a Junior Auxiliary unit when Lee was 10 years old.

Lee transferred her membership to Unit #132 in Stromsburg in 1949. She is eligible through her father and husband.

Thank you to Unit #132 President Pat Evering-Ham for the picture and submission.

In Remembrance MARVA KASL

Marva Lee (Hayek) Kasl, 87, was born January 28, 1938, to Lumir and Evelyn (Vlasak) Hayek. Marva passed away on Friday, August 8, 2025.

Marva served as ALA Department President 2008-2009. Her theme was "Piece by Piece we serve our Veterans for Peace," and her symbol was the Dove of Peace. Her songs were Let There Be Peace and We Serve Our Veterans. She was a 63-year member of Dorchester Unit 264 and a 50-year partner of Bonne Chere 8/40 Salon 767.

She loved the ALA and especially the Juniors. She devoted many hours to the Junior Program. She held many offices at the unit, district, and state levels. Marva always provided treats (candy and trinkets) for everyone she worked with and all activities she led.

Marva is survived by her husband, Bob, of 69 years, daughters Sandy (Chuck) Rains and Judy (Mark) Bors; son-in-law Paul Essman; daughter-in-law Sheri (Kevin) Schuetze; grandchildren Cory (Amy) Rains, Megan (Justin) Pekarek, Cassie (Tyson) Vogt, Taylor Bors, Lucas (Chelsea) Apfelbeck, Clarissa Bors, Andrew (Natalie) Essman, and Samantha (Chris) Hobelman. Great Grandchildren Carly, Brody, Chloe, Jeplin, Eastyn, Judge, Madden, Burke, Callan, Grace, Chandler, Stassi, Nazaria, Snoh, Sullivan, Sunny, Lucy, Stevie, Peyton, and Hudson. Great great-grandchild Cairo and many friends and family.

Marva was preceded in death by her parents, parents-in-laws, and her younger brother of 6 years, Myron "Peanuts" Hayek, and three children --- Bobby, Jean, and Brad.

She enjoyed her family and working with her grandchildren. She will be missed and remembered as a special lady to the ALA and especially the Juniors. Thanks for your years of service and, of course, the treats.



2025 NATIONAL CONVENTION TAMPA, FLORIDA

The weather was rainy, the temperatures were tolerable, and the humidity was unbearable, but...it was a good convention.

Delegate arrivals began on Friday, August 22nd, and everyone was ready to go by late Saturday.

The Nebraska Caucus was held on Saturday afternoon immediately following the Constitution & Bylaws Pre-Convention meeting. All delegates were present. A few important announcements and instructions came from Delegation Chair Amanda Washburn.

Sunday morning saw everyone in attendance at the Northwestern Division Caucus conducted by Northwestern Division National Vice President Deb Albers from Nebraska. She made us proud this year.

The 104th ALA National Convention opened with Keynote Speaker Steve Gilliland, "It Is What You Make It," followed by an introduction of Presidents from Department Merit Medallion Winners.

Yay! Nebraska and President Amanda! We had special buttons to wear on our badges for the entire convention.

National President Trish Ward proceeded with introductions, followed by reports from Credentials, Rules, and the Convention Agenda.

Program reports began with Junior Activities with an introduction of the Junior Member of the Year, Olivia Thuney.

The ALA Girls Nation report ended with greetings from Maanyata Raju Srikantam, 2025 ALA Girls Nation President. Resolution #3 was presented to recognize all that make the program a success. It was passed by the body.

These were followed by the Poppy Committee Report, which presented Resolution #2 to expand Poppy Fund Eligibility. It was defeated. The Children & Youth Committee Report was next followed by the Child Well-Being Foundation activities for the year, presented by Foundation Chair Linda Newsome and Past National

Commander Michael Helm.

There were the VA & R, Americanism, and Education Reports, followed by the announcement and introduction of the Public Spirit Award winner Ann Mills-Griffiths --- and then recess until Monday afternoon breakouts for those who chose to sign up.

Tuesday morning was called to order by National President Ward followed by the introduction of Past National Presidents. We heard reports from National Security, Risk & Compliance, Finance, Treasurer, Secretary, Vice President, and the ALA Foundation.

The Chairman of the Constitution & Bylaws Committee began her report. 15 Amendments and 3 Resolutions were brought before the Convention body.

Amendment 1 was defeated.

...Continued on page 2

Continued from page 1...

Amendments 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, and 15 were adopted. Amendment 7 was amended and adopted. Amendment 14 was amended and defeated.

Resolution 1 asked the American Legion to change eligibility requirements for the ALA. As written, it was defeated.

The meeting was recessed to attend the Unit Member of the Year Luncheon and Honor the Service Member of the Year recipients. Included in the recipients was Air National Guard CMSgt Ronald Polivka of Nebraska. Congratulations to him and thanks to Pleasant Dale Unit 354 for recommending him for this award.

Wednesday saw the nomination and election of 2025-2026 National Officers.

Program reports continued with Membership, Community Service, Legislative, Leadership, Public Relations, and Auxiliary Emergency

Fund. The National Historian and Chaplain gave reports.

The Memorial service honored Past National Presidents Elizabeth Stewart and Peggy Thomas.

The National President gave her final report, and the meeting was recessed until 1:30 p.m. for the installation of officers.

Newly elected Department President Ruth Hietbrink, along with other Department Presidents, were given their oath of office.

Our new National Officers for 2025-2026 are President Pam Ray from Illinois and Vice President Coral May Grout from Massachusetts.

This concluded the business of the 104th National Convention of the American Legion Auxiliary. Many attended the Auxiliary States Dinner in the evening and began their travels home on Thursday.

Respectfully submitted,

Roxanne Hiatt
Department Secretary

AMERICANISM

Hello, everyone. I hope you all are doing well.

I would like to say that Americanism is everywhere that we go. From going to programs for our military and veterans or at school events where the “Pledge of Allegiance” and the “Star-Spangled Banner” are being used.

So, I would just like to say that if some of you ladies think that some things don’t count as participating in Americanism, that is not true. For example, flag-retirement ceremonies. Some of the units said that the American Legion does that. But, if you are there or even bring goodies and drinks, you are still participating in the event. Don’t sell yourselves short and feel proud that you are showing your support at these events.

That goes for any event that is being done with adults and children.

Other people do see these little things and appreciate everyone who comes to these events. So, thank you for showing the younger generation that being there and doing little things that don’t seem so important to them is showing support to those who have fought for our freedom.

Also, I would like to add that for the Americanism essay, there is no certain date for the essays to be submitted to your units. Each unit may decide when they would like their deadline --- as long as it is postmarked to me by March 1st.

I would like the units that send me the first-place winners to keep a copy of the essays. Then, you have a copy if you wish to put it in your local newspapers.

Cie Kauth
Americanism Chairman

QUILTS OF VALOR - RUSHVILLE

On Saturday, July 5, 2025, the Rushville Henry Davis Unit 161 held a Quilt of Valor ceremony for 7 veterans of various wars/conflicts in America's history. Jack Beguin, Ron Coomes, Tom White (Purple Heart), Ron Smith, and Tim Moss are Vietnam veterans. Michel Beguin Long served in the Army and was deployed to Iraq, and Brad Krotz is still an active duty Navy Seal with 25 years service.

After the Quilt of Valor ceremony, 6 Vietnam veterans received their Vietnam Medallions. They were Bernard Strong, Jack Beguin, Ron Coomes, Tom White, Ron Smith, Tim Moss

The Legion hall was full of family, alumni, and the public to honor them. A unique fact is that Jack and Michel are father and daughter.

All of the veterans are graduates of Rushville High School.



Receiving Quilts of Valor were: Back row, L-R: Michel Beguin Long and Brad Krotz. Front row: Jack Beguin, Ron Coomes, Tom White, Ron Smith, and Tim Moss.



Receiving Quilts of Valor were (L-R): Bernard Strong, Jack Beguin, Ron Coomes, Tom White, Ron Smith, and Tim Moss

Remember to send your assignments a couple weeks before the month they are due.							
2025-2026 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
Oct.	#147 Crete	#199 Cambridge	#27 Beatrice	#357 Brunswick	#7 Alliance	#7 Alliance	#27 Beatrice
Nov.	#257 Eustis	#209 Franklin	#243 Plymouth	Private Donor	#17 Sidney	#17 Sidney	#362 Elkhorn
Dec.	#310 Gibbon	#288 Farnam	#27 Beatrice	#327 Bellwood	#7 Alliance	#36 Gering	#27 Beatrice
Jan.		#285 North Loup				#133 Culbertson	
Feb.		#209 Franklin					
Mar.	#335 Davenport			#70 West Point			#232 Malmo
Apr.					#7 Alliance	#7 Alliance	
May						#133 Culbertson	
June					#312 Broadwater	#312 Broadwater	
July		#283 Platte Center		#283 Platte Center	#7 Alliance	#301 Dalton	
Aug							
Sep.		#283 Platte Center		#283 Platte Center			
Some facilities have restrictions as to what you can use for decorations. If you have any questions, please contact the facilities contact person.							
Service to Veterans Chair: Maria Atterberry, 704 Rochelle St, Elwood, NE 68937 · 308-325-2863							

ALA LEGISLATIVE PROGRAM

The American Legion Auxiliary’s (ALA) Legislative program is in place to support the public policy positions of The American Legion (TAL), which disseminates material relating to issues involving veterans’ health care, program funding, and troop and family support. These materials can be found at www.legion.org/legislative.

Is following legislation even worthwhile? There is no doubt that it is difficult for one voice to be heard in Congress, or even in the Nebraska Legislature. However, a myriad of voices, all advocating for the same legislation, will most definitely make a difference.

The GI Bill, arguably one of the greatest pieces of legislation to come out of the Twentieth Century, was passed through bipartisan efforts led by the American Legion Family. Some more recent examples of TAL Family successes are:

- Honoring Our Promise to Address Comprehensive Toxics

(PACT) Act to improve health care access and funding for veterans exposed to toxic substances during their military service; and

- Protecting Moms Who Served Act to improve maternity care programs at VA facilities.

What legislation is the American Legion Family supporting now? There are several pieces of legislation being promoted by TAL. One of those that will undoubtedly touch the hearts of ALA members is the Love Lives on Act (S. 410/H.R. 1004), legislation to assist America’s Gold Star spouses. Currently, Gold Star spouses under the age of 55 are expected to either forego remarriage and keep the benefits provided by their veteran spouses’ service or choose a second chance for happiness and thereby lose those same benefits.

The Love Lives On Act would:

- Eliminate the age limit for remarrying without loss of benefits
- Allow remarried surviving spouses to retain education benefits.

- Preserve Commissary and Exchange benefits for remarried spouses; and
- Enable remarried spouses to regain TRICARE benefits if the subsequent marriage ends.

So, how can we help? Visit the website, votervoice.net/AmericanLegion/campaigns. From here, you can find the legislation you wish to support and simply click on the “Send Message” button to send the Legion Family’s position directly to Nebraska’s Congressional representatives. You can also request email alerts to help you keep track of legislation important to the Legion Family.

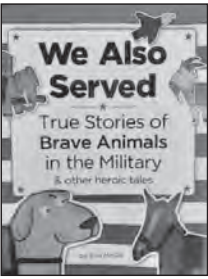
Always remember that one voice may not make a difference on its own, but a symphony can produce change. So let’s work together over the coming year to serve America’s veterans well.

Loree Hendrickson
Legislative Chair

EDUCATION

As a new school year begins, so does a new year for the American Legion Auxiliary. There are several things your unit can do for the Education program during this year. Here are some ideas:

- Introduce yourself to school principals, counselors, and teachers. Tell them about the Auxiliary and what you do. You may find an event, celebration, or activity that the Auxiliary can participate in and create awareness about our organization.
- Get copies of the teachers’ supply lists and collect for "Give 10 to Education.”
- Any time is a good time to donate books to the library, but consider donating “American



Education Week,” November 17-21, 2025. Why not donate “We Also Served: True Stories of Brave Animals in the Military” or “The Poppy Lady: Moina Belle Michael and Her Tribute to Veterans?” (Ask the school’s permission before purchasing)

- I realize that spring is several months away; however, connect with those in the school system who are in charge of scholarships and start planning. Find teachers who teach the subjects our scholarships are focused on (social studies, history, healthcare, and industrial technology) and hand them the scholarship information to share with their students. If you need help, contact me, and I will make a handout you can share in an email or print out and physically give them (as soon as I have all the scholarship details).
- Flag Day is June 14 every year. However, you could pick any day to educate children about the flag and patriotism. Emblem Sales

has a “Let’s Be Right on Flag Etiquette” that you could donate to the schools.

Remember to keep track of what you do so you can include it in your mid-year and annual reports. And, as always, be branded and take lots of pictures!

Deadlines/Important Dates

- Fall 2026 – Participate in Give 10 to Education
- November 17-21, 2025 – American Education Week
- March 1, 2026 – Deadline for National Scholarships
- March 1, 2026 – Deadline for Dept. Scholarship applications to Units for judging
- March 15, 2026 – Deadline for Units to submit Scholarship applications to Dept. for judging
- April 15, 2026 – Purple Up! Day for Military Children
- May 4-8, 2026 – Teacher Appreciation Week

Cindy Moore
Education Chair

HISTORY

Hello, everyone —

What is the history of your unit and district?

I challenge everyone to send me the minutes from your unit, district, and county meetings. That is your history. I want to have the history so I can make a history book for President

Ruth. I would like you to go back to June, when Ruth got elected, to gather the information. Please email them to me at lljunk66@gmail.com.

Let's make History this year!

Lori Reimers
Department Historian



RED CROSS HONORS
KATHY ISKE’S 90TH BIRTHDAY
WITH BLOOD DRIVE

The Gretna American Legion Auxiliary Unit 216 has been hosting blood drives since 1977. Throughout those 48 years, there has been one constant --- Kathy Iske, who has been the Auxiliary Blood Program Leader since the beginning.



Kathy Iske presents Wendy Hirschfeld with a 3-gallon award and sunglasses.

In honor of her 90th birthday, which was on June 9th, the Red Cross held a blood drive on July 7th and celebrated her dedication with cupcakes. Additionally, all donors received a free pair of sunglasses. Kathy was at the Auxiliary’s blood drive, where she helped at check-in and visited with the donors as more than 60 units were donated.

Donate Blood
In Honor of
Kathy Iske's
90th Birthday!!!!

90th Birthday
Blood Drive

hosted by Gretna American Legion Auxiliary, unit 216

Gretna American Legion,
11690 S. 216th Street, Gretna

Monday, July 7, 2025
12:30 pm – 6:30 pm

Donors will be treated to birthday cake
and a free pair of goodr sunglasses!

SCAN ME

MEMBERSHIP

IT’S OUR PARTY!
It’s our party and we’ll try if we want to, try if we want to, try if we want, too; you would try too if you happen to care.



We need to keep working on membership early. One iconic member explained to me “Get those memberships in early so you can work on something else like our mission.” The Department of

Nebraska traditionally starts strong with membership. Keep up the great work. As I write this, our membership is at 20.48 % and we are on track for our Department to reach the goal of 25% by the Sons of American Legion Birthday on September 15 to receive a \$25 award to advance the ALA Mission.

- Current order of Districts by percentage as of September 10, 2025.
- 1. District 2 - 34.19%, Janovec;
 - 2. District 13 – 28.57%, Albers;
 - 3. District 7 – 28.44%, Patras;
 - 4. District 3 – 28.42%, Novak;
 - 5. District 12 – 16.36%, Naber;
 - 6. District 1 - 22.18%, Vackiner;
 - 7. District 11 – 16.69%, Coffee;
 - 8. District 5 – 16.36%, Crawford;
 - 9. District 8 – 15.98%, Brauer;
 - 10. District 6 – 14.00%, Dorsey;
 - 11. District 9 – 11.98%, Bennett;
 - 12. District 4 – 10.14, Poley;
 - 13. District 10 – 8.59%, Tuttle.

Debra Alers
Membership Chair

CALLAWAY MEDAL OF HONOR
WREATH PRESENTATION

Vicki Ozenbaugh held a Nebraska Medal of Honor Recipient Wreath presentation on July 26th at the Callaway Rose Hill cemetery for Private Robert D. Booker. Private Booker was killed in action during WWII while serving in the U.S. Army.



Shown with Vicki is Private Booker’s Gold Star sister and ALA Unit #59 member Rose Hirsch.



In Remembrance
THELMA ANDERSON



Yutan Unit 262 lost long-time member Thelma Anderson, who died on July 29, 2025, at the age of 91. She was Treasurer for 43 years and a member for 57 years.

Thelma volunteered throughout her life with the American Legion Red Cross blood drive, and she helped sponsor the Korean War Vets for over 20 years by serving them a meal every July at the Yutan Country Club.

Thelma also worked at our Yutan Community Library. A marker was dedicated in her honor and placed outside the front of the library in 2025.

VICE PRES.

Thank you to everyone who assisted me by furnishing a copy of your unit charters and/or the history of how your post received its name. I was able to give the book to National President Trish when she was at the Department Convention in June. We received a thank you from her saying how much she enjoyed it. This was able to be completed because of all your help.

Please let me know if I can assist you or your unit with anything. I’m looking forward to going to some Fall Round Up meetings and seeing many of you.

Vicki Cyboron
Department Vice President



VA & R

The Nebraska American Legion Family is very lucky to be able to participate in numerous events at the Veterans Homes and VA Hospitals in November and December.

Dollar Days is sponsored by the ALA and is held close to Veterans Day at each of the facilities in Nebraska. Each veteran receives \$10 to thank them for their service. This program is funded by the donations that are received at Department Headquarters.

Gifts for Yanks Who Gave is sponsored by the American Legion Family and is held during December at each of the facilities in Nebraska, the VA Hospital in Cheyenne, WY, and

the VA Hospital in Hot Springs, SD. Each veteran receives \$30, and each veteran's spouse in the facility receives \$25, as well as everyone there receives a calendar to bring them some holiday cheer. There is also a Christmas party for the residents with cookies, music, bingo, and other events. This event is funded by donations from all parts of The American Legion Family in Nebraska.

Christmas Gift Shop is sponsored by the ALA and is held at the Omaha and Grand Island VA Hospitals each December. The inpatient veterans at the facilities are able to choose 3 or 4 gifts for themselves or their immediate

family members. Volunteers help the veterans “shop” for the items and then wrap them for them. Over 100 veterans are able to pick out gifts through this program. This event is funded by the yearly Gift Shop Assessments that the Units send in.

I highly encourage everyone to check out the VA&R schedule and find a day to visit the local facility for one of the events. These events are a highlight each year and it’s not only the veterans who get a lot out of it; it will definitely remind you why we do what we do and why you are a member!

Amanda Washburn
VA&R Chair

NEBRASKA AMERICAN LEGION FAMILY VA & R 2025 SCHEDULE OF EVENTS
DOLLAR DAYS – GIFT SHOPS – GIFTS FOR YANKS –
STAND DOWNS – CREATIVE ARTS

STAND DOWN: Lincoln – Linda Varejcka – Wednesday, Oct 8, 9 AM-3 PM – Pinnacle Bank Arena, 400 Pinnacle Drive
Omaha – Paula Pillen - Friday, October 17, 2025 9 AM – 2:30 PM (tentative times)
Milo Bail Student Center, 5203 S University Drive Road N, Omaha NE (UNO Campus)

CREATIVE ARTS: Omaha – Paula Pillen – Tuesday, September 16, 2025 3-6 P OMVAMC Ambulatory area
Grand Island - Items will be displayed at the State Fair.

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

AMERICAN LEGION AUXILIARY (ALA) VETERANS DOLLAR DAY DISTRIBUTIONS

Tuesday, November 4, 2025	10 AM 2:30 PM	Grand Island VA Medical Center – 2 nd Floor Rec Central NE Veterans Home, Kearney
Wednesday, November 5, 2025	10 AM	Lincoln Regional Center – Building 5
Thursday, November 6, 2025	2 PM	Norfolk Veterans Home, Norfolk Norfolk Regional Center
Monday, November 10, 2025	10 AM 1 PM 3 PM	Omaha VA Medical Center Eastern NE Veterans Home, Bellevue Papillion Community Living Center
Sunday, November 16, 2025	2 PM MT	Western NE Veterans Home, Scottsbluff

ALA VETERANS MEDICAL CENTER GIFT SHOPS

Shopping/setup - Monday, December 8, 2025	9:30 AM at Walmart setup follows	Grand Island VA Medical Center
Gift Shop date: Tuesday, December 9, 2025	9 AM prep	10 AM open for Veterans
Gift Shop - Thursday, December 18, 2025	10 AM	Papillion Community Living Center (PCLC)
Set up – Monday, December 22, 2025	10 AM – 3 PM	Omaha VA Medical Center
Delivery - December 23, 2025	10 AM	

AMERICAN LEGION FAMILY GIFT FOR YANKS WHO GAVE

Tuesday, December 2, 2025	10 AM 2:30 PM	Grand Island VA Medical Center – 2 nd Floor Rec Central NE Veterans Home, Kearney
Monday, December 8, 2025	10 AM 1 PM 3 PM	Omaha VA Medical Center Eastern Nebraska Veterans Home Papillion Community Living Center
Wednesday, December 3, 2025	10 AM	Lincoln Regional Center – Building 5
Sunday, December 7, 2025	2 PM MT	Western NE Veterans Home, Scottsbluff
Friday, December 12, 2025	2 PM	Norfolk Veterans Home, Norfolk Norfolk Regional Center
Saturday, December 13, 2025	2 PM MT	Hot Springs SD VAMC need to verify
Gift cards for Cheyenne WY VAMC sent to Bonita Dickinson to deliver to the facility at convenience need to verify		

EXETER
AVENUE
HOLIDAY
SAMPLER

OCTOBER 18, 2025
9:00AM-2:00PM
AMERICAN LEGION
AUXILIARY #218
FUNDRAISER
EXETER, NEBRASKA

DOOR PRIZES • CASH DRAWING - EXETER AVENUE CAFÉ

30 VENDORS • ITEMS OFFERED INCLUDE:

Americana
Artwork
Baby Items
Blankets
Breads
Candles
Candy/Candy Apples
Clothing Accessories

Engraved Decor
Handcrafted Indoor
& Outdoor Decorations
Husker Items
Jewelry
Norwex
Pies
Tupperware

Popcorns
Primitives
FARMSi
Scentsey
Tastefully Simple
USBourne Books
Wreaths
31

Lunch Items Available at Exeter Avenue Cafe

CARRY-OUT MEAL OFFERED

Shoppers Card Drawing for Cash Prizes - 2pm

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 NOV. 10, 2025.

100 YEARS! WINDSIDE UNIT 252

The Winside ALA is turning 100 years young!

For our 100th Birthday, we are holding an open house on November 1st with a tentative time of 2:00 – 4:00 PM with light refreshments and conversation. A short program will begin about 3:00 PM.

Watch our Facebook page (American Legion Auxiliary Unit 252 - Winside, NE) for more details.

We welcome all who are willing to travel near and far to join in our celebration.

MUSIC FOR THE MIND

Do you ever have days when you just don’t know how much more your brain can handle? I remember the good old days when hubby and I would have the TV or stereo on 24 hours a day for “background noise.” Now, we can barely focus on our work in total silence. We hear jokes about Dad having to turn the radio down to see better in the car. That is a proven fact! The less brain noise, the better.

I’m afraid to share how much is rattling in my brain at any given moment. If my brain were a computer, I would have about thirty files open at the same time. I had this same problem in 2003 when I started nursing school at the ripe old age of 37. I didn’t think there was any way all this new information could find its way into all this grey matter.

But, something saved me. You already know what it is – music.

I read a study where they found that mellow classical music stimulates the parts of the brain for memory and focus, reduces stress, and improves concentration. And, it was absolutely true! I found a channel on Dish called “Intermezzo” and played it for a solid three years while studying --- and it cleared the cobwebs well enough to get me through nursing school.

A wise man said the other day, to paraphrase, we need to shut off the internet and go touch the grass. We need to re-ground, re-focus, and re-find our purpose. Try the classical music trick and let me know how it goes. And keep singing!

Jean Vackiner
Music Chair



CHAPLAINS CORNER

“Put down roots right here in this rich soil and simply grow, to bloom in spring, flourish in the summer heat, bearing fruit in the fall, standing leafless and vulnerable in the winter snow.”

The author is unknown to me, but what a picture the words paint. Most of you have heard about a season for all things. Now is the time to prepare for our American Legion Auxiliary harvest. There are so many projects to till the ground for. Lay down a good foundation.

Plan your work, and work your plan. Our Father wants to be part of the foundation and work. We can do all things through him. Invite him to guide your plans and remember to give thanks for the blessings sent your way.

Father, help us put roots in you, help our projects flourish under your guiding hand, so we can bear good fruit in the spring. Amen

Vicki Colson
Chaplain

CORRECTIONS

OFFICER AND CHAIRMAN LIST

Parliamentarian – Lynne Wild, 1510 N 71st Street, Lincoln, NE 68505
County Government - Tammie Runions, Box 253, Minden, NE 68959
Gold Star- Vicki Colson, PO Box 61, Paxton, NE 69155
Public Relations - Meri Hietbrink, 4816 Kingsley St., Lincoln, NE 68524
Representative for Central Ne. Veterans Home - Kathy Fisher, 1703 W 13th St Place, Kearney, NE 68845

In Memoriam

Received July 10,2025 to September 10, 2025

Betty Eby.....	Omaha.....	1	Joan Collier.....	Department.....	500
Kathleen Pongratz.....	Oneill.....	93	Shirley J Barnes.....	Omaha.....	1
Marva Kasl.....	Dorchester.....	264	Bernice Hudson.....	Niobrara.....	224
Eleanor P Last.....	Shubert.....	222	Georgene L Duer.....	Lincoln.....	3
Mardell L Koehler.....	Osmond.....	326	Mary Woodrow.....	Omaha.....	1
Pearl Curry.....	S Sioux City.....	307	Judy R Frazey.....	Pender.....	55
Elaine Rees.....	Barneston.....	356	Clarice Ganseborn.....	Osmond.....	326
Thelma Anderson.....	Yutan.....	262	Phyllis D Magill.....	Ainsworth.....	79
Rebecca Bowman.....	Lincoln.....	3	Luella A Eriksen.....	Craig.....	127
Melva Green.....	Aurora.....	42	Mary A Kucera.....	Oacola.....	91
Virginia Gloystein.....	York.....	19	Mary Lou Satorie.....	Morse Bluff.....	340
Dora L Marshall.....	Chadron.....	12	Arlene Kersten.....	Howells.....	155
Jean M Poss.....	St. Paul.....	119	Shirley J Foster.....	Crete.....	147
June Rosenquist.....	St.Paul.....	119	Mary E. Albers.....	Franklin.....	209
Mary A Hefti.....	Burchard.....	155	Cathleen Burback.....	Rushville.....	161
Leona Rath.....	Sutton.....	61	Pamela J. Dunn.....	Department.....	500
Marla Jean Pletcher.....	Alexandria.....	194	Doris Erickson.....	Campbell.....	169
Veda Thomsen.....	Gibbon.....	310	Geraldine Rinehart.....	Franklin.....	209
Elaine Boden.....	Primrose.....	347	Patricia R Johnson.....	Eustus.....	257
Viola Weatherwax.....	Niobrara.....	224	Beulah Freeburg.....	Dalton.....	301
Lucille Nealy.....	Department.....	500			

BENCH DEDICATION

American Legion Family members gathered on Saturday, June 14, 2025, to dedicate two benches to honor the 100th anniversary of the Gretna Legion and Auxiliary - officially chartered as the Leonard Conley American Legion Post 216 on December 14, 1925, and Leonard Conley

American Legion Auxiliary Unit 216 on January 20, 1926.

Past Gretna American Legion Auxiliary President Cindy Moore conducted a brief ceremony. On behalf of the Auxiliary, she applied for and received grants for the project.

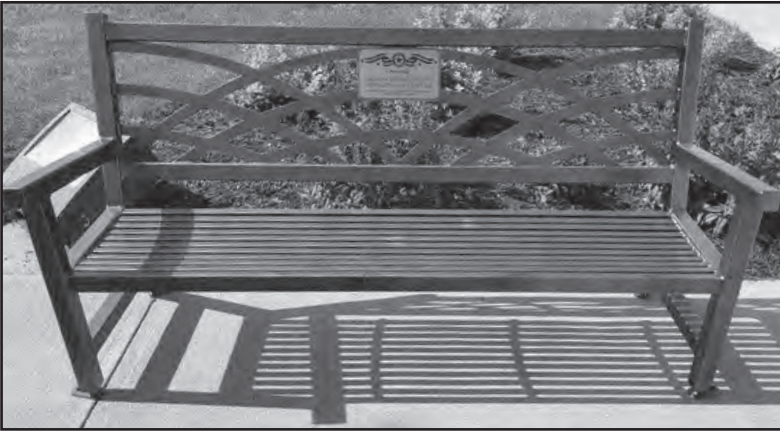
These beautiful benches were handcrafted by Team Enterprises in Milford, IA; and Amy’s Sign Design in Arnold’s Park, IA created the

plaques - which reflect the generous funding from grants from the Midlands Community Foundation and Gretna Community Foundation.

These benches are placed near the American Legion flag pole as a reminder to honor those who have served and passed on as well as those who continue to serve. In addition, they represent a lasting tribute - a place to pause, reflect, and remember the legacy of Leonard Conley American Legion Post 216 and Leonard Conley American Legion Auxiliary Unit 216.



Gretna American Legion Auxiliary Unit 216 members pose with the bench that was created to honor the unit’s 100th anniversary of the charter. Sitting on the bench are (l-r): Mary Maw and Kathy Iske. Standing are (l-r): Nancy Iske, Kathy Mazur, Cindy Moore, Ashley Suey, Linda Gillespie, Past Department President Amanda Washburn, Stephanie Sterling, and Amber Iske.



Funded by grants from the Midlands Community Foundation and Gretna Community Foundation, two benches were created specifically for the American Legion Auxiliary as well as for the American Legion.

Special plaque installed on the benches.

DATES TO REMEMBER

OCTOBER

- 13 Columbus Day – Department Headquarters Closed
- 17 Stand Down – Omaha
- 26 National Make A Difference Day
- 31 Halloween

NOVEMBER

- 1 Poppy Orders due
- 2 Daylight Saving Time Ends
- 4 Election Day – Remember to Vote!
- 11 Veterans Day - Department headquarters Closed
- 17-21 American Education Week
- 27 Thanksgiving Day – Department Headquarters Closed
- 28 Department Headquarters Closed

FOR YOUR ADVANCED PLANNING

- January 16-18, 2026 Mid-Year Conference, Norfolk, Nebraska
- May 31 – June 6, 2026 ALA Cornhusker Girls State – Lincoln, Nebraska
- June 25-28, 2026 Department Convention, Columbus, Nebraska
- August 21-27, 2026 National Convention, Louisville, KY



ALA Unit 100 participated in the Otoe County Fair Parade. Pictured (L to R) are President Jenice Bates, Jackie Bates, and Linda Halvorsen.