



Legionnaire

Volume XCVIII

Number 7



Department Headquarters Has Moved



The Nebraska American Legion Family is happy to announce that there is a new Department Headquarters building. After two and a half years of searching, the Building Committee was able to purchase a new location that checked all of the boxes that were voted on by the Legion and Auxiliary Department Executive Committees at the Department Convention in June 2021. Commander Don Suchy and Finance Officer Mark Novak signed the purchase papers for the new building on April 3rd.

The new location is 150 NW 40th Street – Lincoln and was previously the AKRS Equipment Building. The building is located on West O Street and about half of a mile from Interstate 80, which provides easier access for anyone coming to Headquarters. The new location is all on one level and a large parking lot. The new building will have a joint history museum that includes items from both history collections. Once the museum is finished being setup, we hope many of you are able to stop and see it.

Another exciting item is that the previous Headquarters that was located at 5600 P Street was sold on May 17th and the new tenants are busy remodeling the building to open up for their new business in September. The decision to sell the building wasn't an easy one, but there were many projects needing attention to include the front steps, the driveway/parking lot, furnace, etc.

The mailing address for the Nebraska American Legion will be changing effective July 1. The new address will be: 150 NW 40th Street Unit A – Lincoln, NE 68528. We will no longer have access to PO Box 5205, so use the new address. We hope the phone number for the building will remain 402-464-6338 and the fax number will remain 402-464-6330, but we continue to work with the phone companies to get our phones operational. If you have any questions contact Adjutant Dave Salak.



2023 Department Convention location has been changed

The 2023 Department Convention will be held June 22 - 25 at the Younes Conference Center South in Kearney. The DEC will meet at 1:00 p.m. on Thursday, June 22 and at 9:00 a.m. on Friday, June 23. The Joint Session will be held at 1:00 p.m. on Friday, June 23 and the Legion Convention will begin at 3:00 p.m. and go through Sunday, June 25.

The Comfort Inn and LaQuinta will be the host hotels. They are located at 118 3rd Avenue and 108 3rd Avenue respectively. Rooms are \$129.95 a night. Call the Comfort Inn at 308-251-2722 or LaQuinta at 308-237-4400 to make your reservation.

The Convention Registration fee is \$10. The Younes Conference Center requires \$35 for any vendor/raffle table used in the exhibit hall. For more information, please contact Adjutant Salak by June 14th to reserve a table. Payment must be received prior to Convention.

Nebraska Eagle Scout-of-the-Year



Jack Schlickbernd, 17, of Wayne has been selected by the Nebraska American Legion as the 2023 Eagle Scout-of-the-Year and will receive a \$500.00 scholarship.

Schlickbernd is a senior at Wakefield High School and is a member of Troop 174, where he achieved his Eagle Scout in August of 2022. He is a member of Journey Christian Church, and he volunteers at his church and at various community events in both Wayne and Wakefield. Schlickbernd has held many Scout positions and is known

to be a standout Scout. He participates in nine different activities in his school. Schlickbernd placed a POW/MIA chair at Eaton Baseball field in Wakefield.

Selected for second place and a \$300.00 scholarship was Adelaide Horst of Gretna.

Thank you to the Wakefield Republican for the picture of Jack and his project.

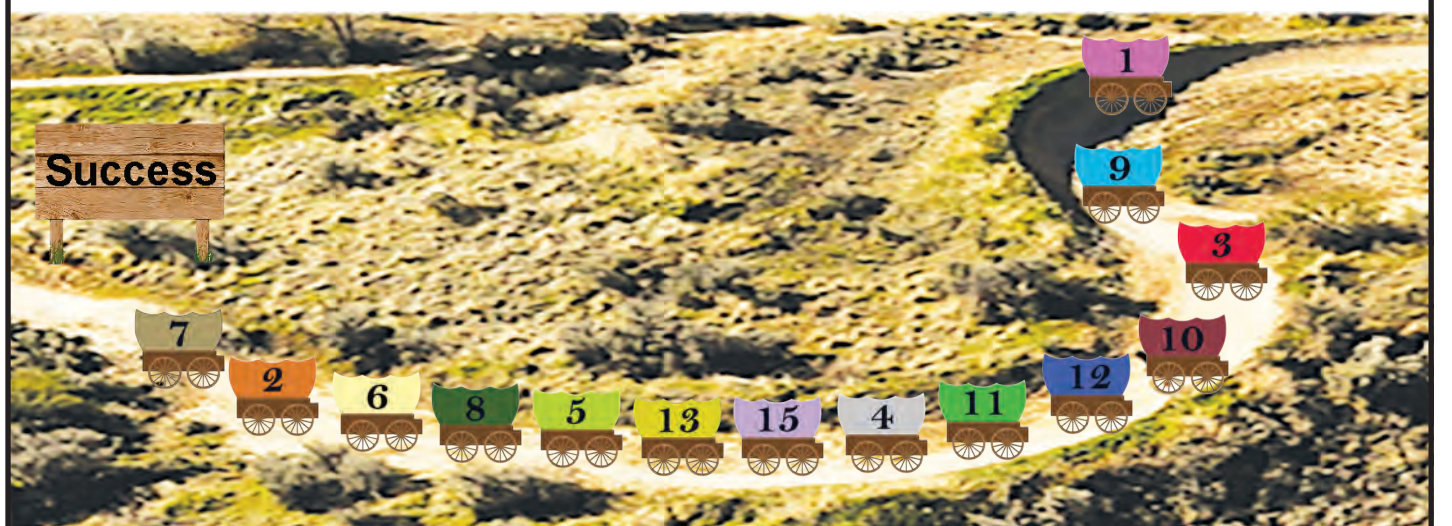
FOR GOD AND COUNTRY

The Nebraska Legionnaire
P.O. Box 5205
Lincoln, NE 68505-0205

THE ROAD TO SUCCESS

2023 MEMBERSHIP GOAL: 24,835 MAY 15TH TOTAL: 22,421 - 90.28%

DISTRICT 7 - 92.72%	DISTRICT 2 - 92.30%	DISTRICT 6 - 91.72%	DISTRICT 8 - 91.16%	DISTRICT 5 - 90.79%
DISTRICT 13 - 90.45%	DISTRICT 15 - 89.40%	DISTRICT 4 - 89.15%	DISTRICT 11 - 88.93%	DISTRICT 12 - 88.10%
DISTRICT 10 - 88.09%	DISTRICT 3 - 87.62%	DISTRICT 9 - 87.28%	DISTRICT 1 - 86.63%	





Commander's Corner

Don Suchy
Department Commander



Department Convention is right around the corner, I am looking forward to seeing many of you there. It will be at the Younes Convention Center in Kearney. I hope you have made your reservations, we have a great convention planned.

I attended the Spring Meetings in Indianapolis, the first week in May. I am currently serving on the Board of Directors for the Child Welfare Foundation, and also the National Commander's Representative for Children and Youth. It is always a pleasure to go back to Indianapolis for the Spring Meetings to meet new friends and reconnect with old ones.

One of our biggest accomplishments this year was our move to our new American Legion Family Headquarters, it is a beautiful building and a perfect fit. Please stop by when you are in Lincoln, I'm sure the staff would love to give you a tour. A special thank you goes out to everyone that helped with the move.

As I am writing this last article, I am beginning to look forward with some mixed emotions. On one hand it seems like I was just elected your Department Commander, on the other hand I am looking forward to spending more time with family and friends and maybe a little more fishing.

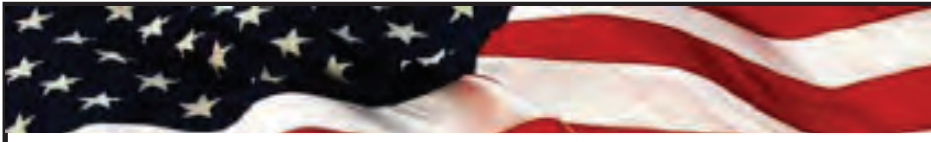
It has been a very rewarding year to serve as your Department Commander, a year that I will never forget, but such is life, there will always be a few bumps in the road. With the support of my faithful friends, we were able to succeed. I can't thank you all enough, you know who you are.

My travels to all the District conventions and the Post activities were such a pleasure for my wife and I, we met many new friends, and we appreciate the great hospitality that we received.

A special thank you goes out to all the Department Chairman and District Commanders for all your hard work. I was so fortunate to have two great friends serve as my Sergeant of Arms, Fred Tisdale and Assistant Sergeant of Arms Albert Bartek, these gentlemen did a great job and were always there when called upon.


I especially would like to thank Department President Vicki Ozenbaugh and Detachment Commander Chris Casey for their support and leadership, and last but not least, a HUGE THANK YOU to the Department Staff. Your hard work and dedication and efforts are greatly appreciated. It was very comforting, knowing you were all just a phone call away.

"Serving Our Veterans on the Road to Success"



Straight Talk

Levi Bennett
Department Service Officer



Update on PACT Act Claims.

As of April 3, 2023, VA had received 445,538 total PACT Act claims of which 11,860 were submitted by a surviving dependent. Of the total PACT Act claims submitted 203,267 claims had been completed, 199,162 veteran claims and 4,105 survivor PACT Act related claims. Currently PACT Act claims are averaging 157.6 days to complete, with only 44.7% of PACT Act claims being completed by the 125 days VA claims completion goal. In comparison to Non-PACT Act related claims are being completed on average 131.7 days or 66.5% of new Non-PACT Act Claims are being completed within the 125 days VA goal for completing new claims.

Reminder to contact your local service officer prior to August 2023, to submit your claim for PACT Act presumptive conditions on or before August 10, 2023 to ensure you receive the most beneficial effective date. While there is no specific deadline to file a claim for PACT Act presumptive conditions, those PACT Act claims filed prior August 10, 2023, will be assigned an effective date of August 10, 2022. Your local service officer can explain the more on the PACT Act and the more than 20 different presumptive conditions added by the passing of the PACT Act August 10, 2022.

Remember to ask your service officer about the benefits to enrolling in VA health care if you are not currently enrolled.

Survivor Benefit Plan (SBP) and Nebraska Income Tax

Recently there has been scuttlebutt going around the veteran community about the Survivor Benefit Plan (SBP) with some indicating SBP being taxable income and some indicating SBP is not being taxable income in Nebraska. To lay this scuttlebutt to rest, SBP is not taxable income according to the Nebraska Department of Revenue (NDOR). As of March 2023, NDOR updated their income tax information guide, "Nebraska Income Tax for U.S. Servicemembers, Their Spouses, and Civilians Working with U.S. Forces". Of note, on page two (2) of this document SBP payments are clearly identified exempt from State of Nebraska income taxation. Below is an excerpt from this income tax information guide, page two (2), paragraph two (2).

"Military Retirement Benefit. Military retirement benefit is defined as "retirement benefits that are periodic payments attributable to service in the uniformed services of the United States for personal services performed by an individual prior to his or her retirement." Military retirement benefits attributable to uniformed service reported to the taxpayer on IRS Form 1099-R received from the United States Department of Defense (DOD) or the United States Office of Personnel Management (OPM) are excluded from Nebraska taxable income. The military retirement benefit exclusion provided in Neb. Rev. Stat. § 77-2716(15) includes retirement and annuity payments to a spouse, former spouse, or child that are based on another individual's military service provided the benefit is reported on the taxpayer's Form 1099-R issued by the DOD or OPM."

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Editor..... awashburn@nebraskalegion.net

Department Officers

- Commander..... Don Suchy, Valparaiso
- Senior Vice Commander..... John Henry Percy, Papillion
- Area A Vice Commander..... Carl Lorenzen, Blair
- Area B Vice Commander..... Ken Meyer, Creighton
- Area C Vice Commander..... Dick Binder, Minden
- Area D Vice Commander..... Gene VonForell, Crawford
- Adjutant..... Dave Salak, Lincoln
- Programs Director..... Eric Martin, Lincoln
- Chaplain..... Fr. Alexander Borzych, St. Paul
- Historian..... Jennifer Laux, Omaha
- Judge Advocate..... William Harris, Omaha
- Finance Officer..... Mark Novak, Dawson
- Sergeant-At-Arms..... Fred Tisdale, Omaha
- Asst. Sergeant-At-Arms..... Albert Bartek, Valparaiso
- Service Officer..... Levi Bennett, Lincoln
- National Executive Committeeman..... Fred Craigie, Lincoln
- Alternate NECman..... Jim Costello, Bellevue

District Commanders

- Dist. 1..... Judy Walters, Ainsworth
- Dist. 2..... Kelley Hanvey, Center
- Dist. 3..... Michael Ellis, Jackson
- Dist. 4..... Steve Stanec, Alliance
- Dist. 5..... Scott Bell, North Platte
- Dist. 6..... Julie Schnitzler, Kenesaw
- Dist. 7..... Jerry Schulte, Omaha
- Dist. 8..... Bruce Husted, Omaha
- Dist. 9..... Ron Wiest, Moorefield
- Dist. 10..... Don Nelson, Clay Center
- Dist. 11..... Tom Crisman, Crete
- Dist. 12..... William Lawrence, Nehawka
- Dist. 13..... Scott Buss, Sterling
- Dist. 15..... Bruce Gubser, Lincoln



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Dave Salak, Publisher's Representative

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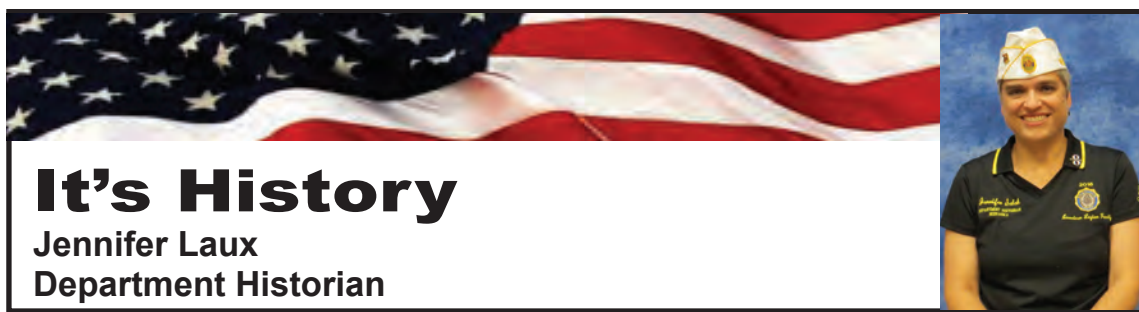
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If you would rather receive the Nebraska Legionnaire by email or view it online, send in this form. The email and online edition of the newspaper is usually available a week or so before the paper arrives in your mailbox. All we need from you is your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

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

Name: _____
Email Address: _____
Member ID: _____

Mail this form to The American Legion, PO Box 5205, Lincoln, NE 68505, or you can email the information to awashburn@nebraskalegion.net



American Legion Department of Nebraska History Word Search

N F P L A P E N S L B X N U S
 K X T M X D Y B E T E Q X E Z
 F R E M O N T N V E J V L C E
 G K Y P X C C C I B T G A D E
 T E W V W A R Y N M N N A G U
 G H H P S R J P K U I R A J F
 R I I R M D X C J J A D V C E
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Directions: Search up, down, forward, backward, and on the diagonal to find the bolded, underlined words described below.

June 1943 (80 years ago)

- Making **KNIVES** for the use of American men fighting in the **JUNGLES** has been a project among several members of **FREMONT** post. These Legionnaires got hold of 450 inches of excellent knife steel and they have been turning out knives of the highest quality.
- Setting up a record for every other post in the state to shoot at, the **GEHRING** Post contributed \$169.50 this month to the fund the Department is raising to buy playing **CARDS** for men overseas. That amount will buy 600 decks of cards, each one of which will have the Legion emblem and greetings from the Gehring post printed in the back.
- ‘Troop **TRAIN!** Clear the way for servicemen! Come this way! Coffee, cake, sandwiches, magazines! All free to **SERVICEMEN!**’ So the voice of Buck Smith was heard over the public address system at the North Platte **CANTEEN** on Mother’s Day. The blue and gold of Legionnaires mingled with the khaki of the Army and the blue of the Navy. The women of **GOTHENBURG** baked and decorated over 150 birthday cakes for the servicemen. About twelve troop trains carrying 4,000 or more troops were served during the day.
- Although no **PARADE** will be held at **NATIONAL** conventions of the Legion during the war, parade positions are being determined each year on the membership standings of the various Departments, and for the first parade held after the war, the average position for the parade-less years will determine where each Department will march. Nebraska won unusually high rank this year, placing **THIRD** in the entire country.

June 1953 (70 years ago)

- Enough membership cards to exceed the entire total for 1952 were received at Department Headquarters on May 27, so every member from here on out is another boost to prove the trend of growing membership which started last year. The 1952 **MEMBERSHIP** of the Department wound up at 54,695 and on May 27 of this year, membership hit exactly 54,700.
- It’s a good sign of health when ten candidates aspire for offices in the Nebraska American Legion. With still two months for more activity to take place along this line, it definitely appears that interest in the Department Convention will be maintained right up to the adjourning rap of the **GAVEL**. Much interest is created with **ELECTIONS** of this sort. The drama, spiced with suspense, will continue through the various roll calls until a full slate of officers has been elected.

It's that time of year! And, borrowing from George Strait, “we’ll be taking off time to time with those crazy friends of mine. Head out on steel horses with wheels and we ride”. Start planning... which events will you be organizing and/or participating in. There are many poker runs and other events this summer:

- 2023 Legacy Run Across Nebraska May 26-27
- Medal of Honor Ride Across Nebraska May 25-27
- Kearney ALR Poker Run June 3rd
- Edgar ALR Poker Run June 4th
- Gering ALR Poker Chip Run, June 10th
- Department Convention June 23-25 (Rider of the Year will be awarded a plaque)
- ALR meeting on Saturday, June 24 at 4:00 pm
- Grand Island ALR Freedom Run July 15
- 2023 State Romp August 18-20

Please support your local Chapters and those across the State that you can make. There are more Poker Runs scheduled. I just don’t have the dates and times of all of them.

It’s also time to elect leaders. I would encourage Riders to step up and lead your Chapters which will prepare you to become the Assistant Liaison or Liaison.

I would again like to thank all the ALR Chapters in Nebraska for all the hard work you have put in with funeral escorts, flag lines, poker runs, State Romp, Quilts of Valor and the work you put in at your Posts. Riders have ridden thousands of miles and donated thousands of hours and money to support the Legion Family programs or our communities. I know that a lot of American Legion Riders have strongly supported their Posts and I would also like to thank you for staying active in your perspective Legion Family activities.

I hope to see you all at our ALR meeting on Saturday, June 24th.

Thank you, it has been an honor serving you as Nebraska American Legion Liaison.

Have a great and safe riding season!



Utica Post 49 and Unit 49 each held soup suppers to support their local American Legion Post and celebrate The American Legion Birthday.

Bennington Post 266 presented Quilts of Valor to its members. Pictured top (L to R) Jared, David, and Paula Mills. Pictured middle (L to R) David Havekorst, Gale Sass, Van Mohr, and Frederick Ferguson. Pictured bottom (L to R) Robert Musel, Richard Musel, and Ken Direksen.



Chaplain's Thoughts

Father Alexander Borzych
Department Chaplain



The beginning of June signals the beginning of the summer season. As we slide into this season littered with vacations, community celebrations, fun in the outdoors, and big-time recreation we also observe the national celebration of Flag Day an annual celebration that honors the ultimate symbol of the United States.

My Mom's birthday is June 14th. Growing up we always quipped that all the flags were flying in her honor, and that we could never forget it was her birthday.

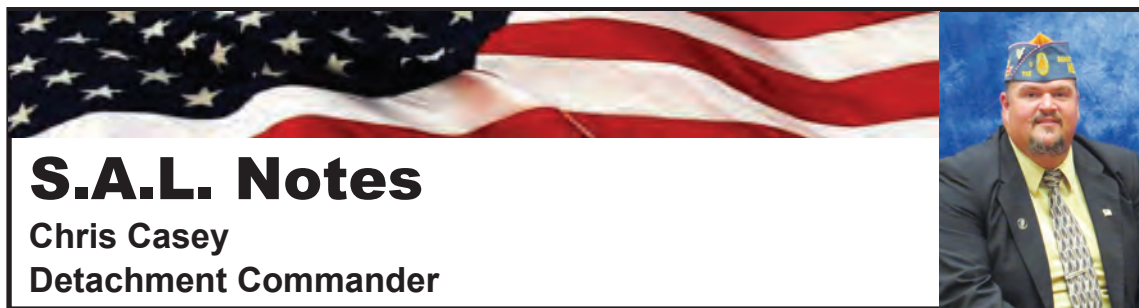
Old Glory is a mainstay in our country. It represents the United States at the Olympics, at the beginning of parades, flying proudly in many yards throughout the United States, and is displayed and presented at military funerals showing the great appreciation America has for men and women who served honorably for this country.

One must realize that the American Flag is more than a piece of jewelry worn or displayed to be fashionable. It should be worn and displayed with pride, and with the understand that person stands behind all it represents.

Just as the flag is a symbol of our country, each religion has symbols that represent it and its dogma. For Christianity, it's the cross; Judaism, the five-pointed star; for Muslims, the crescent of the moon with a star; and Buddhism, the Wheel of the Law (dharmachakra) to name a few. All these symbols are sacred to their respective religion and represent the core of their beliefs. Again, I sometime wonder if people who wear these symbols understand what they are wearing or if they are just a fashion statement. For the Christian, the cross stands for the suffering and death of Christ that brought salvation into the world. The Buddhist Wheel of the Law represents perfect compassion and perfect wisdom. The Jewish five-pointed Star of David is linked to the "Seal of Solomon", the magical signet ring used by King Solomon to control daemons and spirits. The Islamic Crescent is the early phase of the moon and represents progress. The star signifies illumination with the light of knowledge. Islam means submission and has the extended meaning of peace.

No matter what symbol one displays or wears, if any, know the meaning and live according to the values of the religion it represents. The American Flag stands for pride, sacrifice, opportunity, hope, strength, and freedom.

We need to stand behind our flag's meaning and live our lives accordingly.



S.A.L. Notes

Chris Casey
Detachment Commander



Greetings from the Detachment of Nebraska! I would like to personally invite you to the 46th annual Sons of The American Legion Detachment of Nebraska Convention. The convention will be held at the Younes Conference Center South in Kearney Nebraska on June 23-25, 2023. We have so much planned to keep your entire family engaged throughout the weekend. There will be a joint opening of the convention with the entire American Legion Family on Friday, June 23, 2023, at 1:00 PM. The Sons convention will open at 9:00 AM on Saturday, June 24, 2023. Elections for Detachment officers will take place on Sunday, June 25, 2023.

We have a family fun night planned for Friday, June 23, 2023, from 7:00 PM – 9:00 PM. We will have four televisions with Wii bowling, tennis, boxing, etc. as well as Madden NFL 2022 on the Xbox. We welcome the entire Legion Family to join us in some fun while attending the convention. Never tried the Wii before? Come check it out, you will have a blast. Think of how fun it will be to see our youngest members spending time with our "seasoned" members across the Legion Family. The four, brand new 32" televisions, that we will be using during the Family Fun Night will be raffled off at our Cornhole Tournament. The Cornhole tournament will be held at the Kearney American Legion Post on Saturday, June 24, 2023, at 6:30 PM (5:30 PM registration). How do you get a raffle ticket? Receive a raffle ticket for each Detachment event you participate in during the weekend. Come be a part of a great weekend and go home with your very own TV!

If you have younger kids of your own, or grandkids, we want them to come as well. The Detachment of Nebraska will be hosting our first ever Children & Youth Academy. We welcome all youth members of The American Legion Family to join us on Saturday, June 24th, from 1:00 PM-4:30 PM. Our hope is that they will attend meetings at their home Posts and have some basic understanding about what is going on. The youth will be provided flag etiquette training, Roles & Responsibilities, and will join the adults for Protocol Fact & Fiction.

We will be providing training for our adult members as well. Membership development will be held at the Detachment Convention and the following topics will be covered:

The Role of the Adjutant. This will help improve the effectiveness of current Adjutants, prepare future Adjutants, and simply provide better understanding of one of the key roles within our organization. Facilitator-Past National Commander (PNC) Danny Smith (MyLegion covered by Commander Casey).

A roundtable covering the role of committees at the detachment level and a brief overview of what commissions/committees look like at the national level. Facilitators will be Detachment VA&R Chairman Tim Hecke, National Americanism Commission Chairman Chris Casey, and National VA&R Commission Chairman Seth Rippe.

Protocol Fact & Fiction. This will help deepen your understanding of the proper protocol for all things Sons of The American Legion and more! This training will help all members from those that have just joined, to the ones who have been around since our founding in Nebraska. We all need to continue learning! Facilitator-PNC Danny Smith.



POW/MIA

Boyd Yochum
POW/MIA Liaison



Technical Sergeant Larry Jerome Newman entered the U.S. Air Force from North Platte, Nebraska, and was a member of the 16th Special Operations Squadron. On June 18, 1972, he was a gunner aboard an AC-130A gunship, tail number 55-0043, call sign Spectre 11; that took off from Ubon Airfield, Thailand on an armed mission near A Shau Valley, South Vietnam.

During the mission, at 2355 hours, the aircraft was hit by a surface to air missile (SAM) and went down near the border of Laos and Vietnam. The 15 man crew was on a night operational mission to attack elite NVA forces known to be in that area. Multiple emergency beepers were immediately heard by other US forces, and according to debriefing statements given by the three men who were rescued, a bailout order was given by the Pilot, and at least one additional parachute was observed by them. TSgt Newman was presumed killed in the crash, and his remains could not be recovered at the time.

The first loss coordinates, given to the families of the missing men, was in Laos not South Vietnam. That location was quickly changed, many believe because the war in Laos was considered to be "secret." Next of kin were never given an explanation for this abrupt change.

This AC130 was outfitted as a gunship, and was the most spectacular of the modified C130's. On some models, a computer automatically translated sensor data into instructions for the pilot, who kept his fixed, side firing guns trained on targets by adjusting the angle of bank as he circled. The crew of these planes were highly trained and capable. They were highly desirable "captures" for the enemy because of their technical knowledge.

In May 1994 the US conducted a crash sight investigation of the AC130A. To no one's surprise, they recovered approximately 300 bone chips and five teeth; and heralded this achievement as the successful recovery of all 12 unaccounted for crewmen. None of the bone chips could be identified as belonging to a specific crewman. When the families asked the mortician, who processed the bone chips, if DNA testing could be done on them to determine a positive identification, they were told it was not possible to do so. The DNA would have to be checked against the maternal line. When female family members offered their assistance for DNA testing, they were told no, it could not be done, because it would destroy the bone chips and there would be nothing left to bury. If there weren't enough bone chips to test, how can you rationally pretend there is evidence of death for one crewmember, let alone all twelve? There is still the question of which country they were actually lost in.

On November 17, 1994 a group burial of the comingled remains of the AC130A Spectre gunship crew was held at Arlington National Cemetery. While the US considers all these men to be "remains returned," some of the families do not. A large portion of the information is still classified.

Technical Sergeant Larry Jerome Newman is memorialized on the Courts for the Missing at the National Memorial Cemetery of the Pacific.

Sons of The American Legion Membership As of May 15, 2023

District	2022 Members	2023 Members
1	329	286
2	639	602
3	224	202
4	352	362
5	144	142
6	1,316	1,291
7	732	661
8	867	815
9	343	304
10	364	352
11	1,088	1,082
12	259	233
13	130	126
15	145	142
Total	6,932	6,600

Edgar J. Boschult Memorial Scholarship

The Nebraska American Legion has selected five recipients of the 2023 Edgar J. Boschult Memorial Scholarship. The Edgar J. Boschult memorial scholarship is awarded to full-time students in the University of Nebraska system that are enrolled in military science courses or to honorably discharged veterans attending the University of Nebraska full-time.

The Edgar J. Boschult Scholarship was created in 1947 in memory of Edgar J. Boschult. Boschult was a veteran of World War I and Past Department Commander of the Nebraska American Legion. Boschult returned to serve his country in World War II and was killed in action on November 8, 1944.

The recipients of \$500.00 Scholarships are Elena Rae Burgwald, Sioux Falls, SD UNL (Air Force ROTC); Leah L. Linhardt, Littleton, CO, UNL (Navy ROTC); Jessica R. Sherman, Cibolo, TX, UNL (Navy ROTC); Lincoln Thomas Kohler, Excelsior, MN, UNL (Marine Corps ROTC); and Ethan G. VanEnkevort, Powers, MI, (Air Force ROTC).



Wilber Post 101 presented certificates of continuous membership to its members. Pictured (L to R) Ron Beck, 55 years; Ed Slama, 50 years; Bob Mares, 40 years; and Dennis Beck, 55 years. Not pictured were Donald Vostrez, 50 years; Michael Oliver, 35 years; Roy Odvody, 30 years; and Zymunt Spicha, 35 years.



Valentine Post 90 presented a certificate for 50 years of continuous membership to Jim Edwards. Pictured (L to R) Jim Edwards and District 1 Commander Judy Walters.



Curtis Post 95 presented certificates for 50 years of continuous membership to its members. Pictured top (L to R) Adjutant R. J. Christensen and Carl Hamit. Pictured bottom (L to R) Wayne Heathers and Adjutant R. J. Christensen.



Dannebrog Post 241 presented certificates for 50 years of continuous membership to its members. Pictured top (L to R) Leanna Obermiller and Larry Obermiller. Pictured bottom (L to R) Leanna Obermiller and Dan O Neill.

Convention Agenda

Thursday, June 22

1:00 p.m. DEC Meeting

Friday, June 23

8:30 a.m. DEC Meeting

12:00–4:00 p.m. Registration

1:00 p.m. Joint Family Session

4:00 p.m. Opening Legion Session

Saturday, June 24

7:30–4:30 p.m. Registration

9:00 a.m. Legion Session #2

1:00 p.m. Legion Reconvenes

5:00 p.m. Catholic Mass

Sunday, June 25

7:30–11:30 a.m. Registration

8:00 a.m. Joint Religious Service

9:00 a.m. Legion Session #3



Oconto Post 250 celebrated The American Legion's 104th birthday with a party by the Auxiliary Unit. Pictured top back row (L to R) Adjutant Linda Bomberger, Chuck Eggleston, Custer County Commander Edith Deuel, Ronald Lauby, Michael Tierney, Commander Darrel Johnson, and Maynard Streumpler. Pictured top front row (L to R) Charles Bowen and Kenneth Wagner. Oconto Post 250 presented a certificate for 50 years of continuous membership to Michael Tierney. Pictured bottom (L to R) Adjutant Linda Bomberger and Michael Tierney.

NEBRASKA

Good Life. Great Sacrifice.

VETERANS' AFFAIRS



The Nebraska Department of Veterans' Affairs is here to serve you!

Find information about benefits available to Nebraska Veterans and their families online at veterans.nebraska.gov/benefits or contact our State Service Office by calling 402-420-4021

Submit your Homestead Exemption Application to your County Assessor by June 30!

HOMESTEAD EXEMPTION

Learn more online:



revenue.nebraska.gov/PAD/homestead-exemption

Candidate Announcement

John-Henry Pearcy Department Commander



John-Henry Pearcy has announced his candidacy for the high office of Department Commander for 2023 - 2024. He is eligible for membership in The American Legion through his service in the United States Air Force. He enlisted in 1974 and served 29 years until his retirement in 2003. He is a 48-year Paid Up For Life Legion member at Papillion Post 32. He has proven leadership at the Post, County, District, and Department levels.

He graduated from The American Legion College as a student in 2009 and completed the correspondence course in 2006, 2012, and 2017. He completed the online Basic Training Course in 2019. In addition, he has attended 12 national conventions and served on the Aerospace Committee for 10 years.

He is a dual member with 60-years as a member of the Sons of The American Legion. He is a member of Squadron 32 in Papillion. He has held many leadership positions at the Squadron, District, and Detachment levels.

Pearcy is fully retired and can dedicate the necessary time and energy to The American Legion and its four pillars. He looks forward to seeing you all at the Mid-Year Conference in Norfolk and would truly appreciate all of his fellow Legionnaire's support to take on the role as your Department Commander. It would be both his honor and privilege to serve Nebraska Legionnaires as your new Department Commander.

Boyd C. Yochum Senior Vice Commander



Boyd C. Yochum has announced his candidacy for the high office of Department Senior Vice Commander.

His qualifications for membership in the American Legion include three years' service in the U.S. Regular Army, (21 months with the 7th Armored Squadron 1st Air Cavalry Regiment). He was able to help organize, and train his Squadron at Fort Knox, Kentucky; and was advance party when his unit was deployed to Vietnam. After returning to the States, I was assigned to Department of the Army. I also spent 10 years in the Nebraska National Guard.

Yochum graduated from Ashland High School and Lincoln School of Commerce. He attended the University of South Vietnam Vinh Long Campus and graduated from Doane College with a degree in Accounting.

His experience in The American Legion includes Ashland Post 129 Commander, Post 129 Adjutant, Post 129 Honor Guard, Saunders County Commander, District 7 Adjutant, and Area B Vice Commander. He is presently serving as the Department of Nebraska POW/MIA Liaison.

If you want character, values, integrity, and for the good of the American Legion; vote for Boyd C. Yochum, Candidate for the high office of Department Senior Vice Commander.

Carl Lorenzen Senior Vice Commander



Carl Lorenzen, Area A Vice Commander, has announced his candidacy for the high office of Department Senior Vice Commander.

Lorenzen's qualifications for membership in the American Legion include over 33 years of service in the Nebraska Air National Guard as a pilot, with 25,000 hours of military and civilian flight time. He has held nearly every military leadership position to include; Wing Commander, Chief of Staff and Assistant Adjutant General for Air. He served on Active Duty as the last Air Reconnaissance Wing Commander and the first Air Refueling Wing Commander for the 155th Wing, Nebraska Air National Guard. He successfully led the 155th through the

conversion from the RF-4C to the KC-135R Aircraft and Mission while managing a sixty million dollar base reconstruction project to support the KC-135R mission.

Lorenzen graduated from Blair High School, and Nebraska Wesleyan University with a degree in Economics and a minor in accounting. He is a graduate of Air Command and Staff College and a resident graduate of the Air War College, Air University, Maxwell AFB, Alabama. He is an Honorary Alumni of the Army War College.

He is a 54 year member of the American Legion, Jackson-Peck Post 274, Herman American Legion and Voiture 1018, 40 & 8. He serves on the Post 274 Honor Guard and has served several times as Post 274 Commander, County Commander and is currently serving as the Area A Vice Commander and Washington County Commander.

I am extremely proud of my military and Legion service. I provide proven leadership and will serve our Legion Family with honor, integrity and impartiality. I pledge to carry out the duties of Senior Vice Commander in a professional manner representing all Nebraska Legionnaires. I ask for your vote for the office of Senior Vice Commander and look forward to continued service in the Department of Nebraska.

Membership Minute Steve Bartos, Membership Chairman

I attended my first national convention in Seattle in 1983 --- and haven't missed one since. One of the recollections I have from that trip was the airline pilot pointing out Mt. St. Helens as we flew by at a distance. The volcano there had erupted only several years prior. (And, of course, there is the recollection of a few Nebraska Legionnaires illuminating the flag at the Space Needle all night.)

Ten years later, the national convention was held in Pittsburgh. Other than stumbling on to some very nice ties at a Labor Day sale that I just couldn't pass up, the excitement that year was the fact that the American Legion was celebrating its return to a membership of more than 3,000,000 members.

Now --- 30 years after the Pittsburgh convention --- we are headed to Charlotte hoping to report that we have achieved a national goal of a little more than 1,500,000 members. A significant number is still needed to reach the 2023 goal; and even if we are fortunate enough to make it, it would still represent a 50% decline in membership in the last 30 years.

The decline that we've experienced since 1993 is about 50,000 members per year. I'm not exactly sure when the Legion's Direct Mail Solicitation (DMS) program began, but it's been quite a while. And, over the years, it has probably generated 50,000 to 100,000 members per year (the number of letters sent out varied each year) Do the math. Look where we would be without it.

What our organization needs is a Mt. St. Helens of its own. We need to create a volcanic eruption in interest in keeping the American Legion alive and well. We just cannot keep suffering a 10% decline in membership every year.

The first thing every individual Legionnaire needs to do if you aren't already a PUFL or Department Life member is to promptly renew your membership when the first renewal notices come out in July. None of us can control the loss of members to Post Everlasting, but we can control our own active memberships.

The second thing that every individual Legionnaire can do is to help recruit new members or reinstate former members. New and reinstated members are absolutely the key to replacing members who have passed away. Friends? Relatives? Coworkers? We know that there are veterans amongst us who are not members, and they need to be asked.

Members who join online or are recruited by the national organization via the DMS program are placed in the department's Headquarters Post 500, and they are "encumbered" to the national organization for 3 years. However, members in each post with the proper credentials can identify them --- and they are fair game to be contacted --- and then "transferred" or "renewed and transferred" into a local post.

The Department Convention is upon us, and I look forward to seeing some of you there.

Keep working on the 2023 renewals. Start planning how you can get your volcano to erupt for 2024!!

Have a nice June.

Maynard Jensen Memorial Scholarship

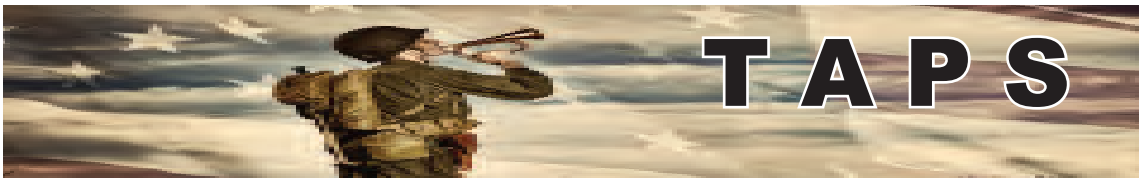


The Nebraska American Legion selected 10 recipients of the Maynard Jensen Scholarship. The Maynard Jensen scholarship began in 1989 as "The American Legion Scholarship" and it was renamed in 1992 in memory of Past Department Commander Maynard Jensen of Aurora.

Jensen was a World War II Navy Veteran who served in the invasion of Normandy and then in Southern France. He served as the Nebraska American Legion Department

Commander from 1971-72. Jensen also served on numerous Department Committees within The American Legion.

For the 35th consecutive year, the Nebraska American Legion has done its part in helping Nebraska students with scholarship money. The recipients of \$500.00 scholarships are Hunter L. Johnson of Pawnee City; Korey M. Cozad of Omaha; Harper A. Klabenes of Neligh; Kennedy C. Karschner of Springfield; Rori L. Reese of Madison; Ryan D. Hoffschneider of Lincoln; Hailey M. Hunzeker of West Point; Mallorie M. Scott of O'Neill; Maggie J. Wohl of Hallam; and Ava L. Boldt of Riverdale.



Adam, William B., Hyannis
 Aksamit, Steve, Glenvil
 Albright, Jimmie E., Papillion, Vietnam
 Anderson, Lonnie D., Grand Island, Korea
 Arnone, Edward V., Millard, Korea
 Arp, Gregory G., Bennet, Vietnam
 Asche, Wesley D., Omaha, Korea
 Bartlett, Donald R., Harvard, Vietnam
 Bartlett, William H., Norfolk, Korea
 Baumgart, Myron M., Humphrey, Korea
 Benzing, Donald I., Havelock, Vietnam
 Bern, Wilfred, Monroe, Korea
 Blanchard, Darwin C., Plainview, Vietnam
 Bogenhagen, Lewayne, Big Springs, Korea
 Bond, Ronald M., Bellevue, Vietnam
 Bowman, William A., Lincoln, Korea
 Brandt, Archie W., Orchard, Korea
 Brennan, John P., Millard, Korea
 Bridge, Merle, Neligh, Korea
 Broekemeier, Harlan, Columbus, Korea
 Brom, Larry D., Madison, Vietnam
 Brummels, Robert D., Elkhorn, Korea
 Bruning, William E., Millard, Korea
 Brunz, Clinton R., Gering
 Bules, Richard J., Sidney, Vietnam
 Bunting, James R., Millard, Vietnam
 Cain, Morton, Millard, Vietnam
 Carnes, Donald C., Lincoln, Korea
 Carstens, Robert L., Millard, WWII
 Codner, Douglas L., Wood River, Vietnam
 Conner, Bohumel M., Burwell, WWII
 Conry, Basil W., Lincoln, Vietnam
 Cook, Hollis U., Papillion, Korea
 Cowles, Don J., Millard, Korea
 Cromer, C. A., Lincoln, WWII
 Davidson, William R., Lincoln, Vietnam
 Dawson, Darrell N., Madison, Vietnam
 Deitloff, De'Layne G., Norfolk, Korea
 Desutter, Ronald, Omaha
 Dey, M. Douglas, Gresham, Korea
 Drake, Terry A., Weeping Water, Vietnam
 Dwyer, Harold E., Hastings, WWII
 Eccles, Robert J., Omaha
 Eggers, Bob, Millard, WWII
 Eggleston, Lloyd, Oconto, Vietnam
 Ehlers, James E., Hallam, Vietnam
 Ekwall, Rex E., Millard, Vietnam
 Erhart, Wesley P., Springfield, Vietnam
 Erikson, Vernon E., Kearney, WWII
 Eureka, Franklin T., Loup City, Vietnam
 Ferguson, Dennis E., North Platte, Vietnam
 Fleming, William H., Bennington, Vietnam
 Flesher, Wayne H., South Omaha
 Fortune, Thomas R., Millard, Vietnam
 Fowler, Douglas A., Lincoln, Vietnam
 Frevert, Merlin L., Wayne, WWII
 Fritz, Marlin A., Kearney, Korea
 Furrow, Cliff L., Alliance, Korea
 Gager, Shad, Table Rock, Korea
 Gellerman, Daniel, Syracuse, Vietnam
 George, Robert D., York, Korea
 Giske, James L., Gretna, Vietnam
 Glenn, Robert L., Millard, Korea
 Grasmick, Richard D., Gering, SAL
 Greenfield, David J., Fremont, Vietnam
 Grell, Allen, Beatrice, Korea
 Hagewood, Larry T., Omaha, Korea
 Haith, Paul R., Lincoln, Vietnam
 Hamaker, Paul, Crawford, Vietnam
 Hansen, Tom E., Millard, Vietnam
 Harris, Jim, Fremont, Korea
 Hart, Willard J., Norfolk, Vietnam

Hartzell, Robert, Aurora, Korea
 Hastreiter, Thomas L., Humphrey, Vietnam
 Hemenway, Joseph J., Millard, Korea
 Hendrickson, Ronald, Big Springs, Vietnam
 Henkel, Wayne E., Fairmont, Korea
 Hilger, Donald J., Dwight, Vietnam
 Hill, Howard O., Orchard, Korea
 Hinrichsen, Jay J., Kearney, Vietnam
 Hollmann, Leonard L., Bellwood, Vietnam
 Holmberg, Robert E., Millard, Korea
 Holtzen, Gerald A., Aurora
 Hynes, Matthew A., O'Neill, Vietnam
 Irwin, Robert E., Grand Island, Vietnam
 Jahn, Keith, Lincoln, WWII
 Jech, Keith, Wayne, WWII
 Jensen, Lyle G., Carroll
 Johansen, Bruce, Bayard, SAL
 Johnson, Claire D., Tilden, Korea
 Johnson, Duane, Polk, Korea
 Johnson, Max L., Valley, WWII
 Johnson, Richard L., South Omaha
 Jones, Dennis L., Norfolk, SAL
 Jurgensen, Harold A., South Omaha, Korea
 Jurgensen, Kenneth A., Burwell, Korea
 Kalil, George J., Omaha, Vietnam
 Kasl, George Jr., Dorchester, Korea
 Kerner, Eugene E., Chadron, Vietnam
 Kirkland, Robert E., Garland
 Klassen, Lawrence B. Jr., Fullerton, Korea
 Klintworth, Elkhorn, WWII
 Kluch, Gerald D., Hildreth, Vietnam
 Knapp, Paul A., Fremont, Vietnam
 Kniss, Robert, Bayard, SAL
 Kolb, Arthur, Lincoln, Vietnam
 Kollars, Orville E., Arlington, WWII
 Krystyniak, John F., South Omaha
 Kubalek, Richard E., Weston, Korea
 Lacroix, George M., South Omaha, Korea
 Larsen, Roger A., Herman, Vietnam
 Lau, Ron, Lexington, Korea
 Lieber, Darrell E., Millard, Vietnam
 Liermann, Virgil, Utica, Korea
 Lisiecki, Gary A., Gretna, Vietnam
 Lorenzen, Bill, Clarkson, Vietnam
 Luth, Richard L. Sr., Millard, Vietnam
 Mahlman, Rex, Crawford, Vietnam
 Marcellus, Billie G., O'Neill, Korea
 Maresh, Francis A., Dodge, Korea
 Mark, Robert A., Platte Center, Korea
 Marlatt, Paul T., Morrill, Vietnam
 Marr, Arnold R., Wayne, WWII
 Mattingly, Clark H., Lincoln, Vietnam
 Maurer, Marvin D., Grand Island, Korea
 McCarthy, Thomas P., Norfolk, Korea
 McCormick, Leonard L., Madrid, WWII
 McCoy, Marian L., Crawford, Korea
 McElwee, Jack, Morrill, WWII
 McEvoy, Don J., Yutan, Korea
 McLaughlin, Larry D., Carleton, Vietnam
 McLaughlin, Raymond, Gibbon, Vietnam
 Moge, William R., Utica, Vietnam
 Mohl, Robert, Bancroft, Korea
 Morrissey, John J., Kearney, WWII
 Nathan, Larry, Madison, Vietnam
 Neels, Orlin V., Nebraska City, Korea
 Nesladek, Robert E., Morse Bluff, Korea
 Newman, Steve, Virginia, Vietnam
 Nigh, George A. III., Papillion, Vietnam
 Nixon, James, York, Korea
 Northrop, Jerald, Lincoln, Korea
 Norton, Raymond, Ainsworth, Korea
 Nutz, Lawrence L., Fairmont, Vietnam

Oberle, Rodney, Gretna, Vietnam
 Ogle, Christopher J., Comstock, SAL
 Olmer, Arthur, Humphrey, Korea
 Osborn, Glen C. Jr., Madison, Korea
 Ostry, Donald B., Prague, Korea
 Parks, Thomas W., Lincoln, Korea
 Parrott, William A., Garland, Vietnam
 Payne, Caleb, Gering, Korea
 Payne, Joseph S., Saint Paul, WWII
 Phipps, David L., Millard, Korea
 Pirrone, Joseph P. Jr., South Omaha, Vietnam
 Plucknett, Allen C., Pleasant Dale, Korea
 Polacek, Leonard J., Weston, Korea
 Pope, Steve D., Lincoln, Vietnam
 Pospichal, Joseph A., Lincoln, Korea
 Powell, Thomas D., Millard, Vietnam
 Pumilia, Luca F., Omaha, Vietnam
 Purchase, Gary A., Millard, Vietnam
 Raasch, Todd, Norfolk, SAL
 Reed, Stephen D., Omaha, Vietnam
 Reimers, Timothy H., Grand Island, Vietnam
 Reinsch, Francis L., Shickley, Korea
 Reynoldson, Don C., Crawford, Korea
 Rigler, Dallas, Callaway, SAL
 Ritzdorf, Robert W., Howells, Korea
 Rohlf, Dewayne O., Tilden, Korea
 Rosenthal, Donald, Syracuse, Korea
 Royal, Norman L., Syracuse, Vietnam
 Ruffing, James E., North Platte, Vietnam
 Safarik, Richard, Lincoln, WWII
 Schaaf, Frank J., Atkinson, Korea
 Schildt, Wayne F., Garland, Vietnam
 Schlautman, Michael, Dodge, Vietnam
 Schleusener, Lyle L., Orchard, Korea
 Scholl, Steve, Falls City, Vietnam
 Schreiber, Jack E., Hallam, Vietnam
 Schwabauer, Richard L., Denton, Vietnam
 Sharp, Wesley A., Tryon, Korea
 Sisson, Robert L., Potter, Vietnam
 Smoyer, Timothy, Fullerton, Panama
 Snyder, Dean, York, Korea
 Sorrells, James L., O'Neill, Vietnam
 Stander, Richard M., Weeping Water, Korea
 Stevens, Denise, Crofton, Vietnam
 Strelow, Harold A., Pierce, Korea
 Teachout, Arnold R., Potter, Vietnam
 Theobald, Robert B., Beaver City, Vietnam
 Tomlinson, Dennis L., O'Neill, Vietnam
 Trompke, Dale, Kearney, WWII
 Vandyke, Marvin R., Grand Island, Vietnam
 Vanek, John W., Fremont, SAL
 Vanourny, Richard, Dorchester, Korea
 Venema, Donald K., Syracuse, WWII
 Wager, Doug, Hastings, Vietnam
 Warner, Harold, Lincoln, Vietnam
 White, Robert W., Lincoln, Vietnam
 Wick, Harold M., Miller, Korea
 Williams, David L., Lincoln, Vietnam
 Winters, Robert D., Plattsmouth, Vietnam
 Woodruff, Donald, Beaver City, WWII
 Worster, Andrew L., Pleasant Dale, Persian Gulf
 Wragge, Aaron, Pierce, Vietnam
 Wyatt, David L., Chadron, Korea
 Ziegenbein, Donal H., Havelock, Vietnam
 Zikmund, Douglas B., Columbus, Vietnam

Correction: Thomas J. Dunning of Grand Island and Barbara Pope of Ashland are alive and well. Gary Conroy of Spencer was a Vietnam veteran.

Events Calendar

June

- 4 - 10 Cornhusker Boys' & Girls' State - Lincoln
- 19 Juneteenth - Office Closed
- 20 - 21 Boys' Junior Law Cadet - Grand Island
- 22 - 23 Girls' Junior Law Cadet - Grand Island
- 22 - 23 DEC Meeting - Kearney
- 23 - 25 Department Convention - Kearney

July

- 3 - 4 Fourth of July - Office Closed
- 20 - 23 JSSP - Colorado Springs, CO
- 22 - 29 Boys' Nation - Washington, DC
- 26 - 28 DSO School - Indianapolis, IN
- 27 - 29 Membership Workshop - Indianapolis, IN

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

Mail Call

Nebraska American Legion,

I just wanted to send a note of thanks for the generous gift towards my journey in becoming the National Commander. Your generosity and kind words of support really mean a lot! I'm looking forward to our visit - see you soon.

Be The One,
 Daniel Seehafer

Nebraska American Legion,

Thank you for providing me with an opportunity to receive the Nebraska Baseball Player of the Year award. I am very grateful. This is a great award for baseball players around Nebraska. Thank you again for helping and providing me with this moment.
 Dillon Olson

Dear Maynard Jensen Scholarship Committee,

I am sincerely honored to have been selected as a recipient. I will be attending Hastings College to study elementary education. This will help me improve and change students' lives forever. Thank you again for your generous gift.

Sincerely,
 Maggie Wohl

New Veterans Memorial Wall

The Fairbury City Museum is sponsoring the building of a Veterans Memorial Wall at the Fairbury City Park. Any veteran that has lived in Jefferson County, Nebraska one time can be included on a brick. Contact Mick Suey at 402-300-0906 with any questions. The brick will be unveiled on Memorial Day 2023 at 1:00 p.m. at Fairbury City Park.

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

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

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

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 *Member of a public other than USAA able to properly complete a purchase of membership with USAA Insurance Agency, also may establish eligibility for all membership in USAA property and casualty insurance companies. USAA membership does not confer any property rights for auto and casualty insurance products or legal membership rights in USAA. Membership eligibility and product restrictions apply and are subject to change. To be eligible for auto and casualty insurance, extended military protection and home ownership a disclosure type of disclosure. Eligible member must purchase auto or property insurance in the member's official USAA paid property insurance. USAA means United Service Automobile Association and its insurance, banking, investment and other companies. Bank American FDIC. Investments provided by USAA Investment Management Company and USAA Financial Services Inc. Each member's USAA member's financial planning services and financial advice provided by USAA Financial Planning Services Insurance Agency, Inc. (Member of USAA Financial Insurance Agency in California, License #0E111), a registered investment advisor and insurance agency and is wholly owned subsidiary. USAA Financial Advisors, Inc., a registered broker dealer. In America we serve members. Support benefits. USAA for you. © 2023 USAA. 11/20/23/23



Valparaiso Post 371 presented Quilts of Valor to their members. Pictured (L to R) Marvin Shanahan, Tom Donahue, and Ivan Benes.



Saint Paul Post 119 presented certificates of continuous membership to its members. Pictured (L to R) Jerry Sack, 55 years; Dallas Donscheski, 50 years; L. G. Davolt, 65 years; and Chuck Schmid, 50 years. Not pictured were Lonnie Vincik, 50 years; Dean Thede, 50 years; Roger Bailey, 55 years; and Floyd Wilson, 60 years.



Syracuse Post 100 presented certificates of continuous membership to its members. Pictured (L to R) Keith Goering, 50 years; Dennis Gotschall, 45 years; Lavern Wolf, 50 years; Charles Bjork, 50 years; Gene Kraenow, 60 years; Darrel Johns, 55 years; Commander Ed Reed; Daniel Whitney, 50 years; Kenneth Kraenow, 50 years; and Duane Janssen, 50 years.



Cedar Bluffs Post 158 presented Quilts of Valor to its members. Pictured (L to R) Steve Baltz, Ronald Bang, James Ehlers, Gene Hansen, Lyle Mahnke, John Mahrt, Ernest Nick, Gary Rolene, and Tom Siebels.



Elwood Post 290 members were presented with Quilts of Valor that were made by the Prairie Quilt Guild. Pictured front (L to R) Allen Schmeckle, Dick Tobler, JB Houlden, Glenn Hofman and Keith Withers. Pictured back (L to R) Kathy Beck, Connie Schmeckle, Carol Tobler, Chris Williams, Carol Hofman, Velma Withers and Marty Kleppinger. Not pictured was R. Joe Marrs.



Papillion Post 32 member Edward H. Morrisette was presented with a Quilt of Valor. He is a WWII Army veteran.

Liberty Post 346 presented certificates for 50 years of continuous membership to its members. Pictured top (L to R) Richard Thomas and Commander Charles Barr. Pictured bottom (L to R) Commander Charles Barr and Garry Stitt.



Lisco Post 309 presented a certificate for 50 years of continuous membership to Jack Parker. Pictured (L to R) Commander Monte Shaul and Adjutant Jack Parker.



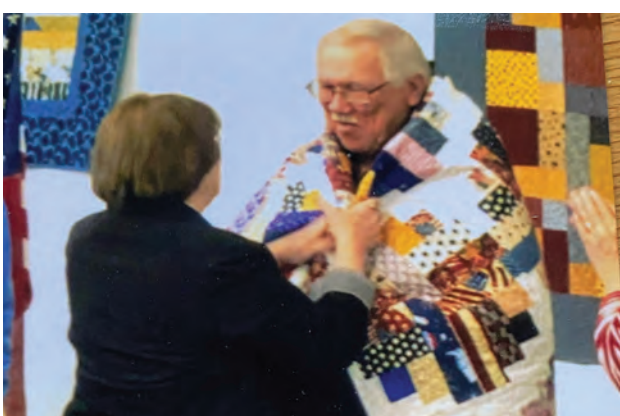
Newman Grove Post 73 hosted a pancake and sausage breakfast and served over 200 people. Pictured (L to R) Adjutant Ray Flood and Grady Higgins.



Allen Post 131 presented certificates for 50 years of continuous membership to its members. Pictured (L to R) Leroy Koch, District 3 Commander Mike Ellis, Dean Smith, Darrel Magnuson, Bob Kumm, Jim Nelson, District 3 Vice Commander Nick Tramp, and Richard Olesen. Allen Post 131 provided cake and ice cream for the Auxiliary's Birthday. Pictured bottom (L to R) Scott Chase, Lyle Carlson, Commander Bob Kumm, Luke Woodward, Richie Monteith, Chad Oswald, Richard Puckett, Kyle Sperry, Scott Morgan, and Adjutant Brad Gonzales.



Papillion Post 32 celebrated the 104th American Legion Birthday. Pictured is Commander Ted Pafford.



Fremont Post 20 member Gerald Johnson was presented a Quilt of Valor. He is a Vietnam Army veteran.



The American Legion Auxiliary
Department of Nebraska

The Star

June 2023



COMING TO AN END, BUT NOT ENDED!



It is hard to believe that my year as Department President is coming to an end. What an amazing year it has been! Having the opportunity to travel our great state and meeting so many wonderful American Legion Auxiliary members (and Legionnaires, SALs, and Riders). And wow, what members in this awesome organization do for our veterans, military, youth, and communities. I am confident that the reports you will read in the Department Convention Annual will be rewarding and filled with a variety of ways our units and members work our programs.

The 102nd Annual Department Convention will be held at the Younes Conference Center South in Kearney. An updated agenda is included in this issue. I continue to hope to have 100 percent unit attendance at Department events. Remember that each unit has delegate strength to represent your unit. Let us set a record and have every unit represented.

Northwestern Division Vice-President Marlene Boyer will be our special guest at the Convention. She is from North Dakota, and I know Nebraska will give her a great Nebraska welcome. The reception for the Department candidates and NW VP Marlene will be held in the atrium (rear lobby) of the La Quinta Hotel on Saturday, June 22, from 4:30 pm to 5:45 pm.

Remember the fun we had at Mid-Year. I promise it will continue at the Department Convention. Everyone is invited to participate in a "Blast from Your Past" style show on Friday afternoon. See "What to Bring to Convention" in this issue for more information. Also, you just might get the opportunity to plant a pie in my face! Don't

miss out. If you haven't made your reservations, do so now. I hope to see you in Kearney.

THE STAR will continue to be printed on the normal schedule. The American Legion has announced that this issue will be their final one until they hire a media employee. The ALA is able to print our section and mail it ourselves. So you will continue to receive it --- it just won't be the centerfold for a while!!

The new American Legion and Auxiliary building is definitely one of many highlights of my year. We began working from the new location April 29. It will take some time to get everything in its proper place, but you are welcome to stop by to take a look. There have been some long days for everyone in getting ready for the move, making the move, and now getting settled. I thank all who helped in this large endeavor, but especially want to thank Roxanne for her excellent packing and organization skills.

Thanks to Commander Don, his staff of Dave and Eric, and Past Commander Jim Costello for removing the glass walls in the Auxiliary office; to Commander Don and Past Commander Lyle Bartels for their carpentry skills in putting in a doorway for us; to Dave, Eric, Amanda, and Jim for their assistance in moving our office furniture and cavalcade cabinets; and to Elizabeth, Lynne, Lorene, Beverly, Kathy, and Paula for their help when called upon. As the saying "it takes a village to raise a child" goes, well it takes the American Legion Family to establish a new location.

So, my year will be ending; but the work of the ALA will not end. As an ALA member, I hope you find joy in your work for the ALA. Let me share this story that I believe everyone can relate to. It was written by Mary C. Crowley, founder of Home Interiors and Gifts, Inc.

I like to say that housework is "daily." It's so daily nobody notices it --- until you stop doing it.

I like the story about the husband who came home every day and said to his wife, "Well, what did you do all day?" She always had trouble

answering that question because he seemed so unimpressed with her answer.

One night when he came home, the beds weren't made, the kitchen table was filled with breakfast dishes, and the entire house had a look of confusion.

"What happened?" he asked in astonishment.

She said, "Well, you know how you always ask me, 'What did you do today?'"

"Yes" he said. "What did you do today?"

"That's just it," she said. "Today I didn't."

I've always told that story because it reminds me that we have to brag on ourselves when it comes to housework. It's the kind of thing no one will notice until we stop. And I think we have to find our own kind of joy in it, too --- whether it's ironing, baking a loaf of bread, or something else. If it's work we've done, we may take joy and pride in it. Remember, success is like housework --- it is so daily. You have to do it all over again every morning.

The work of the American Legion Auxiliary never ends. Sometimes it feels like no one really notices what we do (that is one reason we must brag {report} on what we do); but I'm sure if we stop what we do, it would be noticed. Find your joy in what you do for ALA and be proud of it. Let us all be successful in our ALA "housework;" and, remember, you have to do it all over again every year! It does not end!

Never Forget, Ever Honor,
Vicki Ozenbaugh
Department President '22-'23



NW DIVISION NATIONAL VICE PRESIDENT TO VISIT

The American Legion Auxiliary is pleased to announce Northwestern Division Vice President Marlene Boyer will attend Department Convention to be held at the Younes Conference Center South in Kearney.

Northwestern Division Vice President Marlene Boyer grew up in a veteran-centered family and accompanied her mother, a member of Percy J Carter Unit 221 of Sheldon, North Dakota, on many Auxiliary projects. Marlene retired after 37 years with the Carrington School District where she taught English and served as coach of the speech and drama teams and was instrumental in the organization of

the Student Congress.

She belongs to John Raymond O'Hara Unit 25 of Carrington in North Dakota. Her eligibility is through her three brothers who all served in Vietnam, and her son, Capt. Garret Luke Boyer, currently serving in the U.S. Army at Fort Stewart in Georgia.

Marlene and her husband, Gary, currently reside in Carrington, N.D., and are the proud parents of three children and eight grandchildren. They are proud of the accomplishments of their children and grandchildren, including son-in-law Regan Miller, a retired U.S. Air Force major now serving as a physician with the VA

medical center in Fargo.

You will have the opportunity to greet Marlene at the Special Guests and Candidates Reception on Saturday, June 24, at 4:30 pm. The reception will be held in the atrium lobby of the La Quinta Hotel.



AMERICAN LEGION AUXILIARY DEPARTMENT CONVENTION

Younes Conference Center South
416 Talmadge Road - Kearney, Nebraska
June 22 - 25, 2023

Thursday, June 22

1:00 pm, ALA Department Executive Committee Meeting, Ruby 7
7:00 pm, Election Committee, Ruby 7
7:30 pm, Registration Committee, Ruby 7
8:00 pm, Rules Committee, Ruby 7

Friday, June 23

8:00 am, Registration Opens, Lobby
9:00 am, ALA Formal Opening and General Session, Diamond 5
11:45 am, Recess for Lunch - On your own
1:00 pm, Joint Session and Memorial Service, Diamond 9 & 10
2:40 pm, ALA Reconvenes, Diamond 5
"Blast from Your Past" Style Show
5:00 pm, District Caucus, Diamond 5
5:30 pm, Recess
5:45 pm, Nominating Committee Meeting, Diamond 5
7:00 pm, Veterans Affairs & Rehabilitation Meeting, Diamond 5

Saturday, June 24

8:00 am, Registration Opens, Lobby
8:30 am, ALA Reconvenes, Diamond 5
"Excuses, Excuses, Excuses"
11:00 am, Gold Star Recognition Service
11:15 am, Past Department President Memorial Service
12:00 pm, Children & Youth Luncheon, Kearney Post
1:45 pm, ALA Reconvenes, Diamond 5
"ALA - Survey Says"
4:30 pm, Special Guests & Candidates Reception, LaQuinta Inn Atrium
6:00 pm, Catholic Mass Worship Service, Diamond 5

Sunday, June 25

8:00 am, American Legion Family Joint Worship Service, Diamond 5
9:15 am, ALA Reconvenes, Diamond 5
11:00 am, Installation of Officers
12:00 pm, Close of 2023 Convention
Post DEC Meeting and 2023 National Convention Info
Charlotte, North Carolina - August 25-31



DEPT. HONORARY JR. PRESIDENT

I am Samantha Stepanek, and I am the Department's Honorary Junior Auxiliary President. My theme is "Growing With Our Veterans." My project is raising money for gardening equipment and various seeds for our veterans. I would appreciate help and support.

AMERICAN LEGION AUXILIARY

You are invited to attend

The Children and Youth Luncheon

Kearney Legion Post

1223 Central Avenue, Kearney, NE

June 24, 2023 - 12:00 Noon

Cost \$10

Hamburger/Salads/Chips

RSVP to Deb Albers by June 9, 2023

dalbers727@gmail.com

402-364-3162

Detach and send to Deb Albers, 1759 Rd. 5200, Davenport, NE 68335 Make check payable to Nebraska American Legion Auxiliary

Name(s) _____

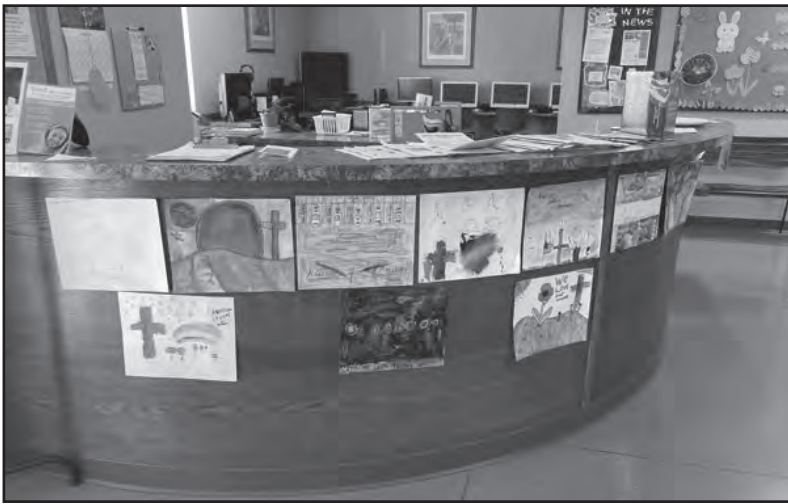
Phone _____

Number Attending _____ X \$10 Total _____

Return by June 9, 2023

ATTENTION:

Nebraska members of the American Legion Auxiliary who have not paid their 2023 dues will be removed from "The Star" publication list immediately. Questions contact Beverly 402-369-0152.



Third and Fifth grade classes in Hitchcock County School participated in the Poppy Poster Contest. Posters were exhibited at the Culbertson Library until May 1.



Norfolk Auxiliary Unit 16 and Sons of the American Legion Squadron 16 teamed up and sponsored a \$500.00 scholarship to both Isabel Calvillo and Kayla Hendrix (pictured l to r) both of whom are going into nursing. Norfolk Auxiliary Unit 16 is also sponsoring two young ladies, Madison Hall, and Elizabeth Wicker, to Girls State for \$400.00 each. We are honored to sponsor all four of these talented young ladies.



Bennington American Legion Post 266 Legionnaires recently receiving Quilts of Valor were Robert Musel, Richard Musel, and Ken Dirksen.



Having recently moved to New Mexico, Bennington American Legion Post 266 Legionnaire David Mills received a Quilts of Valor in New Mexico on behalf of Post 266. Pictured with David are his son, Jared, and Jared's wife, Paula.



Bennington American Legion Post 266 Legionnaires recently receiving Quilts of Valor were David Havekost, Gale Sass, Van Mohr, and Fred Ferguson.



The Cortland American Legion Auxiliary Unit 253 hosted a presentation of Quilts of Valor honoring six veterans from their American Legion Post 253 on Saturday, April 29. Pictured left to right are : Ronny Aden for service in the U.S. Army from 1964 – 1966; James (Ted) Fuhrman for service in the U.S. Naval Reserve from 1953 – 1961; Gerald Guenther for service in the U.S. Air Force from 1956 – 1962; Richard Harms for service in the Army National Guard from 1964 – 2006; Rodney Rose for service in the U.S. Army from 1971 – 1977; and Timothy Young for service in the Army National Guard from 1969 – 1976. Thanks to all of you for your service!

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
June	#95 Curtis	#193 Ohiowa		#70 West Point	#312 Broadwater	#312 Broadwater	#20 Fremont
July	#141 Hampton	#52 Kearney	#268 Benington	#302 Leigh	#7 Alliance	#7 Alliance	#226 Bennington
Aug.	#365 Davenport	#52 Kearney		#176 Jackson	#7 Alliance	#7 Alliance	#232 Malmo
Sept.	#290 Elwood	#209 Franklin	#1 Omaha		#12 Chadron	#12 Chadron	#1 Omaha
Oct.	#290 Elwood	#316 Elm Creek		#322 Monroe		#364 Naponce	#160 Polk
Nov.	#283 Platte Center	#218 Exeter		#357 Brunswick	#10 Morrill	#54 Laurel	#160 Polk
Dec.	#257 Eustis	#11 Hastings		#302 Leigh	#10 Morrill	#133 Culbertson	
Jan.		#377 Wilcox		#16 Norfolk			
Feb.	#251 Arcadia		#353 Louisville	#80 Humphrey			
Mar.							
Apr.							
May							

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

Service to Veterans Chairwoman: Alice Vieselmeyer Phone:(402)947-9001 Email: alicevies@aol.com

SUTTON LEGION AUXILIARY #61

The Sutton American Legion Auxiliary Unit No. 61 handed out the longest memberships were Marg Finley at 78 years and Donna Bauer at 70 years. continuous membership certificates and pins on March 26, 2023. Having



Pictured (with continuous years in parentheses) are FRONT ROW (L-R): Carol Scheierman (46), Lu Calkins (32), Darlene Moore (56), Marge Finley (78), Donna Bauer (70), Carol Griess (49), Teri Aspegren (32), and Lisa Griess (19). BACK ROW: L-R: Pam Hofmann (12), LaJeanne Boehler (9), Judy Griess (34), Donna Hill (12), Doris Huber (30), Paula Bergen (64), Deb Jones (14), Rose Bauder (10), Diane Thompson (21), Sheila Hofmann (8), Connie Johnson (19), and Sherrie Bartell (22) Not Pictured: Sherry Ebert (48), Connie L Johnson (44), Carol Van Kirk (38), Judy Mohnike (38), Phyllis Ulmer (12), Leota Snell (9), Linda Bruns (8), and Annette Yost (7)

"VOLUNTEERS MAKE THE ORDINARY "EXTRAORDINARY."

"Thank you to all members who generously donated more than \$99.3 million to VA, supporting critical programs and essential services that have had a lasting and positive impact on our veterans. No matter where you volunteer and give of your time and talents, you are very much appreciated!

The week of April 16 - 22 was National Volunteer Week. This is the week that the VA recognizes and honors volunteers at VA medical centers across the nation. For more than 77 years, volunteers have helped keep America's promise to veterans by providing services and support when and where veterans needed it most.

Per Maureen Marks, acting VHA (Veterans Health Administration) Chief of Staff in the fiscal year 2022, more than 22,000 volunteers provided 3.3 million hours of service to veterans at VA medical facilities throughout the country. Along with many community partners, they

Linda Varejcka
Lincoln CBOC Volunteer



Louisville Unit 253 ladies stuffed 200 envelopes with a poppy, an "In Flanders Fields" poem and a note. 150 envelopes were being sent to the Toledo Submarine to be handed out for Poppy/Memorial Day. The rest will be taken to veterans at the care center, local veterans in the area, and to ALA members who are no longer able to come to monthly meetings.

SWANTON AMERICAN LEGION BIRTHDAY PARTY

The Swanton American Legion Auxiliary hosted the American Legion to a soup luncheon for the Legion birthday on March 12. Special guests were County Auxiliary President Arlyce Albert and County Secretary-Treasurer Sandra Karst. Also attending was Janice Havranek of Fremont, who won the quilt and quilt rack that were raffled by the Auxiliary last year. The quilt was made by Auxiliary member Judy Dittmer.



Pictured holding the quilt are, left to right, Auxiliary President Susie Homolka, Janice Havranek, and Judy Dittmer.



Legion members attending the luncheon were (left to right in front): Alfred Teet, John Vales, and Ron Homolka, In the back row are Jim Peterson and Dennis Broz.



Pictured is Louisville Unit 353 member Nancy Olson presenting a certificate to scholarship recipient Sagan Leach.

CANDIDATES FOR DEPARTMENT OFFICES - 2023-2024


DEBRA ALBERS
NORTHWESTERN DIVISION
VICE PRESIDENT




VICKI OZENBAUGH
NATIONAL EXECUTIVE
COMMITTEE



LISA MOORE
DEPARTMENT
PRESIDENT



AMANDA WASHBURN
DEPARTMENT
VICE PRESIDENT



RUTH HEITBRINK
DEPARTMENT HISTORIAN



VICKI CYBORON
DEPARTMENT CHAPLAIN



DEPARTMENT JUNIOR AWARDS (PRESENTED AT THE JR. MEETING)

The Department of Nebraska and District 11 Junior Auxiliary held their annual meetings together on Saturday, March 11th in Dorchester. Department Honorary Jr. President Carly Rains and District 11 President Riley Oldenhaet conducted the separate meetings.

special presentations, fun activities, and magic by Gail Becwar. Separate contest entries and installations were held.

A noon banquet was also held. There were door prizes and goodies for all. The leaders are Carol Capek and Marva Kasl. Next year's meeting will be in St. Paul.

Poppy Centerpiece

- 1st — Dorchester
- 2nd — Milligan

Prayer Book

- 1st — Dorchester
Ameila Pracheil

Publicity Book

- 1st — Dorchester

Craft Board

- 1st — Dorchester

Poppy Craft

Tiny Tots

- 1st — St. Paul — Elsie Sack
- 2nd — Dorchester — Lydia Pracheil

Group 1 - Grades K-3

- 1st — Milligan — Kenna Pankoke
- 2nd — Milligan — Cara Pankoke
- 3rd — Dorchester — Rae Huesche

Group 2 — Grades 4-8

- 1st — Milligan — Natalie Meyer
- 2nd — Milligan — Dream Johnson
- 3rd — Dorchester — Chloe Rains

Group 3 — Grades 9-12

- 1st — Milligan — Gracie Heili
- 2nd — Milligan — Kiley Oldehoeft
- 3rd — Dorchester — Carly Rains



Junior Auxiliary Department Officers for the 2023-2024 year were installed at the Jr. Department Meeting in Dorchester on March 7th.

Pictured (Left to right) are: President Samantha Stepanek (St. Paul), Vice President Shia Rasmussen (Elba), Historian Erica Fuchs (Arlington) and Chaplain Kendall Kasl (Dorchester).



Continuous Membership Certificates were recently given to a number of Crete American Legion Auxiliary Unit 147 members. Those present to receive their certificates at the Crete Post 147 Birthday Party were Jere Burkey (55 years), Fran Goosic (65 years) and Shirley Mariska (10 years). Other members receiving certificates but unable to attend were Laura Chytka (45), Lorraine Palleson (25), Helen Vasak (25) and Myrtha Wolverton (65).

AMERICANISM ESSAY WINNERS

Class 1

- Jase Uthof — Ponca Unit 161
- Deyiyah Freemont — Niobrara Unit 224
- Lena Conn — Rushville Unit 161

Class 2

- James Lodge — Elgin Unit 229
- Madison Dolezal — Rushville Unit 161
- Nora Specht — Coleridge Unit 114

Class 3

- Jacob Dorshorst — Hay Springs Unit 239
- Pressley Wilhelm — Syracuse Unit 100
- Alex Motacek — Springfield Unit 224

Class 4

- Kate Furstenuau — Neligh Unit 229
- Mya Chohon — Verdigre Unit 224
- Allie Nelson — Gordon Unit 161

Class 5

- Taylor Silva — St. Paul Unit 236
- Kristopher Moreno — St. Petersburg Unit 229
- Maggie Birkel — Callaway Unit 59

Class 6

- Cooper Johnson — Hay Springs Unit 239
 - Kayden Miner — Garden Unit 161
- (No other entries in this class)

Tina Nelson
Americanism Chair



EDUCATION

Things I wish I knew... \$10,300. That's the total amount the ALA Department of Nebraska had budgeted for scholarships. Judging day came, and I was so excited to be able to award students with much-needed money to continue their post-secondary education. The reality is, we only were able to award \$5100 in scholarships. Due to a lack of submissions, incomplete submissions, or submissions missing essential pieces, we did not award all

the money available.

The money is sitting there, waiting to be had. I wish I knew why we are unable to get students to apply for some of the scholarships.

I also wish I knew why units did not double and triple-check the fine details (ensuring all items were filled out on the application, all scholarship essays were signed, and all eligibility completed).

I wish I knew some of the amazing students to whom we were

able to award scholarships. Someday, these kids will do great things in our communities.

I wish I knew some of the wonderful people on the unit levels who are making connections with possible new members.

So now, I hope you can give a big congratulations to our scholarship winners because I want you to know.

Crys Bauermeister
Education Chair

Scholarship Recipient	Unit Contact	Unit	Unit Location	Scholarship Name	Scholarship Amount
Jodie Uhri	Tana J. Brown	222	Shubert	Career & Technical Education	\$500
Jessica Hoffman	Janet Eisenmann	302	Leigh	Career & Technical Education	\$500
Tyler Jelinek	Judy Frickle	86	Atkinson	Career & Technical Education	\$500
Raden J. Orton	Lorraine Ammon	123	Bassett	Career & Technical Education	\$500
Laiken Mumm	Karin Dominy	180	Hebron	Career & Technical Education	\$500
Sydney Guzinski	Sansha Landholm	127	Craig	Healthcare Professional	\$500
Madison Jones	Tana J. Brown	222	Shubert	Healthcare Professional	\$500
Allison Deal	Marge Surber	17	Sidney	Past President's Parley Healthcare	\$500
Karlie Finley	Cindy Wickizer	213	Wallace	Past President's Parley Healthcare	\$500
Leah Jansen	Adeline Hanel	70	West Point	Roberta Marie Stretch Memorial	\$400
Ansley Williams	Melissa Thompson	257	Eustis	Ruby Lorraine Paul	\$200



MEMBERSHIP – OPPORTUNITY CHECK-OFF

What has my membership brought me over the decades:

- Opportunity to serve
- Opportunity to hopefully make a difference
- Opportunity for friendship
- Opportunity to welcome and cherish new friends
- Opportunity to excel
- Opportunity to do something I never knew I could
- Opportunity to appreciate
- Opportunity to see, hear, and share failures and successes
- Opportunity to respect sacrifice
- Opportunity to see suffering, sorrows, loss, blessings
- Opportunity to grow
- Opportunity to ask questions, learn new methods
- Opportunity to reflect
- Opportunity to know what we do is great
- Opportunity to appreciate
- Opportunity to give and receive compliments
- Opportunity to see my heart and soul
- Opportunity to find something to enjoy that is not self
- Opportunity to know
- Opportunity to understand one cannot do it alone
- Opportunity to move forward
- Opportunity to know new horizons open doors
- Opportunity to be eligible to be an ALA member
- Opportunity to respect and honor my beloved veterans in life

May opportunity knock at your door and you say "yes"!

Beverly A. Neel
Membership Chair

PLEASANT DALE

On March 14, the Pleasant Dale American Legion and Auxiliary met for dinner to celebrate the birthday of The American Legion. A special guest was Vicki Ozenbaugh, ALA Department President.

Following dinner, several members were honored for their years of continuous membership in the organizations. Auxiliary honorees were Addison Hultsch and Addison Sample (10 years); Joyce Forst and Barbara Giles (20 years); Linda Anderson and Dorothy Bruening (30 years); Darlene Gerner and Norva Carpenter (40 years); Peggy Bohrer and JoAnn Sieck (50 years); and Vera Ficke and Doris Lostro (70 years).



Pictured in the photo are (back row, left to right): Vicki Ozenbaugh, Dorothy Bruening, Darlene Gerner, Peggy Bohrer, and JoAnn Sieck. In the front row are, left to right: Vera Ficke, Joyce Forst, and Linda Anderson.

CHAPLAIN'S CORNER

Psalm 91:4-6

He shall cover you with His feathers, and under His wings you shall take refuge; His truth shall be your shield and buckler. You shall not be afraid of the terror by night, nor the arrow that flies by day, nor the pestilence that walk in the darkness, nor the destruction that lays waste at noonday.

Matthew 11:28-30

Come to Me, all you who labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. Take My yoke upon you and learn from Me, for I am gentle and lowly in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For My yoke is easy and My burden is light.

Romans 8:38-39

For I am convinced that neither death nor life, neither angels nor demons, neither the present nor the future, nor any powers, neither

height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God that is in Christ Jesus our Lord.

Please remember that June 27 is National PTSD (Post Traumatic Stress Disorder) Awareness Day. This is a day to bring awareness about issues related to PTSD.

It has now been approximately twenty years since the concern for the mental health of veterans has surfaced. Post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD) has been caused by the aftereffects of combat and deployments and is linked to increased risks for these mental health conditions. General military service can also lead to difficulties. There is no specified timeline for the development of these mental health concerns, and this disorder can affect

anybody, including children.

It is vital that we support our veterans who have experienced suffering from the effects of deployment. Prayer can help those who have this condition to lay their worries and fears upon God. Please reach out to those in need. Say words of encouragement for their mental health.

PRAYER: Dear God, Fill us with your light and your confidence. Help us to be strong when we are weak, help us to love when we feel forsaken, and give us courage when we are afraid and wisdom when we feel foolish. Comfort us when we are alone. Give us hope when we feel forbidden, and peace for those who are unhappy. Amen.

Ruth Hietbrink
Dept. Chaplain

In Memoriam

Received March 10 to May 10, 2023

Ruby Minert..... Lincoln.....3	Ruth Conner..... Arnold.....130
Mary A Havlovic..... Lincoln.....3	Betty Stender..... Blair.....154
Janet P Whitcomb..... Lincoln.....3	Joyce E Sones..... Rushville.....161
Gayle Mrsny..... Norfolk.....16	Bonnie Benjamin..... Albion.....162
Elizabeth Eckles..... York.....19	Beverly F. Vaught..... Bruning.....166
Verneal J Dodge..... Beatrice.....27	Laura Mort..... Pawnee City.....168
Jan Grover..... Gordon.....34	Leanna Nagel..... Beaver Crossing.....178
Jean Moudry..... Ord.....38	Mildred Kerwood..... Alexandria.....194
Bertha Kathman..... Lawrence.....45	Patricia M Young..... Cambridge.....199
Rosemary Smith..... Utica.....49	Kathryn Cyboron..... Boelus.....201
Jo Ann Sullivan..... Valley.....58	Karen Richards..... Sutherland.....208
Evelyn Gladem..... Callaway.....59	Iris M. Kennedy..... Sutherland.....208
Mary Ann Serr..... Sutton.....61	Patricia R. Shaffer..... Sutherland.....208
Loreen H. Glandt..... Battle Creek.....75	Marlene R Snell..... Gretna.....216
Arlene Harris..... Spencer.....78	Judy E Arrowsmith..... Newport.....227
Eunice Wulf..... Ainsworth.....79	Marie Cheatum..... Elgin.....229
Lois L Rodehorst..... Columbus.....84	Vera Hoefler..... Hay Springs.....239
Helen Dvorak..... Atkinson.....86	Miriam Custard..... Elmwood.....247
Jayne Gotschall..... Atkinson.....86	Dorothy McGregor..... Verdigre.....258
Phyllis Langan..... Atkinson.....86	Elouise C Green..... Herman.....274
Pauline Luttman..... Stanton.....88	Ruth Werner..... North Loup.....285
Idelle Jacobsen..... Osceola.....91	Mary L Davison..... Table Rock.....289
Elaine Snowardt..... O'Neill.....93	Isla M Lindsey..... Burwell.....298
Ardyce Protivinsky..... O'Neill.....93	Ruth E Jackson..... Riverton.....328
Norma Nisely..... Syracuse.....100	Betty Beavers..... Carleton.....329
Deborah Blom..... Syracuse.....100	Virginia Foss..... Petersburg.....334
Wanda Reimers..... St. Paul.....119	Joy A. Jenkins..... Morse Bluff.....340
Edna Webb..... Palmer.....120	Mariene A Kuehl..... Millard.....374
Marilyn H. Ortmeier..... Dodge.....122	RoJean Nelson..... Wilcox.....377
Edith Keller..... Bassett.....123	Jo Ellen Trotter..... Department.....500

SING A SONG OF SPRING

Uh oh. After all this waiting, whining, and longing for Spring.... BAM! It came! Hopefully, in your neck of the woods, it arrived on a weekend because that's usually all you get before it's Summer.

Then, the anxiety starts.... Oh no, it's Flag Day! Then Father's Day! Then Fourth of July, when the stores start putting up Halloween stuff and you missed it!

Stop. Just stop.

If you get anything accomplished today, please just try this:

Get a sheet of paper, or better yet, a notebook or journal. Make sure it's blank.

First, write the top three things that are weighing on your mind. It could be anything --- someone you may have upset, a bill you can't pay, or that nagging pain that won't go away. Just writing these things down helps. If there are more than three, by all means, write them down.

Then, write five things you are grateful for. These are your blessings. Read them prayerfully, "Today, I am grateful for ____" as they are your prayer of gratitude.

Then, come up with ONE THING you can do for someone else. One thing. Take some treats to a shut-in; call a lonely friend; or hand some Gatorades to some sweaty guys filling the potholes on the street. Don't just say you'll do it --- do it! Stepping outside of your pity party is the fastest track to happiness.

Finally, pick a song for the day. Something that makes you smile. Something silly, catchy, or comforting. Write it down, put it with your phone or someplace close, and carry it in your heart all day long.

And don't forget - your track record of getting through bad days is 100%. Much love to you, my Legion Family.

And keep singing!

Jean Vackiner

Dept. Music Chair

I would like to thank everyone who helped make my year as Department Junior President a memorable success. Thanks for all your donations to my project, "Games and Food - Make a Happy Veteran." We raised over \$2,000, which was divided among six Veterans Homes.

The NW Division Junior meeting and my visit to the Norfolk Veterans Home were my best experiences. Good Luck to the new officers. I now graduate to a senior member, but will be close to home at Doane College. Grandma Marva says she will still be calling for help.

Thank you again and "Let's keep these Juniors active."

Carly Rains, Honorary Jr. President, 2022-2023



Sponsored and organized by the Shubert American Legion Auxiliary Unit 222, Children and Youth Month was observed by holding the annual Easter Egg Hunt at Shubert Park. Winners of the Gold Egg prize enjoyed a picture with the Easter Bunny, a member of Unit 222.



Pictured are Gold Star Sister Virginia Knutson and Louisville Auxiliary Unit 353 President Nancy Olson with candy-filled Easter Eggs and cards for veterans at the Care Center.



Elwood American Legion Auxiliary Unit 290 picked winners for the Poppy Poster Contest. Pictured, from left are: Emily Edwards (4th grade), Benjamin Morton and Zadelynn Trollope (5th grade) and Aliah Nelson and Bristol Kubert (6th grade). National Poppy Day is May 26, 2023.

WHAT TO BRING TO CONVENTION

- Your 2023 ALA Membership Card
- \$10 Registration Fee
- Any forms/documents for Headquarters
 - 2023-2024 Unit Leadership
 - Member Data Status Information Change Form (for updating members' contact information)
- Permission Slip to pick up another Unit's Membership Cards (see April Newsletter)
- A friend or two
- Questions to ask
- "Blast from Your Past" clothes for the Style Show
 - Check your membership card for the year you joined.
 - If you do not recall what the clothing was for that year (because you might have joined as a baby!). Google it or ask a friend to Google it.
- You will dress in the style from that year. You might be surprised that the style is back and you have something in your closet OR check with a friend OR check with a theater group OR visit a thrift store.
- We will have a "Blast from Your Past" style show on Friday afternoon (after the Joint Session) by years, starting with the current year and going back to the year for the members who have been in the longest.

HAPPY 100TH BIRTHDAY, ADELINE BROWN!!

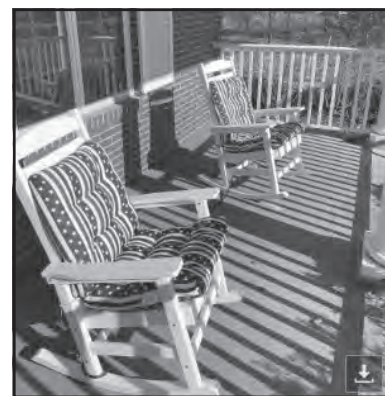
A celebration was held for a special lady at the conclusion of the May 2, 2023 meeting of Leigh ALA Unit 302. Auxiliary member Adeline Brown had her 100th Birthday the day before on May 1, 2023.

Adeline was honored with a Birthday party, including cake and

ice cream. We are so proud to have her as a member! She has been a member of our unit for 48 years and rarely misses a meeting! She currently is on our phone committee and types our unit's newspaper reports and sends them to our local newspaper.



Pictured are: sitting - Adeline Brown; 1st row l to r - Orma Tyser, Bonnie Spanhake, Mary Ann Schroeder, and Mary Ann McMullin; 2nd row l to r - Shirley Henke, Janet Eisenmann, Carolee Mullenhoff, Linda Bare, and Teresa Bare.



Units in District 8 donated \$200 and the members of Benson American Legion Auxiliary Unit 112 gave an additional \$200 for the Omaha Fisher House to obtain and install outdoor rockers for the residents' use. They also found patriotic cushions for added comfort.

DATES TO REMEMBER

JUNE

- 10 Deadline for articles for the July/August issue of "The Star"
- 4-10 American Legion Auxiliary Cornhusker Girls State UNL Campus
- 14 Flag Day - Fly your Flag
- 18 Father's Day
- 22-25 Department Convention - Kearney, NE

JULY

- 4 Independence Day - Department Headquarters Closed
- 22-29 American Legion Auxiliary Girls Nation - Washington, DC

FOR YOUR ADVANCED PLANNING

August 25 - 31, 2023 National Convention, Charlotte, North Carolina

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 JUNE 10, 2023