



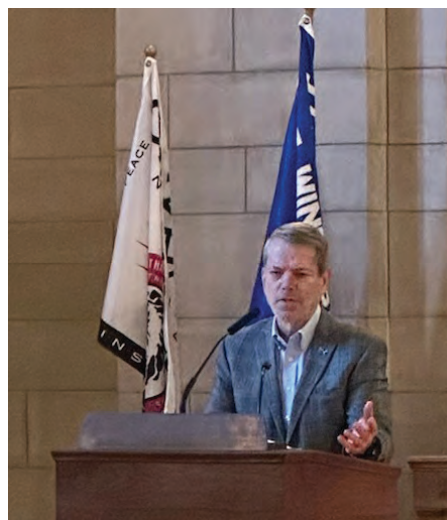
# Legionnaire

Volume CI

Number 4



## 2025 Legislative Day



On January 31, the Nebraska Veterans Council (NVC) hosted their annual Veteran's Legislative Day at the State Capitol with 125 in attendance. Each year, time is set aside by leaders of our state to focus on veteran issues and concerns. NVC represents the voices of Nebraska's veterans and is made up of members of The American Legion; Veterans of Foreign Wars; Disabled American Veterans; Vietnam Veterans of America; American Veterans; The Military Order of the Purple Heart; Paralyzed Veterans of America; the Marine Corps League; and the County Veterans Service Officer Association of Nebraska. Those in attendance had the honor of hearing Governor Jim Pillen speak. Governor Pillen voiced his support of veterans and confirmed his dedication to advocating for them as well as his gratitude to all those who have served our country in uniform and to their family members.

The NVC follows and supports legislative bills that advance veterans' initiatives. In this legislative cycle, NVC chose 6 bills that they support. Those priority bills chosen were LB 144 by Senator Roundtree, dealing with veteran preferences for employment; LB 272 by Senator Dugan and LB 425 by Senator Anderson, both relating to homestead exemptions for disabled veterans; LB 414 by Senator Dugan, having to do with reviewing veteran suicide mortality; LB 547 by Senator Roundtree, relating to motor vehicle/property tax exemptions; and LB 693 by Senator McKeon, having to do with deceptive trade practices. Senators Roundtree, Dugan, Anderson, and McKeon addressed

those in attendance and further explained the importance of their proposed legislation and asked for support. It was noted that in the new freshman class of Senators, 25% are military veterans.

The day served as an avenue for the Veteran Service Organization members to not only hear about upcoming legislation but network with fellow veterans. Thank you to everyone who attended and made the day a success. Please take time to visit the Nebraska Legislature website at [nebraskalegislature.gov](http://nebraskalegislature.gov) and read these bills as well as find out when they will be having the committee hearings on this important legislation. Support for the proposed legislation can be done via online testimony after the bill has been given a calendar date or in person during committee hearings. Everyone is encouraged to share your thoughts with your state representatives on these matters.



### New Flagpoles



We, at the Department, want to say a big "thank you" to everyone who took part in making the flag poles a reality at headquarters. Thank you to all those that donated finances to this project, to A1 Flags of Omaha for doing the construction work on the anchoring of the flag sleeves, and to Landkamer Flag Sales of

Norfolk for the installation. Jerry, Starla, and Thomas Landkamer also donated the first set of flags to the Nebraska American Legion. The colors now fly proudly at the Department in honor of our country and its veterans. Pictured (L to R) Assistant Adjutant Eric Martin, Adjutant Dave Salak, Thomas Landkamer, and PDC Jerry Landkamer.

### Department Seeking Applications for Assistant Adjutant

Our Assistant Adjutant, Eric Martin, will be moving up to the Department Adjutant position upon the retirement of Adjutant Salak in June 2025. As such, Department is looking to get a replacement onboard in a quick manner.

The majority of time as Assitant 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 February 24. Interview(s) in early March. Hiring date shortly after interview.

For more information please contact Adjutant Salak at HQ.

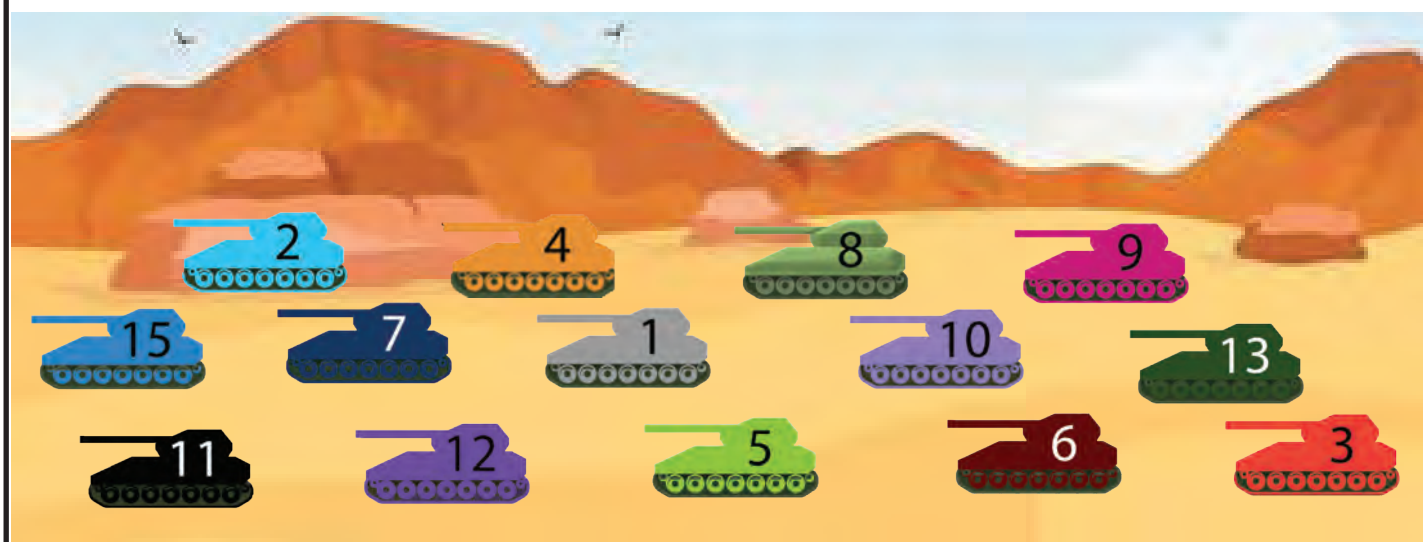
### FOR GOD AND COUNTRY

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

### THE ROAD TO SUCCESS

2025 MEMBERSHIP GOAL: 22,300 JANUARY 15TH TOTAL: 17,168 - 76.99%

DISTRICT 15 - 80.58%	DISTRICT 11 - 80.46%	DISTRICT 2 - 80.42%	DISTRICT 7 - 79.28%	DISTRICT 12 - 78.35%
DISTRICT 4 - 76.90%	DISTRICT 1 - 76.52%	DISTRICT 5 - 76.25%	DISTRICT 8 - 76.24%	DISTRICT 10 - 76.11%
DISTRICT 6 - 76.05%	DISTRICT 9 - 74.96%	DISTRICT 13 - 73.66%	DISTRICT 3 - 68.19%	








**Commander's Corner**  
**Boyd Yochum**  
**Department Commander**

I've really enjoyed being your Department Commander. Sometimes it's hard to keep track of where I've been and where I'm going. One thing for sure, it takes a lot of time.

Gifts for Yanks visits at VA Hospitals and Nebraska Veterans Homes have been great. Some of these veterans never have anyone come to visit with them. When I talked to my youngest son about visiting Veterans Homes, he asked if I thought I would like it there. . .

California Palisades Post 283, including its properties occupied by the U.S. Post Office and CVS, appeared to have no significant damage from the Pacific Palisades Fire. At this writing, the post building itself is closed. The post has set up a resource hub and are helping to serve as a community center in the wake of the wildfires. This hub includes mental health support, housing and food assistance information, insurance assistance, volunteer opportunities; and of course, assisting Legionnaires with National Emergency Fund applications.

With significant hurricane damage in the Southeast, fires in Southern California, and memories of our floods and tornadoes in Nebraska; this is a great time to remind all Posts to please donate to the American Legion National Emergency Fund. Many Nebraska Legionnaires have received help from NEF in the past.

I will never stop talking about the importance of the American Legion Family. Helping is what the American Legion Family does. We strengthen the nation. We honor all who serve. The American Legion owes its greatness and success to ALL our members. These members spend hours seeing that the job gets done. Regardless of their affiliation, Legion, Auxiliary, Sons or Riders, these individuals find time to serve a greater good.

The Nebraska Commission on Military and Veteran Affairs, in partnership with the University of Nebraska Bureau of Business Research is conducting a vital survey aimed at understanding the needs and opinions of our veterans. This survey is not just another questionnaire. The survey is designed to be quick and easy, taking less than 15 minutes to complete. Respondents' privacy is paramount; no identifying information will be reported, and all responses will be aggregated to ensure complete anonymity. You can find the survey online at: [veterans.nebraska.gov/azimuth](http://veterans.nebraska.gov/azimuth) survey.

I encourage everyone at all levels to sign up for My Legion.org. It's free, and there's answers to any question you may have. Check out the American Legion Basic Course. This course gives you background of the American Legion, and what we stand for. The American Legion has been advocating for Veterans since 1919.

We're looking forward to seeing all of you at the District Conventions. We will report on the Washington Conference and other important issues.

"Character, Values, and Integrity"




**S.A.L. Notes**  
**Eldon Kramer**  
**Detachment Commander**

Greetings "Blue Cappers" and Nebraska Legion Family, from the Detachment of Nebraska Commander Eldon Kramer. Let us remember that membership is very important in our organization. Let us not recruit members without the know-how of our organization and upholding the four pillars of Veterans Affairs and Rehabilitation, National Security, Americanism, and Children and Youth. As of January 14, 2025, Nebraska Squadrons are sitting at 3rd in the Midwest Region 22nd Nationally, with a total of 4,952 which is 67.75% of membership renewed. Remember the sacrifice that was paid for your membership and represent it as a proud possessor of a priceless heritage. Legion Adjutants, Post Commanders, please give a heads up to your S. A. L. members and let's get their dues rounded up. If your card says 2024 you are definitely not paid up. Squadron officers can use mylegion.org for more information, reports, and the ability to pay your members' dues online.

Don't forget about "Be The One". The Crisis Hotline number is 988 and then press 1. January: Invite public officials, local civic leaders, American Legion dignitaries and members of the sponsoring post to attend a local event. Study emphasis during the month should be devoted to Citizenship as required for Point 2 of the Five Point Program. Squadrons, please plan to attend your District Spring Conventions. All District Commanders please notify Eric Martin at the Lincoln Department office 402- 464-6338 if you would like to have a S.A.L. Detachment Commander at your District Spring Convention. Also, make sure that you are promoting and assisting in the Legion programs: Legion Baseball, Boys State, Junior Shooting Sports, Oratorical Contest, Scouting, and Junior Law Cadet. My Commanders project this year is to support the Veterans home with raised garden beds to help them to continue their skills outside in fresh air. If your squadron would like to donate to this effort, mail a check to the Department in charge of Commander Kramer's Project, 150 NW 40th St, Unit A, Lincoln, NE 68528 or Commander Eldon Kramer, 680115 Co RD P, Minatare, NE 69356. If you have any questions, please feel free to give me a call (308) 631-5233. Remember gentlemen we are S.A.L. Strong, keep up the good work Legion Family!

**NEBRASKA AMERICAN LEGION**  
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**Department Officers**

Commander.....Boyd Yochum, Ashland  
 Senior Vice Commander..... Judy Walters, Ainsworth  
 Area A Vice Commander.....Michael Sheridan, Elkhorn  
 Area B Vice Commander.....John Arias, Grand Island  
 Area C Vice Commander.....Tom Crisman, Crete  
 Area D Vice Commander.....Scott Bell, North Platte  
 Adjutant.....Dave Salak, Lincoln  
 Programs Director.....Eric Martin, Lincoln  
 Chaplain.....Steve Witmer, York  
 Historian.....Jennifer Laux, Omaha  
 Judge Advocate.....William Harris, Omaha  
 Finance Officer.....Mark Novak, Dawson  
 Public Relations Officer.....Megan Kallina, Lincoln  
 Sergeant-At-Arms.....Kenneth Schmid, Bellwood  
 Assistant Sergeant-At-Arms.....Gene vonForell, Crawford  
 Service Officer.....Levi Bennett, Lincoln  
 National Executive Committeeman.....Jim Costello, Bellevue  
 Alternate NECman.....John-Henry Pearcy, Papillion

**District Commanders**

Dist. 1.....Gary Sones, Rushville  
 Dist. 2.....Gerald Bouska, Atkinson  
 Dist. 3.....Nick Tramp, Allen  
 Dist. 4.....Kent Holmes, Alliance  
 Dist. 5.....Geoffrey Florom, North Platte  
 Dist. 6.....Burdette Chappell, Kearney  
 Dist. 7.....Adam Schweitzer, Fremont  
 Dist. 8.....Rich Klinger, Omaha  
 Dist. 9.....Amie Moores, Elwood  
 Dist. 10.....Charles Tuttle, Nelson  
 Dist. 11.....Robert Eyers, Jansen  
 Dist. 12.....Martin Neal, Hickman  
 Dist. 13.....Kevin McKinney, Tecumseh  
 Dist. 15.....Ronnie Hindmand, Lincoln



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**Megan Kallina, Editor**  
**Dave Salak, Publisher's Representative**

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**Did you know you can read the Nebraska Legionnaire online at [www.nebraskalegion.net](http://www.nebraskalegion.net)?**

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

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


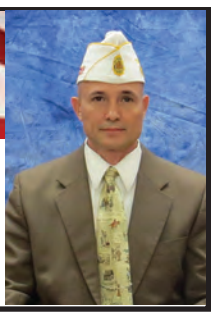
Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Email Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Member ID: \_\_\_\_\_

Mail this form to The American Legion, 150 NW 40th Street, Unit A, Lincoln, NE 68528, or you can email the information to [mkallina@nebraskalegion.net](mailto:mkallina@nebraskalegion.net)






**It's History**  
Jennifer Laux  
Department Historian

**Straight Talk**  
Levi Bennett  
Department Service Officer

**American Legion Department of Nebraska History Word Search**

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

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

**February 1944 (81 years ago)**

- Simon **SHADA**, service officer and adjutant for the Grand Island Post, was responsible for launching the free **MILK** program in the Grand Island schools. Milk was first supplied to only to children from needy war veteran families. Later the program was expanded to include all needy **CHILDREN** and still later to provide for all children recommended as needing it for proper nutrition.
- Nebraska City Post No. 8 is working with the **CHAMBER of COMMERCE** on a program for the speedy **REEMPLOYMENT** of returning veterans of World War II.
- Commander Ed Rock of **GENEVA** Post 68, said, “We need a post **HISTORIAN**. No history of this post has been started. The longer we wait, the harder it will be. In 10 to 15 years, a lot of us World War vets will have had taps blown over us, and our Legion heirs will be wondering who started the post, who were its officers, how many members it had, and what it did through the years. Won’t someone give this serious thought and **VOLUNTEER** for the job?”

**March 1944 (81 years ago)**

- Free **CANTEEN** service for service men and women traveling through **PLAINVIEW** has been set up in the bus station by Plainview Post 148 as a special war activity. By registering their home addresses, the guests are offered free lunch to a maximum of 25 cents. Each guest also receives a card of congratulations from the post.
- **OMAHA** Post 1 with a permanent record-breaking membership above 6,500 was formally designated as a separate Legion **DISTRICT** in the Nebraska Department by action of the state executive committee at its session in Grand Island.
- The **HASTINGS** Post’s biggest contribution to the war effort this year was to give up its fully paid for Legion home in January to the Federal Housing Administration as a means of helping to relieve the **HOUSING** congestion in Hastings due to the influx of war workers. The building will be leased and turned into apartments. But, the building, under the FHA lease terms, will go back to the post after the war is over.

How best to learn about what Veteran Benefits you may be eligible to receive:

The best way to learn about local, state, and federal benefits provided to veterans is to contact an accredited veteran service officer. In Nebraska veterans are fortunate to have many accredited veteran service officers, county, state, and national service officers of recognized veteran service organizations (VSO). This allows our veterans to receive information and service at the local level versus the need to travel countless miles to learn about veteran benefits you have earned and also allows the veteran/dependent the ability to make application to receive such benefits. An accredited veteran service officer will never charge a fee for services rendered. One may locate the contact information of their local county veteran service officer via the internet <https://veterans.nebraska.gov/cvso> or by calling (402) 471-2458. I recommend calling or emailing your local service office to schedule an appointment, this ensures that the service officer will have the time set aside to assist you and also inform you of any documents you may need to bring with you when filing for specific benefits.

I strongly encourage veterans not to engage with non-accredited individuals (claim sharks) who make wild claims about helping veterans file claims, some even going as far as to make statements that they can speed up a claim for benefits. The Veterans Benefits Administration (VBA) uses a National Work Queue, which means once a claim is submitted, it goes into the “cloud” and is pulled down from the cloud to be processed based on the date it was submitted. Claims may be only submitted by the applicant or on the behalf of an applicant by someone who is accredited with the VA, as claim sharks are not accredited, they are not able to submit claims on an applicant’s behalf. The best way to ensure your claim for benefits is addressed effectively by VBA is to work with an accredited service officer who knows what specifics will be needed to ensure you have all the information necessary for VBA to process your claim. There are many social media “veteran influencers” who are taking advantage of veterans by encouraging them to sign contracts to pay fees for something that should not cost any veteran one dime. Claim Sharks are individuals or companies who are not accredited by the United States Department of Veterans Affairs (USDVA); thus they are not required to adhere to the same ethical and professional standards accredited veteran service officers are required to adhere nor are they able to access USDVA claims databases to verify what is actually going on with a claim.

New presumptive conditions: January 8, 2025, the USDVA announced more cancers to be added to the list of those presumed related to burn pit exposure. Cancers added include bladder, ureter, other genitourinary cancers, acute and chronic leukemias, and multiple myeloma. Veterans diagnosed with these conditions, as well as survivors of veterans who passed away due to these conditions, should consider applying for benefits.




**Chaplain's Thoughts**  
Steve Witmer  
Department Chaplain

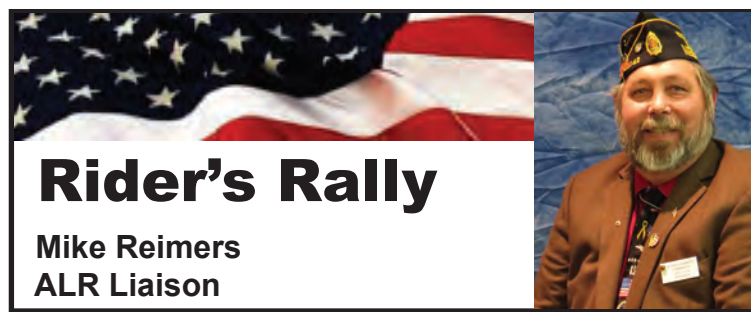
As this paper goes to print, we are beginning a new year. We have so much to thank our Creator God for. The many blessings of the past year, as well as the strength to get through the hard times. We have a new administration taking over in D. C., as well as state and local officials starting a new year. We need to keep these people in our prayers that they will open their minds and hearts to the word of God for guidance in the performance of their duties. These prayers should also include all those who are now in authority within the American Legion family. Pray that they all will discharge their duties well and with our Lord’s full approval. 1 Timothy 2:1-4 says, “I urge, then, first, that petitions, prayers, intercession, and thanksgiving be made for all people— 2 for kings and all those in authority, that we may live peaceful and quiet lives in all godliness and holiness. 3 This is good, and pleases God our Savior, 4 who wants all people to be saved and to come to a knowledge of the truth.” Holding on to the truth of God’s word in our prayers and our daily lives is the most powerful thing we can do to keep our nation strong. May the entire Legion family enjoy the riches of God’s blessings through the coming year.

<b>Sons of The American Legion Membership As of January 15, 2025</b>		
District	2024 Members	2025 Members
1	310	218
2	621	454
3	234	209
4	357	255
5	152	95
6	1,367	984
7	741	555
8	836	713
9	307	199
10	356	143
11	1,111	738
12	236	232
13	126	105
15	135	129
Total	6,889	5,030





**POW/MIA**  
**Boyd Yochum**  
**POW/MIA Liaison**



**Rider's Rally**  
**Mike Reimers**  
**ALR Liaison**

In the last edition, we talked about Ed Sykes, and his efforts to bring home the remains of friends he flew with in Vietnam, two of them being Nebraska pilots who are still listed as MIA – remains not recovered.

As a flight instructor, Ed's class gave him the moniker, "World's Greatest Fighter Pilot," or "WGFP." To this day, Ed refers to himself as the WGFP, because he felt that being a fighter pilot in Vietnam required a state of mind, an attitude.

As we mentioned last time, Ed unfortunately lost three good friends flying in the Vietnam War, his roommate David Thomas Dinan III, and two Nebraskans, Harold "Pappy" Kahler, from Lincoln, and Ronald Dean Stafford, from Oxford. Their remains were not recovered.

Remains of Dinan were later recovered and interred at Arlington National Cemetery. Our Nebraskans, Kahler and Stafford, have not been recovered. I have written about "Pappy" in the past and will revisit his case later. Today is about Ron Stafford.

Sykes told a story about Stafford being shot down and rescued. A short time later he went on R&R and met his wife in Hawaii. She was concerned about his bruised and battered body, and he didn't want to alarm her, so he told a story about getting knocked around in a unit football game. He eventually fessed up or at least told friends he did.

Ronald Dean Stafford was raised in Oxford and joined the U.S. Air Force. On November 21, 1972, an F-111 Aardvark (tail number 67-092, call sign Burger 54) with a crew of two embarked on a combat mission over North Vietnam. The last known contact with the Aardvark occurred when the aircraft was over Laos and approaching the target, which was located at (GC) XE 429 479. When nothing further was heard from Burger 54, search efforts were initiated but were unsuccessful. Ten days after Burger 54 disappeared, pieces of the aircraft were found on a beach in South Vietnam, in the vicinity of (GC) ZD 060 160. Investigators determined that the aircraft had crashed at sea with the crew aboard, and that the crew had probably not survived. No remains were ever found.

American Legion Riders, as most of you know the Riders are made up of Legionnaires, American Legion Auxillary, and The S.A.L. members. This is the group to help tie them all together and with that it is a good steppingstone to work together as Posts, Units, Squadrons, and Chapters to help serve our veterans, veterans' families and communities. The Riders have been out with flag lines, escorts and riding for a good cause. As a rider, I know we can always use help from the rest of the family. Spring is around the corner; take time to check over your bike so it is ready to ride. Keep safety always first. Keep riding!!!!

If you have a Rider Chapter, I would like both the Legion Commander of the Post and the Director of the Chapter to make contact with me.

My contact information is 402-631-9214 or [mgreimers58@gmail.com](mailto:mgreimers58@gmail.com)

## 2025 Department Convention Make Your Reservations Now

The 2025 Department Convention will be held June 26 - 29 at the Quality Inn in Columbus. The DEC will meet at 1:00 p.m. on Thursday, June 26 and at 9:00 a.m. on Friday, June 27. The Joint Session will be held at 1:00 p.m. on Friday, June 27 and the Legion Convention will begin at 3:00 p.m. and go through Sunday, June 29.

Business sessions of the American Legion, Auxiliary, Sons, and Riders will all be held in the Columbus Quality Inn. Reach out to the respective organization for an agenda for the Convention.

The hotel is located at 265 33rd Avenue, Columbus. Rooms are \$109.95 a night plus tax. The last date to get reservations at the Legion rate is June 1 or when the reservation block is full. Call 402-564-1492 to make your reservation. The Convention Registration fee is \$10. For more information, please contact Adjutant Dave Salak.

### Department Convention Program

It's time to start putting together our Department Convention Program. In addition, the Department is selling space in the program for individuals or businesses to advertise. Please ask around your community to garner support. All ads and payments must be received before June 7, 2025. The program is 8.5 x 5.5 in size. Please contact Megan at Headquarters.

- \$10 - page split into eight sections
- \$20 - page split into four sections
- \$30 - page split into two sections
- \$60 - Full page

### Membership Minute Steve Bartos, Chairman

With the 2025 Mid-Year Conference complete, it's time to continue working on membership. After a slow start, I was glad to report that we have done a really good job of catching up.

Considering that we started off the year in 55th (last) place, it is encouraging that we have moved up to 37th place. We missed the 80% target date (which occurred January 15th) by about 3%. There were, however, about 160 posts and 3 districts (Districts 15, 11, and 2) who DID meet or exceed the 80% goal. We need to congratulate them for their efforts --- and start thinking and believing that if they can do it, any post and district can do it!!!

I continue to believe that Legionnaires across the state probably renew at about the same rate. That being so, I also believe that part of our shortfall on each analysis is due to the time lag between members paying their dues and the post adjutants getting them processed and either transmitted electronically to national or mailing them to department headquarters.

I can't encourage posts enough to set up an account with national and transmit dues electronically. It's easy, efficient, saves postage, and eliminates the chance of transmittals getting lost in the mail. I know that not every post has an adjutant who has a computer, but I bet those posts can find a helper for the adjutant who DOES have a computer and would be willing to assist with this relatively simple task.

We have a lot of work to do --- and it will only get done if someone or a team of "someone's" from every post concentrate on membership from now until the department convention. Last year, we were at about 85% on the 80% target ---- essentially a target date ahead. This year we've been running a target behind. Is the late first dues notice the cause? Yes, to some extent. Is the dues increase the cause? Probably, to some extent. Do we know how much blame to put on each? No.

We just have to keep working. Renewals are a key part of the process. But we also have to understand that our goals are based on members who were paid for 2024 but may now have gone to Post Everlasting. They aren't available for renewal --- but need to be replaced.

We created a few "Lucky Legionnaires" at the Mid-Year Conference. Because of the delay in getting out the first dues notice, we moved the cutoff date for the Early Bird drawing from just after the national convention to Veterans Day. Because of the delay, I decided to defer the drawing of the names paid by Veterans Day to the Mid-Year Conference --- and did the same for the Permanent / PUFL members shown on the roster on January 1st.

Winning \$200 each were Clark Lawson (Beatrice Post 27), Raymond Gocke (Ashland Post 129), Gerald Eikmeier (Dodge Post 122), Larry Faiman (Lawrence Post 45), and Terry Pinkley (Columbus Post 84). Winning \$150 Was Adrian Pospisil from Wahoo Post 82.

Have a nice February.

### Eric Martin, New Department Adjutant



The Department would like to congratulate Eric Martin on his selection to fill the Department Adjutant position upon the retirement of Adjutant Salak this coming June. Eric currently serves as the Department Assistant Adjutant and Programs Director. He is a member of Wahoo Post 82 in Wahoo, Nebraska. He earned his eligibility into The American Legion as a

Global War on Terrorism veteran serving in the Marine Corps as an Infantryman and the Army National Guard as a Human Resources NCO.

Eric enlisted in the Marine Corps in 1994 and attended boot camp at MCRD, San Diego, CA, followed by School of Infantry at Camp Pendleton, CA. He served in various operational and training assignments both stateside and overseas as well as afloat units at sea. Eric was first promoted as a noncommissioned officer in 1997 as a Corporal in the Marine Corps and again when he enlisted in 2007 as a Sergeant with the Army National Guard. He retired in February 2022 as a Sergeant First Class with over 22 years of active-duty service.

Eric holds memberships in the Legion's Ye Steivos and ANAVICUS organizations. In Nebraska, he is a member of the Nebraska Veterans Home Board and secretary to the Nebraska Veterans Council.

Eric resides in Lincoln, Nebraska. He has three children and one granddaughter.

Please join us in congratulating Eric on his selection to become the new Department Adjutant.



## 2025 Mid - Year Conference - Norfolk



National and Department Officers are seated at the head table during the Joint Session. Pictured (L to R), NEC Jim Costello, National Vice Commander James Kellogg, Department Commander Yochum, Department President Amanda Washburn, Northwestern Division National Vice President Deb Albers, and NEC Vicki Ozenbaugh.



James Kellogg, NVC (Midwest Region), was presented with a plaque from Department and an Admiralty from the Nebraska Navy. Pictured (L to R) Commander Yochum, NVC James Kellogg, and NEC Jim Costello.



Jennifer Laux presented PDC John-Henry Percy with the yearbook, minutes, and Nebraska Legionnaire newspapers for his year as Commander. Commander Yochum presented Department Historian Jennifer Laux with her yearbook and the plaque from her third-place finish in the yearbook competition.



Commander Yochum presents Fred Craigie with his NEC Hat Shadow Box. It was a gift to Fred for his years of service to the Department as our National Representative.



NEC Costello and NVC Kellogg presented Rollie Otte with an honorary membership to the National Americanism Committee. Pictured (L to R) NEC Costello, Rollie Otte, and NVC Kellogg.



Ella Brennehan, homeschooled, sponsored by Valentine Post 90, was the winner of the annual Nebraska American Legion Oratorical competition and was awarded a \$1,500 scholarship. Second place and a \$1,000 scholarship went to Frank Kovacs of Minden High School, sponsored by Minden Post 94; third place and an \$800 scholarship went to Hannah Taylor of Omaha Marian High School sponsored by Omaha Post 1; and fourth place and a \$500 scholarship went to Cara Thomas of Aurora High School, sponsored by Aurora Post 42. Pictured with the winners (L to R) Commander Yochum, Americanism Chairman Hatfield and Oratorical Chairman Michael Landkamer.



2024-25 Boys' State Governor Grant Ruma, a Fort Calhoun resident and Creighton Prep student spoke to the joint session. Pictured (L to R) Commander Yochum, Grant Ruma, and Americanism Chairman Michael Hatfield.



Noah Jobman was awarded the 2024 Nebraska American Legion Baseball Player of the Year plaque. Pictured (L to R) Commander Yochum, Noah Jobman, and Americanism Chairman Michael Hatfield.

## The Legionnaire Insurance Trust and Wellcare, The Official Medicare Advantage Provider of The American Legion, Announce New Strategic Partnership



*As exclusive Medicare Advantage Partners, Wellcare and The American Legion work to bring innovative healthcare solutions to veterans and their families, and support efforts to reduce veteran suicide*

THE AMERICAN LEGION HQ, Wellcare, the Medicare brand of Centene Corporation (NYSE: CNC), announced today a new strategic partnership with the Legionnaire Insurance Trust (LIT) that brings a direct endorsement of the State Departments of the American Legion participating in the LIT program. Through this new partnership, along with Wellcare's continued national partnership with The American Legion, Wellcare will educate and inform more Legionnaires about their Medicare options while also now being able to amplify its financial support to the individual Departments of The American Legion.

"Wellcare and The American Legion have been partnering to make it easier for veterans who also qualify for Medicare," said David Gay, Wellcare's VP of Business Development. "Now through our partnership with the LIT, we can provide Medicare-eligible veterans another way to take advantage of the healthcare plan options Wellcare offers that include access to doctors, whole person care, special/added benefits, and a team that is experienced and qualified to work with them and their VA coverage while also being able to better support their State Departments."

The LIT partnership also will give Wellcare the ability to expand its critical collaboration with The American Legion's Be the One campaign, which is focused on eradicating the number of veteran suicides and eliminating the stigma of asking for mental health help while providing peer-to-peer support and resources for those in need.

Wellcare and The American Legion launched their multi-year partnership in 2023. Wellcare serves as the exclusive Medicare Advantage partner, connecting Medicare-eligible veterans, their spouses, and the greater military community with innovative products and solutions that complement the benefits eligible veterans receive through their Veterans Affairs (VA) healthcare, as well as hosting joint events at Legion Posts nationwide and virtually to connect and educate about opportunities for Medicare Advantage Plans.

For more information on specific Wellcare products, Legionnaires are invited to call 844-640-0095 (TTY:711) and at Wellcare4Veterans.com and thelit.com.

### About The Legionnaire Insurance Trust

Founded in 1965, the nonprofit Legionnaire Insurance Trust is comprised of 50 state departments of the American Legion providing insurance services and other protection programs for Legionnaires and their families. Proceeds from the program are used to support American Legion departments' veteran and community service initiatives. Since inception, the LIT has delivered over \$90 million back to the departments.

### About Wellcare

For more than 20 years, Wellcare has offered a range of Medicare products, including

Medicare Advantage and Medicare Prescription Drug Plans (PDP), which offer affordable coverage beyond Original Medicare. Wellcare is the Medicare brand of Centene Corporation, a leading healthcare enterprise committed to helping people live healthier lives. Beginning Jan. 1, 2022, Centene's Medicare brands, including Allwell, Health Net, Fidelis Care, Trillium Advantage, 'Ohana Health Plan and TexanPlus, transitioned to the Wellcare brand. For more information about Wellcare, visit [www.wellcare.com](http://www.wellcare.com).

## Nebraska American Legion 2024-2025 Lottery Winners

Thank you to all that participated in this year's lottery. The drawing was held during the Sunday Joint Session of the Mid-Year Conference in Norfolk. The winners were:

Grand Prize:	\$2,500, Robert Wilhelm, Unadilla
2nd Place:	\$1,000, Chris Mehringer, McCook
3rd Place:	\$ 500, Virgil Preister, Humphrey
4th Place:	\$ 200, William Potter, Valentine
5th Place:	\$ 200, Thomas Lundquist, Omaha
6th Place:	\$ 200, Paul Brown, Gretna
7th Place:	\$ 200, Fred Craigie, Lincoln
8th Place:	\$ 200, Beverly Neel, Wayne

A special drawing was also held for tickets purchased at the Conference. Each of the following won \$100: Dan Benes, Valparaiso; Don Nelson, Clay Center; and Ken Schmid, Bellwood. Doug Frahm of Amelia and National Vice Commander, James Kellogg, forfeited their \$100 prize for a chance at the grand prize.



## Candidate Announcements

### Judy "Mo" Walters Department of Nebraska Commander

Judy "Mo" Walters has announced her candidacy for the high office of Department Commander for 2025-2026. She is eligible for membership in the American Legion through her service in the United States Navy from 1973 to 1977. She joined the American Legion in 1981 and is a current PUFL member of Post 79 in Ainsworth. She currently serves as the Post 79 Commander and Brown County Commander. She served as the District One Vice Commander and Commander from 2019 to 2023. She served as Area D Vice Commander from 2023 - 24. She is currently serving as the Senior Vice Commander.

She graduated from the American Legion College in November 2023 and completed the Basic Training Course in 2018. She has attended the four past national conventions and currently serves on the National Americanism Commission. She has also attended the Washington Conference in 2023 and 2024 and plans to attend this year.

Judy worked for The Department of Health and Human Services as a Social Service Worker and Supervisor for 28 years. Judy also worked for 7 years as a County Veteran Service Officer for the three counties of Brown, Rock and Keya Paha. She is now retired and has time to devote serving the Legionnaires of Nebraska as their Department Commander. Judy would appreciate the support of her fellow Legionnaires to be elected to the high office of Department Commander.

### Doug Frahm Senior Vice Commander

Doug Frahm has announced his candidacy for Senior Vice Commander Department of Nebraska. Doug lives in the small town of Amelia, Nebraska where he manages the family ranch and custom bales hay for his neighbors. He has a son Joseph, four step children, Robin, Jodie, Janet, and Aaron.

Doug's community service includes being elected as a Holt County Supervisor, Chairman of the Holt County Board of Equalization, Chairman of the Wyoming Township Board, local Church Trustee, past 911 Board Member, Central Nebraska Community Action Partnership Board member and is a member on the NE Nebraska Juvenile Justice Board.

Doug is a Vietnam Veteran having served in the USAF and ANG for a total of 26 years. After retiring in 2005, he joined the American Legion and has been a continuous member for 20 years. Doug is a dual member belonging to Squadron 320. Doug has served as Chambers Post 320 Commander, Membership Chairperson and Chaplain. Department offices he has held include Holt County Commander, District 2 Commander (where he received both the Hard Charger and Citizenship award) and Area B Vice Commander. He has attended most Department Conventions and Mid-year conferences since 2008, serving on the Department Executive Committee for six years. Doug has also been a Department of Nebraska delegate to the National Convention for the past six years and has served as a National Security Council delegate. He is also Vice Chairman of the National Legislative Council and Second Vice President of The Boys State Foundation. In 2017 Doug was appointed Junior Shooting Sports Program Liaison and recently became the Chief Range Officer for the National Junior Shooting Sports Program. Doug also attended the National American Legion Collage and is a graduate of the class of 2017.

Doug's goal is to work closely with the entire Department of Nebraska American Legion Family. He knows our Legion family strength comes through our membership in the Legion, the Auxiliary, the Sons of The American Legion, and the Legion Riders. He also believes that the programs we support, and sponsor, are what makes us leaders in our Communities, State and Nation.

Doug will work closely with the Department Commander and Department Staff to be an effective leader. He asks for your support and your vote for Senior Vice Commander Department of Nebraska. Thank you for your Support!



Photo Credit: Valentine Midland News- Veterans at the Cody-Kilogore Unified Schools Veterans Day Program are pictured, back row, L to R: Russell Wobig, Bill Cox, John Ravenscroft, Jim Heath, Duane Lancaster, John Johnson, LeRoy Semin, Cherry County Veterans Service Officer Ashley Vackiner, Pete Hand, Tom Cobb, Adam Johnson, Vice Commander Post 319 Monica Ford, Tom Hoffman, Kim Starr, and Caleb Ohlmann. Front row, L to R: Post Commander 319 Jerry Fullerton, Department Commander Boyd Yochum, Stan Schied, Past Post Commander Bill Williams, Rich Cobb, Buster Hand, Merle Ford, Ken Starr.



Photo Credit: Nathan Arneal, North Bend Eagle-Morse Bluff Post 340 presented a certificate of 50 years of continuous membership to Jim Poulas. Pictured (L to R) Jim Poulas and Commander Galen Johnson.



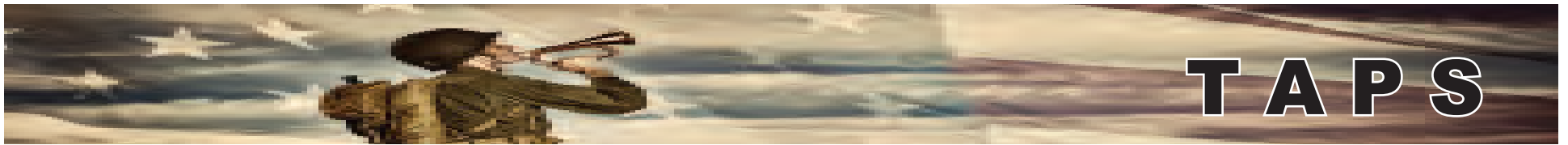
**NEBRASKA**  
Good Life. Great Sacrifice.  
VETERANS' AFFAIRS



**HONORING  
NEBRASKA'S  
WORLD WAR II  
VETERANS.  
HELP SPREAD  
THE WORD  
ABOUT OUR  
RECOGNITION  
PROGRAM.**

**VETERANS.NEBRASKA.GOV/WW2**





Aitken, Phillip, Falls City, Vietnam  
 Allison, Robert, Norfolk, Vietnam  
 Anderson, Wayne, C., Beatrice, Vietnam  
 Atkinson, James, A., Albion, Korea  
 Augstums, Aldis, A., Valparaiso, Vietnam  
 Aulner, Kenneth, H., Hastings, WWII  
 Baumert, Francis, Howells, Vietnam  
 Baxter, Warren, L., Edison, Vietnam  
 Bayer, Clarence, F., Howells, Vietnam  
 Befort, Edwin, J., Paxton, Vietnam  
 Bennett, Lonzo, H., Millard  
 Berlowitz, John, Valparaiso  
 Bernhardt, Bobby, J., Hay Springs, Korea  
 Bickford, Terry, W., Weeping Water  
 Black, Richard, A., Lynch, Vietnam  
 Blome, Joseph, G., Fremont, Vietnam  
 Bogan, John, D., Hastings, WWII  
 Bradford, Gerald, D., Denton  
 Brown, Ardell, Milford, Korea  
 Brunkhorst, Mickey, A., Wauneta, Vietnam  
 Bucholz, Delon, R., Hastings, Korea  
 Bunach, Leonard, J., Omaha, WWII  
 Burgess, Clyde, W., Pleasant Dale, WWII  
 Buss, Jerry, Virginia, SAL  
 Byington, Garry, V., North Platte, Korea  
 Carson, Gary, L., Columbus, Vietnam  
 Case, Jerald, D., Kearney, Vietnam  
 Chartier, Donald, D., North Platte, Korea  
 Christensen, George, Kearney, Korea  
 Colon, Rene, L., Kenesaw, Vietnam  
 Conley, David, W., Plattsmouth, Korea  
 Connelly, Michael, J., Lincoln, Vietnam  
 Cordsen, Alvin, E., Central City, Vietnam  
 Cotton, Harley, F., Denton, Vietnam  
 Dau, John, Wahoo, WWII  
 Debban, Harold, Kearney, Korea  
 Diller, Jerry, L., Grand Island, SAL  
 Duckworth, Stanley, T., North Platte, WWII  
 Eber, Eldon, Tecumseh  
 Everett, James Jr, St. Paul, Vietnam  
 Evers, Eldon, R., Bridgeport, Korea  
 Ewing, Darryl, L., Callaway, Vietnam  
 Fangmeyer, Harlan, W., Geneva, Korea  
 Floyd, Becky, L., Pleasant Dale, Vietnam  
 Forch, Paul, B., Lincoln, Korea  
 Fowler, David, D., Bayard, SAL  
 Fowler, Delbert, D., Bayard, SAL  
 Fritz, David, Falls City, Vietnam  
 Fuhrman, James, T., Cortland, Korea  
 Furber, James, G., Columbus, Korea  
 Geiser, Gary, L., Lincoln, Vietnam  
 Gill, Tamara, Columbus, Vietnam  
 Gramlich, Roy, Carroll, Korea  
 Green, Glen, Aurora  
 Groshans, Steven, D., Dalton, Vietnam  
 Haake, Roger, L., Tobias, Vietnam  
 Haas, Gail, E., Valentine, Korea  
 Hammond, Tad, D., Lincoln, Korea  
 Haney, Edgar, Arlington, Vietnam  
 Haney, Ted, A., Gothenburg, Korea  
 Hanis, Joe, A., Brainard, Korea  
 Hanke, Robert, J., Columbus, Vietnam  
 Hanquist, Roger, Polk, Korea  
 Hargis, Kenneth, E., Wilcox, Korea  
 Harvat, James, E., Omaha  
 Hauschild, Wesley, H., Syracuse, Vietnam  
 Hawkins, Milton, L., Kearney, WWII  
 Hawks, Robert, L., Lexington, Korea  
 Hebda, Raymond, Silver Creek, Korea  
 Heller, Thomas, W., Millard, Vietnam  
 Herman, Vernon, West Point, Korea  
 Hinrichs, Richard, Glenvil, Korea  
 Holling, William, C., Elkhorn  
 Holsten, Melvin, McCook, Korea  
 Holz, Virgil, D., Page  
 Homolka, Jerry, Weston, Vietnam  
 Houdek, John, Omaha, Vietnam  
 Howerter, Ronald, Elm Creek  
 Ihrie, James, Lincoln, Vietnam  
 Janing, Richard, C., Geneva, Vietnam

Jensen Jr, Thomas, P., Papillion, Vietnam  
 Jensen, Carol, Papillon, Vietnam  
 Jones, Bradley, K., Lincoln, SAL  
 Jones, Warren, Auburn, Korea  
 Kaiser, Lawrence, D., Gretna, Vietnam  
 Kampschneider, Larry, West Point, Vietnam  
 Keuter, Richard, L., Lincoln, Vietnam  
 Kia, Donald, Pender, WWII  
 Kirchmann, Francis, Valley, Korea  
 Klostermeier, Steven, F., DeWitt, SAL  
 Kobus, Thomas, David City, Vietnam  
 Koerting, Lloyd, E., Pierce, Korea  
 Krueger, Arlon, Grand Island, Korea  
 Krueger, Lorain, D., Denton, Korea  
 Krueger, Percy, P., Hallam, Vietnam  
 Kruger, Douglas, L., Omaha, SAL  
 Krumm, David, L., Lincoln, Vietnam  
 Krzycki, John, A., Omaha, WWII  
 Kunz, Roland, J., Howells, Korea  
 Lamb, Dean, R., Syracuse, Vietnam  
 Lange, Dennis, W., Minden, Vietnam  
 Larson, Larry, Syracuse, Global War on Terrorism  
 Latter, Ronny, M., Wilcox, Vietnam  
 Less, John, Palmer, Vietnam  
 Lester, William, C., Papillion, Korea  
 Loghry, Leroy, J., Edison, Vietnam  
 Lynch, Richard, Palmer, Vietnam  
 Madsen, Darrel Sr, A., Fremont, Korea  
 Maly, Lawrence, Alma, Persian Gulf  
 Maret, Kenny, Grand Island, Vietnam  
 Marisch, Donald, J., Grand Island  
 May, Harold, L., Kearney, Korea  
 McAuliffe, Terry, Sterling, Vietnam  
 McClellan, Donald, R., Palmer, WWII  
 McCray, Melvin, L., Doniphan, Korea  
 McGill, Keith, L., Verdel, Korea  
 McKinney, John, E., Lincoln, SAL  
 McKissick, Alan, R., Beatrice, Vietnam  
 Meisinger, Larry, G., Louisville, Vietnam  
 Mercer, Donald, E., Chadron, Korea  
 Messinio, Joseph, P., Chadron, Vietnam  
 Miller, Guy III, G., Lincoln, Vietnam  
 Mizner, Chester, D., Ainsworth, Vietnam  
 Mongar, Dean, Valparaiso, Vietnam  
 Moore, Kenneth, Omaha, WWII  
 Moran, Harry, B., Valentine, Korea  
 Morgan, Gary, D., Albion, Vietnam  
 Morgan, John, Valparaiso, Vietnam  
 Mullen, Simuel, Omaha, SAL  
 Murfin, Larry, D., Ainsworth  
 Myers, Vaden, Geneva  
 Nicholas, Gregory, J., Palmer, Vietnam  
 Nielson, Dale, E., Chapman, Korea  
 Ninas, Harlan, Howells, Vietnam  
 Noonan, James, P., Omaha, Korea  
 Ocken, Robert, L., Waco, Korea  
 Oerman, Merlin, L., Uehling, Korea  
 Oharrow, Gerald, W., Papillion, Vietnam  
 Ohern, Michael, Palmer, SAL  
 Peed, Kenneth, D., Verdel, Korea  
 Peterson, Chapin, Silver Creek, Korea  
 Pipal, Alan, North Platte, Vietnam  
 Pollman Jr, Walter, H., Trenton, Korea  
 Pollock, Wayne, Ewing, Korea  
 Portz, Robert, Milford, Korea  
 Pritchard, Donald, D., Kenesaw  
 Radcliffe, Walter, H., Lincoln, Vietnam  
 Raftery, Lonny, G., Hickman, Vietnam  
 Raitt, Richard, C., David City, WWII  
 Ralston, Lee, W., North Platte, Vietnam  
 Rathe, Dell, L., Sterling, Vietnam  
 Redel, Larry, L., Columbus, Vietnam  
 Reiss, Delbert, Dorchester, Korea  
 Rittenburg, Kevin, L., Valparaiso, Lebanon/Grenada  
 Roarty, William, E., Omaha, Korea  
 Robertson, Randall, D., Orchard, Vietnam  
 Rohde, Francis, O'Neill, Korea

Saathoff, Merlyn, L., Sterling, Korea  
 Sanne, Richard, D., Neligh, SAL  
 Schacht, Elden, L., Orchard, Korea  
 Schademann, Lester, Albion, WWII  
 Schiber, Oliver, Nebraska City  
 Schliep, Wesley, E., Clay Center  
 Schuelke, Johnny, L., Ashland, Vietnam  
 Schultz, Frank, Milligan, Vietnam  
 Scott, Charles, Tecumseh, Korea  
 Seamann, Richard, Hastings, Vietnam  
 Sehi, John, Elgin, Vietnam  
 Self, Kenneth, P., Gretna, Vietnam  
 Simpson, Donald, L., Stromsburg  
 Sirek, Hoyt, D., Orchard, WWII  
 Sluka, Donald, Milligan, Korea  
 Solter, Jack, L., Gothenburg, Korea  
 Stetson, Danny, Chadron, Vietnam  
 Stewart, Harry, M., Sutherland, Vietnam  
 Svec, Christopher, J., Milligan, SAL  
 Sweet, Charles, L., Albion  
 Taylor, James, Arlington, Vietnam  
 Tegtman, Raymond, J., Stamford, Korea  
 Terrell, Ralph, Geneva, Vietnam  
 Thompson, Doyle, Clearwater, Korea  
 Timm, William, J., Kearney, Korea  
 Toben, Arnold, L., Doniphan, Korea  
 Truhlar, Sally, Lincoln, Korea  
 Tucker, Bruce, A., Waverly  
 Tyler, Thomas, Greeley, Vietnam  
 Urdiales, Leon, U., Morrill, SAL  
 Vasina, Richard, J., Colon, Korea  
 Wagner, Daniel, J., Millard, Vietnam  
 Waters, Teresa, Morrill, Persian Gulf  
 Weber, Dennis, Stuart, Vietnam  
 Wegner, Dallas, Palmer, SAL  
 Weir, John, L., Hastings, Korea  
 Weisbrook, Harold, E., Dix, Korea  
 Wendt, Wayne, W., Spencer, Vietnam  
 Werner, Gerald, L., Beatrice, WWII  
 Wietjes, Donald, R., Kearney, Vietnam  
 Wigington, William Jr, L., Chadron, Vietnam  
 William, Harris, M., Vietnam  
 Williams, Donavan, E., Lincoln, WWII  
 Williams, William, Lincoln, Vietnam  
 Wirthman, Leo, L., Omaha, Korea

Wobken, Elwood, Uehling, Korea  
 Wurdinger, Eldon, Columbus, Korea  
 Zimmerman, Richard, Papillion, Korea

**Corrections from December Taps list: Thomas W. Turner of Swanton, Diana K. Bayliss of Homer, Elmer Nemece of Wilbur, and David M. Totten of Elgin, are alive and well.**

## Mail Call

Dear Nebraska American Legion members,

Thank you so much for all of the beautiful holiday cards you sent to the Department. We really appreciate the thoughtfulness and are looking forward to an inspiring and productive new year.  
 Department Staff

## Events Calendar

### February

- 8 District 10 Convention
- 11 District 15 Convention
- 15 District 8 & 13 Conventions
- 17 Presidents Day- Office Closed
- 22 - 26 Washington Conference

### March

- 8 District 6 Convention
- 15 District 3, 7, 9, 12 Conventions  
American Legion Birthday
- 16 District 2 Convention
- 22 District 1, 5, 11 Conventions
- 23 District 4 Convention

### April

- 18 Good Friday - Office Closed

### May

- 5 - 8 Spring Meetings
- 16 - 18 Oratorical Contest
- 26 Memorial Day - Office Closed

Check [www.nebraskalegion.net](http://www.nebraskalegion.net) under the meetings tab for upcoming National, State, and District events.

# Life's Too Long Not to Belong

Research shows that being active and enjoying time with friends is good for your health.

**The American Legion** and Grouper have partnered to reward eligible members for staying socially active!

**LEGIONNAIRES 65+ WITH AN ELIGIBLE MEDICARE ADVANTAGE OR SUPPLEMENT PLAN RECEIVE:**

- ✓ \$50 initial payment upon confirming eligibility
- ✓ \$20 every 3 months of reported social activities





To see if your plan covers Grouper, please visit:

[GrouperGroups.com/NE-Legion](http://GrouperGroups.com/NE-Legion)



# Grouper

Call 833-445-2400 Email [info@hellogrouper.com](mailto:info@hellogrouper.com)

**No personal information needed to check eligibility - just your health plan name and your age!**





Valley Post 58 presented certificates of continuous membership to sixteen of their members at a Veteran's Day dinner. Pictured (L to R) Dick Rowe, 50 Years; Ron King, 70 years; Roger Dill, 25 years; Larry Bottger, 15 years; Phil Ward, 20 years; and Gary Wasserburger, 40 years.



Boyd County Government Day was held November 19th at the Boyd County Courthouse. The American Legion Post 51, Auxiliary members and several county officials helped facilitate the day. Pictured top the local county law enforcement briefs students about their jobs. Pictured bottom Boyd County American Legion Commander Jeff Schuerman and Howard Tiefenthaler conducted a flag retirement ceremony to end the day.



Ashland Post 129 presented Quilts of Valor to its members. Pictured top Harold Terry. Pictured bottom Marlin Krull.



Dodge Post 122 presented Quilts of Valor to its members for their service. Quilts were made by back row (L to R) Dee Eikmeier, Ellen Konsel, LuAnn Franzluebbers, and Jeri Janecek. Pictured front row (L to R) John Kaup, Norman Kempf, Ronald Maresh, and Kenneth Widhalm.



Cedar Bluffs Post 158 presented several of its members pins at their Vietnam Pinning Ceremony.



Kearney Post 52 American Legion Riders Director, Jim VanAmburg, presented a check to PGA Hope in the amount of \$500.00 on November 18th. PGA Hope is a 7-week program that provides military veterans with free golf experiences taught by PGA professionals.



Papillion Post 32 Color Guard supported La Vista's annual "Salute to Veterans" banquet held on November 3, 2024. Pictured top (L to R) Mike Alvarez, Becky Manahan, Sherri Bejvancesky, and Suzanne Glover. Pictured bottom Papillion Post 32 is also the new home for an M60 tank. This 93,000lb tank came from Burwell Post 298.



Bennington Post 266 recently updated their Post home with new signage and remodeled their building.



Hallam Auxiliary Unit 294 presented Quilts of Valor to four veterans from Hallam Legion Post 294. Pictured (L to R) Randy Amundson, Wayne Eggert, John Kerns, William Rowell.



Palisade Post 318 conducted their flag retirement ceremony on November 14.



Custer County Government Day was held and Callaway Post 59 recieved the award for most post members present to assist. Pictured (L to R) Ivan Phelps and Custer County Commander William Schaad.



Table Rock Post 289 donated \$500 to their local Head Start program. Pictured (L to R) Heather Rose, Jerry Vrtiska, Adjutant Gregg Clement, Sandy Beason, and Kristen Ulmstead.





The American Legion Auxiliary  
Department of Nebraska

**The Star**

February - March 2025



## DEPARTMENT PRESIDENT - AMANDA WASHBURN



during the Conference. We are so incredibly proud of her!

I am sure I sound like a broken record, but please make sure you are sending in membership as it comes in. Members who were not paid by January 31st are now delinquent. There are programs that require three years of membership, so please don't be the reason a member is not eligible to apply. As of January 13th, we are in 3rd place in our Division at 75.16% of our goal. We have 0 units that have 0 memberships sent in, so I am very excited about that!

I am asking that all units reach out to their members to remind them to pay their dues. We are so close to reaching the 85% target mark by March 15th. If you need any assistance with membership or have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact Department Secretary Roxanne, Membership

I hope you all are having a great 2025 and are enjoying the unusually nice weather we have been having!

I want to start by thanking everyone who attended the Mid-Year Conference and participated in the ALA programs training on Saturday. It went really well, and I think we all were able to learn a lot. We were so lucky to have our very own Northwestern Division National Vice President Deb Albers make her official visit to Nebraska

<b>District 1</b> March 22 — President Amanda	<b>District 2</b> March 16 — Vice President Ruth
<b>District 3</b> March 15 — Chaplain Lori	<b>District 4</b> March 23 — President Amanda
<b>District 5</b> March 22 — Historian Vicki	<b>District 6</b> March 8 — President Amanda
<b>District 7</b> March 15 — Historian Vicki	<b>District 8</b> February 15 — Chaplain Lori
<b>District 9</b> March 15 — President Amanda	<b>District 10</b> February 8 — President Amanda
<b>District 11</b> March 22 — Vice President Ruth	<b>District 12</b> March 15 — Vice President Ruth
<b>District 13</b> February 15 — President Amanda	

Chair Loree, or me. We will do our best to get you the answer.

District Conventions are coming up in the next few months, and I know that the officer team is so excited to attend and see many of you there! We are encouraging as many members and units as possible to attend the meetings. Each of the Districts has to have at least 20% of their Units at the meeting for a quorum to conduct business.

Contact your District President

if you need any information or any other details. I have included a list of dates of the Conventions and who will be attending.

I have thoroughly enjoyed my travels so far this year and am looking forward to the next ones! I have been able to meet so many members and hear the wonderful things that our members are doing. I know that Nebraska has a special group of members, and we are doing great things to support our veterans, active-duty military, and

our children. It is really important that we report these activities on the year-end report and let everyone know what we are doing!

I know I have said it before, but please let me know if you would like me to come to your meeting or event and I will do my best to attend. Here is to a great 2025 for everyone!

*Amanda Washburn  
Department President*

## MID-YEAR CONFERENCE

Almost 90 ALA members traveled to Norfolk for the annual Mid-Year Conference. Educational and fun training was held on Saturday, and members were able to "try out" the different programs. They made their own poppies, drafted their own Americanism essays, and tested their teamwork and leadership skills in a paper airplane toss. Congrats to "American Spirit" for being the winner there. Thank you, all, for your enthusiasm and willingness to try new things.



ABOVE: ALA Northwestern Vice President Debra Albers speaking to the DEC.

## DEPARTMENT OFFICER CANDIDATE ANNOUNCEMENTS

NEC – Vicki Ozenbaugh  
President – Ruth Hietbrink  
Vice President – Vicki Cyboron  
Historian – Lori Reimers  
Chaplain – None



ABOVE: Past Department Presidents attending their luncheon. Back row (L to R) are Roxanne Haitt, Gayla Schmid, Kathy Mazur, Elizabeth Paes, Lynne Wild, Beverly Neel, and Donna Hatfield. Front row (L to R) are Vicki Ozenbaugh, Debra Albers, and current President Amanda Washburn.

RIGHT: Members attend the Saturday session.

BELOW: Department Officers, (L to R) President Amanda Washburn, Secretary Roxanne Hiatt, Vice President Ruth Hietbrink, Historian Vicki Cyboron, and Chaplain Lori Reimers



## DAVENPORT



ABOVE: The Davenport American Legion Auxiliary #335 met at Park View Haven for their January meeting and to help Past Department President Bonnie Dumler celebrate her 90th Birthday. Her birthday was on January 15th.



# LINCOLN VA CBOC NEWS

Happy New Year! Once again, I want to thank all of the ALA units and American Legion family for their continued support of the Lincoln VA Community Based Outpatient Clinic (CBOC) with their very generous donations that were used to cheer up, show appreciation for their service, and help/assist our veterans during 2024. All were used and appreciated very much. Once again with your help, we were able to make the holidays happier for over 150 veterans.

I also want to thank all who contributed to the "Dollar Day" and "Gifts for Yanks" funds. Although

the number of veterans in the Regional Center has declined, those that we do see are very excited and appreciate our visits and tokens (Especially the donuts. Chocolate-covered raised donuts are the biggest hit).

Coming up is National Salute to Veteran Patient Week --- February 10-14. Once again at the CBOC, we will be planning something every day to show our appreciation to our veterans.

Linda Varejcka  
Lincoln CBOC Rep.



## CHADRON

Chadron Unit 12 had a busy December 2024. From helping put on a Veterans Christmas party at Hot Springs to decorating a Christmas tree for the Festival of Trees in Chadron (for which I was just informed that we won 4th prize out of 43 trees) to helping in

numerous other events in the area. Thank you to all and looking forward to a New Year with many more community activities for which you can help.

Francine Dolezal  
Auxiliary Unit President



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

**2024-2025 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
Feb.	#225 Eddyville	#288 Farnam	#264 Dorchester	#16 Norfolk	#7 Alliance	#7 Alliance	#266 Bennington
Mar.	#59 Callaway	#290 Elwood	#371 Valparaiso	#72 Pierce	#12 Chadron	#133 Culbertson	#49 Utica
Apr.	#199 Cambridge	#377 Wilcox	#264 Dorchester	#302 Leigh	#213 Wallace	#213 Wallace	#354 Pleasant Dale
May	#240 Milligan	#316 Elm Creek	#3 Lincoln	#283 Platte Center	#200 Bayard	#200 Bayard	Dist.11 Juniors
June	#126 Broken Bow	#95 Curtis	#335 Davenport	#175 Jackson	#312 Broadwater	#312 Broadwater	#222 Shubert
July	#95 Curtis	#209 Franklin	#283 Platte Center	#80 Humphrey	#301 Dalton	#301 Dalton	#27 Beatrice
Aug.	#251 Arcadia	#218 Exeter	#266 Bennington	#302 Leigh	#7 Alliance	#36 Gering	#266 Bennington
Sept.	#11 Hastings	#203 McCook	#353 Louisville	#84 Columbus	#36 Gering	#36 Gering	#222 Shubert
Oct.	#147 Crete	#199 Cambridge	#27 Beatrice	#357 Brunswick	#7 Alliance	#7 Alliance	#27 Beatrice
Nov.	#257 Eustis	#209 Franklin		Private Donor	#17 Sidney	#17 Sidney	#362 Elkhorn
Dec.	#310 Gibbon	#288 Farnam	#27 Beatrice	#327 Bellwood	#7 Alliance	#36 Gering	#27 Beatrice

**Please read the ABC book under "Service to Veterans." 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

## WILLIAM SULLIVAN AMERICAN LEGION AUXILIARY FUNDRAISER

### ANNUAL SPAGHETTI DINNER AND BAKE SALE

Unit #218 at Exeter Legion, Exeter, Nebraska.

Sunday, February 16, 2025

11:00 AM - 1:00 PM

Free Will Offering — Everyone Welcome

\*Wine by the glass available for purchase during the meal.

Proceeds going towards building improvement and scholarship funds.



## HOLIDAY MESSAGE

AS WE ENTER INTO THE NEW YEAR, PLEASE KEEP THOSE WHO HAVE BOOTS ON THE GROUND IN YOUR THOUGHTS AND PRAYERS.

I WOULD BE REMISS IF I DID NOT TAKE TIME TO THANK EACH OF YOU FOR WHAT YOU DO FOR OUR VETERANS ACROSS THE STATE AND LOCALLY.

WE KNOW WHO WE ARE,  
WHAT WE DO, AND  
WHY IT MATTERS!  
BLESSINGS TO EACH OF YOU.

Beverly A. Neel  
Dept. VA & R Chairman

## WEST POINT



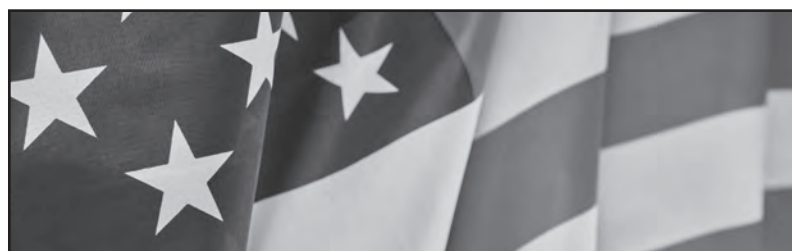
ABOVE: West Point Unit 70 surprised our local law enforcement officers by making and delivering a variety of treats to the Cuming County Sheriff's Department, West Point Police Department, Nebraska State Patrol, and the Cuming County Dispatch office in West Point.

## WALLACE

Wallace American Auxiliary Unit 213 received the GOOD NEIGHBOR AWARD from the Wallace Fall Festival Committee in September 2024.

The Auxiliary continues to add veteran bricks to their new Veterans Memorial Wall. It will complete the remodel of the Veteran Legion Hall with the additional \$20,000 Grant from the Robert F. Hanich Charitable Trust / Adams Bank & Trust, Trustee. This grant will be used to complete the kitchen in 2025, which is the last area of the hall receiving a complete renovation.

Wallace community members, NHS, and American Legion and Auxiliary members helped Jamie Einspahr and his family pack and ship more than 50 Big Red Battle Boxes to the overseas military in December 2024.





## MEMBERSHIP

The American Legion celebrates its birthday each year on March 15. In 2025, National is offering an award for any Department reaching 85% in membership by that date. As of this writing, Nebraska is at 75% and needs just 1,550 members to reach the 85%. That's about 5 members per unit in our state. To paraphrase a Bob the Builder reference from when my nephews were small, "Can we do it? Yes, we can!"

Membership is all about "Leading the Way" – National President Trish Ward's theme for 2024-2025 – using the element she assigned to our Northwestern Division, namely Energy, and combining it with Creativity – which is what Department of Nebraska President Amanda Washburn is supporting through her project of the Veterans Creative Arts Festival. So, let's all lead the way and put our energetic, creative resources toward making some wonderful "Membership Moments," as Past Department President Lisa Moore calls them. Please share with me or with Department what your units have been doing and how those efforts have affected your membership rosters.

Let's take a moment and celebrate our 100% Units: Crawford Unit #138 (119.23%), Morrill Unit #10 (111.11%), Loup City Unit #48 (102.78%), Dodge Unit #122 (101.69%), Broadwater Unit #312 (100.00%), Cortland Unit #253 (100%), Overton Unit #277 (100.00%), Paxton Unit #303 (100%), and Potter Unit #291 (100.00%). Congratulations, Auxiliary units, for combining your leadership skills with both energetic and creative efforts to achieve an exceptional outcome!!

And now, let's check in on what

a FANTASTIC job our districts are doing (statistics are as of mid-January). Last year at this time, we didn't have one single district – NOT ONE – with over 80% in membership. And, this year, we have six – FULLY HALF! In addition, we had one district who was still working to reach the 60% threshold while every single one of our districts is already over 70% in 2025. Here are the statistics using teams from the University of Nebraska Athletic Department to cheer on and encourage our efforts:

Like their counterparts on the Men's Basketball team, who are off to a 12-4 start and having only one loss at home, District 5 has gotten off to a strong start with 84.78% membership, including 2 units at 100% and 2 more over 95%. In addition, every single unit in the district is over 50%. And, only one of them is under 60%. Way to go, District 5!

The Men's Baseball team won't start its season until Valentine's Day, yet District 3 isn't waiting for the team to lead the way, as they are already at 83.50% membership. I didn't find any 100% units in the District (which one of you will be first?); but every single one of their counties is above 70%, and all but one of their units is over 50%.

District 2 is always a leader in membership, and this year is no different as they are at 82.89%. Their team, Men's Track & Field, finished the last season as Big Ten Champions and had a couple of team members participate in the Olympics last summer. Will District 2 be just as invigorated in 2025?

The Men's Wrestling team is showing District 9 how it's done by compiling a 6-1 record in dual meets and finishing either 1st or 2nd among 43 teams in a couple

of invitationals. But, there's a reason that District 9 has 82.79% membership – they have just 2 counties under 80%, and another 7 members will move those counties over that mark as well.

Like all good Husker fans, District 13 was excited to be represented by Men's Football this year. And, their fandom efforts sure didn't hurt, as the team not only finished with a winning record, they came home with their first bowl win since 2015. With your 81.37% membership, keep showing us how inspiring you can be, District 13!

Alright, District 7, the Women's Basketball team has one more win than the men's team, and they are also undefeated at home. At 80.03%, renewing another 80 members will leapfrog your district past that men's team and right into 1st place!

District 11 was in 1st place for membership prior to Department Convention in 2024 and, consequently, had the privilege to be represented by the Women's Volleyball team this year. The District is off to a slower start in the latter part of 2024 with 79.32% membership; but, like the Final Four Volleyball team, there's no doubt they'll make some big advances to finish out their year.

District 12 has traditionally seemed to enjoy being in the middle of the pack; but, the Women's Bowling team, which has yet to finish lower than 3rd place against any of the 77 teams they've faced, is going to show these units how to raise that 77.35% membership.

District 1 is waiting for the Women's Track & Field team to start their season; but, when their one unit currently below 25% sends in its membership, we will all be standing back in awe as

their 76.52% membership number explodes.

When the Men's Gymnastics team gets going later in January, District 6 can act as their role model; for they are a full 10% points (73.95%) ahead of where they were last year at this time. A notable feat, District 6!

The same can be said of District 10, too, at 73.08% (15% points above where they were a year ago). The Husker Women's Gymnastics team had already posted some impressive individual scores, but it took until last week for the team itself to come up with a win. And once District 10 was able to find their rhythm together, they also made great strides.

The Women's Rifle team went 8-5 in the fall; and when their season resumes on January 18, they're going to inspire District 8 to move its 71.89% membership above the 75% mark.

And finally, the Women's Soccer team struggled to a 6-10-1 record this fall, yet District 4 will not be deterred. Just 41 members will raise their 70.36% above the 80% threshold. Will your three 100% units show the others where they can find those 41 members, District 4?

We truly are making great progress, everyone! Please remember that everything we do every time we are out in our communities is a "Membership Moment." So, make those moments shine; and together, we will get Nebraska back to 100% membership in 2025.

Loree Hendrickson  
Membership Chair

## AMERICANISM

Hello to all my American Legion Auxiliary family.

I am hoping that all my units are working on teaching and showing our youth proper flag etiquette and Americanism so that they understand what veterans and active duty military personnel have gone through to give us our freedom. I would also like to ask you to send me things that you have gone out and taught about Americanism with the young children so that I can report to National what we have been doing in our state.

Also, don't forget that the Americanism essays are due to the units by February 15th so that the units can judge them and get the essays to me by March 15th I have to get them to National by April 15th.

If you need a cover page, you can email me or go to [www.NebraskaLegionAux.com](http://www.NebraskaLegionAux.com) and go to the Americanism tab. You should find it there.

Cie Kauth  
Americanism Chair  
[cie.kauth@gmail.com](mailto:cie.kauth@gmail.com)



## POPPY

Hello, all — and Happy New Year!

This month, I want to share a poem penned by Moina Michael in November 1918. She received inspiration for this poem from "In Flanders Fields." The poem here is titled "We Shall Keep the Faith."

"Oh! you who sleep in Flanders Fields,

Sleep sweet – to rise anew!

We caught the torch you threw

And holding high, we keep the Faith With All who died.

We cherish, too, the Poppy red

That grows on fields where valor led;

It seems to signal to the skies

That blood of heroes never dies,

But lends a lustre to the red

Of the flower that blooms above the dead In Flanders Fields.

And now the Torch and Poppy Red

We wear in honor of our dead.

Fear not that ye have died for naught;

We'll teach the lesson that ye wrought In Flanders Fields."

I hope everyone finds this poem as beautiful as I do, and I hope it inspires you to continually remember the sacrifice of those who have served. Please take note of the following dates:

- Poppy Poster deadline—April 15th

- National Poppy Day—May 23rd

The rules for the 2025 Poppy Centerpiece Contest has been sent to district presidents and can be found on our Nebraska website on the "Poppy" tab under the "Programs" tab.

Please feel free to reach out to me with any Poppy-related events your unit is doing! I would love to share and feature your outreach in our next edition of *The STAR!*

Elsa Knight  
Poppy Chair



ABOVE: St. Paul Unit 119 honored its 50-year continuous members at its Membership Party on October 27, 2024. Pictured, left to right, are Barbara Sack and Candace Tenopir, both of St. Paul. Not pictured, but recognized, were Shirley Klinginsmith of St Paul and Kathy Swain of North Platte.

BELOW: In December to honor veterans, members of Wilcox Unit 377 put up a Gold-Star Tree for display at the Central Nebraska Veterans Home. This is the fifth year of putting up the tree. Members present included Denise Hill, Cheryl Schepker, Rachel Newell, Monica Latter, and Rhonda Sherman.



## GIRLS STATE 2025

The countdown is on. From February 15th, only 105 days until the 84th Session of the American Legion Auxiliary Cornhusker Girls State kicks off. With the deadline of March 1 for delegate applications to be submitted, most of the unit work will be completed by the time you receive this issue of THE STAR. But, for the Girls State staff, the work will be in full swing.

Tasks at hand include contacting and confirming the speakers, planning the daily schedule (including the types of activities that will take place), planning and recording the videos for the on-line orientation, and more. As a first-time Girls State Chair and Kathy Mazur serving as a brand-new Girls State Secretary, we both have a huge learning curve to overcome. So, we appreciate your patience as we learn together.

Some general reminders as you select your citizen. You will be returning three items when mailing in your selection. They are (1) Delegate/Alternate Application Form that has four sections to be completed. Please double and triple check that all four sections are completed with all necessary information and signatures. (2) A signed copy of the Cornhusker Girls State Pledge form. Again, please ensure your delegate/alternate has signed it. (3) A check payable to ALA Cornhusker Girls State for \$425. The deadline is March 1.

Volunteers are a key to a successful Girls State week. This year, we will have a ballot vote for the General Election, which means volunteers will be needed to help with the election and to count the votes.

We will be asking units to volunteer to sponsor a floor for one night of the week and provide snacks for their Town Hall meeting. You can also volunteer to work at the Girls State Store for two-three hours. The next Department Newsletter will have the complete details.

As we know, Girls State is a strenuous week; but we do like to have fun intermixed. Here is a fun challenge for all GS Alumni, anyone who has volunteered, or if you just want to try. Can you fill in the blanks of "Here's to Girls State"?

Vicki Ozenbaugh  
Girls State Chair

"Raise your \_\_\_\_\_, raise them high  
Sing to Girls State, and here's

\_\_\_\_\_ to Girls State, and you'll find  
Tomorrow's \_\_\_\_\_ of  
mankind.

We are the \_\_\_\_\_ builders  
Builders in a \_\_\_\_\_  
And we come from \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ in the land.  
We are up and \_\_\_\_\_  
Progressive, \_\_\_\_\_ and strong  
And to our Girls State

We \_\_\_\_\_ sing our song.  
Of our \_\_\_\_\_, we will learn  
Cause some day, \_\_\_\_\_ come our  
turn  
To fulfill their utmost \_\_\_\_\_  
A lasting \_\_\_\_\_ from ev'ry  
man."



## CHAPLAINS CORNER

A PRAYER FOR JOY THIS WINTER

"But you Lord, are a shield around me, my glory, the One who lifts my head high." Psalm 3:3

It is tempting to feel discouraged, isolated, and sad in the wintertime. When it is cold and dark for longer periods of time, it can become easy to believe the lies that the enemy sends our way. It is easy to put our heads down and live in the "winter blues."

Let us pray:

Dear Lord,

Thank you for being present with us this winter. Thank you that winter blues, isolation, and sadness do not surprise You and scare You away from ministering to us. We pray by Your spirit and call upon Your name, to lift our heads up. We have discouragement and have bought into the lies of the enemy. Clear our thoughts and help us to be still and know that You are God.

Thank you for our lives and that we are never stuck forever because You, Jesus, have already and will get us out of our pits in life again because You hold the victory forever. In Your Loving Name, Amen.

Please send prayers for Amanda's Prayer Book to Lori by May 15th. Send by mail - 2011 24th Street, Central City 68826 or email - lljunker66@gmail.com

Lori Reimers  
Department Chaplain



## JR. ACTIVITIES

Calling all Nebraska American Legion Auxiliary juniors! Are you ready to embark on a journey filled with fun, camaraderie, and a touch of learning? Well, mark your calendars because, on April 5, St. Paul will be hosting the Nebraska State Junior Convention!

"Coming Together Like Birds of a Feather" is the theme chosen by honorary junior president Shia Rasmussen, and we will have a day of adventures starting at 10:00 a.m. Senior members, why not bring a car full of juniors to enjoy the day? We will have games and activities over the course of the convention, as well as holding the ceremony for our newest junior officer team.

But wait, it's not just about the fun that awaits. We will help you grow with your membership in the American Legion Auxiliary.

Of course, no convention would be complete without exciting door prizes and a few surprises. Who knows, you might just stumble upon some of our organization's leaders of tomorrow.

Grab the opportunity to come together and join us at the Nebraska American Legion Auxiliary Junior State Convention on April 5 in St. Paul. Together, we will create new friendships and make memories for all the juniors who attend.

RSVP to this event by contacting St. Paul's junior activity chairperson, Barb Sack, at 308-750-4072.

Crys Bauermeister  
Jr. Activities Chair

## AEF

### 911 — Emergency Emergency!

The word "emergency," according to Webster's dictionary, is described as an event needing prompt action.

The American Legion Auxiliary Emergency Fund was created to grant funding to Auxiliary members who are dealing with unexpected hardship financially i.e. overdue rent, utilities, unplanned residential events, and lost income from job loss or medical disability. As valued members of the American Legion family who have 3 consecutive years of paid membership (including the present year), you are eligible to apply for an up to \$3000 grant.

Disaster grants are also available for damages and loss from fires, floods, and storms. Applications for the grant must be made 3 weeks from the event for a value up to \$3000. Only one grant can be awarded in a 12-month period.

How can we help our fellow members NOW??

We, as members, can get prompt, immediate help for our sisters and brothers who are in a state of emergency! The grants go directly to them from the National Auxiliary

Emergency Fund. The California situation has everyone asking what they can do.

First, donate as a member, unit, or district! Even though so many of you have made a donation this year, additional funds are needed now and in the future. Please send your generous donations to NE ALA HQ, 150 NW 40th Street- Unit B, Lincoln, NE 68528 Attn: AEF.

So many members have only the clothes on their backs. A grant sent for some basic needs items will be the way to show we care!!

If you or a member you know are in need of hardship or disaster grants, the applications are online and handled only at National ALA HQ. Don't let pride get in your way. Information will be confidential. Application address: member.legion-aux.org/Member/Committees/AEF/Get-Involved-AEF

We can do it! Start sending those emergency donations today! Thank you, everyone!

Barbie Meyer  
AEF Chair

## DATES TO REMEMBER

### FEBRUARY

- 14 Valentine's Day — Legion Family Recruiter Award
- 17 President's Day — Department Headquarters Closed

### MARCH

- 1 Girls State Applications due to Department
- 1 Scholarship Deadline to Dept. Headquarters (see ABC book or website)
- 9 Daylight Savings Time Begins — Spring Forward
- 10 Deadline for April/May Issue of "The Star"
- 15 Americanism Essays due to Chairman
- 15 Happy Birthday American Legion
- 17 St. Patrick's Day

### APRIL

- 5 Dept. Juniors Convention, St. Paul
- 15 Military Kids Day — Wear Purple
- 20 Poppy Posters due to Chairman
- 20 Narrative & History Books due to Historian
- 20 Easter

### FOR YOUR ADVANCED PLANNING

- June 1 - 7, 2025 ALA Cornhusker Girls State, Lincoln, UNL Campus
- June 26 - 29, 2025 Department Convention, Columbus
- August 22 - 28, 2025 National Convention, Tampa Bay, Florida

## 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 MARCH 10, 2025.



## HISTORY

In the last Star, I gave a challenge to each unit to find out how your Post Family received its name. An example is Boelus Post Family #201 name is Shipman Mogenson Post Family #201. I wanted to say thank you to the units that have provided me the history of their Post Family names. I will be posting them on the Nebraska American Legion Auxiliary Group. If you have not joined yet, please go out and join our page..

We had our quarterly National Historian Meeting in January, and if I heard correctly, I am requesting more assistance from each of you.

1. Do you have a copy of your Unit Charter? If you do, please send a copy to me or bring it to your District Convention and give the copy to the Department Officers who are visiting

your Convention. You can also send them to the Department office, and I will ask them to keep them for me. This request is from National President Trish.

2. March is Women's History Month, and we would like to recognize a woman each day. Please send me the lady you would like to honor and why you want to honor her. A picture of this person would be wonderful. These will be posted on the Nebraska American Legion Auxiliary page.

History is our past, and let's recognize it.

Thank you for all your assistance!

Vicki Cyboron  
Department Historian

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