



Legionnaire

Volume CI

Number 2



L.U.V. - Loyalty, Unity, & Valor



James A. LaCoursiere Jr. (La coursey air) was elected National Commander of The American Legion on August 29, 2024, in New Orleans, during the 105th National Convention.

An Air Force veteran, LaCoursiere has been a longtime field representative for the American Legion Department of Connecticut's Soldiers, Sailors and Marines Fund, which financially assists veterans and their families in need.

LaCoursiere has held many leadership positions at The American Legion post, department and national levels. He is a member of American Legion Post 91 in Moosup, Conn. He has also served as a National Vice Commander, Connecticut State Commander, and Chairman of the National Legislative Commission.

LaCoursiere will be continuing the "Be The One" initiative this next year. As National Commander, LaCoursiere is strongly committed to raising awareness for The American Legion's Be the One mission to prevent veteran suicide. He also introduced what he called his personal and

secondary theme: L.U.V., or Loyalty, Unity and Valor.

LaCoursiere is married to his wife, Lisa, and has two children (Patrick and Meghan), and three stepchildren (Jason, Kaylene and the late Johnathan).

National Auxiliary President Trish Ward is a PUFL member in her Louisburg Unit 250 in Kansas. She is eligible for ALA membership through her father, John M. Brusati, and her grandfather, Edmund S. Lindberg. She retired in 2023 from Lumen. Her husband Steve is a Past National Vice Commander for the Sons of The American Legion.

National Sons Commander Joseph Navarrete is a charter member Otero-Garcia-Navarrete Squadron 72 in Albuquerque, New Mexico. He is eligible through his father, Tony Navarrete, a Vietnam-era U.S. Army veteran. Joseph and his wife Loretta share a family of seven children and eight grandchildren.

Department Adjutant Salak Announces Retirement

Department Adjutant Salak announced his retirement to be effective June 30, 2025. Department Commander Yochum has formed an adhoc search committee to be chaired by PDC Ron Corbett. The committee is made up of PDC Craigie, PDC Costello, PDC Suchy, Commander Yochum and Adjutant Salak.

A copy of the job description and application will be provided to all DEC members and Posts in the next newsletter. Please ensure the widest of dissemination. You may contact the Department HQ's if you would like a copy of each right now.

Timeline: Applications due to Department HQ's on November 27, 2024. Interviews in December. Start date January 3, 2025. Turnover January to June.

Questions can be directed to Commander Yochum and/or Adjutant Salak.

New Media Specialist



The Headquarters Staff would like to welcome our newest member, Megan Kallina.

Megan, or "Meg" to her friends, comes to us from Weeping Water, where she is a current officer of Post 237 as well as District 12 Adjutant. With an extensive background in communications, business, and politics, Meg will be an asset to our team, learning our procedures, and bringing a wealth of knowledge with her.

Meg is an Air Force Veteran, having served 7 years in the Intelligence career field, and an active member of the American Legion whose life, drive, and aspirations can perhaps best be communicated in the simple phrase "for God and country."

She will be working with Amanda, and handling this publication, the Headquarters newsletter, and many other tasks. Please feel free to stop in, have a cup of coffee, and tell Megan, who originally hails from western Nebraska, "howdy!"

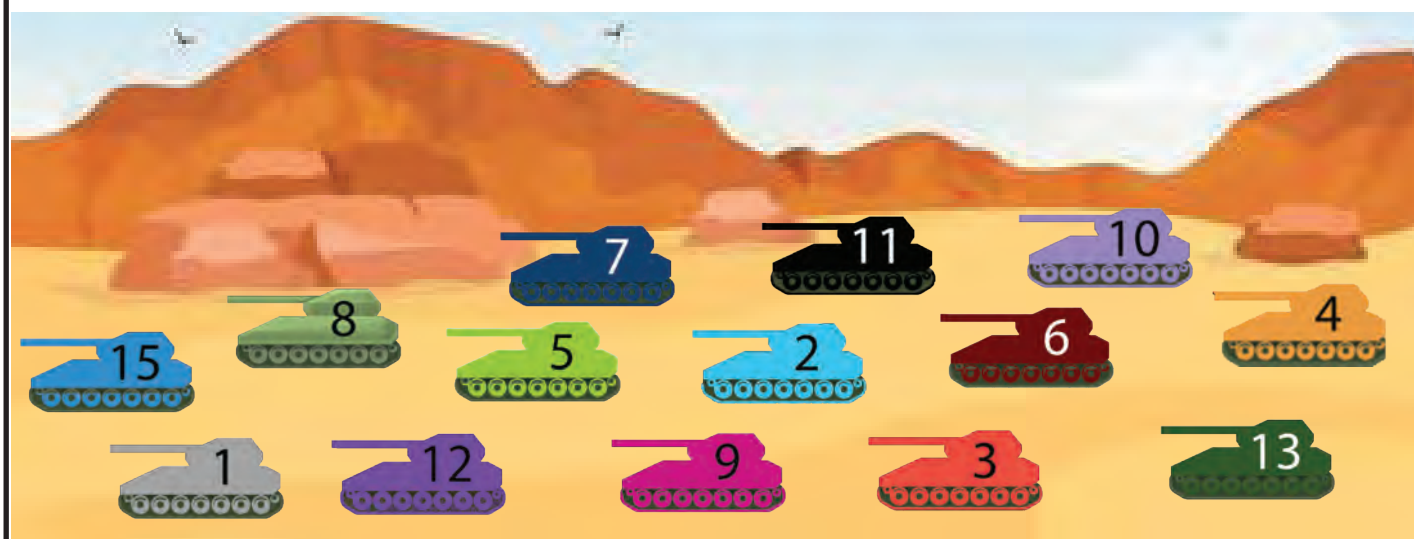


FOR GOD AND COUNTRY

THE ROAD TO SUCCESS

2025 MEMBERSHIP GOAL: 22,300 SEPTEMBER 15 TH TOTAL: 3,829 - 17.17%

DISTRICT 15 - 24.58%	DISTRICT 1 - 21.14%	DISTRICT 8 - 21.10%	DISTRICT 12 - 18.50%	DISTRICT 5 - 18.17%
DISTRICT 7 - 17.74%	DISTRICT 9 - 17.32%	DISTRICT 2 - 16.23%	DISTRICT 11 - 14.23%	DISTRICT 3 - 13.00%
DISTRICT 6 - 12.56%	DISTRICT 10 - 12.42%	DISTRICT 13 - 12.02%	DISTRICT 4 - 11.28%	



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



Commander's Corner

Boyd Yochum
Department Commander




Thank you for trusting me to be your Department Commander during the 2024 – 2025 membership year. It is an honor to travel around Nebraska representing The American Legion, and meeting folks from all over our great state. The one consistent thing I have noticed, we have a

lot of wonderful people in the American Legion Family.

This term comes at a pivotal time for our nation. Our Legion Family will be headed to the polls this fall, as once again we decide who will lead this country for the next four years, and who will represent us in the U.S. Congress. Though we are nonpartisan, the American Legion Family believes in the power of the vote and responsible citizenship.

Dozens of our Nebraska American Legion Family members recently attended the 105th Annual National Convention in New Orleans. James A Lacoursiere Jr from Connecticut is our new National Commander. His first comment was, "Don't change what's working." Be the One to help end veteran suicide will continue to be the American Legion priority.

During our National Convention, VA Secretary Denis McDonough said the 2022 Legion backed PACT Act has created thousands of increases in VA enrollment, and healthcare claims. He noted, that VA has exceeded projections, and that a twelve billion dollar increase in the fiscal 2024-2025 budget is necessary to provide care for the spike in VA patients. Unless Congress passes legislation to cover the shortfall before the end of the fiscal year, (this month); there could be a delay in VA disability payments. To contact your Senators and Congressional Representative, go to Legion.org/action and scroll to VA Funding Shortfall.


It was noted that Presidential Candidates chose to NOT speak at The American Legion National Convention.

The American Legion is about building relationships and mentoring. We are about pride and purpose. I have mentioned before, my motto this year is Character, Values and Integrity. Character makes a difference. The American Legion Family changes lives and saves lives. Integrity is not negotiable, and the only thing that does not depreciate over time. These traits represent our organization and are important for us to function as a cohesive American Legion Family. We are the nation's largest war time veteran's organization, chartered and incorporated by Congress in 1919 as a patriotic veterans organization; devoted to mutual helpfulness, and committed to our four pillars; VA&R, National Security, Americanism, and Children & Youth.

The American Legion Family, all of us, are part of a special organization. We don't talk about ourselves enough. Visibility in our communities is important. All of us are important, Legionnaires, Auxiliary, Sons, and Riders.


The future counts me and you, it's who we are. The first word in our name is AMERICAN.

"Character, Values, & Integrity"



Rider's Rally

Mike Reimers
ALR Liaison




Hi everyone I am Michael Reimers (Mike) the new Liaison for the American Legion Riders.

I am a Legionnaire, Sons member, and a Legion Rider. I am here to support and lead the Legion Riders and to move them forward and help where ever I can. This is a Legion program that puts the Legion Family into one group that helps the American Legion Family support one another and fellow Veterans and their families.

Now to the point, it was not a good summer for the Legion Riders. We have lost several members to accidents. We need to keep their families in our prayers and thoughts. We as riders

always have to be alert. With that, there were several flag lines and motorcycle escorts. Thanks to all that participated!

State Romp was a big success. We had a good turn out and a nice ride through the Black Hills.

The state legacy run by John Arirs was a good ride and was a successful in raising money for the Child Welfare Foundation. There have been many rides across the state that were for a good cause and were successful.

I am looking forward to seeing many Legion Riders at Mid-Year. Ride carefully and have a good time.

NEBRASKA AMERICAN LEGION

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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
Sergeant-At-Arms..... Kenneth Schmid, Bellwood
Assistant Sergeant-At-Arms..... Gene vonForell, Crawford
Service Officer..... Levi Bennett, Lincoln
National Executive Committeeman..... Fred Craigie, Lincoln
Alternate NECman..... Jim Costello, Bellevue

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..... Michael Coffey, Sterling
Dist. 15..... Ronnie Hindmand, Lincoln



The NEBRASKA Legionnaire

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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?

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: _____


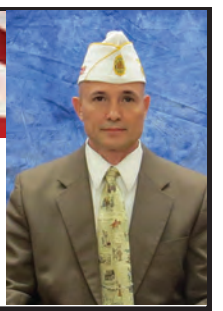
Email Address: _____

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




It's History
Jennifer Laux
Department Historian

Straight Talk
Levi Bennett
Department Service Officer



For the past 12 years, I have been honored to serve as your Department Historian – thank you to Past Department Commander (PDC) Fred Craigie for selecting me and to all the PDCs after Fred who asked me to stay on! It has been an honor to preserve the memories of the Department each and every year, culminating in beautiful yearbooks that the Department can enjoy for many years to come. With that being said, the Department, which has supported me from day one, submitted my name for consideration as the National Historian back in 2015. I am proud



to say that after nine years on the list and an interview at National Headquarters at the 2023 Fall Meetings, I got the nod and was installed as the 2024-2025 American Legion National Historian during National Convention last month in New Orleans.

Another piece of good news for Nebraska – we won 3rd place in the first ever digital history contest (<https://www.legion.org/library/262579/first-digital-national-historians-contest-results-announced>). If you are interested in viewing Nebraska's yearbook, or any of the other digital entries, visit: <https://legionhistoryshowcase.omeka.net/exhibits/show/2024contestentries/2024-national-historian-s-cont/department-of-nebraska>.

Speaking of the yearbook, major changes have been implemented for the National History Contest with the passage of Resolution #20 – Authorization for Conducting Department History Contest and Post History Showcase. According to Resolution #20, 2024 is the last year for the Post History Contest at the National level. Starting in 2025, post histories submitted to National on behalf of Departments will not be judged, but rather will be used as showcase pieces to serve as examples for other posts to develop their own histories. Even though not judged, all post submissions will receive a special certificate of recognition by the National Historian. If you are interested in submitting a post history showcase next year, please let me know and I can help you navigate the process.

I look forward to my responsibilities over the next year which will include judging the last traditional hard-copy post contest at Fall Meetings next month in Indianapolis and assisting the National Association of Department Historians of The American Legion (NADHAL) in their activities. In addition, I would like to get historians plugged in to any new initiatives that are likely to come out of the newly formed America 250 ad hoc committee at National. More to come on that. In the meantime, you can visit <https://america250.org/> to learn about the upcoming 250th anniversary of the signing of the Declaration of Independence.

Again, thank you for the opportunity to serve as your Department, and now National Historian, and I will work hard to make Nebraska proud!

S.A.L. Notes
Eldon Kramer
Detachment Commander

Greetings from the Detachment of Nebraska Commander Eldon Kramer. Welcome American Legion family members. It has been an honor to serve the Sons of The American Legion Detachment of Nebraska for the second year, as I have met many new friends.

Let us remember that membership is very important to our organization as upholding the Four Pillars of The American Legion. Membership report as of August 31, 2024. Nebraska squadrons are sitting at 4th in the Midwest Region, with a total of 6,889 members. Membership is at 532 for the 2025 membership year. Remember the importance of recruitment and retainment of members!

Visit mylegion.org, it has lots of information on there to help you with your job as an officer in your squadron and gives you the ability to pay your dues online.

Do not forget about "Be The One". Remember that the Crisis Hotline number is 988 and press 1 for veterans.

Squadron members, please plan on going to your District Fall Roundups as well as participating in County Government Day and Veterans Day celebrations. In October, squadrons could participate in Halloween safety events. Posts and squadrons can conduct safety events and provide tips to children in the community.

I attended the Family Legion Homecoming. It was a great chance to participate in the training sessions that were offered. Thanks to Squadron #129 and all the Legion Family that helped make this happen at Ashland and Yutan Legions. I am wishing Department Commander Boyd Yochum and Auxiliary President Amanda Washburn a very successful year.

I attended the 52nd National Convention of the Sons of The American Legion in New Orleans, Louisiana.

My Commanders project this year is going to support the Veterans Homes with raised garden beds. If your squadron would like to donate, please mail a check to the Department. If you have any questions, please feel free to give me a call.

I am challenging every squadron in Nebraska to host a fundraiser to raise money for two delegates from your squadron to attend the Mid-Year and Detachment Convention.

Important Information regarding Homestead Exemption for Disabled Veterans in 2025

The year 2025, requires all veteran categories to submit a Nebraska Homestead Exemption Application along with VA Certification dated on or after January 1, 2024. All applications should be provided to your county assessor on or before June 30, 2025.

To obtain your VA certification yourself you may use VA.gov online or the VA.gov app. You can scan the QR Codes below with your phone's camera to access your VA.gov account and print the needed information or send from the app to your email account. I highly encourage all to use VA.gov as this provides you a wealth of information, to include benefits information, payments, appointments, and prescriptions. The first QR code links to VA.gov and the second links to the VA app.

If you do not wish to use VA.gov and need assistance obtaining a current VA Disability or Spouse VA Status Certification, please contact your county veteran service officer or state veteran service officer.

Below are the three Disabled Veteran Homestead categories and what is required for each to maintain their homestead exemption.

Category #4V: 100% Permanently Disabled Service-Connected Veterans:

- Request or obtain a current VA Disability Certification dated after January 1, 2024.
- The disability rating on the certification must be certified on or before January 1, 2025.
- File your 2025 Homestead Exemption Application and current VA Disability Certification with your county assessor on or before June 30, 2025.

Category #4S: Surviving Spouses of Qualified Veterans:

- Request or obtain a current Spouse VA Status Certification dated after January 1, 2024.
- File your 2025 Homestead Exemption Application and a current Spouse VA Status Certification with your county assessor on or before June 30, 2025.

Category #7: 100% Temporarily Disabled Service-Connected Veterans or their Surviving Spouses:

- Request or obtain a current VA Disability or Spouse VA Status Certification dated after January 1, 2024.
- If applicable, the disability rating must be certified on or before January 1, 2025.
- File your 2025 Homestead Exemption Application and current VA Disability or Spouse VA Status Certification with your county assessor on or before June 30, 2025.



**Sons of The American Legion Membership
As of September 15, 2024**

District	2024 Members	2025 Members
1	310	75
2	621	46
3	234	16
4	357	9
5	152	6
6	1,367	125
7	741	68
8	836	171
9	307	60
10	356	15
11	1,111	153
12	236	2
13	126	50
15	135	110
Total	6,889	907



POW/MIA

Boyd Yochum
POW/MIA Liaison



Captain Monte Larue Moorberg

Captain Monte L. Moorberg from Grand Island was a graduate of the U.S. Air Force Academy, Class of 1961. On December 2, 1966, Moorberg was serving as Pilot of an F-105D Thunderchief of the 469th Tactical Fighter Squadron, 388th Tactical Fighter Wing, Korat Royal Thai Air Base, Thailand. Moorberg led a flight of F-105 Thunderchiefs against the Phuc Yen Petroleum and Oil Storage Facility, located 14 miles north of Hanoi, North Vietnam. Despite intense anti-aircraft fire, at least three SA-2 missile launches, exceptionally adverse weather, and a constant threat of MIG fighter attacks, Moorberg led his flight and successfully put his ordinance on the target.

Moorberg's calm and courageous leadership was instrumental in enabling his flight to return safely. While flying in the target area, his aircraft caught fire for unknown reasons, broke apart, and crashed, killing him. A strong enemy presence in the area prevented the recovery of Moorberg's remains at the time. In 1985, the Vietnamese government repatriated human remains correlating to this loss. U.S. Investigators were able to identify Captain Moorberg from those remains.

Moorberg's extraordinary heroism and superb airmanship earned him the U.S. Air Force second highest award for valor, the Air Force Cross. "The President of the United States of America authorized by Title 10, Section 8742, United States Code, takes pride in presenting the Air Force Cross (Posthumously) to Captain Monte Larue Moorberg (AFSN 0-62699), US Air Force, for extraordinary heroism in military operations against an opposing armed force, while serving as Pilot of an F-105 Thunderchief of the 469th Tactical Fighter Squadron, 388th Tactical Fighter Wing." "His calm and courageous leadership was instrumental in enabling his flight to return safely. Through his extraordinary heroism, superb airmanship, and aggressiveness in the face of hostile forces, Capt Moorberg reflected the highest credit upon himself, and the US Air Force."

Monte was awarded the Air Force Cross, Distinguished Flying Cross, Purple Heart, Air Medal with Silver and 3 Bronze Oak Leaf Clusters, and other badges and awards. Capt Moorberg is buried in the Arlington National Cemetery. His name is located on Panel 13E Line 5 of the Vietnam Veteran Memorial Wall. He is memorialized on the Courts of the Missing at the National Memorial Cemetery of the Pacific. He served with honor in the US Air Force. He is remembered by the people of Nebraska. May his positive example inspire us; working together towards peace, mutual respect, and equality for all.



Chaplain's Thoughts

Steve Witmer
Department Chaplain



Since this is my first writing for the Legionnaire, I would like to introduce myself. My name is Steven Witmer and I have been a member of Bolton Post 19 in York for about 20 years. I have served as Post Chaplain for most of those 20 years. I also served as York County Commander for about 10 years. I am a retired Air Force veteran having served on active duty with deployments to Germany and Thailand. Then I joined the Nebraska Air National Guard where I served as 'weekender' for 5 years, and later acquired a full-time position as an AGR (active guard/reservist), retiring in 2001.

When I first met Commander Yochum, outward appearances would have labeled a chance meeting. I am not one who believes in chance, or accidental meetings. Everything happens because God has a reason. With that said, and with God's guidance, I will do the best I can as your Chaplain.

As this copy of the Legionnaire goes to press, we are approaching a crucial time in the life of our nation. Election day will soon be upon us. Hebrew 13:17 says "Have confidence in your leaders and submit to their authority, because they keep watch over you as those who must give an account". My only request is that before you cast your votes, prayerfully seek God. Our Creator should be the source of everything we say and do. Unfortunately, as imperfect humans, we don't always get it right. So, we ask His forgiveness, and ask His Spirit to come into us and guide us. 2 Chronicles 7:14 says "if my people who are called by my name, will humble themselves and pray and seek my face and turn from their wicked ways, then I will hear from heaven, and I will forgive their sin and will heal their land".

Mid-Year Program

It's time to start putting together our Mid-Year Program and the Department is selling space in the program for individuals or businesses to advertise. Please ask around your community to garner support. All ads and payments must be received before January 6, 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, Membership Chairman

The 2025 American Legion membership year has certainly gotten off to an unusual --- and maybe a little rocky --- start.

There was some really good news announced at the national convention in New Orleans in August. For the first time in a number of years, The American Legion met and exceeded its national goal. There was a true growth in membership. With about a dozen departments meeting and exceeding their goals and a good influx of members from the direct mail solicitation program, the tide was turned. We need to build on that and be part of a similar experience this year.

Some other good news announced at the national convention was that Nebraska --- once again --- was recognized for being one of a small number of departments who achieved 100% reporting on their Consolidated Post Reports. Congratulations to all. The CPR is an important tool to measure our activity, so let's keep up the good work of being on that list again next year.

More good news, the 2025 department membership goals were established at the National Membership Workshop held in Indianapolis in July. All departments were asked --- or at least suggested --- to accept a goal of 3% more than their 2024 paid membership on July 1. And that included members who had gone to Post Everlasting. In effect, if our losses to death or non-renewal were only 5%, for example, the number of new, reinstated, or transferred-in members we'd need to acquire would be 8%. That's a lot!

However, Commander Yochum, Adjutant Salak, and I met with now-National Commander LaCoursiere to ask if we could try to generate a little more enthusiasm in our membership work this year by having a goal that still showed growth --- but just not quite as much as would result by adding 3% to our July 1 count. Our discussion was productive, and Commander LaCoursiere agreed to a goal of 22,300 instead of 22,760. Let's take advantage of this more realistic goal and make every effort to achieve it.

Now for the rocky part of the start, because the amount of the recently-enacted dues increase couldn't be formally determined until the department convention, and because the dues notices printed and mailed by the national organization had to be finalized long before our convention, the decision was made to decline the first dues notice from Indianapolis to avoid what was likely to be a lot of confusion and heartache for posts that hadn't established or elected not to establish a new dues rate until it was officially adopted.

Our first dues notice from national should be arriving about the first week of October. If you haven't paid your dues. Please do so promptly to get us back on track. Posts ---- be prepared to process the influx of dues and keep Amanda busy. Also, be aware that because of the deferred first notice, the Early Bird Drawing has been pushed back to about November 11th.

Have a nice October.

Non-political Organization

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

2025 Mid-Year Conference

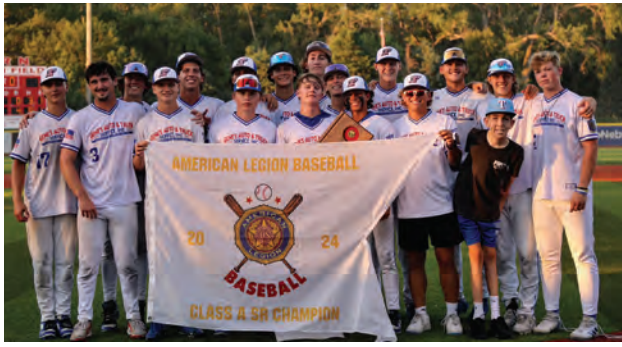
Make Your Reservations Now

The 2025 Mid-Year Conference will be held January 17 - 19, 2025 at the Norfolk Lodge and Suites. The Norfolk Lodge and Suites is located at 4200 W. Norfolk Avenue in Norfolk.

Rooms are \$109.00 per night and includes breakfast. Contact 402-379-3833 for your reservation. Do not call the toll free number when reserving a room.

The DEC meeting will be held on Friday, January 17, at 10:00 am and the Joint Session will be held on Saturday, January 18, at 8:00 am. A reminder that the lottery drawing will be held on Sunday morning during the Joint Session which starts at 9:00 am. Conference registration is \$10.00. If you would like more information or have questions, please contact Adjutant Salak at Headquarters.

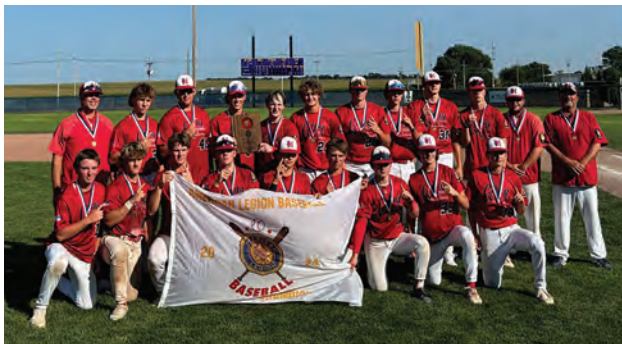
2024 - American Legion Baseball



Class A Senior State Champion Gene's Auto Post 32 from Papillion South High School sponsored by Papillion Post 32.



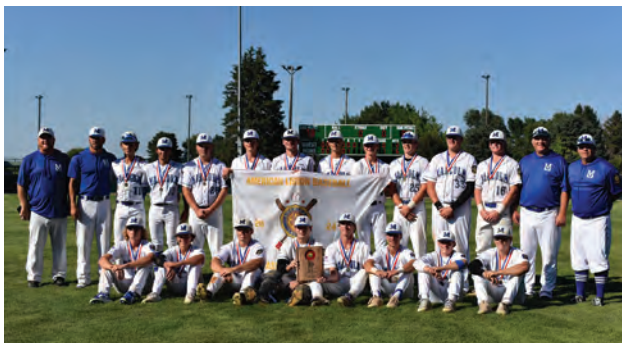
Class A Junior State Champion Schaefer's Post 3 from Lincoln East High School sponsored by Lincoln Post 3.



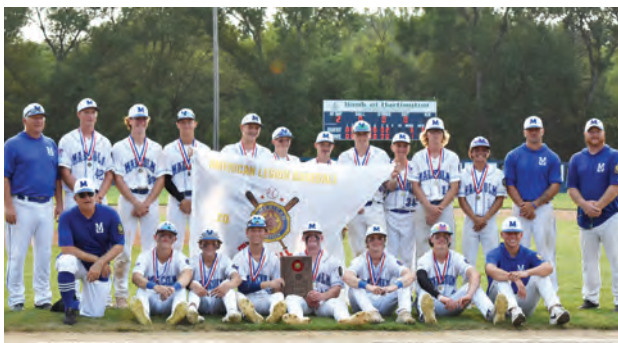
Class B Senior State Champion Hickman Post 105 from Norris High School sponsored by Hickman Post 105.



Class B Junior State Champion Central City Post 6 from Central City High School sponsored by Central City Post 6.



Class C Senior State Champion Malcolm Post 354 from Malcolm High School sponsored by Pleasant Dale Post 354.



Class C Junior State Champion Malcolm Post 354 from Malcolm High School sponsored by Pleasant Dale Post 354.

2024 Player of the Year



Each year, thousands of Nebraska's youth participate in American Legion Baseball across the state. One player is then chosen as Nebraska's American Legion Player-of-the-

Year and their name is forwarded to be considered for the George W. Rulon National Player-of-the-Year.

This year, the Nebraska American Legion selected Noah Jobman of Beatrice as the 2024 Nebraska American Legion Baseball Player-of-the-Year. Noah is the son of Russell and Michelle Jobman and he played for the Beatrice ExMark Senior Team sponsored by Beatrice Post 27. Noah has shown extensive dedication to academics at Beatrice High School, supporting his peers, and volunteering in his community.

Noah participated in baseball and football and has received many awards in these activities to include: 2022 Academic All-State in football, and the following baseball honors: 2023 Conference honorable mention, All-State honorable mention, 2024 All Conference 2nd Team, 1st Team Class B All-State, 2nd Team All-Class Super State. Jobman also received the Hillary and Bonnie Trauernicht Scholarship. He has been involved with several community service events and volunteered his time and talents to entities such as the Beatrice Educational Foundation, local food banks, and his church. There is no doubt that he understands the impact he can make by supporting his community. His positive outlook and leadership skills demonstrate the Code of Conduct that is sought in Legion Baseball.

Jobman will attend Southeast Community College and then use their transfer program to attend a four-year college pursuing a degree in Civil Engineering. Someday he would like to use his construction skills to better his hometown of Beatrice and the surrounding area.

Jim Hurlbert Memorial Scholarship

The Nebraska American Legion selected Braxton James Wentworth of Yutan as the recipient of the Jim Hurlbert Memorial Scholarship. He will receive a \$500.00 scholarship.

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

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

For the 35th consecutive year, the Nebraska American Legion has done its part in helping Nebraska students with scholarship money.



NEC Fred Craigie presented the Insulters Award to ANEC Jim Costello. Pictured (L to R) Fred Craigie and Jim Costello.



Services Include:

**Exams
Cleanings
Fillings
Root Canals
Extractions
Dentures***

*Limited appointments available

Learn more online at
[veterans.nebraska.gov/
dentalclinic](http://veterans.nebraska.gov/dentalclinic)

or scan the
QR code



National Convention - New Orleans, LA



Werner Enterprises was recognized with an award for being an outstanding large employer of veterans in 2023.



Nebraska was recognized for 100% Consolidated Post Reporting for 2023-2024. Pictured (L to R) National Commander Daniel Seehafer, PDC John-Henry Pearcy, NEC Fred Craigie, and ANEC Jim Costello.



Department Historian, Jennifer Laux, was sworn in as the National Historian during the Post-NEC meeting. Pictured (L to R) National Sgt.-at-Arms Everett Shepard III, National Historian Jennifer Laux, and National Chaplain Daniel DePoza.



The Nebraska American Legion family made several donations to the Child Welfare Foundation. Pictured (L to R) NEC Fred Craigie, PDC Don Suchy, National Commander Daniel Seehafer, ANEC Jim Costello, and PDC John-Henry Pearcy.



Members attended the National Historian's Luncheon. Pictured (L to R) ANEC Jim Costello, NEC Fred Craigie, PNC Mike Helm, Historian Jennifer Laux, Commander Boyd Yochum, PDC Don Suchy, and Adjutant Dave Salak.



Members attended the Post NEC meeting. Pictured (L to R) Adjutant Dave Salak, President Amanda Washburn, PDP Barb Washburn, ANEC Jim Costello, National Historian Jennifer Laux, Senior Vice Judy Walters, NEC Fred Craigie, and PDC Jerry Landkamer.

2024 Homecoming Banquet



Commander Boyd Yochum brought greetings at the Homecoming Banquet. Pictured (L to R) Commander Yochum, President Amanda Washburn, ANEC Jim Costello, and NEC Fred Craigie.



This year's Nebraska Leadership team held their Homecoming Banquet together. Pictured (L to R) Sons Commander Eldon Kramer, President Amanda Washburn, and Commander Boyd Yochum.



Sons Commander Eldon Kramer presented a gift to Commander Boyd Yochum. Pictured (L to R) Commander Yochum and Sons Commander Kramer.



Kearney Post 52 presented a certificate for 70 years of continuous membership to Glen (Spud) Spangenberg. Pictured (L to R) Glen Spangenberg and Adjutant Jason Baker.

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Aerts, Bob, Columbus, Vietnam
 Allen, William, B., Newport, Korea
 Andrews, Gary, Fremont, Vietnam
 Barkley, Keith E., Gretna, Korea
 Baxter, Daryl, C., Grand Island, Korea
 Beams, Wayne E., Lincoln, Korea
 Binder, Richard L., Minden, Vietnam
 Black, Theodore, A., Osceola, Vietnam
 Blincow, Jim, Bertrand, Persian Gulf
 Blum, Lynn, L., Howells, Vietnam
 Bogard, Solon, North Omaha, Korea
 Bohling, Harold D., Auburn, Vietnam
 Bond, Dana R., Millard, Korea
 Bosselman, Shawn, Millard, SAL
 Bostock, Lyle, Blue Hill, Vietnam
 Bratberg, Monte C., Omaha, Vietnam
 Bright, Teddy L., Odell, Vietnam
 Brown, Ralph, E., Elgin, WWII
 Bugbee, Richard, Arlington, Korea
 Buxton, Orville, St Paul
 Campbell, Robert J., Seward, Vietnam
 Carr, William, J., Omaha, Korea
 Casper, Larry, Valley, Vietnam
 Clark, Harold K., Emerson, Vietnam
 Coffey, Cletus E., Beaver City
 Collins, Raymond R., Osmond, Vietnam
 Critser, Justin D., Auburn, WWII
 Cull, Leigh S., Wayne, Korea
 Davenport, Robert, W., Overton, Korea
 Dejonge, Kenneth, Wood River, Vietnam
 Diedrichsen, Fred, J., Holdredge, Vietnam
 Donscheski, Dallas W., St Paul
 Dreher, Keith, J., Blue Hill, Vietnam
 Driver, Darrell, Wynot, Korea
 Dunn, Johnie, D., Omaha, Vietnam
 Dusek, Charles E., Loup City, Vietnam
 Eckhoff, Melvin, A., Sutherland, Korea
 Effle, Gerald L., Verdigre, Vietnam
 Eggerling, Jim, H., Norfolk, Korea
 Eklund, R. G., Osceola, Vietnam
 Erickson, Leslie, Superior, WWII
 Erickson, Ronald D., Lincoln, Vietnam
 Etter, Ralph D., Wayne, Korea
 Feala, Cheryl, Morse Bluff, Vietnam
 Fiala, James, Dwight, GW on Terrorism

Fossum, Robert, H., Lebanon, Korea
 Franzen, Dale D., Wayne
 Fuelberth, Alton, Osmond, Korea
 Garey, Neal R., Grand Island, WWII
 Geist, Jack H., Lincoln, Vietnam
 Getzfred, James, R., Elgin, Vietnam
 Gill, Lloyd, E., Stapleton, Vietnam
 Glaser, John F., Omaha, Korea
 Graf, Kenneth C., Holdrege, Korea
 Grashorn, Kenneth H., Grand Island, Vietnam
 Greenwood, Dickie D., Odell, Korea
 Grier, Dion C., Falls City, Lebanon/Grenada
 Griminger, Gwyer, Grand Island, Other
 Grosserode, Joseph H., Tilden, Korea
 Grosshans, Richard L., Aurora
 Gruenes, Al, Wahoo
 Hansen, James L., Crofton, Vietnam
 Harr, Maynard E., Ainsworth, Korea
 Hartman, Fred D., Gretna
 Hastings, Virgil, Nebraska City
 Hayes, Gerald, Norfolk, Korea
 Hecox, Steve, Gothenburg, Vietnam
 Hellner, Tom, Oxford, SAL
 Helm, James J., Lebanon, Vietnam
 Henn, Dean, S., Elgin, Korea
 Hewitt, James W., Lincoln, Vietnam
 Hintz, Ronald R., Hebron
 Hirsch, Bernard L., Lincoln, Korea
 Hirsch, Sherman A., North Platte, Korea
 Hoefl, Norman E., Dwight, Korea
 Hoffman, Lindell E., Grand Island, Vietnam
 Hubert, Donald L., North Platte, Vietnam
 Huffman, John S., Burwell, Vietnam
 Hurt, Dennis R., Dwight, Other
 Jackson, Donald D., Grand Island, WWII
 Janc, Jim, Grand Island, Vietnam
 Janke, Leonard, Pender, Korea
 Jenness, Miron V., Wayne, Korea
 Johansen, William, D., Osceola, Korea
 Johnson, Basil W., Ruskin, Korea
 Johnson, Bruce, Ainsworth, Korea
 Johnson, Douglas D., Rushville, Korea
 Johnson, Robert, Wilber, Korea
 Kendle, Russell R., Lincoln, Vietnam
 Klein, James, Wolbach, Vietnam
 Kneiff, Otto, D., Newcastle, Vietnam

Knerl, Phil., Ponca, WWII
 Kosch, Gerlad F., David City, Vietnam
 Kratochvil, Marlin W., Norfolk, Vietnam
 Kraus, Marvin H., Friend, Vietnam
 Kroll, Leo A., Grand Island, WWII
 Kugler, William W., Wayne
 Lakin, Wayne, C., Burwell, Korea
 Lamp, Leon E., Lincoln, Korea
 Lang, David L., Table Rock, Vietnam
 Langemeier, Eugene, H., Stapleton, Vietnam
 Lee, Daniel C., Omaha, Vietnam
 Leiding, Gordan L., Orchard, Korea
 Lemke, Jack R., Lawrence, Korea
 Levene, Alphe, Omaha, Vietnam
 Long, Roy N., Miller, Korea
 Maendele, Leamond, Hastings, Vietnam
 Makovicka, Valerian., Dwight, Vietnam
 Marquardt, Lloyd, Venango
 Mayfield, Alexander, Auburn, SAL
 McCarthy, Daniel P., Jackson, Korea
 McGregor, Terrance M., Cedar Bluffs, Vietnam
 Meier, Merlin C., Norfolk, Korea
 Meissner, Gerald L., Wellfleet, Korea
 Meyer, Bruce, L., Steele City, Vietnam
 Meyer, Leonard, A., Grand Island, Korea
 Mick, Dwane J., Bellwood, Korea
 Miller, Galen, Aurora, Korea
 Miller, Howard, Friend, WWII
 Miller, Leonard R., Coleridge, Vietnam
 Mills, Thomas, Lincoln, Korea
 Misegadis, Douglas, North Platte, Vietnam
 Morris, Ardeth A., Bellevue, Korea
 Mussman, Oscar, F., Millard, WWII
 Mysicka, Jerry, E., South Omaha, Vietnam
 Nelson, Leon, Newman Grove, Vietnam
 Niebuhr, Gene R., Lincoln, Vietnam
 Novotny, Dennis, Howells, Vietnam
 Oligmueller, Virgil, Dakota City, Korea
 Olson, Lyle, Daykin, Korea
 Ostlund, Gordon L., Franklin, WWII
 Patience, Michael, C., Osceola, Vietnam
 Patras, Justin D., McCook, Persian Gulf

Peak, William, L., Omaha
 Pestal, John M., Omaha, Korea
 Petersen, Bradley, Millard, SAL
 Petersen, Dallas, Curtis, Vietnam
 Post, John, R., Blue Hill, Korea
 Powers, Edward E., Trenton, Vietnam
 Powers, Harold F., Sidney, Korea
 Prince, Reuben, J., Norfolk, Korea
 Pritchard, Donald D., Kenesaw
 Rasmussen, Robert J., Herman, Korea
 Reed, William, Clay Center, Vietnam
 Reinke, Orvil, Hebron, Korea
 Rhodes, Michael E., Elkhorn, Vietnam
 Ridgley, Garry N., Arcadia, Vietnam
 Rieke, Kenneth E., Auburn, WWII
 Robertson, Randall D., Orchard, Vietnam
 Roblyer, James, M., Burwell, Vietnam
 Royse, Michael, Lincoln, Vietnam
 Saathoff, Merlyn L., Sterling, Korea
 Sabin, William, E Jr., Lincoln, Vietnam
 Sass, Wayne D., Grand Island, Korea
 Schacht, Elden L., Orchard, Korea
 Scheer, Orvin, Arlington, Vietnam
 Schlachter, Gayle L., Hastings
 Schmidt, Gerald W., Papillion, Vietnam
 Schmitz, Joe A., Madison
 Schrader, Howard, Paxton, SAL
 Schroeder, Duane W., Wayne, Vietnam
 Schultis, Marvin H., Fairbury
 Schultz, Jerry L., Columbus, Korea
 Schuster, Norman F., Callaway, WWII
 Sebade, Densil M., Emerson, Korea
 Shubert, Alan, L., Shubert, Vietnam
 Simonson, Don, Gretna, Korea
 Sirek, Hoyt D., Orchard, WWII
 Slaby, Thomas, M., Havelock, Vietnam
 Small, Terry, South Sioux City, SAL
 Smith, Dwayne G., Columbus, Korea
 Smith, Dwight E., Chappell, Vietnam
 Smith-Bounds, Rhita A., Mitchell, Lebanon/Grenada
 Smyth, John T., Greeley, Vietnam
 Sonder, Vernon, Verdigre, WWII
 Sowers, Laurence, H., Blue Hill
 Spanel, Jill I., Pleasant Dale, Vietnam
 Splichal, William B., Lincoln, WWII
 Sprieck, Gerald G., Omaha, Korea

Stastny, Dennis, Dwight, Korea
 Steinhouser, Verl E., Omaha, Korea
 Stetz, Daniel E., Fullerton
 Stolz, Robert, J., Holdredge, Korea
 Stolz, Robert, Naponee, Korea
 Streeter, Raymond, Hayes Center, Vietnam
 Swanson, Clifford, L., Holdredge
 Thiele, Louis, Clearwater, Korea
 Thompson, Michael L., Sutton, Vietnam
 Thomte, Dennis L., Omaha, Korea
 Tighe, Mark A., Homer, Korea
 Timmons, Duane, G., Wolbach, Korea
 Todd, Richard L., Millard, Vietnam
 Totten, Fred L., Millard, Vietnam
 Trouba, Duane F., Dwight, Vietnam
 Turner, Donald B., Lincoln, Vietnam
 Turner, Larry, Omaha, Vietnam
 Vachal, Arnold J., Dwight, Vietnam
 Vanwey, Paul, Lincoln, Vietnam
 Vaupel, Charles, H., Superior, WWII
 Vega, Manuel, Grand Island, Vietnam
 Vostrez, Donald E., Wilber, Korea
 Vrba Jr, Anton J., Schuyler
 Wagner, Calvin R., Columbus, Korea
 Wahlstrom, Errol M., Hallam, Vietnam
 Warnke, Steve, Grand Island, Vietnam
 Warren, Douglas, Superior, Vietnam
 Watson, Marvin, D., Holdredge, Vietnam
 Waugh III, George T., Omaha, Persian Gulf
 Weathers, Frank A., Omaha, Vietnam
 Weiss, Robert D., Virginia, Korea
 Wells, Wilmer, D., Blue Hill, Vietnam
 Wessling, Jerald L., David City, Korea
 White, Eldon L., Virginia, Korea
 Wiegand, Carroll, L., Cedar Bluffs
 Williams, James, M., Lincoln, Vietnam
 Wilshusen, Sherman, E., Osceola, Vietnam
 Wineland, Doyle A., Arapahoe, Korea
 Winslow, Dewey, Beatrice, Vietnam
 Wochnick, Alexander, Morse Bluff, Grenada/Lebanon
 Wruble, Richard, Silver Creek, Vietnam
 Ziegenbein, Harlod, Neligh, Korea
 Ziamba, Eddie, Fullerton, Korea

Events Calendar

October

6 - 10 Fall Meetings - Indianapolis, IN
 14 Columbus Day - Office Closed

November

11 Veterans Day - Office Closed
 28 - 29 Thanksgiving - Office Closed

December

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

Mail Call

American Legion and Sons of The American Legion,
 Thank you for granting me your Maynard Jensen and Son's scholarships. I appreciate your help in my funds for schooling. I am excited for my next opportunity to learn at the University of Nebraska-Kearney.
 Sincerely,
 Cory Gubbles

American Legion Jim Hurlbert Memorial Scholarship Committee,
 Thank you so much for the honor of being awarded the Memorial Baseball Scholarship. It truly means a lot since Legion baseball has been a valuable part of my life. This award will help get me started at UNK.
 Sincerely,
 Braxton Wentworth



Table Rock Post 289 presented Civil War Calvary bugles to their two volunteers. Pictured (L to R) Jerry Vrtiska, Bugler Trent Phillips, Michael Puhalla, Bugler Doug Phillips, and Adjutant Gregg Clement.



Tobias Post 311 presented certificates of continuous membership to its members. Pictured front row Louis Schafer, 70 years. Pictured back (L to R) Commander, Boyd Yochum, Department Commader Lyle Bartels; Mark Bartels, 50 years; and Laird Bartels, 50 years.



Liberty Post 346 presented a certificate for 50 years of continuous membership to Don Ramsey. Pictured (L to R) Don Ramsey and Commander Charles "Jim" Barr.



Wilber Post 101 and Wilber Squadron 101 presented certificates of continuous membership to its members. Pictured top (L to R) Byron Shore, 25 years; Gerald Kubicek, 30 years; Robert Kasl, 45 years; Lisa Shore, 25 years; Rudy Homolka, 30 years; Lambert Zoubek, 50 years; and Charles Zoubek, 70 years. Not pictured Sam Blanchard, 30 years; Kelly Erdman, 45 years; and Leonard Freehouf, 50 years. Pictured bottom (L to R) Squadron Commander Carson Homolka, Mark Strouf, 45 years; Nathan Deke, 25 years; Randy Homolka, 35 years; and Legion Commander Lisa Shore. Not pictured Kenneth Keller, 25 years; Doug Ripa, 20 years; and Charles Filipi, 45 years.



Odell Legion Post 231 would like to say THANK YOU to the Astro Bldg Company, Ed Zarybnicky, Ed Hajek & Matt Klecan for the material & labor to put the new steel roof on the Odell Legion Bldg! Pictured (L to R) Bill Shoff, Mike Riggert, Mark Billesbach, Ed Hajek, Duane Colgrove, Ed Zarybnicky, Commander Ron Wieters, Gary Bures, and Adjutant Howard Hill.



Morse Bluff Post 340 presented a certificate for 50 years of continuous membership to Ken Beebe. Pictured (L to R) Ken Beebe and Commander Galen Johnson.



Saint Paul Post 119 member, James Leschinsky, was presented a Quilt of Valor in honor of his 82nd birthday and his 58 years of Legion membership.



Auburn Post 23 elected new officers and presented a certificate to outgoing Commander Al Armstrong. Pictured (L to R) Al Armstrong and Commander Kenny Holmes.



Dodge Post 122 members received National Commander Seehafer's "Dog Tag Coin" for recruiting new members. Pictured top (L to R) Ray Harms, Marvin Harms, Jessica Wym, Lumir Cech, Richard Archuleta. Dodge Post 122 members prepared care packages. Pictured bottom (L to R) Adjutant Lenny Kempf, Duffy Peplinski and Adam Miller.



Grand Island Post 53 presented certificates of continuous membership to its members. Pictured back row (L to R) Adjutant David Morrison; Mike Ponte, Donald Preisendorf, 50 years; David Mohr, 50 year; Richard Willis, 60 year certificate; and James Brettmann. Pictured front row Commander Brian Rapp.



Weston Legion Post 308 attended Robert Polacek's 100th birthday on July 20th. Robert is Saunders County's last remaining World War II Veteran and he is a member of the Weston Legion Post. Pictured (L to R) Tom Vasa; Unknown; John Chapek; Commander Mat Severin; Robert Polacek; Ken Meduna; Paul Plybon; Erv Opp and Larry Cejka.



DEPARTMENT PRESIDENT - AMANDA WASHBURN



Greetings, everyone!!

I hope you all are enjoying the Fall weather we have been having. We had a wonderful time in New Orleans for the National Convention! It is so much fun hearing about the activities our amazing ALA members are doing and the difference we are making in the lives of our veterans, active-duty military, and their families.

A full report is included from

our Secretary, Roxanne Hiatt. I want to extend a shout out to our very own Debra Albers who was elected as the Northwestern Division Vice President. We are so incredibly proud of you, Deb!

I had the opportunity to attend the Veterans Creative Arts Festival at the Omaha VA, and it was awesome! There were so many great paintings, pictures, writings, and even performers there. Thank you to Omaha VA Rep Paula Pillen for her support and work on that!

Fall Round-ups are in full swing, and I look forward to seeing many of you along the way. If you would like a specific officer or chair to attend your meeting, give them a call and invite them. Use these folks as a way to energize your members and think of new ideas to make an impact in the community.

Mission Trainings will once

again be held this year. While they aren't as close as the one we had last year in Lincoln, this year there will be trainings in: Nashville – November 16, Denver – November 16, Des Moines – January 25, Las Vegas – February 1, and Boston – February 1. You can register for these meetings at member.legionaux.org/meetings/mission-training

The ABC Book has been sent out to all Unit Presidents, District Presidents and Vice Presidents, and Department Chairs. It looks a little bit different this year, and we hope you like it. If you have any questions or need any other information, please contact Secretary Roxanne or me and we will do our best to help you.

Mid-Year Conference will be held January 17-19, 2025, at the Norfolk Lodge and Suites. The schedule of events will go

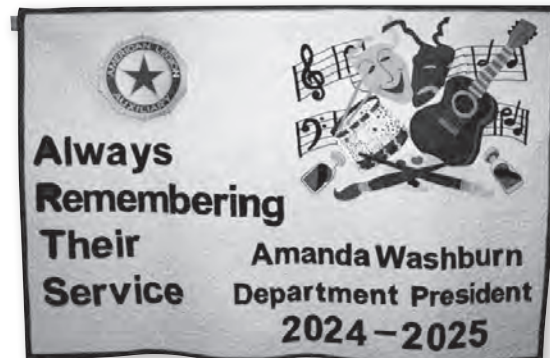
out in the December/January Newspaper. Contact Secretary Roxanne or me with any questions. More information can be found at Nebraskalegion.net/Meetings/Department_MidYear.html

I want to thank those units, counties, and districts that have invited me to events so far. It has been so great meeting your members and participating right alongside you. I am always up for a

road trip to meet more ALA members and help in the mission, so please feel free to call, email, or write me to invite me to whatever you are doing. You are the reason that our organization is successful, and you make the most difference!

I hope you all have a great Halloween and Thanksgiving!

*Amanda Washburn
Department President*



2024 NATIONAL ALA CONVENTION NEW ORLEANS, LOUISIANA



Delegates started arriving in New Orleans and began on Saturday afternoon by attending the Northwestern Division Caucus at the Convention Center. It was opened by Karen Susag of North Dakota and proceeded with 145 division delegates in attendance. Deb Albers of Nebraska was nominated for the 2024-2025 Northwestern Division

National Vice President. She was elected and installed on Wednesday, August 28, 2024.

The Nebraska Caucus was held Sunday morning with 20 delegates and 2 alternates in attendance. Delegates reported on their assigned Pre-Convention meetings and handed in reports. Chairman Lisa Moore did announcements of upcoming events.

The Joint Memorial Service was held at the Convention Center. Other events on Sunday included a Pre-Season Saints/Titans game at the Superdome (the Saints lost) and the National WWII Museum hosted an evening of entertainment for Veterans from 6:00 to 9:00.

On Monday morning at 8:30 AM, President Lisa Williamson led a jazz band up the center aisle to open the 2024 National Convention.

The American Legion BE THE ONE Chairman, Waco Hoover, talked on the project's successes. He gave some stats and information on the project. 6,000 vets have died per year since 2005. Almost 10,000 family members have been trained in Suicide Prevention. Suicide Prevention training is CPR for the brain. The term "Brain Health" is used instead of "mental health."

Credentials Chairman Kathy Dungan reported a total of 897 delegates were registered. The rules and convention agenda were adopted as written.

We heard reports from Junior Chairman Barbara Washburn, Girls Nation Chairman Kelly Elliot, Children & Youth Chairman

Coral May Grout, Child Welfare Foundation Liaison Linda Newsome, Americanism Chairman Sallie Rossman, and Education Chairman Starr Purnell, who reported President Lisa's donation goal of \$70,000 was met for the Spirit of Youth Scholarship.

Twenty-three from Nebraska attended the luncheon (served chicken) to honor all the National Auxiliary Award winners. Dustin Troyer, currently stationed in Washington, DC, was present along with his parents and grandparents as the recipient of the Service Member of the Year from the United States Air Force. He was submitted for this award by his grandmother, Joann Sieck of Pleasant Dale Unit 354. Way to go, Gramma!!

Tuesday morning found us once again in session at 8:30 beginning with the introduction of all Past National Presidents with 15 total in attendance.

Amy Kimbler, Director of the Creative Arts Festival, reported the festival was held in Denver, Colorado in May 2024. The 3000 arts festival participants created 7000 entries across 125 VA facilities nationwide.

National Security Chairman Ann Rehbein introduced the Service Member of the Year award winners and CMSgt Dustin Troyer was presented his award on stage.

We heard reports from Poppy Chairman Norma Tramm, Finance Chairman Nicole Clapp, National Treasurer Mary Beth Revoir, and American Legion Auxiliary Foundation President Cathie MacInnes.

Four courtesy resolutions were presented and adopted.

Community Service Chairman Diana Sorvina, Leadership Chairman Linda Tome, Membership Chairman Karen Toll, and National Secretary Kathy Daudistel reported.

Continued on Page 4...

NORTHWESTERN ALA VICE PRESIDENT FROM NEBRASKA

Debra Albers was elected Northwestern Division Vice



President at the National ALA Convention held in New Orleans. She will serve the National ALA for the year 2024-2025. Deb is from Davenport Unit 335 and was Department President 2016-2017. She will be a special guest at Nebraska's ALA Mid-Year Conference in her position as Northwestern Division Vice President. Congratulations Deb.



SALUTE TO SERVICE MEMBERS AWARD

Air Force Chief Master Sergeant Dustin Troyer was the recipient of a Salute to Service Members Award from the National American Legion Auxiliary at their convention in New Orleans on August 27, 2024. An award is given to one member of each branch of the Armed Forces annually by the ALA.

CMSgt Troyer is from Milford,

Nebraska and is a member of Pleasant Dale Post #354. He was nominated by Pleasant Dale Unit #354 and the Department of Nebraska.

He enlisted in the US Air Force 25 years ago and is currently serving in Washington, DC. His wife, Melissa, and daughters, Madison and Acelyn, are all members of the Pleasant Dale ALA unit.



Below: National President Lisa Williamson, CMSgt Troyer, and National Security Chairman Ann Rehbein.



Left: Arlene and Jeff Sieck (Dustin's parents), CMSgt Dustin Troyer, and JoAnn and Tom Sieck (Dustin's grandparents).

LINCOLN VA CBOC NEWS

The Lincoln VA CBOC will be participating with the Lincoln Homeless Coalition Stand Down on Wednesday, October 16th, at the Pinnacle Bank Arena --- starting at 9 am.

Volunteer services is planning on distributing popcorn and cookies once again at the VA Clinic. Anyone wanting to sponsor a time, please call Volunteer Services. Once cooler weather hits, coffee can also be sponsored.

During the week of Veterans Day, we --- along with other organizations --- will be handing out goodies as a Thank You to our veterans for their service and to show our appreciation.

Starting in October, we will be starting to make plans for the

"Blessing Tree" again for our less fortunate veterans. Hopefully, the tree and the requests will be up and in the lobby of the clinic the week before Thanksgiving in order for the social workers to be able to distribute the items.

We are in need of food for our small food pantry, gas cards, bus passes, grocery gift cards, and miscellaneous gift cards to Walmart, Target, etc. Call volunteer services before purchasing to see if they are still needed or what is of the greatest need.

Thank you for your support of our veterans.

*LindaVarejcka
Lincoln CBOC Rep.*



LEGISLATIVE CHALLENGE FOR 2024-2025

I urge you to take on the Legislative Challenge for 2024-2025 by signing up to receive Action Alerts from the American Legion Grassroots Action Center. If you find it daunting to write letters or emails to your representatives in DC, the Grassroots Action Center provides a straightforward platform for our voices to be heard, making advocacy for veteran-related legislation more accessible.

Registering with the American Legion Grassroots Action Center is a breeze. You can do so via the Legislative page on the ALA National website, ALAforVeterans.org, or

directly at the American Legion Grassroots Action Center: <https://votervoice.net/AmericanLegion/register>. It's that simple.

Once you are registered, when veteran-related legislation needs our support, you will receive an email from the "Grassroots Coordinator" containing a link to a pre-created email to send to your Senators or Representatives. You only need to review it and then click Send Message. Your address is used to determine your congressional members. This system has proven to be a powerful tool, allowing us to communicate the American Legion's

stance to our Congressmen in DC with just a click.

You can check out state legislation at <https://nebraskalegislature.gov/> to see what our state senators are doing in Lincoln. Stay tuned for more information about Legislative Day at the State Capitol in early 2025.

We must all be legislative advocates for our veterans, families, and caregivers. Please join me in ensuring our voice is heard in Washington, DC.

*Barb Washburn
Legislative Chair*

Remembering BETTY STAAL



Betty Staal of Chadron, a long-time member of the American Legion Auxiliary Unit #12 and the VFW Auxiliary Grey Eagle Post #1375, passed away August 9, 2024. Many in the American Legion family will remember Betty for her tireless work for the veteran community as she held local, district, and state offices. Her volunteerism extended to other community activities as well, such as the B.O.P. Does, RSVP (now known as Ameri-Corp), Chadron Garden Club, and her church.

She was truly a mentor to many, leaving a well-deserved and lasting legacy of "Service, Not Self."

OMAHA MONTHLY ICE CREAM SOCIAL

The American Legion & Auxiliary of Omaha Post 1 held their monthly ice cream social at the Eastern Nebraska Veterans Home.

Volunteers were greeted by U.S. Senator Debra Fischer, who was visiting the home the same day as the ice cream social to see the new wing.



(L to R) Darwin More, Geri Thomas, and Steve Thomas.



(L to R): Steve Thomas, Geri Thomas, Senator Deb Fisher, and Ruthanne Dimmock-Reivers.

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
Oct.	#288 Farnam	#141 Hampton	#222 Shubert	#307 S Sioux City	#10 Morrill	#12 Chadron	#264 Dorchester Jr.
Nov.	#335 Davenport	#193 Ohiowa	#243 Plymouth	#16 Norfolk	#10 Morrill	#364 Naponee	#222 Shubert
Dec.	#141 Hampton	#209 Franklin	#222 Shubert	#357 Brunswick	#7 Alliance	#7 Alliance	#240 Milligan
Jan.	Girls State '24	Girls State '24	Girls State '24	Girls State '24	Girls State '24	Girls State '24	#193 Ohiowa
Feb.	#255 Eddyville	#288 Farnam	#264 Dorchester	#16 Norfolk	#7 Alliance	#7 Alliance	#266 Bennington
Mar.			#371 Valparaiso	#72 Pierce		#133 Culbertson	#49 Utica
Apr.	#199 Cambridge		#264 Dorchester	#302 Leigh	#13 Wallace	#13 Wallace	
May	#240 Milligan						Dist. 11 Juniors
June							
July		#309 Franklin			#301 Dalton	#301 Dalton	
Aug.				#302 Leigh			
Sep.				#94 Columbus			

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

QUILT OF VALOR-CHADRON

At her last meeting as District 12 president in June, Gwen Ruff was presented a Quilt of Valor for her service at her last meeting as the District 12 President in June. Ruff --- as well as her husband Rick --- served in the Air Force. Both have the distinction of having dual membership in both the American Legion and the American Legion Auxiliary. Gwen also has a lifetime membership in

the DAV.

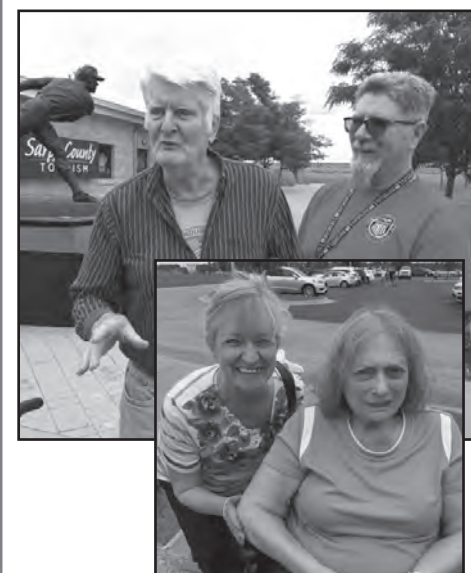
In addition to their work in the Legion family, both volunteer in the Ameri-Corp program (formerly RSVP), the Dawes County Museum, and the Western Wildlife Art Show at Ft. Robinson.

Gwen remains an active and vital member, serving as Past President in the Chadron unit.



Chadron American Legion Auxiliary Unit 12 President Gwen Ruff and husband, Rick Ruff.

VA BASEBALL GAME



Guest residents from the Eastern Nebraska Veterans Home came to an "Omaha Storm Chasers" baseball game one evening in August. Since it was Veterans Night, one of the members (top left) was able to throw out the first pitch! The seven members and two VA staff enjoyed a hotdog or hamburger meal in a special suite supported by American Legion Post 211 and the West Point and Navy Alumni Associations.





Franklin Unit 209 members (l to r) Charline Gerdes, Beverly McNiff, Anita Hill, and Cathy Webber are pictured with school supplies they delivered to Franklin's school.



Franklin Unit 209 members (l to r) Cheryl Kuhlmann, Beverly McNiff, and Cathy Webber are pictured with the tray favors they provided in July to the Central Nebraska Veterans Home in Kearney.

AMERICAN LEGION AUXILIARY

**STAR-SPANGLED KIDS KITS
1ST - AMERICANISM CHALLENGE**

Who will win this challenge?
The Central Division?
The Eastern Division?
The Northwestern Division?
The Southern Division?
The Western Division?

The Division that reports the most Star Spangled Kids Kits Promoted in schools by May 15, 2025, will receive a Trophy at their Division Caucus at the 2025 National Convention. Your National Americanism Chairman will surprise the Division that won, the winner will not be announced until National Convention "So Who Will It Be?"

Do not forget to include your numbers in your year-end report to your Division Americanism Chairman.



New member initiation was held at the September meeting of Beatrice Unit 27. Pictured (l to r) are new members Mary Ells, Cindy Kempf, Shirley Solomon and Kris Anello.

VICE PRES

My name is Ruth Hietbrink, and I will be your Department Vice President for 2024-2025. Some of the things that I intend to do include assisting President Amanda and taking over in her absence.

As the vice president, I will represent the auxiliary in the communities of Nebraska. I hope to help officers and committee chairmen when there are questions, ensuring officers have information that is needed.

And I intend to learn as much as possible prior to 2025-2026 election of officers, so I can carry on the wonderful leadership that we have experienced in the past.

*Ruth Hietbrink
Dept. Vice President
Phone: 402.239.6371
Email: rhietbri@gmail.com*

NATIONAL AWARDS AT CONVENTION

The following were awarded to Nebraska at the National Convention.

CITATIONS / PLAQUES TO:

- Dorothy Pearl Most Outstanding Unit Americanism Program in the NW Division ---- Leonard Conley Unit 216 - Gretna
- Most Outstanding Unit Children & Youth Program in the NW Division --- Leonard Conley Unit 216 - Gretna
- Most Outstanding Unit Leadership Program in the NW Division --- Leonard Conley Unit 216 - Gretna
- Most Outstanding Unit National Security Program in the NW Division - Franklin Unit 193 - Ohio

CERTIFICATES TO:

- Public Relations: Best Mission Focused Social Media in the NW Division - Unit 374, Millard and Unit 216, Gretna
- Leadership: Unit Member of the Year from the Department of Nebraska - Erica Albers, Unit 360, Cook
- VA & R/VAVS: Volunteer Recruitment & Service Award - Kathryn Cyboron, Nebraska
- Community Service: Best Promotion of American Legion Family Day in the NW Division - Unit 216, Gretna
- Best Department National Security Program in the NW Division-Department of Nebraska

HISTORY

Here and now is your time to Investigate the Story of the Legion Post Family for the Opportunity to Retain Years of Information

*Vicki Cyboron
Dept. Historian*

2025 MID-YEAR CONFERENCE

The 2025 Mid-Year Conference will be held January 17-19, 2025 at the Norfolk Lodge and Suites in Norfolk, NE. The nightly rate is \$109.00 a night and it includes breakfast. The hotel is located at 4200 W Norfolk Ave - Norfolk, NE 68701 and they can be reached for reservations at 402-379-3833. More information can be found at nebraskalegion.net/meetings/department_midyear.html

MEMBERSHIP

As I write this, summer has ended and our kids are back in school. As you read this, the fall colors will be in full bloom and Halloween will be right around the corner.

These are all things which happen every year, and yet, we look forward to their coming (well, maybe not the end of summer!). And as we begin our 2025 membership recruitment year, let's all take a moment to appreciate our members. They are the American Legion Auxiliary's (ALA's) MOST VALUABLE ASSET! In fact, their volunteer service not only honors our veterans and our military, it also grows our membership. And, if we all sustain our units' membership, our organization will be able to continue our history of success for our veterans.

Trish Ward, the 2024-2025 ALA National President, has as her theme for the upcoming year: "Leading the Way," using the North Star as her symbol and the elements in nature as building blocks for growth in membership. In the Northwestern Division, our "building block" is Energy. Meanwhile, Nebraska's Department President Amanda Washburn has adopted a theme of "Always Remembering Their

Service" (ARTS), and her project is to support the Veterans Creative Arts Festival.

In an attempt to combine Energy with Creativity here in Nebraska, I chose something which nearly all of us support - and one I know our Department President wholeheartedly cheers on - namely Husker Sports. In order for Nebraska Athletics to be successful, our coaches need to recruit. Just look at the difference a few recruits made to Nebraska Volleyball a year ago and to Nebraska Football so far this year.

In order for the ALA to continue to be successful, our members must recruit. So, this year, each district has been assigned a team from the University of Nebraska Athletic Department to cheer on and encourage as we recruit in our own ranks:

- District 1 - Women's Track & Field, BIG Conference Runner-Up
- District 2 - Men's Track & Field, BIG Conference Champion
- District 3 - Men's Baseball, BIG Conference Tournament Champion
- District 4 - Women's Soccer, BIG Conference Co-Champion & NCAA Final Four
- District 5 - Men's Basketball, At

Large Bid to NCAA Tournament

- District 6 - Men's Gymnastics, Finished 4th in NCAA National Meet
- District 7 - Women's Basketball - BIG Conference Runner-Up
- District 8 - Women's Rifle - 8th in NCAA Championships
- District 9 - Men's Wrestling - 3rd in BIG Conference & 9th in Nation
- District 10 - Women's Gymnastics - Qualified for NCAA Championship Meet
- District 11 - Women's Volleyball - BIG Conference Champion & 2nd in Nation
- District 12 - Women's Bowling - 3rd at NCAA Championship
- District 13 - Men's Football - No accolades just yet, but who doesn't love Husker Football!

But, the BEST NEWS is that our 2025 goals have been adjusted in order to make them more realistic and attainable for all. In Nebraska's case, National looked at what our membership total was on the date 30 days prior to the 2023 National Convention, then asked us to increase that number (15,186) by 2% - to 15,490.

Nebraska closed out the 2024 membership year on July 31 with 14,040 members, and we can

easily grow that number together. Take a moment to look at your unit roster. Are there names on it who need to be reported to Department Headquarters as deceased? Are there former members on it who might be willing to rejoin? Then take a look at your community. Are there folks out there with a veteran in their family who might like to honor that veteran's service by joining? Finally, take a look at your community organizations. We all have those "go-getters" in our communities who love volunteer service. Even if they're not eligible to join themselves, they might be willing to help you contact others.

Every new and rejoined member gets the Department of Nebraska one step closer to our goal. Let's all take a moment to appreciate our current members, honor our veterans, and recruit a few new members. Together, we will get Nebraska back to 100% membership in 2025.

*Loree Hendrickson
Membership Chair*

CHAPLAINS CORNER

"I will sing to the Lord all my life; I will sing praise to my God as long as I live. May my meditation be pleasing to him, as I rejoice in the Lord." Psalm 104: 33-34 (NIV)

"I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me." Philippians 4:13 (NKJV)

The psalmist writes about the greatness of God and declares that he will sing to and praise God all his life. We should make the same commitment. No matter how many problems you have right now, you have much more to praise God for. Take time to think of the majestic things God has created, and it will help you realize that he has no problem handling your difficulties.

Let us pray:

Dear Lord,

I will praise you all my life for all the marvelous things that you do, and I ask You to help me meditate only on things that are pleasing you.

Lori Reimers

Department Chaplain

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 NOVEMBER 10, 2024.

EXETER AVENUE HOLIDAY SAMPLER

CRAFT / VENDOR SHOW

Sponsored by
American Legion Auxiliary Unit 218

Saturday, October 19, 2024

9:00 AM to 2:00 PM

Exeter American Legion Hall

Exeter, Nebraska

Door Prizes and Cash Drawing at 2:00 PM

30 Vendor Tables

Take-out or eat-in meals all day.

EVERYONE WELCOME

DISTRICT FALL ROUNDUP SCHEDULE

(TIME SHOWN IS THE MEETING TIME)

District 1	Sun, Oct 6	Cody	1:00PM M.T.
District 2	Sun, Oct 6	Chambers	1:00PM
District 3	<i>No Roundup Held</i>		
District 4	Sat, Oct 26	Sidney	1:00PM M.T.
District 5	Sat, Oct 12	Stapleton	1:00PM
District 6	Sun, Oct 13	St. Paul	9:00AM
District 7	Sun, Oct 13	David City	2:00PM
District 8	Sun, Oct 13	Blair	1:00PM
District 9	<i>No Roundup Held</i>		
District 10	Sat, Sept 28	Holstein	10:00AM
District 11	Sat, Oct 12	Fairbury	2:00PM
District 12	Sat, Oct 19	Syracuse	
District 13	Sat, Oct 12	Humboldt	11:30AM

2024 NATIONAL ALA CONVENTION NEW ORLEANS, LOUISIANA CONT.

Continued from Page 1...

The Constitution and Bylaws Chairman, Michele DeGennaro, presented nine (9) proposed Amendments. Two (2) were to the Constitution – both passed. One (1) was for the Bylaws - it passed. Six (6) were Standing Rules changes - four (4) were passed and two (2) were lost.

The Commander's Banquet was held in the evening with those attending enjoying the meal and music (they ate chicken).

Wednesday at 8:30, delegates were in their places to nominate and elect the new 2024-2025 National Officers. They are President Trish Ward of Kansas, Vice President Pam Ray of Illinois, Chaplain Monique Batiste of Louisiana, and Historian Dara Oliver of Florida. The Division Chairmen were introduced and

elected by applause.

On with more chairman reports from Public Relations Pam Bates, VA & R Pam Ray, Legislative Donna Dillard, and AEF Jeannie Haas.

National President Lisa Williamson was presented a Bronze Medallion from the Chapel of Four Chaplains Vice Chairman Louis Cavaliere.

We heard the Memorial for Past National President Katherine Morris given by PNP Carlene Ashworth.

Historian Donna Thurman announced the Toomey Award winner was the Department of Wisconsin.

Resolutions Chairman Jane Hardacre presented three courtesy resolutions and the Distinguished Guest Committee of three PNPs was introduced.

That afternoon installation

of officers was held after which President Lisa closed the 2024 National Convention. Congrats to our very own Debra Albers of Davenport Unit 335, who was installed as the 2024-2025 Northwestern Division National Vice President!

States Dinner was that evening with everyone dressed in the spirit of the Mardi Gras theme (yes, chicken was served). It was then back home to Nebraska on Thursday.

Thank you to all the delegates and alternates that took the time to attend this convention. Your promptness and attendance was appreciated by this Secretary. See you in 2025 at Tampa Bay, Florida.

Roxanne Hiatt
Secretary

8/40 NATIONALE MARCHÉ

Seven partners from Nebraska attended the Nationale Marche in Long Beach, California September 11-15.

Delegates pictured (I to r) are Departemental Demi Chapeau Pamela Way, National Chapeau Passe' Lorene Bartos, Departemental Povior Sandy Steinkamp, National Nurses Scholarship Chair Linda Varejcka, and National Western Division Partnership Chair Barb Skillman. Seated are National Chapeau Passe' Sharon Alley and Western Division Demi Chapeau Virginia Nelsen.

The newly elected National Chapeau is Barbara Rutherford of

Washington. Her theme is "Raising Awareness" to put on a Sunny Smile for our Special Children. The Sunflower is her symbol. The Eight and Forty supports programs and raises funds for the American Legion Child Welfare Foundation (ALCWF), National Jewish Health, and other programs supporting children with Cystic Fibrosis, Lung, and other respiratory diseases.

Nebraska has 6 Salons and 119 partners. Pictured is the Garland D. Murphy, Jr. Award plaque Nebraska received for being the Number One Departemental in total contributions to the ALCWF for the 2024 year.



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DATES TO REMEMBER

OCTOBER

14	Columbus Day — Department Headquarters Closed
16	Stand Down — Lincoln
26	National Make A Difference Day
31	Halloween

NOVEMBER

1	Poppy Orders and Donation Forms due
1	Stand Down — Omaha
3	Daylight Savings Time Ends
5	Election Day — Remember to Vote!
10	105th ALA Birthday
11	Veterans Day
18-22	American Education Week
28	Thanksgiving Day — Department Headquarters Closed
29	Department Headquarters Closed

FOR YOUR ADVANCED PLANNING

January 17 - 19, 2025	Mid-Year Conference in Norfolk
June 1 - 7, 2025	ALA Cornhusker Girls State, Lincoln, UNL Campus
June 26 - 29, 2025	Department Convention
August 22 - 28, 2025	National Convention, Tampa Bay, Florida

DEPARTMENT CALENDAR FUNDRAISER

It has been a while since the Department has had a fundraiser. The Finance Committee has chosen an "ALA Calendar" as a fundraiser for this year.

Across this great state of Nebraska communities are immensely proud of their Veterans. One way they show their heartfelt gratitude for our Veterans and those in the military is by erecting Veteran's Memorials. We would like to highlight these impressive memorials by selecting thirteen for the "ALA Calendar."

Why thirteen memorials? Well, let's see, we have thirteen Districts. If our calendar is a

12-month one, we can dedicate each month to a specific district with the cover being the District with the "Best of the Best" So, Units across Nebraska get your camera ready and snap your color photo to submit.

When submitting, indicate the community the memorial is in, the District number, your Unit Name and number, and your name. Provide a brief history of the memorial and submit it to Department Headquarters by December 1, 2024.

Department needs your help to make this a successful fundraiser. On your mark, get ready, and snap those pictures!