

# Legionnaire

Volume XCVIII

Number 1



## Don Suchy Elected As Nebraska State Commander



Pictured (L to R) Marge Suchy and Department Commander Don Suchy.

Don Suchy of Valparaiso was elected and installed as the Commander of the Nebraska American Legion during the 104th Annual Convention held June 24 - 26, 2022, in Columbus.

Suchy is eligible for The American Legion through his service in the Nebraska Air National Guard during the Vietnam War era, where he was a Jet Engine Mechanic. He has been a member of The American Legion and Post 371 for 36 years. Suchy has served as Department Senior Vice-Commander, District 7 Commander, District 7 Vice-Commander, County Commander, County Vice-Commander, Post Commander, and Post-Vice Commander. He also served as the Sons Squadron Vice-Commander and Commander.

He has held many committee appointments at the National level including the National Children and Youth Committee, National Children and Youth Vice Chairman, National Children and Youth Advisory Committee, and member of the Child Welfare Board of Directors. Don also dedicated a year of his life as the Aide to National Commander Mike Helm.

Don and his wife, Marge, reside in Valparaiso. He has one daughter, Jennifer (Matthew), one son, Kyle (Maggie), and four grandchildren. He is a member of First Christian Church and is retired from the Goodyear Tire and Rubber Company.

Other officers elected during the convention were Department Senior Vice Commander John Henry Percy of Papillion, Area A Vice Commander Carl Lorenzen of Blair, Area B Vice Commander Ken Meyer of Creighton, Area C Vice Commander Dick Binder of Minden, and Area D Vice Commander Gene VonForell of Crawford.

### National Convention in Milwaukee

The 103rd Annual National Convention will be held August 26 - September 1st at the Wisconsin District Center in Milwaukee, Wisconsin. Committee meetings, the Nebraska Legion Caucus, and the Tri-Stack Party with North and South Dakota will all be held on Saturday, August 28. There will be no parade this year.

The general session begins on Tuesday, August 30 and will conclude at approximately noon on Thursday, September 1.

Delegates and alternates were voted on at Department Convention, but there is still time to get your name on the list if you would like to attend. Nebraska will be staying at the Drury Plaza two blocks from the convention center. Information must be returned to Department by July 9th. Contact Adjutant Salak with any questions.



### Events Calendar

#### July

- 4 Independence Day - Office Closed
- 21-24 National Junior Shooting Sports - CO
- 21-30 Boys' Nation - D.C.
- 27-29 Department Service Office School - Indianapolis
- 28-30 Membership Workshop - Indianapolis

#### August

- 11-16 American Legion World Series - NC
- 26-1 National Convention - Milwaukee WI

#### September

- 1 National Convention - Milwaukee WI
- 5 Labor Day - Office Closed

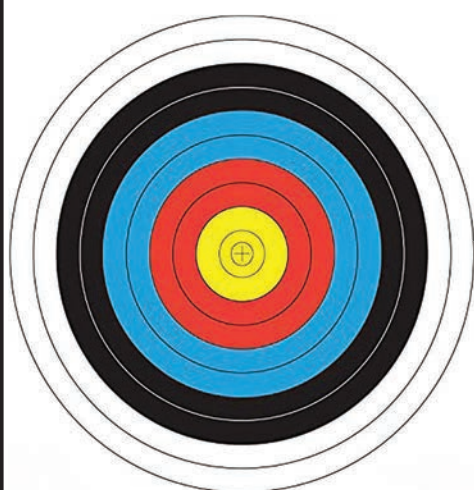
Check [www.nebraskalegion.net](http://www.nebraskalegion.net) under the meetings tab for upcoming National, State, and District events.

### FOR GOD AND COUNTRY

### 100% FOR TARGET

2022 MEMBERSHIP GOAL: 26,097 JUNE 30TH TOTAL: 24,185 - 92.67%

DISTRICT 13 - 94.69%	DISTRICT 6 - 94.28%	DISTRICT 9 - 93.25%	DISTRICT 7 - 93.04%	DISTRICT 8 - 92.91%
DISTRICT 12 - 92.36%	DISTRICT 2 - 92.23%	DISTRICT 11 - 92.05%	DISTRICT 1 - 91.52%	DISTRICT 3 - 91.30%
DISTRICT 5 - 91.22%	DISTRICT 15 - 90.92%	DISTRICT 10 - 90.79%	DISTRICT 4 - 90.53%	








# Commander's Corner

**Don Suchy**  
Department Commander



**Pictured center Commander Don Suchy and Marge Suchy, surrounded by their family.**

Fellow Legionnaires and American Legion Family,

First of all, I would like to thank everyone for the confidence and support you showed for me at the Department Convention. It is a great honor to serve the American Legion in this position.

I've chosen the covered wagon for my Commander's pin, I chose the covered wagon because it's the symbol of the Nebraska Legion. The color blue is for my service in the Air Force, the color of our dress blues. My theme is "Serving Our Veterans on the Road to Success".

My theme comes from the town of Success which was started in 1865 after the Civil War as a railroad stop, but then the railroad decided to go a different direction. There was a church, a post office, and a hotel in the town, our residence sits on the ground where the hotel was. My focus this year will be on the Children and Youth Program, Child Welfare Foundation, and Veterans and Children's Foundation.

One of my most rewarding chairmanships was holding the Department Children and Youth Chairmanship for 24 years. The Children and Youth program is a very special program to be a part of. We are still staying involved with Children and Youth activities within our local Valparaiso Legion Post and Auxiliary. We have an annual Children and Youth Fun Day held the last weekend in April. This fun event includes our community and Military children in our area. It is also a great avenue to recruit new members to the American Legion Family.

I would like to congratulate Department Auxiliary President Vicki Ozenbaugh and her officers on their election for the upcoming year. We look forward to working with the Sons Detachment and the Legion Riders as well.

Congratulations also goes out to Senior Vice Commander John Henry Percy Post 32 Papillion, we are confident that we will make a great team. My Sergeant of Arms is Fred Tisdale from Post 1 Omaha, and my Assistant Sergeant of Arms is Albert Bartek from Post 371 Valparaiso, they are both devoted Legionnaires and great friends. Department Auxiliary President Vicki and I are planning to have our Homecoming Saturday, October 1, 2022, in Seward, NE. There will be more information coming out later about this event, you may want to mark your calendar.

We have just finished another successful year of Nebraska Boy State, this is such a great program. It is such a rewarding experience while attending Boys State to talk with the delegates and hear their perspective on their week-long session. It is overwhelming how many come up and thank us for our service and want to know more about our time in the service as well as thank us for hosting such a great program. All the information these young boys learn and take home with them and all the new friends they will enjoy forever is just another success story of the American Legion.

Thanks again for all your support, and I am looking forward to visiting your Districts and Posts this year.

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

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

### District Commanders

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

**Be an Early Bird for 2023!**



**All regular members (those who pay dues annually) whose dues are paid and received at Department Headquarters by September 6, 2022, will be in a drawing for \$500 this year!!**

**Help us build membership momentum!!**

**Be in the drawing!!**


### Jim Hurlbert Memorial Scholarships

The Nebraska American Legion selected Tynan Skalka of Sutton 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 34th consecutive year, the Nebraska American Legion has done its part in helping Nebraska students with scholarship money.



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**Kylea Pestel, 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, PO Box 5205, Lincoln, NE 68505, or you can email the information to [kzpestel@windstream.net](mailto:kzpestel@windstream.net)





## Rider's Rally

**John Arias**  
Department ALR Liaison



Greetings Fellow Riders,

There have been lots of area events that I've attended or looked forward to participating in them. The Aurora ALR Chapter Poker Run on May 21 was chilly, but we had a good ride with over 20 riders and passengers attending. Another Run was the Kearney ALR Chapter Poker Run on June 4; over 30 riders and passengers rode and then participated in a meal, raffle, and silent auction.



**Legion Rider Marty Timberlake was presented the Rider of the Year Award. Pictured (L to R) Marty Timberlake and Riders Liaison John Arias.**


I attended the State Romp in Ashland from June 17th through the 19th, and it was a good ride and I enjoyed seeing other Riders there. I believe it was a success and would like to thank Ashland Chapter for doing a great job on the little time that they had to prepare for the Romp.

In July, Grand Island ALR will host their 3rd Annual Freedom Run on July 16th. I know there are other runs happening in July and August, but I do not have the dates or times on those. Be safe and have a great time!

I will be hosting the 2022 Legacy Run Across Nebraska from August 12-13, 2022. We will start on the 12th around 9:30 am from Grand Island and head east on Hwy 34 to Lincoln. From Lincoln, we will head south to Beatrice then head to Hebron. From Hebron, we will ride west to Red Cloud making our way through Alma, and Arapahoe and stopping for the night in McCook. On the 13th, we will rally at the Walmart at 9:30 am and head to Palisade, Imperial, Grant, and have brunch at the Crossroads Café in Venango. From Venango, we will head to Ogallala and ride Hwy 30 to Lexington finishing the Legacy Run in Kearney where we will stop at Patriot Park across from the Central Nebraska Veterans Home where the Traveling Vietnam Veterans Memorial Wall will be set up. After that, we will head to the Younes Convention Center where the Nebraska Vietnam Veterans Reunion will be taking place. I have flyers posted on my Facebook page. If you are interested in receiving flyers, please let me know.


If anyone would like to make a monetary contribution to our 2022 Legacy Run Across Nebraska you can mail donations to me at 420 N. Sherman Avenue, Grand Island, NE 68803. In the last couple of years, we've raised around \$1,500. The goal for this year is to raise \$2,000.

If you have any questions, please contact me at 308-352-6824 or email me [johnpaularias32@gmail.com](mailto:johnpaularias32@gmail.com).



## Chaplain's Corner

**Father Alexander Borzych**  
Department Chaplain



The book *Crossing Over* is the story of the rejection one woman faced when she fell in love with a person outside the Amish Community and ran away to marry him. Ruth Garrett had always been a little rebellious, but not even she could imagine the pain she was about to experience from being shunned by her family and community.

Arnold Palmer played his last Masters Tournament in 2002. Palmer, who won the Masters in 1958, 1960, 1962, and 1964, had seen his game slip away with age and his stardom fade with the rise of Tiger Woods and Phil Nicholson. A reporter asked Palmer, "Why did you do it? Why did you quit?" Palmer replied, "I didn't want to get the letter that former champions Ford, Brewer, and Casper have received asking them to step down."

Whether it's that girl in elementary school who looked at you in disdain when you offered her Valentine's card, or the boss that suggests you are not included in the company's new plans, rejection hurts. It causes pain.

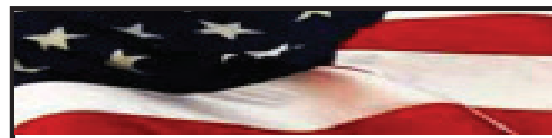
I have never seen so much rejection of a group of Veterans as the rejection that was given to the Vietnam Veterans when they came back to the United States from Vietnam. They were called "baby killers" and spit upon, others protested, shamed them, and were unwelcomed back to their own country. Many who could not take the rejection committed suicide, some became recluses, others antisocial and some turned to alcohol and drugs to deal with rejection. Mental problems abounded, and most were told to toughen up and bear it like a man. PTSD was not even heard of in those days. I have always heard of Vietnam Vets as; "the forgotten veterans." For years and years, these men and women suffered quietly and withdrew from society; we know rejection hurts, it changes lives and relationships. It causes pain and withdrawal.

Great strides have been made to help these men and women to overcome their hurt, rejection, and illnesses. The Veterans Administration has programs to help all veterans in place now to help better these men and women who are afflicted with PTSD. For some, it is too late. They have tried to solve their problems in ways that have destroyed their lives.

Please pray for these men and women in their journeys to recovery. Recognize them as heroes and thank them for their sacrifices. Honor them as veterans who added to the freedom that we now live with today.


My challenge to you is to seek out the Vietnam Veterans, thank them personally for their sacrifices, and allow them to know that you care. Show them that, even though it has been a long time, they are still heroes. Most of these men and women are in their late 60s and 70s in age. Treat them like those that came back from Iraq, with honor and thankfulness.

For God and Country



## Straight Talk

**Levi Bennett**  
Department Service Officer



### Upcoming Virtual Claims Clinic

County Veteran Service Officers (CVSO) and the State Service Office will be working with the Lincoln VA Regional Office to hold another Virtual Claims Clinic in August 2022. Dates to be determined. If you have a service-connected disability claim (to include blue water) or pension claim pending with VBA exceeding 125 days, I recommend you contact your CVSO to check if he/she will be submitting it for review during August virtual claims clinic. Virtual claims clinics allow for rating of claims if ready as well as scheduling exams and problem-solving issues that may be holding up the claim.

### Nebraska Women Veterans' Symposium

If you have not already heard there will be a women veterans' symposium held September 24-25, 2022, at the Holiday Inn Hotel and Convention Center in Kearney, Nebraska. This is a free two-day event with an agenda packed full of dynamic presenters, topics, special activities, and more. The event is centered around empowering Nebraska's female veterans, by connecting them with each other to build a network of support, providing education on benefits and resources available to them, and for those providing services to female veterans to learn how to better serve our female veterans. The keynote speaker will be our very own, Denise Rohan, past National Commander of The American Legion, Rohan is the first woman to be elected to the top position of The American Legion.

The symposium will have presenters from the Nebraska-Western Iowa Healthcare System (NWIHS), Veterans Benefits Administration, Women Veterans Program Manager for NWIHS, Homeless Veteran Coordinator, Vet Center, and Education/Veteran Readiness and Employment (VR&E) to name a few. A few of the topics to be covered during the symposium include "What's new with women veterans' health?", Suicide/Crisis Prevention, Military Sexual Trauma and PTSD, Interpersonal (Domestic) Violence, and Peer Support. There will be a "Panel Discussion" on "Celebrating Who I Was and Who I've Become." There are some special activities planned to include a screening of the "Lioness" (which tells the story of a group of female Army support soldiers who were assigned to accompany the Marine Infantry on patrols in the streets of Ramadi). For more information and to register for the event type "Nebraska Women Veterans' Symposium" into your search engine or contact a local CVSO.

### New Life Insurance Program by USDVA for Veterans Receiving Disability Compensation

Beginning in January 2023, VA will begin accepting applications for their new Veterans Affairs Life Insurance (VALife). VALife offers guaranteed acceptance to whole life insurance coverage. The VALife program is available to Veterans up to the age of 80 with any level of service-connected disability rating (0%-100%). Veterans who are age 81 and older may apply for VALife if they receive a new service-connected disability rating and apply within two years of receiving the new rating. VA reports that there will be instant approvals through a fully automated online enrollment process with no medical requirements for enrollment. For detailed information on premiums for VALife, please visit the following website [www.benefits.va.gov/insurance/valife\\_rates.asp](http://www.benefits.va.gov/insurance/valife_rates.asp).



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# S.A.L. Notes

**Chris Casey**  
Detachment Commander




**Commander Michael Fox spoke during the Flying Flags for Heroes program during the Department Convention. Pictured (L to R) National Sons Commander Michael Fox and East Vice Commander Thomas Landkamer.**

Greetings from the Detachment of Nebraska! Summer is a busy time for all of us with travel, kids being home from school, and outdoor activities. This is also a busy time for Squadrons across the state. Squadron leadership has been elected and should have high expectations for the year. As a reminder, the 2022-2023 Squadron Officer Report needs to be sent to Detachment Headquarters. Adjutants need to send a new form each year regardless of the change in leadership. The Detachment is stronger when we have updated contact information for our Squadrons.

Membership renewals begin now! It is necessary to begin the renewal process for 2023 in July 2022, not January of 2023. We have too many Squadron Adjutants that are beginning the process too late and causing their fellow members to lose their active status and access to the benefits of membership. We may continue to experience delays with membership cards due to supply chain issues, but a card should not keep us from completing renewals. Get the dues collected now and be prepared to complete the cards as soon as they are received. For those that process membership online, you already know that we do not need to wait for the paper. Recruit, retain, and reactivate!

We wrapped up our Detachment Convention and have our leadership team in place for the upcoming program year. Please make sure that your Squadron is utilizing the Detachment leadership team for any questions they may have. We have a lot of experience and knowledge across the state and people that are willing to assist their fellow members. We should not have Squadrons that are unaware of their next steps. Please reach out for assistance!

Has your Post considered forming a Sons of The American Legion Squadron? Now is the time to get that started! For those that may be interested, it takes a minimum of 10 new Son's members to charter a Squadron. At a minimum, a Commander and Adjutant must be identified to submit the necessary paperwork for the charter. The Detachment of Nebraska would like to see every Post utilize a Squadron to assist them in carrying out the four pillars of The American Legion. Please feel free to reach out to the Detachment leadership team with any questions you may have.

For God and Country!



**Norfolk Squadron 16 members took part in a Soldier's Cross ceremony during the opening session. Pictured (L to R) Kamden Showalter and Colten Stephan.**

## Sons of The American Legion Membership As of June 30, 2022

District	2021 Members	2022 Members
1	313	329
2	633	632
3	228	221
4	318	347
5	133	134
6	1,334	1,296
7	732	713
8	865	836
9	312	342
10	352	363
11	1,087	1,038
12	254	224
13	153	130
15	148	145
<b>Total</b>	<b>6,862</b>	<b>6,750</b>



**Lawrence Post 24 presented certificates for 50 years of continuous membership to its members. Pictured (L to R) Mick Streff, Commander Paul Dale, and Don Fairmon.**



**Falls City Post 102 presented a certificate for 60 years of continuous membership to Don Campbell. Pictured (L to R) Don Campbell and Commander Lawrence Fischer.**

## 2022 Junior Law Cadet



**Pictured front row (L to R) Schyler Schwisow - Outstanding Cadet; Mathew Zitek - Outstanding Cadet; Thea Wahl - Outstanding Driving; Braden Hiser - Outstanding Driving; Destiny Frye - Outstanding Marksmanship; and Dylan Krueger - Outstanding Marksmanship.**

The Nebraska American Legion's 53rd annual Junior Law Cadet Program was held June 21 - 24, 2022, at the Nebraska Law Enforcement Training Center in Grand Island.

26 boys and 18 girls who just finished their junior year of high school participated in this program. The students were selected from each of the 14 American Legion districts in Nebraska.

Participants learned about law enforcement responsibilities and had training from representatives of various city, county, state, and federal agencies. They participated in daily calisthenics, classroom sessions, self-defense, firearms, law enforcement driving, internet crime, and radar use.

Evening classes were devoted to accident and crime investigation, fingerprinting and polygraph techniques, and other special topics.

Six young men and women were selected from the participants for performing above and beyond during the week. Outstanding Boy Cadet - Mathew Zitek of Louisville; Outstanding Girl Cadet - Schyler Schwisow of Western; Outstanding Boys Driving Ability - Braden Hiser of Seward; Outstanding Girls Driving Ability - Thea Wahl of Ayr; Outstanding Boys Marksmanship - Dylan Krueger of McCook; Outstanding Girls Marksmanship - Destiny Frye of Sidney.



**Kearney Post 52 presented certificates of continuous membership to its members. Pictured top (L to R) Squadron Adjutant Myron Kouba, Duane Hasty (50 years), and Adjutant Bill Crosier. Pictured bottom John Morrissey (75 years).**



# 2022 Department Convention - Columbus



The Crowbar Award was presented to Daryl Harrison. Pictured (L to R) Commander Dan Benes, Daryl Harrison, and PDC Gary Wooten.



The Cody Kerr Award was presented to Ted Pafford. Pictured (L to R) ANEC Jim Costello and Gretna Post 32 Commander Ted Pafford.



Commander Dan Benes presented the 2022 Teacher-of-the-Year Awards to: Cindy Backemeyer of Elmwood-Murdock Public Schools, Colleen O'Shaughnessy of Adams Middle School, and Kristi Robison of Pawnee City Schools. Pictured (L to R) Commander Dan Benes, Colleen O'Shaughnessy, Kristi Robison, and Cindy Backemeyer.



Sons Detachment Commander Chris Casey was welcoming guests during the joint opening session. Pictured (L to R) Sons NECman David Rippe, Sons National Commander Michael Fox, Department Commander Dan Benes, Sons Commander Chris Casey, Auxiliary President Barb Meyer, National President Kathy Daudistel, NECwoman Kathy Mazur, and Riders Liaison John Arias.



Commander Benes presented multiple Citizenship awards to outstanding members. Pictured Back row (L to R) District 11 Rodney Rose, District 8 Thomas Robbins Sr., District 1 Jerald Hardin, District 4 Robert Miller, District 6 Charles Schmid, and District 9 Dennis Kennedy. Front row (L to R) Commander Dan Benes, District 3 John Ludwick Jr., District 13 Randy Baucke, District 12 Bruce Trautwein, District 10 Henry White, and District 15 Arthur Jones.



NECman Fred Craigie helped fundraise \$3,500 for The Veterans and Children Foundation by growing out his hair for the past two years. Pictured (L to R) PDC Doug Boldt and NECman Fred Craigie.

## 2022 Stoldorf New Member Incentive Awards

### Individual Awards

#### Category I

Pawnee City 168	Roger Bowman	7 new members	\$250.00
Bancroft Post 191	Jason Gatzemeyer	2 new members	\$150.00
Miller Post 251	Chris Dietz	1 new members	\$100.00

#### Category II

Morrill Post 10	Fred Cawiezel	6 new members	\$250.00
Friend Post 183	Kenneth Lindsay	5 new members	\$150.00
Howells Post 155	Mary Smith	3 new members	\$50.00
Weston Post 308	Kenneth Meduna	3 new members	\$50.00

#### Category III

McCook Post 203	Michael Simmonds	6 new members	\$250.00
Morse Bluff Post 340	Rollie Ott	4 new members	\$150.00
Ashland Post 129	James Graham	3 new members	\$100.00

#### Category IV

Grand Island Post 53	Brian Rapp	12 new members	\$250.00
Papillion Post 32	Ted Pafford	6 new members	\$83.33
Valparaiso Post 371	Don Kobza	6 new members	\$83.33
Valparaiso Post 371	Daniel Benes	6 new members	\$83.33

### Post Awards

#### Category I

Alma Post 118	22.73% of goal	\$350.00
Page Post 315	119.05% of goal	\$150.00

#### Category II

Morrill Post 10	107.41% of goal	\$350.00
Herman Post 274	105.49% of goal	\$150.00

#### Category III

McCook Post 203	103.25% of goal	\$350.00
Crofton Post 128	99.17% of goal	\$150.00

#### Category IV

Gretna Post 216	102.26% of goal	\$350.00
Grand Island Post 53	101.64% of goal	\$150.00

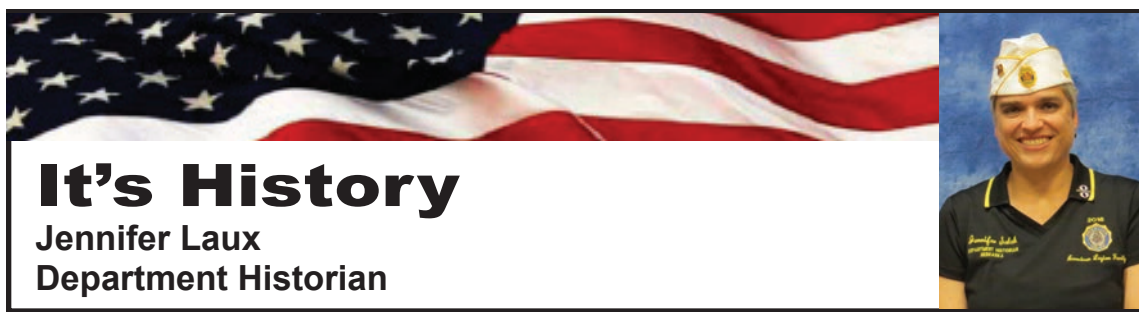


Over 40 Posts received awards for completing 100% renewal rates for membership. Multiple Posts went above 100%.



The NE-ALPA presented awards to members who created publications this year. Pictured (L to R) Vicki Cyboron, Thomas Robbins, Jerry Schulte, Gerry Wolf, Joseph Bennett, and Eddy Muggy.





## It's History

Jennifer Laux  
Department Historian



## POW/MIA

Boyd Yochum  
POW/MIA Liaison



### American Legion Department of Nebraska History Word Search

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

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

#### August 1932 (90 years ago)

- In commemoration of the last Indian battle fought on North American soil, the **TRENTON** post of the Legion staged a big Pow-Wow festival for four days in early August. Baseball games, dancing, free acts, elaborate fireworks, and other entertainment were on the program. Ceremonials were put on each afternoon and evening by **SIOUX** Indians, descendants of the band which massacred a hunting party of **PAWNEES** near the present site of Trenton years ago.
- Quick action and knowledge of **SWIMMING** enabled Alex **DEMITROFF**, a member of Lincoln Post 3, to save his wife and son from the likelihood of drowning near Milford. His son was wading in the river when he accidentally got into deep water. Mrs. Demitroff jumped in to help her son although neither could swim. Demitroff then plunged in and brought both to shore.

#### July/August 1942 (80 years ago)

- Members of **INDIANOLA** Post No. 344 voted unanimously against the suggestion that veterans of the present war be invited to join the American Legion. Members of **ALMA** Post No. 118 favored making younger veterans eligible to the Legion, provided the difference in ages does not make interests too divergent.
- When the greatest spectacle in the country today, "This is your **ARMY**," the big Army show comes to **OMAHA** during the same week in which the Department convention is to be held, special attention is going to be paid to Legionnaires and their ladies, as some of the choicest seats in the **CREIGHTON** University, site of the show, will be reserved especially for Legionnaires on Tuesday evening, August 25.
- At an open-air meeting held in the Sargent City Park on July 27, the new charter was presented to Post No. 104. This post is now chartered for **SARGENT** and **TAYLOR** and is designed to include all **LOUP** county veterans.

### Major Harold Kahler

Harold Kahler was raised in Lincoln, Nebraska, and took pilot training in Lubbock, Texas, where he received his wings in 1943. He trained pilots during World War II. After the War, Kahler was a member of the Nebraska Air National Guard and called to active duty during the Korean War and remained on active duty afterward.

Major Harold Kahler was the pilot of an F105D Thunderchief, nicknamed "Thud." It was the first supersonic tactical fighter-bomber designed from scratch, and the largest single-seat, single-engine combat aircraft in history. Kahler was sent on a mission over Laos on June 14, 1969. His aircraft was the number two plane (wingman) in a flight of two. The flight was trying to locate about 20 trucks on a highway in northwest Laos but were unable to do so. They located a bridge in the target area and were given permission to release their ordinance on the bridge. The lead aircraft rolled in on the target followed by Kahler. As the lead F105 was coming off the target he saw a flash of light. The bridge and location of the loss were in the densely wooded mountains of northern Laos, which were laced with multiple primary and secondary roads and trails that comprised the major transportation network in this part of Laos. Small villages were occasionally found scattered throughout the region.

The lead aircraft immediately tried to contact Kahler by radio but was unsuccessful. He had enough fuel to make just one pass over cloud coverage and monsoon weather but did not see a parachute indicating Kahler ejected from his aircraft.

The Sam Neua area of Northern Laos was the birthplace of the Communist Pathet Lao Government. This well-established and long-standing enemy stronghold, with its extensive cave complex, was well noted for caves in which American prisoners of war were held during the war. After the plane went down, a team reached the site and found the cockpit of the plane empty with no parachutes either inside or on the ground nearby. It was thought at the time that Kahler was working his way to a safer area where he could be rescued. The plane itself was in fair condition considering the violent impact. This information was given to one of Kahler's family members during an information-seeking trip to Laos. The relative was able to see the jungle area near the crash.

On June 14, the Pathet Lao acknowledged shooting down an F105 and stated that the pilot was "suitably punished." The mission had been Kahler's 81st combat mission. The aircraft went down about 18 miles northeast of Sam Neua. Nothing has been learned of Harold Kahler's fate since that time.

Kahler is one of nearly 600 Americans who were lost in Laos. While the U.S. has limited diplomatic relations with the communist government of Laos, it has failed to negotiate the freedom of those American prisoners or the return of their remains.

### Membership Minute Steve Bartos, Membership Chairman

There's no good way or any good reason to disguise what happened. The 2022 membership campaign has not been one of our best. At this time of year, we normally are in the top 20 departments in membership achievement. This year, we have about 40 departments that have done better than Nebraska. At least five departments have achieved 100% of their goal.

I know some folks had problems with MyLegion. I know that national had problems and failed to give Nebraska one of the scheduled renewal notices. Who really knows what caused the significant underperformance this year? For sure, while our "renewal rate" exceeded 90%, that wasn't enough to get us where we need to be.

Regardless, on behalf of PDC Benes and the Department Membership Committee, I do extend thanks to everyone who put forth some effort, large or small, to do the best we could. It's time now for a fresh start for 2023. Keep working on the members who have not renewed for 2022 but get fired up for 2023.

The 2023 Direct Renewal notices from Indianapolis are scheduled to be mailed in the July 1-8 time period. They help considerably in getting us off to a good start, but they do not and never will replace personal contact when it comes to finding and recruiting new members or renewing those current members who are sitting on the fence looking for an excuse not to renew.

The "Find Members in My Area" function in MyLegion remains a good source of Legionnaires who may want to transfer into a local post. They will be receiving dues notices, too, and may be inclined to renew and transfer into a local post if they receive some personal contact **NOW**. If they have already renewed in Post 500, they still can be invited to transfer.

If you make it your routine through the year to check the Post 500 list regularly (every month or so, perhaps), you should be able to identify the newest additions in your area. They may be the best prospects to transfer if you can contact them just after they joined the American Legion.

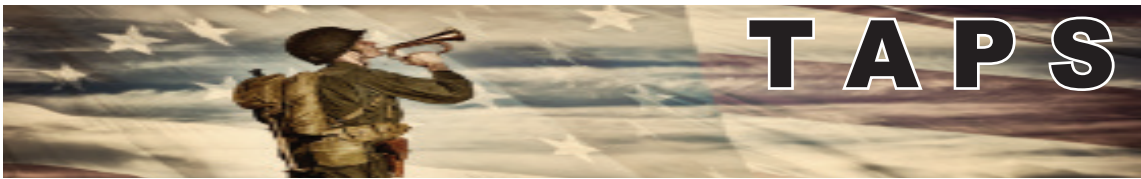
Another thing that needs to be done regularly is the transmittal of dues to Department Headquarters. Please process your regular renewals as soon as you start receiving them. Establish some kind of regular schedule for transmitting them, and don't hold on to them forever!!

There is an "Early Bird" incentive for the individual "regular" Legionnaire who pays his or her dues early, **\$500 worth of incentive this year**. Any "regular" member whose dues are paid **AND** transmitted (postmarked) to Department Headquarters by September 6th shall be in a drawing for \$500. Legionnaires, pay your dues promptly. **Adjutants, make sure you send them in!** (A similar drawing for \$150 for Department Life and PUFL members will be made in January.)

Let's try to start building some momentum and get this membership slide turned around!!

Have a nice July.





Alexander, Don G., Plainview, Korea	Hasty, Duane M., Kearney, Vietnam	Petersen, Arthur R., Gibbon, Vietnam
Allen, Gerald W., Ainsworth, Korea	Haumont, Lee P., Broken Bow, Vietnam	Phelps, James C., Crawford, Korea
Altman, Gary, Millard, Vietnam	Hoffschneider, Burton, Utica, Korea	Pomrenke, Jim, Fremont, Vietnam
Andersen, Douglas E., Lincoln	Humpal, John E., Papillion, Korea	Ramold, Hubert W., Atkinson
Anderson, Dale, Chadron, Vietnam	Jarzynka, John, Ashton, Korea	Remmich, H. Dale, Norfolk, Vietnam
Anderson, Darrell R., Grand Island, Korea	Jensen, James M., Syracuse, Korea	Rezac, Francis W., Lincoln, Korea
Arnold, Cliff, Grand Island, Korea	Jenson, Jim, Springfield, Vietnam	Rhodes, Carl, Omaha, Korea
Beatty, Wayne, Stromsburg, Vietnam	Jobman, Don D., Kearney, Korea	Ridgeway, Harvey J., Norfolk, Vietnam
Bennett, Myron W., Oxford	Johnson, Eugene L., Dakota City, WWII	Ritterling, Wilmer, Byron, Korea
Best, Fred H., Gretna, Vietnam	Junge, William F., Rushville, WWII	Robinson, Norman A., Bellevue, Vietnam
Boeka, Donald, Wood River, Vietnam	Kaiser, Charles, York, Vietnam	Rudebusch, Vernon C., Randolph, WWII
Bruner, Terry Sr., Omaha, Vietnam	Kallhoff, Jerry, Chadron, Korea	Schneider, Edward L., Lincoln, Korea
Bunger, Dale, Kearney, Korea	Keil, Francis, Norfolk, Korea	Schneider, Edwin, Plymouth, Korea
Burmond, Paul R., Niobrara, Vietnam	Keller, Wilbur L., South Omaha, Vietnam	Schulte, Paul, Norfolk, Korea
Byars, Dennis M., Beatrice, Vietnam	Kemper, Don, Omaha, WWII	Schultz, Ernest C., Oxford, Vietnam
Chaffin, Steven R., Omaha, Vietnam	Kessinger, Kenneth, York, Korea	Searcy, Francis L., Syracuse, Vietnam
Chmelka, Leonard, Malmo, Korea	Kneifl, Steven T., Newcastle, Vietnam	Seevers, Vernon C., Norfolk, Korea
Christensen, Tim A., Central City, Lebanon/ Grenada	Koetter, Arthur Jr., McCook, WWII	Sehnert, Walter E., McCook, Korea
Cole, Lawrence M., O'Neill, Vietnam	Kozak, Jesse, Beatrice, WWII	Shortridge, Harlis C., Havelock, Vietnam
Dahl, Daniel L., Fremont, Vietnam	Krahmer, Herman K., Yutan, Vietnam	Spilker, Glen, Plymouth, Korea
Deboer, Roger D., Wymore, Korea	Krupicka, Jeffery S., Ohioa, Persian Gulf,	Stover, Gary, Norfolk, Vietnam
Dillman, Alan, Morrill, Vietnam	Lampe, Robert J., Omaha, Vietnam	Strnad, George F., South Omaha, WWII
Dineen, Frank, Kearney, WWII	Lange, Dale, Lincoln, Korea	Swanson, Charles D., Syracuse, Korea
Drumond, Richard, Norfolk, Korea	Larkins, William G., Deshler, Korea	Swanson, Howard, Pender, WWII
Dubas, Robert D., Grand Island, Vietnam	Layman, Carl, Fremont, Korea	Tollefsrud, Howard M., Omaha, Korea
Edwards, Paul, Hardy, Korea	Layman, K., Fort Calhoun, WWII	Valaika, Kevin J., Lincoln, Vietnam
Ellis, Ernest D., Millard, Vietnam	Lehl, Marvin L., Lincoln, Korea	Vancura, Jeff, North Platte, Vietnam
Folden, Robert, Lincoln, WWII	Linafelter, Leonard, Omaha, Korea	Wiegand, Bob L., Cedar Bluffs, WWII
Fosco, Alex B., Omaha WWII	Louthan, Robert E., Edison, WWII	Williams, Don C., Hastings, Vietnam
Franzluebbbers, Joseph, West Point, Korea	Maack, Willis, Omaha, WWII	Wilson, Jack F., Central City, WWII
Freichs, Andrew, Miller, Global War	Mach, Rod, Millard, Vietnam	Wonka, George J., Weston, Korea
Friese, Donald J., Petersburg, Korea	Maranville, John J., Benson, Vietnam	Wright, Donald, Central City, WWII
Fylnn, Michael D., Lincoln, Lebanon/ Grenada	Miller, Bob, Omaha, WWII	
Goff, Wayne, Alliance, Korea	Miller, Gerald, Elgin, WWII	
Good, Harlan, Neligh, Korea	Nemec, Gary W., Howells, Vietnam	
Greenwood, Richard D., Utica, Vietnam	Nielsen, Jens Jr., Wolbach	
Gusman, Ronald L., Sidney, Vietnam	Nuttleman, Doug, Norfolk, Korea	
Hahn, Dean, Plymouth, Korea	Osterholm, Lynn E., Millard, Korea	
Hale, William F., Sutton, Korea	Palmer, Gerald D., Fairfield, Korea	
	Patterson, Daniel, Papillion, Vietnam	
	Payne, Jack W., Omaha, WWII	
	Perrault, Sondra R., North Platte, Korea	



**Auburn Post 23 presented certificates for continuous membership to its members. Pictured top (L to R) Kenny Rieke (60 years) and Glen Hogue. Pictured bottom, members who received Quilts of Valor, (L to R) Herb Lash, Silvano Munoz, Raymond North, and Kenny Rieke.**



**Hallam Post 294 had members receive Quilts of Valor from the Hallam Auxiliary Unit 294. Pictured back row (L to R) Secretary Kathryn Kerns (AUX), Kenneth Chelton, Dolyn Meinke, Harold Meinke, and President Dorren Cole. Front row (L to R) Rodney Hollman, Adjutant Marilyn Grotrian, Roger Koch, Bernard Navratil, and Aryln Wohl.**



**Rushville Post 161 had members receive Quilts of Valor from the Panhandle Block Organization. Pictured (L to R) Don Levi, David Dierix, and Ron Dorsey. Photographer: Scott Bidroski, Sheridan County Journal Star.**

## ★★★★ Nebraska's Veterans' Homes ★★★★★



Central Nebraska Veterans' Home



Eastern Nebraska Veterans' Home



Norfolk Veterans' Home



Western Nebraska Veterans' Home

### Services Offered Include:

- ★ Skilled Nursing Care
- ★ Domiciliary Care
- ★ Memory Care
- ★ Hospice/Palliative Care
- ★ Physical Therapy
- ★ Occupational Therapy
- ★ Restorative Therapy
- ★ Speech Therapy

### Live in a community with fellow veterans!

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







Coleridge Post 114 presented a certificate for 50 years of continuous membership to Wayne F Kurtzhals. Pictured (L to R) Commander John Hoffart and Wayne F Kurtzhals.



Fremont Post 20 presented a certificate for 70 years of continuous membership to William Malmberg. Pictured (L to R) Wesley Conklin and William Malmberg.



North Platte Post 163 presented a certificate for 50 years of continuous membership to Ronald K. Halsted. Pictured (L to R) Ronald K. Halsted and Commander Scott Bell.



Tryon Post 189 presented a certificate for 60 years of continuous membership to Harold Arensdorf. Pictured (L to R) Harold Arensdorf and Commander Terry Neal.



Chambers Post 320 presented a certificate for 50 years of continuous membership to Darrel Dexter. Pictured (L to R) Darrel Dexter and Doug Frahm.



Bennington Post 266 presented the Public Relations award to one of its members. Pictured (L to R) Commander Les Brauer, Steven Youngberg, and Adjutant Glenn Turner.



Polk Post 160 presented a certificate for 50 years of continuous membership to Charlie Shenk. Pictured (L to R) Charlie Shenk and Commander Bradley Sundberg.



Utica Post 49 member Debra Day was presented with a Quilt of Valor.



Gretna Riders Chapter 216 donated over 450 pounds of nonperishable food items to Victory Apartments in Omaha.



Crofton Post 128 had three members receive Quilts of Valor. Pictured top (L to R) Francis Guenther, David Donner, Earl Johnson, and Bob Haberer. Pictured bottom (L to R) Bob Haberer, Jim Pietz, and Francis Guenther.



Arlington Post 71 had members receive Quilts of Valor. Pictured top, back row (L to R) Gary Dennison, Dave Rangeloff, Linda Kay Hermesch, and Commander Steve Bremer. Front row (L to R) Delmar Dunklau, Bruce Krueger, and Loren Cohrs. Pictured bottom (L to R) Melvin Misfeldt, Commander Steven Bremer, Roland Laaker, and Glen Vogt.



Beatrice Post 27 presented certificates for 50 years of continuous membership to its members. Pictured top (L to R) Steven Timm, Harold Nielsen, and Commander Jerry Lamkin. Pictured bottom (L to R) O. Dale Leggett and Commander Jerry Lamkin.







The American Legion Auxiliary  
Department of Nebraska

# The Star

July - August 2022



## CHANGING OF THE GUARDS!



white, and blue." Proudly wear them (or at least red) at your unit's events. And, especially, remember to wear or display our brand (our emblem) everywhere you go.

I do have a song I would like to promote throughout the year: "The Old Red, White, and Blue." It will be available on our website, [www.nebraskalegionaux.net](http://www.nebraskalegionaux.net).

Communicating with our membership is vital to the success of our Department. I hope to establish a simple but effective line of communication throughout the state from districts down to units. More on that to come!

Now I am requesting something from you. Pay your 2023 dues now! Your membership chairman can begin accepting them in August. Let's set a Nebraska record and have the highest percentage submitted by December 31, 2022. You would have an extremely happy and proud President and Membership Chairman if Nebraska was 100 percent by the end of the year. Your membership is January 1 to December 31.

Unit Presidents, County Presidents, and District Presidents --- please let me know when your meetings and any special events will be held this year. I would like to attend as many Auxiliary activities across the state as possible.

My email address is [ala.ozenbaugh@gmail.com](mailto:ala.ozenbaugh@gmail.com) and my mailing address is 515 Road 18, Ohiowa NE 68416. I look forward to filling my calendar with all kinds of American Legion Family happenings.

Mark your calendar for Saturday October 1st for my Homecoming in Seward. Details will be provided in the next issue of THE STAR. Until then, "Never Forget, Ever Honor."

*Vicki Ozenbaugh  
Department President '22-'23*

Welcome to the beginning of the 2022-2023 Auxiliary year and the "changing of the guards" (presidents)! I know that during the summer months some Auxiliary Units do not meet (mine included), but we should still be remembering our Veterans and their families. Volunteer at one of our Veterans Homes across Nebraska. Or, if your Post sponsors a Legion baseball program, volunteer to help at a game --- Work the gate or concessions. Just remember to keep track of your volunteer hours!

For those who attended the Department Convention, thanks for being there for President Barbie Meyer as she concluded her year as our leader. Like any leadership position, there were ups and downs during her year. However, she had a great year with many memories. Thanks, Barbie!

As your newly installed President, I am looking forward to a year packed full of meetings, activities, and miles and miles and miles. Let me share my plans for the year.

My theme is "Never Forget, Ever Honor." Our Veterans, whether past, present, or future, should be our main awareness. As you plan your year's activities, remember to "never forget" our Veterans and why we do what we do for them. And, of course, we must "ever honor" all Veterans --- those who have gone before as well as those who are still with us and those who are serving their country now.

My colors, of course, are "red,

## NEWS FROM JACKI O'NEILL, INTERIM DEPARTMENT SECRETARY/TREASURER

Hello, I am standing in as the interim Department Secretary/Treasurer while the search is conducted for a replacement for Lisa Moore, our previous Secretary/Treasurer.

Currently, the office is open from 8:00 a.m. - Noon by Roxanne Hiatt. Julie Totten continues to volunteer to complete all the accounting duties. If you have questions or requests when the office is closed, you can call my cell phone anytime: 712-574-5070.

We look forward to assisting our members, as do our department's newly elected officers.

Newsletters sent were:

A Constitution and Bylaws with standing rules with changes was mailed by Department Constitution and Bylaws Committee Chairman Barbara Washburn to all Unit Presidents and Department Executive Committee members.

The May newsletter was mailed to all Unit Presidents and Membership Chairmen with a message from Membership Chairman Beverly Neel.

The updated ALAMIS application for the 2023 year, January - December, with explanations of

the new member user choices of "User Full," "Unit Write," or "User Read."

Request for donations for Department President Barbara Meyers' parting gift.

Special instructions for the 2023 Department Convention.

A letter was mailed to the volunteers for elections at the 2023 Department Convention.

*Jacki O'Neill  
Interim Secretary / Treasurer*

## BITS & PIECES FROM BARBIE



immediately to Department.

The expense of sending reminders prevents funds being better spent on veterans and youth projects. When you attend a movie or fast food establishment, payment is made immediately. Our veterans should be able to expect as much from our organization with rapid dues payments.

My heart is full after attending my first in-person Girls State. Watching young people smiling, laughing, and supporting each other was so uplifting as they learned so much about our nation and themselves. The future is bright!

As this article is being written, we have not experienced our Department Convention. I am certain it was a

successful, educational, and --- yes --- fun event! Thank you in advance to all who made it happen.

Start making plans to attend the National Convention in Milwaukee, Wisconsin August 26 - September. Nebraska will be staying in the Drury Plaza Hotel. It is a drivable distance. Carpool if you can, or watch for flight deals. Room information was provided at Department Convention. I look forward to joining you all in Milwaukee as we begin our 101st year as the nation's best Department of the American Legion Auxiliary.

*Barbie Meyer  
Department President '21-'22*

## SCHOLARSHIP WINNERS

SCHOLARSHIP	WINNER	UNIT
Children of Warrior	Catherine Haberman	244 Ceresco
Spirit of Youth	Lacey Schmidt	352 Deshler
Non-Traditional	Kelsee Sayer	39 Dubois
Junior Member Loyalty	Jillian Geovijohn	155 Howells
Ruby Lorraine Paul	Sophia Hass	70 West Point
Avery Keriakedes	Calli Tornton	71 Milford
Ruby Paul Campaign Fund	Cheve Lutz	65 Benkelman
Roberta Marie Stretch	Alyssa Erthum	79 Ainsworth
Vo-Tech	Cade Bailey	70 West Point
	Brooke Brockman	290 Elwood
	Taylor Sliva	164 Shickley
	Lexi Schroder	115 Stuart
	Nathan Lyle	344 Indianola
Healthcare Professional	Emma Alder	115 Stuart
	Sydney Escritt	329 Caletton
	Emma Frederick	222 Shubert
	Tenley Hadwiger	351 Miller
	Paiton Nash	352 Deshler
	Taryn Fiala	164 Shickey
	Lindsey McNeely	269 Humboldt
	McKenie Andrew	17 Sidney
	Adreya Smith	120 Palmer
	Jaylin Gaston	193 Ohiowa
Past Presidents Parley	Jared Phillips	213 Wallace

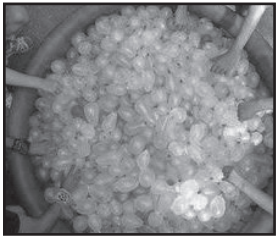
## 2022-2023 DEPT. OFFICERS



Pictured (l to r): NEC Beverly Neel, President Vicki Ozenbaugh, Vice President Angie Foster, Historian Amanda Washburn, and Chaplain Ruth Hietbrink.



## SUMMER FUNDRAISER IDEA



With gas, grocery prices, and membership dues on the rise, your Unit may want to do a fundraiser to help out its members. A summer fundraiser would be a great way to help members pay their 2023 dues. Here's a FUN idea! Hold a Water Balloon Fight!!! Nothing says summer more than a water balloon fight! This is a great summer fundraising idea.

For example, you could charge an admission fee to join the fun. Or you could charge \$1 for every water balloon. You can organize the water balloon fight as a standalone event or as part of a bigger summer event (e.g.

a party or a summer picnic).

For this event, you'll need a location where water balloons won't cause damage and you can easily clean up, a few hundred balloons, the help of volunteers, and containers to store the water balloons in. On the day of the event, make sure you set up a booth where participants can register for the event. You can also set up a separate booth where participants and visitors can inform themselves about the work of the American Legion Auxiliary and donate more if they wish.

Then, fill all the balloons with water and set up stations for drinking water, especially if your event is on a hot day. Pro tip: This summer fundraiser is simple to organize, so organize it multiple times throughout the summer.

Angie Foster  
Dept. Historian '21-'22



Hallam Unit 294 presented membership certificates to members. Pictured, left to right, are Fran Sieck (10 years) and Marylynn Chelton (20 years). Those receiving certificates but not present were: Nancy Buhman (45 years); Tana Bond and Leona Kelley (20 years) Mary Williams (10 years, and Julie Cole and Lauree Efferes (5 years).



Pictured are Connie Heberly (Poppy Chairperson for Valley Unit 58) with her granddaughter, Kaylie Heberly, and Kaylie's dog, George, distributing poppies.

## INTERNAL REVIEW

The semi-annual internal audit was conducted at Department Headquarters on Monday, May 23, 2022. It should be noted that Julie Totten was instrumental in organizing the items that were reviewed and was a valuable resource for questions throughout our review. The committee wants to extend our sincere thanks to Julie. We also want to thank Jacki O'Neill for the help that she provided prior to the audit.

The scope of the audit included a limited review of the internal controls utilized within the accounting and reporting process.

1. Accountant's Compilation Reports
2. Monthly account variance reports
3. Bank statements for all accounts since the last review in November
4. ALA Cornhusker Girls State account
5. Records from VA Homes & VAMCs – GIVAMC
6. District & County bank statements
7. Location of blank checks and signature stamps
8. Bank account signatories

9. Location of workstation access; account passwords
10. Credit card records of transactions and payments
11. Reimbursements for Department officers and chairmen supported by vouchers
12. New Contracts signed
13. Current Conflict of Interest forms for Department leadership
14. Review of fund-raising events since May
15. Investment Report
16. Employee Handbook
17. Computer(s) backup policy
18. Payroll, timesheets
19. Contingency plans for office (HQ closed, staff out, staff turnover, etc.)

The above items were on our audit plan. The results of the audit were forwarded to the Finance Committee and resolves were submitted.

If you would like a copy of the full audit with responses, please call or email Department Headquarters.

Barbara Washburn  
and Ruth Hietbrink  
Audit Team Members

## DID YOU KNOW?

- Department of Veterans Administration was created on July 21
- July 25 is "Hire a Veteran Day"
- Armed Forces Unification Day is July 26
- July 29 is the anniversary of the Army Chaplain Corps
- The United States Coast Guards birthday is August 4
- August 6 is Hiroshima Day
- Purple Heart Day is August 7
- If your wedding anniversary is August 14, you were married on Military Marriage Day
- Japan surrendered on August 14
- August 15 is when the world received the announcement of Japan's surrender
- National Airborne Day is August 16
- Marine Corps Reserve Birthday is August 29

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

## 2022-23 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
July	#290 Elwood	#218 Exeter	#27 Beatrice	#156 Howells	#7 Alliance	#312 Broadwater	#27 Beatrice
Aug.	#141 Hampton	#209 Franklin		#175 Jackson	#213 Wallace	#213 Wallace	#199 Cambridge
Sept.	#145 Bloomington	#141 Hampton		#64 Columbus	#133 Culbertson	#133 Culbertson	#160 Polk
Oct.	#257 Eustis	#52 Kearney	#95 Curtis	#283 Platte Center	#10 Morrill	#364 Naponee	#222 Shubert
Nov.	#251 Arcadia	#209 Franklin	#109 Mullen		#10 Morrill	#301 Dalton	Dept. Jrs.
Dec.	#283 Platte Center	#377 Wilcox	#245 Plymouth		#7 Alliance	#7 Alliance	#183 Friend
Jan.		#199 Cambridge		#62 Newcastle			
Feb.		#11 Hastings			#200 Bayard	#200 Bayard	#354 Pleasant Dale
March					#301 Dalton		#146 Rising City
April		#225 Eddyville		#253 Platte Center			
May				#307 S. Souix City			
June							

Please check with your (Med Center) Assignments to see if they are accepting Items before you make or send them.

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

NOTE: Grand Island cannot accept Centerpieces but would take 40 Door Hangers.

## 2022-2023 DEPARTMENT OFFICERS & CHAIRMEN

### Department Officers

President	Vicki Ozenbaugh	515 Road 18, Ohio, NE 68416
Vice President	Angie Foster	PO Box 93, Osceola, NE, 68651
Historian	Amanda Washburn	455 Co Rd 7, Ashland, NE 68003
Chaplain	Ruth Hietbrink	735 Washington St., Sterling, NE 68443
Secretary/Treasurer Pro Temp.	Jacki O'Neill	1018 Gordon Dr., Lincoln, NE 68532
National Committeewoman		

### District Presidents

One	Mary Krause	339 N Osborne St., Ainsworth NE 69210
Two	Carolyn Conroy	90557 490th Ave., Spencer, NE 68777
Three	Beverly Neel	57576 847 Rd., Wayne, NE 68787
Four	Luayne Weisgerber	1119 Hudson Ave., Alliance, NE 69301
Five	Donna Hatfield	PO Box 841, Lexington, NE 68850
Six	Nancy Harrold	959 Myers Rd, Broken Bow, NE 68822
Seven	Nancy Niemann	3100 Trudy Ann Cr., Raymond 68428
Eight	Paula Pillen	6001 N 147th St, Omaha, NE 68116
Nine	Marry Atterberry	704 Rochelle St., Elwood, NE 68937
Ten	Cathy Webber	201 18th Ave., Franklin, NE 68939
Eleven	Vicky Thompson	PO Box 31, Milligan, NE 69406
Twelve	Charlene Hobelman	4800 SW 12th St., Lincoln, NE 68523
Thirteen	Anita Lang	1442 5th St., Pawnee City, NE 68420

### Department Chairmen

Advisory	Beverly Neel	57576 847 Rd., Wayne, NE 68787
Americanism	Tina Nelson	503 N Brown Ave., Clay Center, NE 68933
Auxiliary Emergency Fund	Beverly Neel	57576 847 Rd., Wayne, NE 68787
Cavalcade of Memories	Angie Foster	PO Box 93, Osceola, NE, 68651
Children & Youth	Debra Albers	1759 Rd. 5200, Davenport, NE
Community Service	Meri Hietbrink	4816 Kinsley Ave., Lincoln, NE 68524
Constitution & Bylaws	Amanda Washburn	455 Co Rd 7, Ashland, NE 68003
Distinguished Guest	Elizabeth Paes	PO Box 92, Prague, NE 68050
County Government	Pat Wiseman	PO Box 58, Homer, NE 68030
Education	Cyrs Bauermeister	222 E Willow St., Pierce, NE 68767
Finance	Adeline Hanel	706 E. Sherman St., West Point, NE 68788
Girls State	Brittany Masek	23 Duvall Lane, Bella Vista, AZ 72715
Girls State Advisory	Renee Van Winkle	2063 9th Ave., Farwell, NE 68838
Gold Star	Ruth Hietbrink	735 Washington St., Sterling, NE 68443
Junior Activities	Lisa Moore	318 N Railroad Wilber, NE 68465
Leadership	Justina Birkel	PO Box 64, North Loup, NE 68859
Legislative	Loree Hendrickson	Road 3, Unit 1, Shickley, NE 68436
Membership	Beverly Neel	57576 847 Rd., Wayne, NE 68787
Music	Jean Vackiner	35878 Boiling Springs Rd., Cody, NE 69211
National Security	Barbie Meyer	12455 Riverdale Rd., Riverdale, NE 68870
Parliamentarian	Barbara Wahburn	.55 Co Rd 7, Ashland, NE 68003.
Past Presidents Parley	Elizabeth Paes	PO Box 92, Prague, NE 68050
Poppy	Marla Farrow	.57105 Hwy 8, Fairbury, NE 68352
Resolutions	Vicki Cyboron	.5152 N 155 Ave, Omaha, NE 68116
"The Star" Editor	Lorene Bartos	7441 San Mateo Lane, Lincoln, NE 68516

### Veterans Affairs and Rehabilitation:

Chairman	Renee Van Winkle	2063 9th Ave., Farwell, NE 68838
Service to our Veterans	Alice Vieselmeyer	112 S Pine St., Friend, NE 68359

### Veterans Administration Medical Center Representatives:

Lincoln	Linda Varejcka	450 Conestoga Avenue, Hickman, NE 68372
Omaha	Paula Pillen	6001 N 147th St, Omaha, NE 68116
Grand Island	Kathryn Cyboron	2454 7th Ave, Boelus, NE 68820

### Veterans Administration Medical Center Associate Representatives:

Hot Springs, SD	Karol Lockmon	PO Box 147, Rushville, NE 69360
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### Nebraska Veterans Home Chairmen:

Central Nebraska		
Norfolk	LaRee Kubes	205 W 1st St. Madison, NE 68748
Eastern Nebraska	Leatrice Doolen	630 S Washington St., Papillion, NE 68046
Western, Nebraska	Cecil Doshier	1960 Kings Rd., Gering, NE 69341

### Honorary Department Junior Officers

Honorary President	Carly Rains	Dorchester
Honorary Vice President	Samantha Stepanek	St. Paul
Honorary Historian	Shia Rasmussen	St. Paul
Honorary Chaplain	Erica Fuchs	Arlington

Department Headquarters contact information . . . . . PO Box 5227, Lincoln, NE 68505  
Telephone: 402-466-1808 Email: neaux@windstream.net Web: nebraskalegionaux.net



# AMERICAN LEGION AUXILIARY CORNHUSKER GIRLS STATE 2022

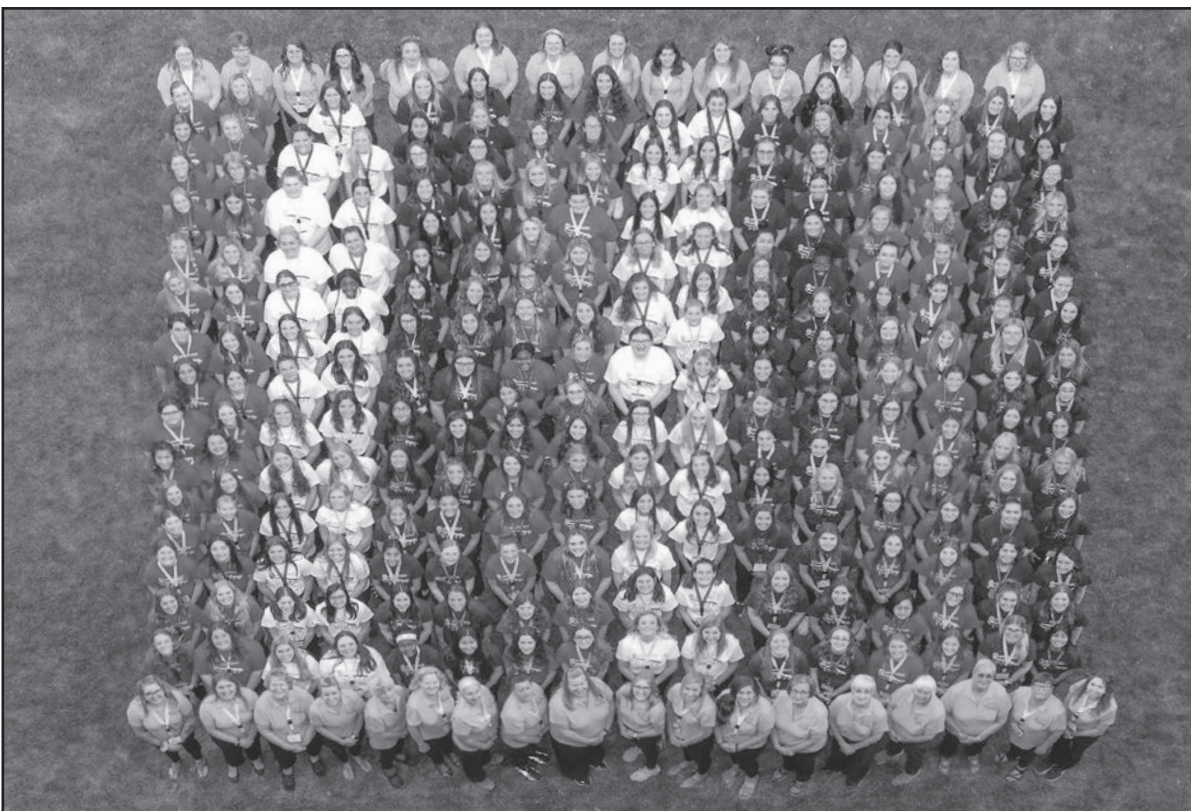


**AMERICAN LEGION AUXILIARY CORNHUSKER GIRLS STATE - 2022  
STAFF & COUNSELORS**

**Back Row:** Nicole Shively, Lincoln, Shelby Luettel, Lincoln, Brittany Masek, Bella Vista AR, Payton DeMers-Sahling, Osceola, Gwen Peters, Logan IA, Riley Jedlicka, Lincoln, Jody Schmale, Lincoln, Vicki Ozenbaugh, Ohiowa  
**Third Row:** Virginia Nelson, Valentine, Lorene Bartos, Lincoln, Nicole Vance, South Sioux City, Annette Gloystein, Exeter, Pat Wiseman, Homer, Michaela Rotert, Potter, Alyssa Moser, Clearwater, Cecelia King, Lincoln  
**Second Row:** Renee Van Winkle, Farwell, Ashlyn Wilkes, Centennial, CO, Sable Campa, Central City, Charity Ebert, Lincoln, Mikaela Christensen, Omaha, Logan Brtek, Norfolk, Charlotte Zieg, Beaver Crossing, Emma Good, Ainsworth, Morgan Kumm, Lincoln  
**Front Row:** Christine Rezek, Wahoo, Haley Teten, Plainview, Vivian Kotrous, Verdigre, Karlie Sines, Holdrege, Kay Kolts, Lincoln, Helen Bender, Kenesaw, Elsa Knight, Clay Center, Roxanne Hiatt, Venango



Girls State sessions were held in the Red Cloud Room of the Willa Cather Dining Complex on the UNL Campus.



**AMERICAN LEGION AUXILIARY  
CORNHUSKER GIRLS STATE - 2022**

From left to right: City of Polk, City of Fillmore, City of Taylor, City of Pierce  
City of Lincoln, City of Buchanan, City of Johnson, City of Grant



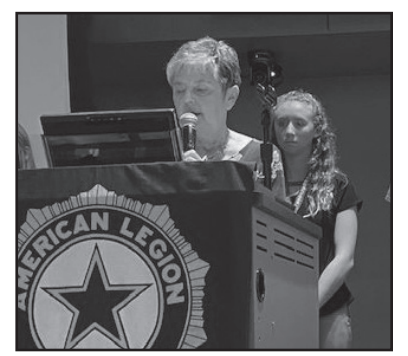
Girls State citizens received their diploma and pins to conclude Girls State 2022.



Past Department President Elizabeth Paes did a presentation on the POW / MIA Table.



Department Vice President gave the congratulatory message to Girls State citizens prior to receiving their diplomas.



Department President Barbie Meyer addressed the Girls State citizens telling them the Story of the American Legion Auxiliary as Girls State Chairman Nicole Vance looks on.

## GIRLS STATE '22 - 80<sup>TH</sup> SESSION

The 80th session of the American Legion Auxiliary Cornhusker Girls State was held on the University of Nebraska – Lincoln campus from June 5 – 11, 2022. We had roughly 225 delegates attend this year.

The girls filed for office, campaigned, voted, held court sessions and a mock legislature, and participated in service-learning projects. They listened to a variety of speakers ranging from Senators,

TeamMates, Mental Health Experts, and the Lincoln Food Bank, just to name a few.

I want to say "Thank You" to all of the volunteers who made this week possible. I truly appreciate it!

Congratulations to our Girls Nation Senators and the Samsung Scholarship winner!

*Nicole Vance  
Girls State Chairman 2022*



Department Vice President Vicki Ozenbaugh and Girls Governor Jena Spady.



Ansley Williams from Eustis was presented the Samsung Scholarship at the 2022 ALA Girls State session. She is pictured with Education Director Virginia Nelsen.



Senators representing Nebraska at Girls Nation in July are Jena Spady from Lewellen and Piper Connelly from Omaha. The first alternate is Isabella Bare from Nebraska City, and the second alternate is Ansley Williams from Eustis. Pictured (l to r): Piper, Jena, Ansley, and Isabella.



Pictured is Governor Jena Spady being sworn in as Girls State Governor.



## CHAPLAIN'S CORNER

*"Show me Your ways, O Lord; teach me Your paths. Lead me in Your truth and teach me, for You are the God of my salvation ..."* (Psalm 25:4)

We have just finished a busy and fruitful year of American Legion Auxiliary activities. Much planning, many hours of work, and lots of dollars have been involved. These are multiplied many times over by the blessings of fellowship, smiles of many, and sometimes sharing of tears of joy or sorrow. We thank God for the things he has allowed us to do. Now, we look forward to the coming year. We ask for His guidance to come up with new ideas. Lots of things that we do are annual events that we all know what to do and how to do it. We need

to remember to also ask for God's blessings on our work.

**Prayer:** Lord, we thank You for the blessings of the past year. You have guided us and made it successful. Please help us to see the ways that You would have us to serve in the next year that You have given to us. Motivate our hearts and hands in the things we do for our veterans and military families. Give us goodwill and keep us from judging others. Please help us to find new members to join with our Legion family. All this we ask in Jesus name. Amen.

Pat Wiseman  
Dept. Chaplain '21-'22



On Poppy Day, May 27, two of the youngest Junior members of the Wilber Louis-Milan American Legion Auxiliary Unit #101 canvassed the community of Wilber to distribute poppies for donations. Pictured are Brielle McMillan, 5, and Haegen Havel, almost 3, dressed in their special poppy printed dresses as Kenny Ripa, a local veteran and American Legion member makes a donation. The two girls are great-grandchildren of Wilber Unit #101 member Barbara Petracek, who accompanied the girls with member Judy Rehm on Poppy Day.



## PLEASE BRING BACK THE BIBLE SONGS



I haven't worked with children for some years, as my time has been wrapped up with the elderly. In that time, a local Bible church developed an extensive youth program with which our tiny little parish could not compete. As I listened to sermons over the winter, a nagging thought began to consume me. The parable of the wise man and the foolish man. Hiding our light under a bushel. Zacchaeus climbing the sycamore tree. My mind was shouting "I know the song for that!" I had heard some children from other churches sing more praise and worship songs, and they just didn't stick with me. But the old ones did.

Finally I could take it no longer. I approached parents in our church that had children – a whopping three kids – and asked if they would be willing to bring their children a bit early on Sundays to learn Bible songs. One mother said her husband – to whom I taught music well over 20 years ago – still remembered the songs he had learned. Well, that did it.

Rebuilding a Sunday school is a process that needs nurturing and can

be slow going. I'm getting old and losing my filter, and could really use that extra half hour of sleep myself. But, I know enough when to listen to that small, still voice --- for it is God reminding me that my work is not yet done for Him. Is it worth it? You bet it is.

The very first session, as I taught the kids the song of the wise man and the foolish man, the three year old girl --- at the very end --- shrieked "And... AND... I'm wearing UNDERWEAR!!!" And then threw up her skirt to show me. As her mother hid her face behind a hymnal, the joy rushed into my heart and filled my cup.

Most of you have grandchildren of your own or know children that consider you one. Don't forget, it is the job of our generation to plant anything we can into the young minds, whether it be songs of the Bible, patriotic songs, stories of our ancestors.... My point is, God does not want us hiding our light under a bushel. Sing it loud, sing it proud, and if you're lucky, some three year old may just share her unbridled joy of her big girl day.

And Keep Singing!!

Jean Vackiner  
Music Chair



Members of Pleasant Dale Unit #354 who assisted Post #354 with the Memorial Day ceremonies at the Malcolm and Pleasant Dale cemeteries and then served lunch to the Legionnaires and members of the Milford High School band were: Back, l to r; JoAnn Sieck, Sherry Hutchison, Rose Wiechert, Michelle Richards, Cheryl Witzel, and Barb Smith; Front, l to r, President Deb Schneider, Kate Anderson, Linda Anderson, Rose Topil, Kathy Ptacek, and Darlene Gerner. Not pictured is Melanie Hall.

### 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 AUGUST 10, 2022

## In Memoriam

Received May 11 to June 9, 2022

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## DATES TO REMEMBER

### JULY

23-30 American Legion Auxiliary Girls Nation – Washington, DC

### AUGUST

10 Deadline for articles for September issue of "The Star"

26-Sept. 1, National Convention, Milwaukee Wisconsin

### FOR YOUR ADVANCED PLANNING

October 1, 2022 Commander and President's Homecoming, Seward, NE

Jan. 13-15, 2023 Mid Year Conference, Norfolk Lodge, Norfolk, NE

June 22-25, 2023 Department Convention, Kearney, Ramada

Aug. 25-1, 2023 National Convention, Charlotte, North Carolina

## ALA MEMBERSHIP – BUILD ON A SOLID FOUNDATION WRAPPING UP 2022 AND JUMPING INTO 2023

### Attention all Units!

On **July 31, 2022**, the Department will close its books on 2022 membership. It would be great to say that by that time we have collected all renewals and signed up new members to boot. We have had a strong, challenging year in membership, but the challenge is still in place. **DO NOT LEAVE ANY RENEWALS ON THE TABLE.** Gather them in today.

**July 31, 2022** will also be the date which this Chairman will use to set the **2023 Unit Objective/Goal** for each of our 302 units. That is not an easy task, but we believe we have a handle on the outcome. Needless to say, National is instructing all units to sign up **ONE NEW MEMBER.** That seems like a small challenge compared to gathering in all the renewals that remain uncollected.

We need to be pro-active. At this time, units are working on verifying all their SLM and PUFL members. Specifically, to see that

all the member data is correct. A Member Data Form has been sent to the Department for all changes in names, addresses, phone #, email addresses, and even death per member. If this verification process has not been done by today, then that is the **FIRST** item on the Unit's **"To Do" List.** It does little good to have mailings sent to have them returned, at cost I might remind you, and the unit does not find out **WHY!** Units --- you need to verify every member has provided every change that may have occurred during the past year.

It should be noted, National has a "Department Lost Addresses" listing on ALAMIS for each Department. Why? Because National mailings of renewal notices and/or National Magazine have not been able to be delivered because National has incorrect data. Thus, National stops all attempts and places those members on a Department Lost Addresses listing. **Units --- let us get in touch with our members and have Nebraska with 100%**

**verification completed by September 1, 2022.**

Share your successes in Membership with this Chairman so we may learn and share with others on what works. Your success stories are welcomed by this Chairman. We need some new ideas, and we know units can provide that motivational view of how to make membership a breeze.

**REMEMBER --- YOUR UNIT'S SLM and PUFL MEMBERS are transmitted into the Department FIRST and NO FUNDS ARE SENT. It is so simple. Your first transmittal keeps each unit out of the "Zero Unit" Zone. This transmittal should be into the Department by August 15, 2022.**

Blessings to all.

Beverly A. Neel,  
Membership Chairman  
402 369 0152  
bbneel1912@gmail.com

### DEPARTMENT OF NEBRASKA - AMERICAN LEGION AUXILIARY - 2021-2022 PO Box 5227 - Lincoln NE 68505 - Email: neaux@windstream.net - Phone: 402-466-1808

Report Date: 2/16/22

Paid Numbers

Dist.	'22 Dist. Pres.	Sr. Paid	Jr. Paid	Total Paid	Goal	Needed	%
1	Mary Krause	1052	162	1214	1290	76	94.11%
2	Crys Bauermeister	1457	202	1659	1784	125	92.99%
3	Vicky Gullicksen	731	80	811	902	91	89.91%
4	Bonita Dickinson	555	80	635	620	-15	102.42%
5	Terrie Haworth	604	61	665	689	24	96.52%
6	Nancy Harrold	1897	224	2121	2235	114	94.90%
7	Janie Nelson	1404	177	1581	1732	151	91.28%
8	Paula Pillen	1277	145	1422	1555	133	91.45%
9	Peggy Kennedy	450	65	515	561	46	91.80%
10	Tina Nelson	850	122	972	1066	94	91.18%
11	Vicky Thompson	1800	314	2114	2189	75	96.57%
12	Charlene Hobelman	1182	93	1275	1400	125	91.07%
13	Amanda Washburn	528	92	620	659	39	94.08%
HQ	Department 500	88	0	88	76	-12	115.79%
TOTALS		13875	1817	15692	16758	1066	93.64%