



NEBRASKA VFW NEWS



Department of Nebraska Newsletter

April 2016

Issue # 28

Nebraska's Jack Duffy Places 8th

The Nebraska winner of the Voice of Democracy competition, Jack Duffy was in Washington D.C. on March 1st for the National Awards ceremony. Jack is a senior at Kenesaw Secondary School and was sponsored by VFW Post and Auxiliary 5537 in Heartwell. He was the recipient of the \$3,500 Department of New York and Auxiliary, Rev. Albert G Salmon Memorial Scholarship. Jack plans a career in politics or education. He is pictured at right with Auxiliary Chairman Jane Petersen and State Commander Mike Medina.



All of the state winners took a picture at left with National Auxiliary President Francisca Guilford and National VFW Commander John Biedrzycki. The group that represented Nebraska at the Voice of Democracy Awards ceremony is pictured bottom left. They are left to right; Andreea Baker, Legislative Chairman Jeff Baker, Jane Petersen, Jack Duffy, Joyce Medina, Mike Medina, Adjutant/Quartermaster John Liebsack, 21st District Councilmember Donna Fenske and Publicity Chairman Marty Riemenschneider.



**THE VOICE OF DEMOCRACY 2016-17 THEME:
MY RESPONSIBILITY TO AMERICA
THE PATRIOT'S PEN 2016-2017 THEME:
THE AMERICA I BELIEVE IN**

State Jr. Vice
Commander &
Community
Activities
Chairman
Larry Gerlt



The final countdown is almost over. April is the last month for recording your Community and other service hours for this membership year. I know many of our Quartermasters do not use the online reporting system. Even worse; service events including hours, mileage, money and participants aren't recorded anywhere until time to fill out the paper report. Hundreds, if not thousands, of service hours go unreported such as post events, members participating as leaders in boy/girl scouts, church activities, neighbor assistance and the list goes on and on! We need your help to continue convincing Congress and our Unicameral of our value to our communities and state, to get veteran friendly legislation passed and unfriendly legislation killed. Help us help you by getting those service hours recorded!

The VFW Buddy Poppy program provides compensation to the veterans who assemble the poppies, provides financial assistance in maintaining state and national veterans' rehabilitation and service programs and partially supports the VFW National Home For Children.



Larry Gerlt on Membership

If you're married, you fight about directions. If you're with the VFW, you fight for membership! Why is membership so important? On a National level, fewer members means less sway with Congress and fewer funds generated to assist Veterans. Closer to home, if our Department membership becomes too small, we won't be able to maintain our office and staff in Lincoln! Imagine trying to operate our posts without their assistance! I don't know about you, but I know I have a question or need assistance from them on a weekly basis. I count on John Liebsack, Trudie Hammers and Jody Sullivan for a lot. They are all always working in the background to keep the lights on and the wheels turning!

We are now in the last 1/3 of the membership year and are down over a 1000 members! We need your help to reverse the trend – it has been over 8 years since we made 100%. I go out and “beat the bushes” several times a week. Can you make time to do so once or twice a month of a weekday evening or Saturday? Have you contacted your unpaid members? Have you asked Department for a list of unpaid members on the Members at Large, Relocated, or other nearby posts? Have you held a recruiting event? Are you visible in your community?

We must all fight for membership. If you are not recruiting enough additional members to replace your deceased, your post will wither and cease to exist. My post has been around since 1932. I would absolutely hate to see it die! Are the same comrades always filling the officer positions? Are you/they tired of being the post Commander/Chaplain/etc... every year? It isn't going to change unless you recruit! So get out there and help National, Department, and your post – recruit!

Sam DeJohn State Chief of Staff



Comrades,

As you realize, it is now time for everybody to begin the process of electing leaders in our Districts and Posts for the upcoming year. We need to finish up our programs and meet year-end deadlines for awards and membership.

As you are aware, the new year begins 1 July 2016 and the Department needs all the Districts and Posts help to have a successful year. We cannot keep losing 500 members or more per year which also equates to \$5,000.00 or more loss in revenue for this Department. We just cannot continue this trend as we rely on the money to keep our Department viable.

The Post has the primary responsibility for membership retention and recruiting and must ensure they appoint a membership chairman and team to assist the Commander in achieving membership goals. Each District should also do the same. Membership teams must be trained and the District and Department are available to help. Don't be afraid to ask.

Larry Gerlt will be the Senior Vice Commander for 2016-2017 year and the Department Membership Chairman. Larry has developed a great plan for membership. All District and Posts must be aboard for this to be effective. You will be hearing more about his plan in the future.

The Department will be monitoring membership and programs of the Post in the Department. If a Post is not doing anything with membership and programs and other responsibilities, the Department may look at closing the Post or consolidating them. It is long past time that Posts remember why they are a VFW Post.

I urge everyone who can attend the State Convention in Kearney in June from the 9th to the 12th.



80th Birthday Party and You Are Invited

Jane Petersen will celebrate her 80th birthday at the May Museum located at 1643 N Nye Ave. in Fremont on Sunday, May 15th, from 12 pm to 4 pm. Lunch will be served.



Help Wanted

We are looking for photographs from around the state for the 2017 raffle calendar. If you have a picture that you would like to see in the calendar please send it to Department Headquarters: 2431 N 48th St. Lincoln, NE 68504 or jodys@vfwne.org.

St. Patrick's Day Party's

On March 19th and 20th the residence at the Western Hospitals and Homes celebrated the luck of the Irish. The first stop was the Cheyenne, WY VAMC. Cards were distributed and coffee and fruit was served. Volunteers pictured below in attendance are (left to right) Dorothy Steckelberg, Iva Carlsen, Hospital Chairman Gary Steckelberg, Carol Brosnihan, Joyce Medina, Matt Jones, Joyce Witt, Dan Kramer, Past Commander Bernie Brosnihan and Chaplain Jerry Ludwig.



An evening party followed at the Western NE Veterans Home in Scottsbluff. The group was joined by Willard and Shirley Loose and Jim Holmsted. They played bingo and served cake and ice cream, punch and coffee.



Off to Hot Springs

The final stop by the group was in Hot Springs, S.D. at the VA Hospital. With only 8 patients, all had visits from the volunteers. In addition to the warm greetings, there was a White Socks party where there was musical entertainment. Ice cream, cookies, candy, chips and drinks were served. Pictured below are (left to right) Commander Mike Medina, Karen Krotz, Matt Jones, Joyce Medina, VAVS Rep. Tom Krotz, Iva Carlson, Hospital Chairman Gary Steckelberg, Recreation Therapist Mary Culbertson, Dorothy Steckelberg and Judy Krotz.



Legislative Agenda Discussed

The Nebraska VFW National Legislative Chairman Richard Morrison met with Nebraska State Senators and Representatives in Washington D.C. about issues affecting veterans along with other members of the VFW and Auxiliary. Pictured is Richard Morrison, Publicity Chairman Marty Riemenschneider, Senator Deb Fisher, Adjutant/Quartermaster John Liebsack and State Legislative Chairman Jeff Baker.



The VFW encourages the U.S. government to continue its POW/MIA accounting efforts, and is directly engaged with other nations and their veterans' groups to urge their cooperation and assistance to obtain information about missing Americans.



The VFW will not rest until we achieve the fullest possible accounting of all missing American military service members from all wars.

Vote for Jerry Chlopek

**I am running for
State Surgeon
2016-2017.**

**Your vote is much
appreciated.**



DISTRICT 10 YOUTH AND TEACHER AWARDS CEREMONY

The District 10 Awards Banquet was held on March 13th at VFW Post 8334 in Millard. District Youth Awards Chairman Jim Jenson from Springfield Post 9558 announced that the District had 547 Patriots Pen submissions from 8 Posts and 5 Auxiliaries with 32 advancing to District. In addition, there were 166 VOD submissions from 9 Posts and 6 Auxiliaries with 13 advancing to District. The Patriot's Pen 1st Place winner is Reagon Golda submitted by Post 9558 Springfield. She received a check for \$150.00 and is pictured left. The Voice of Democracy 1st Place



winner is Isabell Thompson submitted by Post 9675 Papillion. She received a check for \$200.00 and is pictured below. All winners also received a framed certificate.



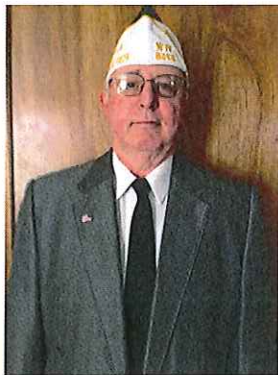
Teacher Awards Chairman Larry Gerlt from VFW Post 2704 in Omaha stated he had submissions from 3 posts. Awards were presented by District 10 Commander Ron Sibel and Auxiliary President Bonnie Gerlt. The District 6-8 Grade Teacher of the Year Mrs. Joan Ertz is pictured above. She was submitted by VFW Post 1581. The District 9-12 Grade Teacher of the Year Theresa Geraghty was submitted by VFW Post 2704 in Omaha. Both received a check for \$75.00. In addition to the presentations, a great meal of roast beef, chicken fried steak, green beans, mashed potatoes and gravy and salad was provided by AmVets Post 13.

TIME TO GET YOUR ADS IN FOR THE CONVENTION BOOKLET

1/2 PAGE AD IS \$50.00 A FULL PAGE IS \$75.00.

They should be in by May 16th. You can call State Headquarters at 402-464-0674.

Write down what you would like the ad to say and have a photo available if you want a picture in your ad.



VOTE

**Dan Kramer
State Surgeon
2016-2017**



St. Wenceslas Patriot's Pen Winners
Award certificates and money were distributed at the school on April 5th. Pictured above (left to right) front row: VFW Post 1581 Chaplain and Youth and Teacher Chairman Ann Thieman, Patriot's Pen winners Cole A Pecha, Clint T. Piozay, Macy Lakeman, Michael Barrett, Dr. Steven Youngberg, Adjutant/Quartermaster VFW Post 1581, Back row: St. Wenceslas School teacher Steve Broszko, District 10 Teacher of the Year Mrs. Joan Ertz and school principal, William Huben.



**Military Assistance Program
"MAP"**

"MAP" is the link between the VFW and the military community. MAP grants promote involvement and interaction with local military communities. The MAP program is to assist all veterans and their families in need of emergency financial assistance. Send your donations to: VFW NE at PO Box 4552; Lincoln NE 68504.



STATE OF NEBRASKA

Pete Ricketts
Governor

OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR
P.O. Box 94848 • Lincoln, Nebraska 68509-4848
Phone: (402) 471-2214 • pete.ricketts@nebraska.gov

March 31, 2016

Mike Medina
State Commander
Veterans of Foreign Wars
2431 N. 48th Street
Lincoln, NE 68504

Dear Commander Medina:

On behalf of the State of Nebraska, I would like to express my thanks to you and all of your affiliated organizations.

I have accepted and approved the donation of two 2016 Lowered Floor Dodge Grand Caravans for the use and benefit of members of the Western Nebraska Veterans Home and Norfolk Veterans Home.

It is because of the efforts of organizations such as the Veterans of Foreign Wars that the members of our state veterans' homes enjoy the wonderful quality of life that we owe them.

Thank you again for your donation!

Sincerely,

Pete Ricketts
Pete Ricketts
Governor

VFW Nebraska State Convention

June 9-12, 2016

Holiday Inn Hotel and Convention Center

110 S 2nd Kearney, NE

308-237-5971

Room Rates: \$99.95 + Tax

VFW Department of Nebraska 2431 N. 48th St. Lincoln, NE 68504

Travel Request Form for State Convention

email to: trudie@vfwne.org

Deadline for Reservations is May 20, 2016

Personal and Billing Information	
Traveler name	
E-mail	
Post	
Phone	
Billing address	
Badge name(s)	
Credit card number	
Credit card expiration date	
Lodging Information	
Destination	Holiday Inn Hotel and Convention Center
Check in date?	
Check out date?	
Cost per night	\$99.95 plus tax
Number of people	
Room preference (e.g., king, double, single)	
Special requests?	

Calendar of Events

April 2016

10 Dist 3 mtg in Tilden Post 7603 to host at American Legion Club. Reg at 12:00 \$5.00 fee. Lunch to follow. Auxiliary

same time and place. **Rep:** Larry Gerlt

10 Dist 7 mtg in Blair Post 1251 to host 393 River Rd at 1:30 pm. Lunch to follow. **Rep:** Joe Smith

10 Dist 9 mtg in Yutan Post 9844 to host at 2:00 pm. Lunch to follow. Auxiliary same time and place. **Rep:** Gary Bush

15 Cut off (For all Awards State Convention June 9-12, 2016)

15 Top District Commander—State Convention

17 Dist 4 mtg in Imperial Post 4688 to host lunch at 12:00 MDT, meeting at 1:00. Reg fee \$7.50. Auxiliary same time and

place. **Rep:** Gary Bush

17 Dist 13 mtg in Kearney Post 759 to host at the Post at 2 cst. Lunch to follow. Auxiliary to meet at VFW 759 reception hall. **Rep:** Joe Smith

24 Dist 1 mtg in Gering Post 1681 to host at 2710 N 10th st at 1:00 pm. \$5.00 reg fee. Lunch to follow.

Rep: Mike Medina

24 Dist 6 mtg in Beatrice Post 1077 to host at 1:00 pm. Auxiliary same time and place. Lunch to follow.

Rep: Larry Gerlt

30 Post Service Officer entry to Department

May 1 2016 Cut off for Election Reports!!!!

1 Americanism- Post Scrap Book

1 Blood report (information in Genmail)

1 Chaplain Memorial Record to Department

1 Community Service Record Book to Department

1 Loyalty Day (May 1, 2015 activity)—Record book to Department.

1 Post Color Guard

1 Youth Activities—Post Scrap Book

1 Volunteer of the Year (Letter of Nomination)

1 Community Service Report (November to April)

15 Delegate Registration due to Department

15 Dist 11 mtg in Taylor Post 6159 to host at Loup Co. Community Center at 2:00 pm. \$1.00 registration fee evening lunch to follow. Auxiliary same time and place. **Rep:** Mike Medina

April Calendar Winners

1	\$40.00	Jerry	Fuower
2	\$40.00	Calvin	Kropatsch
3	\$40.00	Andrews Monument Works	
4	\$40.00	Donald	Devine Jr
5	\$40.00	Bernie	Brosnihan
6	\$40.00	Crystal	Hollman
7	\$40.00	Russell	Eschliman
8	\$40.00	Shell	Byrnes
9	\$40.00	Donna Sullivan	to VFW
10	\$40.00	Loren	Lindaul
11	\$40.00	Vickie	Bush
12	\$40.00	Sharlene	Wilson
13	\$40.00	Dan	Anderson
14	\$40.00	Davidson Electrical	
15	\$40.00	Quintin	Teegerstrom
16	\$40.00	Leonard	Ginder
17	\$40.00	Judy	Ruzicka
18	\$40.00	Mary	Bauer
19	\$40.00	Myron	Leffers
20	\$40.00	Ryan	Earleywine
21	\$40.00	Randy	Auer
22	\$40.00	Roger	Jones
23	\$40.00	Todd	Neitzel
24	\$40.00	Richard	Tomasek
25	\$40.00	Jim	Jenson
26	\$40.00	Robert	Meyer
27	\$40.00	Dalton McHugh Auxiliary	
28	\$40.00	Randy	Auer
29	\$40.00	Daniel	Raabe
30	\$40.00	Craig	Space

Visit us on the web

www.vfwne.com

Reminder..

All posts and districts who are preparing resolutions for the State Convention: They must be properly submitted to Department Headquarters prior to May 9th, 2016.

Also,

The cutoff for all Department awards for State Convention is April 15th. If you want to receive a white hat, now is the time to look at your scorecard.

We would love to hear what is going on at your posts as well as communities.....

Send articles to

Department of NE VFW

John Liebsack

PO BOX 4552

Lincoln, NE 68504

Email: johnl@vfwne.org

Auxiliary Editor

Angela Ostrander

PO BOX 114

Goehner, NE 68364

Email:

litfireball2000@yahoo.com



Nebraska as of Tuesday, April 05, 2016

State	Post	Dst	Life	New	Reinst	Cont	Total	Adjusted Prior Year	Percent
District Totals		1	485	3	1	131	620	688	90.11%
District Totals		3	1185	5	1	276	1467	1587	92.43%
District Totals		4	905	5	7	226	1143	1220	93.68%
District Totals		6	1053	17	12	292	1374	1464	93.85%
District Totals		7	816	13	4	288	1121	1169	95.89%
District Totals		9	1477	29	7	402	1915	2063	92.82%
District Totals		10	3398	91	52	825	4366	4584	95.24%
District Totals		11	890	9	1	245	1145	1203	95.17%
District Totals		13	1003	4	1	175	1183	1241	95.32%
District Totals		15	753	4	0	153	910	1009	90.18%
District Totals		99	727	34	36	229	1026	1089	94.21%
State Totals			12692	214	122	3242	16270	17317	93.95%