



NEBRASKA VFW NEWS



Department of Nebraska Newsletter

April 2017

National Ceremony Honoree Thomas Hosford

The ceremony in Washington D.C., held in conjunction with the Legislative conference, was on February 27th. Voice of Democracy winner Thomas Hosford was escorted by District 7 President Jane Petersen and State Commander Doug Whitaker. Thomas placed 35th among the 54 contestants and was awarded a \$1,500.00 scholarship. Thomas was sponsored by VFW Post 736 in Albion and is a senior at Boone Central High School. Pictured below is State Commander Whitaker, National Commander Brain Duffy, Thomas Hosford, National Auxiliary President Colette Bishop and Jane Petersen.



Annual Legislative Conference

Officers and Legislative Chairmen met with Elected Officials; Senators Sasse and Fischer, Congressmen Bacon, Smith and Fortenberry to discuss issues affecting Nebraska veterans. Pictured above is VFW Nebraska National Councilman John Iossi, State Commander Doug Whitaker, Congressman Jeff Fortenberry, National Legislative Chairman Dick Morrison and State Legislative Chairman Jeff Baker.



Subscription Dues and Life Amnesty Membership Programs

Do you know how subscription dues work and the new/revised terminology? How it works. As an example, let's say a member's dues lapsed on the 31st of December and you collect and process his dues on the 1st of April. He is now paid through the 31st of March the following year – he gets 12 months of membership for his money. Now, let's say a member's dues lapse on 31 May and you collect and process his dues on the 15th of April – 45 days early. His dues will now expire on the 31st of May the following year. He still receives 12 months of membership for his money. Simple and fair – each subscription dues member receives 12 months of membership for his money!

How about the new/revised terminology? We still have expired and unpaid members. Expired – anyone whose dues have lapsed. We'll say his dues expired on the 31st of December. It is now the 1st of January. The member's dues have now expired. Unpaid – anyone who has not paid their current dues for the current membership year – IE their dues expire before the 30th of June. You receive no credit in Memstats for this member until he pays his dues. Continuous – a member who has paid his current membership year dues. And finally, the new term, Member in Good Standing. This is anyone who holds an unexpired membership card. The trick here is a Member in Good Standing can also be Continuous or Unpaid as well. If he has paid his current year's dues, he is a Continuous Member in Good Standing. If he has NOT paid his current year's dues and his membership has not yet lapsed, he is an Unpaid Member in Good Standing!

With the new subscription dues program comes a new problem. It used to be everyone's dues expired on the 31st of December. Everyone concentrated on membership starting in November (I hope) with phone calls to their annual members asking them to pay their dues. Then in January/February started conducting dues renewal drives – phone call Saturdays with runners to collect dues from members. Now, dues collection is a year round process. Our "annual" members have dues that expire every month of the year! You have to make phone calls and see members to get their dues every month.

So what can you (we) do to help ease the issue with pursuing members each month to get their dues? Educate your (our) members. It does not matter when their membership card expires, their dues are due on the 1st of July. We cannot count them for membership until they pay their dues. No matter when they pay, they will receive 12 months of membership for their money!

Lastly, are you aware of how the National Life Amnesty program works and why National started it? National VFW has stated it was created to encourage new quartermasters who go through their membership roster and report deceased life members from previous year by not penalizing the post the for these deceased members in Memstats. (By the way – it is fraud to collect life membership dues for deceased members!) So, how does it work? A QM reports a deceased continuous or life member during the current membership year. Their membership counts in Memstats for the current year, but an additional member must be recruited to replace him in Memstats the following membership year. Now let's say you report a life member as deceased between the 1st of July and the 31st of August. Your Memstats required number is decreased by one – IE you don't have to recruit a new member to replace him in Memstats.

Membership Chairman and State Sr. Vice Commander Larry Gerlt

Valentine's Day Parties

On February 11th and 12th Valentine's Day was celebrated in the middle of the state. The VFW Hospital Chairman Mike Medina, State Judge Advocate Joe Smith and State Surgeon Dan Kramer visited the Norfolk Regional Center and Veterans Home and the Grand Island Veterans Home. They were joined by several other VFW members as well.



District 6 Meeting Honors Students

Patriot's Pen and Voice of Democracy District winners were presented with awards on February 26th in Pawnee City. Pictured left to right are District 6 Commander Steve Calkin, 3rd place Voice of Democracy winner Gabriel Van Engen from Adams High School, 1st place Voice of Democracy winner Chloe Moore from Syracuse High School, 3rd place Patriot's Pen winner Rodney Wasson from Bruning-Davenport Middle School, District 6 President Paula Waterfield and District 6 Voice of Democracy and Patriot's Pen Chairperson Virginia Schlender.



Don't forget... The cutoff for all Department awards for State Convention is April 15th. Those who are striving to earn All State, please check your scorecard at vfwne.com





St. Patrick's Day Celebrations Out West

It was a beautiful sunset celebration in Scottsbluff at the Veterans Home. The VFW Hospital Chairman Mike Medina, his wife Joyce Medina, Auxiliary Sr. Vice President Carol Brosnihan and Auxiliary President Sue Moore attended on March 18th. The group celebrated earlier in the day at the Cheyenne VA Medical Center and were headed the following day to Hot Springs.

Marge Thiebold Celebrates a Birthday

On March 4th Marge celebrated her 85th birthday. She is a life member of Auxiliary 6928 in Pender.



Time to get your ads in for the convention booklet

1/2 page ad is \$50.00, A full page ad 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 would like a picture in your ad.

96th Annual Department Convention

Veterans of Foreign Wars Department of Nebraska

JUNE 8TH THRU THE 11TH, 2017 HOLIDAY INN IN KEARNEY

Thursday, June 8th (Training meetings are open to the Auxiliary)

2:30 to 4:00 pm QM school: Trustees reports, Bonds, Online program reporting, Service Officer school (Room E)

Friday, June 9th

8:00 to 5:00 Registration (including Poppy Displays)

8:00 to 11:30 Delegate registration (Pre Function Area)

8:00 to 9:00 Council Meeting (Ballroom 1)

9:30 to 11:30 Convention opening session (Ballroom 1)

11:45 All Past Commanders luncheon (Room E)

1:00 to 2:30 Joint session (Ballroom 1)

Includes Guest Speakers and Volunteer Awards

1:00 to 5:00 Delegate registration (Pre Function Area)

2:45 to 4:45 Reconvene VFW meeting (Ballroom 1)

Nomination of Officers-1st call

All State Commander/QM Awards

5:30 Joint Memorial Service (Ballroom 1)

7:30 Poppy Display judging (Pre Function Area)

Saturday, June 10th

8:00 to noon Registration and Delegate registration (Pre Function Area)

8:00 Resume meeting (Ballroom 1)

12:00 Lunch on your own

1:15 to 4:30 Resume meeting (Ballroom 1)

Election of Officers

6:00 to 7:00 No host cocktail hour (Ballroom 1)

7:00 pm Banquet (Ballroom 1)

Sunday, June 11th

9:00 Joint installation (Ballroom 1)

Immediately following New Council Meeting (Ballroom 1)

Reception to follow (Room C)



VFW Nebraska State Convention

June 8-11, 2017

Holiday Inn Hotel and Convention Center

110 S 2nd Kearney, NE

Room Rates: \$99.95+tax

Call Department or mail in form for Reservations!!

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

402-464-0674

email to: trudie@vfwne.org

Deadline for Reservations is May 10, 2017

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 + tax
Number of people	
Room preference (e.g., king, double, single)	
Special requests?	

Calendar of Events

April 2017

(T-4) Trustee Quarterly report to Department (Jan to March 31)

1 Eagle Scout State Entry to Department

2 Dist 13 Mtg in Red Cloud Post 5641 to host at the Community Center at 2:00. Auxiliary same time and place. Rep: Roger Broeker

9 Dist 15 Mtg in David City Post 5814 to host at the Senior Center at 1:30 Reg starts at 2:00 \$5.00 reg fee. Auxiliary to meet same time and place. Evening lunch to follow. Rep: Joe Smith

9 Dist 10 Mtg in Omaha at post 247 at 2:00 Auxiliary to meet same time and place. Rep: Jim Pierce

9 Dist 11 Mtg in Ord Post 7029 to host at the Club at 2:00 \$1.00 reg fee Auxiliary to meet same time and place. Lunch to follow. Rep: Gary Bush

15 Cut Off (for all Awards State Convention June 8-11, 2017)

15 Top District Commander---State Convention

16 Easter Sunday

23 Dist 1 Mtg in Gering at Post 1681 at 12:00 for lunch \$5.00 reg meeting to follow at 1:00. Auxiliary to meet same time and place. Rep: Larry Gerlt

23 Dist 4 Mtg in Ogallala Post 3755 to host at Front Street Steakhouse 519 E 1st St at 12:00 mst Reg fee \$7.50 for meal. Auxiliary same time and place. Rep: Gary Bush

23 Dist 7 Mtg in Ft. Calhoun Post 5637 to host at Am Legion Hall at 1:30. Auxiliary to meet same time and place. Lunch to follow. Rep: Jerry Ludwig

23 Dist 3 Mtg in Hartington Post 5283 to host at the VFW Hall at 1:00 \$5.00 Reg fee. Auxiliary same time and place. Rep: Joe Smith

23 Dist 9 Mtg in Seward Post 4755 to host at the Post at 2:00 Auxiliary same time and place, lunch to follow. Rep: Dave Beran

30 Dist 6 Mtg in Beatrice Post 1077 to host at the Post at 2:00 Auxiliary same time and place. Potluck lunch to follow meeting. Rep: John Liebsack

30 Post Service Officer entry to Department

May 1st 2017

Cutoff for election reports!!!!

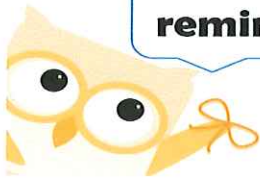
Memorial Dedication

Come one, come all!! Everyone is invited to the Vietnam Veterans Memorial dedication. When: April 30th at 2:00pm Where: The Norfolk Veterans Home at 600 E Benjamin Ave. Guest Speaker: Jon R. Beckenhauer (Colonel, US Army Retired) Reception to follow.

April Calendar Winners

1	\$40.00	Randy	Heiman	2337
2	\$40.00	Charles	Mulligan	81
3	\$40.00	Lorraine	Shelley	2460
4	\$40.00	Bill	Spagnotti	1923
5	\$40.00	Jerry	Tasler	2109
6	\$40.00	Rachel	Lempka	4
7	\$40.00	Brad	Utterback	2678
8	\$40.00	Pat	Hladky	3501
9	\$40.00	Jess	Fulmer	653
10	\$40.00	Louis	Brtek	1705
11	\$40.00	Luke	Cavanaugh	822
12	\$40.00	John	Grimes	1691
13	\$40.00	VFW Post	3704	3022
14	\$40.00	Tom	Mindrup	2022
15	\$40.00	Ann	Brandl	1137
16	\$40.00	Jon	Stopak	3099
17	\$40.00	Dixie	Voss	2303
18	\$40.00	Mike	Sweeney	3451
19	\$40.00	Edward	Smejkal	2875
20	\$40.00	Cathy	White	1918
21	\$40.00	Elkhorn Val	Hoskins Branch	1747
22	\$40.00	VFW 10727	Aux	92
23	\$40.00	Scott	Juranek	1600
24	\$40.00	Becky	Stecher	3412
25	\$40.00	Donna	Bratt	1885
26	\$40.00	Marvin	Fisher	3807
27	\$40.00	Johnny	Halladay	926
28	\$40.00	Brad	Nelson	2052
29	\$40.00	Kathy	Rogers	2498
30	\$40.00	Ellen	Bierschen	1131

Just a reminder...



All posts and districts who are preparing resolutions for the State Convention, they must be properly submitted to Department Headquarters prior to May 8th.

HELP! WE NEED 5 MORE PHOTOS FOR THE 2018 VFW NEBRASKA RAFFLE CALENDAR.



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

***Our Vision:** Ensure that veterans are respected for their service, always receive their earned entitlements, and are recognized for the sacrifices they and their loved ones have made on behalf of this great country.*

NO ONE DOES MORE FOR VETERANS.®

Nebraska as of Wednesday, March 29, 2017

State	Post	Dst	Life	New	Reinst	Cont	Total	Adjusted Prior Year	Percent
District Totals		1	471	27	13	133	644	635	101.41%
District Totals		3	1159	7	1	243	1410	1479	95.33%
District Totals		4	878	5	9	199	1091	1155	94.45%
District Totals		6	1016	8	1	247	1272	1402	90.72%
District Totals		7	801	8	2	261	1072	1128	95.03%
District Totals		9	1445	31	5	363	1844	1950	94.56%
District Totals		10	3417	87	47	762	4313	4496	95.92%
District Totals		11	864	14	2	221	1101	1150	95.73%
District Totals		13	986	10	1	166	1163	1187	97.97%
District Totals		15	723	7	2	133	865	916	94.43%
District Totals		99	707	37	13	194	951	1070	88.87%
State Totals			12467	241	96	2922	15726	16568	94.91%