



# NEBRASKA VFW NEWS



Department of Nebraska Newsletter

December 2016

## Burger King Donates to Unmet Needs

Participating restaurants raised funds again for the 10th consecutive year for the VFW Unmet Needs program throughout the month of November. Burger King restaurants in Lincoln and Omaha participated in the program. Patrons are encouraged to donate \$1 or more to the program upon check-out. Established in 2004, the Unmet Needs program assists service members and military families during times of financial hardship by providing monetary assistance toward basic life necessities such as rent, mortgage and utility payments, vehicle repair, medical expenses and food. Presenting them with plaques and appreciation are Nebraska VFW National Council Member John Iossi and Unmet Needs Chairman Jeff Baker.



MERRY  
CHRISTMAS



SEASON'S  
Greetings

we wish  
you a  
Merry  
CHRISTMAS

PEACE this  
Holiday  
SEASON

Merry  
Christmas

AND A HAPPY NEW YEAR

Joy to  
THE WORLD

*State Commander Doug Whitaker, State Senior Vice Commander Larry Gerlt, State Junior Vice Commander Gary E. Bush Sr., State Adjutant/Quartermaster John Liebsack, Assistant Adjutant Dave DuBois, State Judge Advocate Joe Smith, State Surgeon Dan Kramer, Chaplain Jerry Ludwig, Inspector Roger Broeker, Chief of Staff Sam DeJohn, Past State Commander Mike Medina and office staff Jody Sullivan and Trudie Hammers.*

The views and opinions expressed in this article are those of the authors and do not necessarily reflect the official policy or position of the Department of Nebraska VFW.

### **Getting SSDI and VA Disability Benefits at the Same Time**

**Bryan Mac Murray**

If you are a veteran with a service-related disability who is receiving Veterans Administration (VA) disability benefits, you may also be eligible to receive Social Security Disability Insurance (SSDI) offered through the Social Security Administration (SSA). Both disability programs are very different and have different requirements, but you can be eligible to receive monthly benefits from both.

If you are receiving VA disability benefits already, it may help speed up the processing of your SSDI claim. While the VA just requires that your disability is service related, SSDI requires that you have paid adequate taxes to the SSA and earned sufficient credits to receive benefits. This is usually the equivalent of five years of full-time work out of the last 10 years. However, that can be adjusted depending on the individual's age. If you have been approved for VA benefits, you should apply for SSDI right away before your [credits](#) expire.

### **The Differences Between the Two Disability Programs**

While VA disability is only awarded to veterans who suffered a disability related to their military service, SSDI is available to workers who have earned sufficient credits during the last few years. To get SSDI, you must be fully disabled, rather than being rated on a scale out of one hundred. VA benefits are only for disabilities that resulted from your military service while SSDI benefits are available for [any disability](#) you may experience regardless of whether it was service related.

While both the VA and SSA are government agencies, the application and approval processes are very different. The VA program looks at your file and decides the amount of your disability based on your military service. The SSDI claim looks at your entire file and gives more credit to your treating physician who knows more about your condition. All your medical problems are given consideration as the combination of multiple problems can lead to disability as well resulting in approval for SSDI benefits.

### **How Getting VA Benefits Can Improve Your Odds of SSDI Approval**

If you have received a higher compensability rating from the VA, such as 70%, your odds of being approved for SSDI is much greater. When the SSA knows that another federal agency has already determined that you are unable to work or that you have a condition that makes maintaining full-time work difficult or impossible, your odds of being approved for benefits improve. If you have a service related disability with a compensability rating of 20%, but you also suffer from medical conditions such as diabetes and COPD, all those conditions are considered together and your odds of approval are also much greater.

### **Applying for Benefits**

Many people have claims for VA disability and SSDI open at the same time. It is imperative to file your claim for SSDI benefits as quickly as possible so you don't lose your credits as well as your eligibility for those benefits. When you apply for benefits, you can use the assistance of an advocate or an attorney. To apply for SSDI benefits, visit [www.ssa.gov](http://www.ssa.gov) or call 1-800-772-1213. You can also start your claims process in person at your local SSA office.

## Lincoln VA Groundbreaking

On Saturday the 12th of November the Senior Foundation broke ground on the VA campus. The project is supported by state administrators and city officials who spoke at the ceremony. It is the first phase in a long-term plan to integrate veteran and senior housing and update the grounds.



## 70 Year Auxiliary Charter Member

There was a celebration at the library in Pender for Bonnie Young the last charter member of Auxiliary to the VFW Post 6928 in Pender. It took place on November 14th with a pin ceremony, award presentation and cake. Her family was there and presenting her with her pin was District 7 President Jane Petersen. Pictured left to right is 6928 Auxiliary President Gladys Prokop, Bonnie and Jane. Bonnie is pictured below with her granddaughters Trisha Robertus and Auxiliary member Trudie Hammers.

To foster camaraderie among United States veterans of overseas conflicts. To serve our veterans, the military, and our communities. To advocate on behalf of all veterans.

purpose  
guide mission heart  
business philosophy principle  
touchstone planning guiding feeling statement  
roadmap core  
cornerstone soul





## Holiday Drive at VFW Post 10648 in Princeton

Toys were collected for needy children and the towels, laundry detergent and sheets were collected for the veterans at the homeless shelter. The VFW Riders challenged the post members to see who could come up with the most items. Though the winner was never officially crowned, it was certain that the post was proud to be taking so many gifts to the homeless shelter. On top of toys, members collected winter coats, scarves, gloves and clothes that will be taken to bring a blessed holiday to those less fortunate. In the picture from left to right is Dionne Gorji, Bob Rahorst, Jim Otte, Jason Rosein, Bill Broliar, Roger Sluka, Doug Ladd, Dave Wieting, Terry Quackenbush, Terry Spohn, Walt Dondlinger, Shawn Nolte and Ron Packard.



## Gifts for Homeless Veterans

The Auxiliary to Post #3421 in Omaha, along with donations from the surrounding community, packed 24 bags of new items for the annual contribution to Omaha's November 10th VA Stand Down for Homeless veterans. Making a final inspection before they were delivered to the VA hospital on November 7th are Secretary Donna Gardner, Treasurer Donna Monaghan and Trustee Bonnie White.



VFW Post 3576 in Broken Bow Commander Dell Moninger and his daughter, pictured above, put out flags on Veteran graves for Memorial Day.

## Veterans Day Poppy Drive

Pictured below is Major General Roger Lempke, Senator Deb Fischer and Jim Otte from VFW Post 10648 in Princeton.



Last month Progressive's Keys to Progress event provided another refurbished vehicle for a Nebraska veteran. 100 of our nation's veterans and their families will drive away this year with a refurbished car. Pictured below with the deserving couple are members of VFW Post 1581 who attended the event John Liebsack, Marty Reimenschneider and Ann Thieman.



## Veterans In the Classroom at Lux

November 4th members of the Lincoln VFW color guard attended a Veterans Day program at Lux Middle School. Pictured left to right are from Post 131 Melvin Bates, Post 7722 Matt Jones, Post 3606 Richard Maughan and Jerry Christen. Not pictured is State Photographer Dan Petersen.



## Thank you Sport Clips

From October 17 through Veterans Day Sport Clips locations around the country collect donations for "Help a Hero". To thank participating Sport Clips locations, State Adjutant /Quartermaster John Liebsack presented locations with an award. For ten years, Sport Clips has been a proud supporter of the Veterans of Foreign Wars and since 2013, we have supported the VFW's "Sport Clips Help A Hero Scholarship" program, which provides scholarships for service members and veterans for use at post-secondary schools and trade schools.

# Tentative Schedule of Events for Midwinter Conference

## Thursday, February 2nd, 2017

- 3:00-5:00 pm Registration at the hotel and check in
- 3:00-4:00 pm Quartermaster question and answer and  
State Convention Meeting discussion (Arbor 1)

## Friday, February 3rd, 2017

- 6:00-8:00 am Ticketed breakfast for registered hotel guests (Hawthorne)
- 7:30 am- Registration at the hotel and check in
- 7:15 am and 7:45 am Bus leaves hotel for Legislative meeting at the Capitol
- 8:00 am Legislative Meeting at the Capitol**
- 10:50 am Bus leaves hotel for State Capitol Tour & Governor's Residence
- 11:00 and 11:15 am Bus leaves Capitol from Legislative meeting for the hotel
- Noon Lunch on your own
- Noon Students and families luncheon at Governor's Residence
- 1:00 pm Students and families bus leaves for the hotel
- 1:15 pm-3:00 pm Open information session: (Arbor 1)
- 3:15 pm Students, Parents and District Commanders and Presidents meet downstairs
- 3:30 pm VOD and Patriot Pen "Parade of Winners" (Lancaster ballroom 1,2,3)**
- 6:30 pm VOD and Patriot Pen Banquet (Lancaster ballroom 4,5,6)

## Saturday, February 4th, 2017

- 6:00-8:00 am Ticketed breakfast for registered hotel guests
- 9:00 am Joint Meeting (Lancaster ballroom 4,5,6)
- 9:45 am VFW Council of Administration and Auxiliary Meetings
- Noon Lunch on your own / Past Commanders and Presidents luncheon
- 1:00 pm Resume VFW Council of Administration and Auxiliary Meetings

## VFW Mid-Winter Conference

February 2-4, 2017  
 The Cornhusker  
 333 South 13<sup>th</sup> St Lincoln NE 68508  
 Room Rates: \$109.00 + Tax

**Call Department or mail in form for Reservations!!**

**VFW Department of Nebraska 2431 N. 48<sup>th</sup> St. Lincoln, NE 68504**  
**402-464-0674** email to: [trudie@vfwne.org](mailto:trudie@vfwne.org)

**Deadline for Reservations is January 19, 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	The Cornhusker
Check in date?	
Check out date?	
Cost per night	\$80.00 + tax
Number of people	
Room preference (e.g., king, double, single)	
Special requests?	

## December Calendar Winners

1	\$40.00	Lonnie	Bohling	3716
2	\$40.00	Fred	Krebel	4561
3	\$40.00	Larry	Wilcox	2926
4	\$40.00	Justin	Trapp	4062
5	\$40.00	Mark	Devine	3522
6	\$40.00	William	Palmer	93
7	\$100.00	Dave	Scofield	4053
8	\$40.00	Benson	Elmore	2477
9	\$40.00	Loren	Lindaul	1535
10	\$40.00	Mike	Roloff	305
11	\$40.00	Geraldine	Sauer	3199
12	\$40.00	Barb	Rimel	2478
13	\$40.00	George	Howard	3123
14	\$40.00	Mike & Patti	Applegate	722
15	\$40.00	Dick	Strehle	4165
16	\$40.00	Coletta	Clouse	3163
17	\$40.00	Ron	Wondercheck	768
18	\$40.00	Susie	Sweeney	2608
19	\$40.00	Brent	Karnatz	209
20	\$40.00	The Beer Stein		2548
21	\$40.00	Scott	Reeves	1409
22	\$40.00	Cole	Williby	4803
23	\$40.00	Shawn	Nolte	290
24	\$40.00	Lucas	Stanck	240
25	\$40.00	Robert	Lopez	3069
26	\$40.00	Joyce	Medina	1021
27	\$40.00	Gayle	Johnson	4060
28	\$40.00	Jacob	Sweeney	2907
29	\$40.00	Doug	Tranmer	4194
30	\$40.00	Gerald	Tauberhein	4219
31	\$40.00	Sharon	Steiner	3728

## Calendar of Events

### December 2016

- 13 Patriots Pen and VOD Entry to Department
- 13 Patriots Pen and VOD Summaries to Department
- 14,15,16 Membership Recruiting Offutt AFB

### January 2017

- (T-3) Trustee Quarterly report to Department (Oct 1 to Dec 31)
  - 1 Cut off (Mid Winter Conference February 2-4)
  - 1 Top Membership District Commander Mid-Winter
  - 1 Inspection 100% District
  - 1 Public Servants Award (EMT;Firefighter;Law) to Department
  - 8 Dist 7 Mtg in Fremont Post 854 to host at 12:00 at Eagles Club 649 N Main. Lunch to follow. Auxiliary same time and place.
    - VOD & Patriot's Pen award to be given out.
  - 10 Calendar Raffle Drawing at 10:00 am Headquarters Lincoln, NE
  - 15 Dist 4 Mtg in Ogallala Post 3755 & 9533 to host at Front Street Steak House 519 East 1st at 12:00 MST \$7.50 for lunch
    - Auxiliary to meet same time and place.
  - 15 Dist 10 Mtg in Plattsmouth at Post 2543 at 1:00. Noon lunch, VOD & Patriot's Pen Banquet
  - 15 Dist 11 Mtg in Ord at Post 7029 at 2:00 \$1.00 reg fee. Auxiliary to meet same time and place VOD & Patriot's Pen awards
  - 16 Final deadline 20 Questions to Department
- ### February 2017
- 11 Norfolk Regional Center Christmas Party at 10:00 am 1700 N. Victory Rd Norfolk NE
  - 11 Norfolk Veterans Home Christmas Party at 2:00 pm 600 E Benjamin Avenue Norfolk NE
  - 12 Grand Island Veterans Home Christmas Party at 2:00 pm 2300 W. Capital Avenue Grand Island NE
  - 15 Teacher entry to Post level
  - 26 Dist 6 Mtg in Pawnee City Post 5289 to host at the Thomas Little American Legion Building 512 6<sup>th</sup> St Pawnee City, 2:00 pm. Auxiliary to meet at the United Methodist Church 849 F St Pawnee City NE. VOD & PP program to follow
    - lunch to follow program.





**Take a photo, send it in!**  
**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](mailto:johnl@vfwne.org)**

**Membership training on Saturday January 7th from 9 to 3. Contact department Headquarters at 402-464-0674 to register.**

**Visit us online**  
**at [vfwne.com](http://vfwne.com)**



**THE VFW WORKS TO SUPPORT VETERANS, ONE "BUDDY" AT A TIME.**

**PHOTOS are ALWAYS Welcome For the upcoming calendar. We need pictures of all seasons so start clicking some cold weather photos.**

**Nebraska as of Thursday, December 08, 2016**

State	Post	Dst	Life	New	Reinst	Cont	Total	Adjusted Prior Year	Percent
District Totals		1	469	20	5	86	580	635	91.33%
District Totals		3	1155	4	1	189	1349	1479	91.21%
District Totals		4	876	2	1	132	1011	1155	87.53%
District Totals		6	1013	6	1	191	1211	1402	86.37%
District Totals		7	797	4	0	192	993	1128	88.03%
District Totals		9	1436	15	4	276	1731	1950	88.76%
District Totals		10	3394	59	23	531	4007	4496	89.12%
District Totals		11	862	7	1	161	1031	1150	89.65%
District Totals		13	982	5	1	128	1116	1187	94.01%
District Totals		15	721	3	0	109	833	916	90.93%
District Totals		99	702	18	13	134	867	1070	81.02%
State Totals			12407	143	50	2129	14729	16568	88.90%