



NEBRASKA VFW NEWS



Department of Nebraska Newsletter

February 2016

Issue # 26

Veterans' Legislative Day

The 2016 Veteran's Legislative Day was held on February 5th. This time allows Veteran Service Organizations to express their opinions on key legislation which directly affects veterans in the state of Nebraska. The Veterans of Foreign Wars was well represented. Pictured below are Past National Auxiliary President Dixie Hild, Governor Pete Ricketts and Past National VFW Commander George Kramer.



Addressing the group are (left to right) State Service Officer John McNally, Nebraska Department of Veterans Affairs Director John Hilgert and Governor Pete Ricketts.



Outside of chambers are President Kim Abboud and Commander Mike Medina.



Larry Gerlt Community Service Chairman



If you're the band Europe, you sing the "Final Countdown," It's what you do. If you're in the VFW, you perform service hours. It's what we do! But just performing service hours is not enough. They need to be recorded and sent to Department so we get credit for them. Service hours can be submitted on the paper form or on-line. We are in the final count down - only about 90 days left for our second reporting period. Every year, our National Commander briefs congress on what we have done: money spent, miles driven, hours of service. Our service hours are a key part of our maintaining our not-for-profit status as well as leverage with the State of Nebraska to get them to repeal taxing meals at post homes and other unfair practices. Whether you visit a Veterans home, mow an elderly vet's lawn, or whatever, get those hours to your post quartermaster so they can be recorded. Help us help you!

Peru State College Invitation

Our last home basketball event is February 27th starting at 2:00pm with the women's game and the men play at 4:00pm. We would like to invite all military members/veterans and their families to attend the event. During halftime of the women's game we will recognize all members in attendance. There is no charge to attend the games and all family members are welcome to attend as well.

VFW ANNOUNCES ANNUAL PUBLICATIONS CONTEST

NATIONAL DEADLINE IS APRIL 1, 2016. IF YOUR POST PUTS OUT A NEWSLETTER THAT WE DO NOT HAVE AT DEPARTMENT HEADQUARTERS PLEASE SEND IT IN.



Attention

Patriotic Productions has announced plans for another honor flight. The Nebraska Vietnam Combat Veterans Flight (VCVF). Applications are available online at

www.patrioticproductions.org

Sid Dillon Donates Power Chair

VFW Post 3606 received the chair from Sid Dillon in Lincoln who wanted to help others in need. The chair was delivered to the Post by IT Business Director Jonathan Clark, Service Manager Nate Salmon and Technician Daniel Bazan. When Earl Motschenbacher, the Commander of the Miller-Long Post 3606 got the call from Sid Dillon about the opportunity to receive the chair, he was very gracious. "I was very excited when they told me they were donating it. I was surprised someone would do this from outside of the VFW. It shows how gracious Sid Dillon is. It will be used by many veterans who served our great country.



Post 1077 VOD and Patriot's Pen Winners

Students, VFW and Auxiliary members enjoyed a pizza party at the post. Honored at the Post were (left to right) Blayden Bayless, Mackenzie Barnard, Matthew Jobman, Olivia Matlock; Patriot Pen winners that are all from Beatrice Middle School and Madison Bennett; the VOD winner from Wymore Southern High School. The Beatrice Post and Auxiliary members also enjoyed the reading of their essays at the celebration on January 18th.



The federal flag code says the universal custom is to display the U.S. flag from sunrise to sunset on buildings and stationary flagstaffs in the open, but when a patriotic effect is desired the flag may be displayed 24-hours a day if properly illuminated during the hours of darkness. Also, the U.S. flag should not be displayed when the weather is inclement, except when an all-weather flag is displayed.



DISTRICT 9 AWARDS STUDENTS

THE DISTRICT 9 MEETING WAS HOSTED BY SEWARD POST 4755 ON JANUARY 10TH. THE DISTRICT WINNERS OF THE VOICE OF DEMOCRACY CONTEST AND PATRIOT'S PEN ESSAY CONTEST RECEIVED AWARDS AT THAT TIME. THE TOP STUDENT IN EACH CONTEST SHARED THEIR SPEECH AND ESSAY AT THAT TIME. PICTURED BELOW IS THE DISTRICT 9 WINNER OF THE PATRIOT'S PEN MARGARET BOEDEKER, WITH DISTRICT COMMANDER MARK TALBERT AND DISTRICT AUXILIARY PRESIDENT VICKI LUEBBE. MARGARET WAS SPONSORED BY VFW POST 3606 IN LINCOLN.



THE 1ST PLACE WINNER FOR DISTRICT 9 IN THE VOICE OF DEMOCRACY COMPETITION IS JOHN GRINVALDS, PICTURED ABOVE, WHO ALSO RECEIVED HIS AWARD FROM DISTRICT COMMANDER MARK TALBERT AND DISTRICT AUXILIARY PRESIDENT VICKI LUEBBE.



Princeton Post 10648 had their annual holiday celebration at the Hickman Legion on January 17th. Certificates of Achievement were presented at that time.





DISTRICT 4 AWARDS CEREMONY

THE DISTRICT 4 WINNERS IN THE PATRIOT'S PEN AND VOICE OF DEMOCRACY COMPETITIONS WERE HONORED ON JANUARY 17TH IN NORTH PLATTE AT POST 1504. PICTURED IN THE ABOVE PHOTO IS THE DISTRICT 4 1ST PLACE PATRIOT PEN WINNER REBEKKAH DRAUCKER RECEIVING HER AWARD FROM (LEFT TO RIGHT) TERESA GROFF, JANET FELT AND DISTRICT 4 COMMANDER P.J. PAJERSKI. THE DISTRICT 4 1ST PLACE WINNER IN THE VOICE OF DEMOCRACY COMPETITION IS DANI MCNEEL. DANI IS ALSO PICTURED WITH TERESA GROFF, THE DISTRICT AUXILIARY PRESIDENT; JANET FELT, THE DISTRICT VOD/PP CHAIRPERSON AND DISTRICT COMMANDER P.J. PAJERSKI.



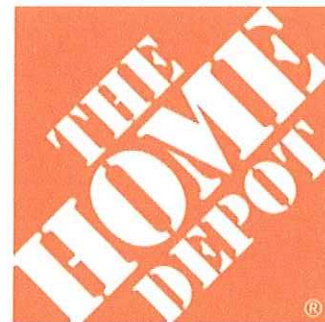
The new essay contest themes for 2016-2017 are as follows:

Voice of Democracy
"MY RESPONSIBILITY TO AMERICA"

Patriot's Pen
"THE AMERICA I BELIEVE IN"

The Home Depot (HD) has opened their Community Impact Grant for 2016!

VFW members can receive up to \$5,000 to fix up their Post building! Although of course there are no guarantees (so please be mindful of that) I encourage all Posts to apply ASAP if you desire to remodel your building.



visit: <http://homedepotfoundation.org/page/applying-for-a-grant>.

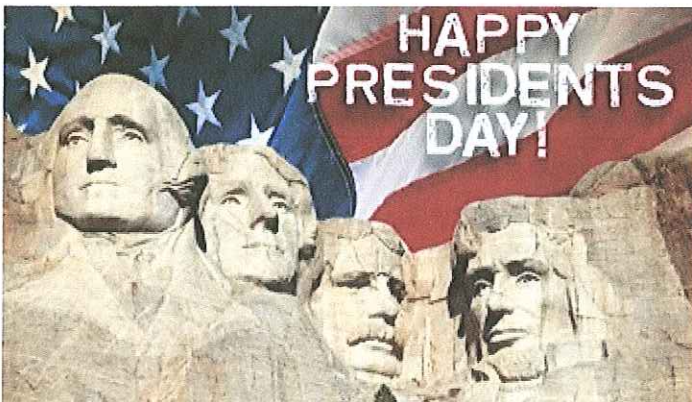
If you are having issues with the application, please do not contact your local Home Depot store. Questions may be directed to Jason Couch, VFW Foundation grants coordinator, at 816-968-1174 or jcouch@vfw.org.

Fort McPherson Gets Wreaths

VFW Post and Auxiliary 1504 North Platte put out 13,000 wreaths with the help of the Boy Scouts.. The Wreaths Across America event took place on December 12th. Pictured below are Post Commander Jerry Jurgens, Howard Gebhardt and Roger Broeker.



President's Day does not fall on the actual birthday of any American president. Four chief executives—George Washington, William Henry Harrison, Abraham Lincoln and Ronald Reagan were born in February, but their birthdays all come either too early or late to coincide with Presidents' Day, which is always celebrated on the third Monday of the month.



The VFW and one of its major supporters, Sport Clips Haircuts, have again partnered to help our veterans and their families. The VFW's "Sport Clips Help A Hero Scholarship" will provide service members and veterans with the financial assistance they need to complete their educational goals without incurring excessive student loan debt. It's just another way to say "thank you" to those who deserve it the most.

ELIGIBLE APPLICANTS MUST:

- Be a citizen of the United States
- Be retired, honorably discharged, active duty, or a member of the National Guard or Reserve
- Have completed Basic Training and follow -on training (Advanced Individual Training, Technical school, etc.)
- Separated with or currently hold a military rank of E-5 or below
- Demonstrate a need for financial assistance
- Participate in, be accepted to or currently enrolled in a VA-approved program or school at an accredited post-secondary institution



REMEMBER: NEVER REFUSE SOMEONE A POPPY BECAUSE THEY ARE UNABLE TO CONTRIBUTE. A POPPY ON ANYONE'S LAPEL HONORS ALL VETERANS!

Calendar of Events

February 2016

- 14 Dist 13 mtg in Hastings at the Eagles Club 107 N Denver Ave. Post 1346 to host at 1:00 pm.
- 15 Teacher entry to Post Level
- 21 Dist 6 mtg in Pawnee City Post 5289 to host at the American Legion 512 6th St. Lunch to follow. Auxiliary to meet Same time at 849 F st. Church. VOD & PP Award Ceremony to follow.

March 2016

- 1 Teacher entry to District Level
- 1 Eagle Scout Entry to Post
- 15 Teacher entry to Department
- 19 Cheyenne WY VA Hospital St Patrick's Day Party at 1:30
- 19 Western NE Veterans Home St Patrick's Day Party at 7:00
- 20 Hot Springs SD VA Hospital St Patrick's Day Party at 11:00 am. White Socks Party at 1:30
- 31 Scholarship Student Applications to Department

April 2016

- (T-4) Trustee Quarterly report to Department (Jan 1 March 31)
- 1 Eagle Scout State Entry to Department
- 3 Dist 15 mtg in Schuyler Post 4836 to host. Reg at 1:30, mtg at 2:00. Rep: TBA
- 10 Dist 7 mtg in Blair Post 1251 to host 393 River Rd at 1:30 pm. Lunch to follow. Rep: TBA
- 15 Cut off (For all Awards State Convention June 9-12, 2016)
- 15 Top District Commander—State Convention
- 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: TBA
- 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

February Calendar Winners

1	\$40.00	Ryan	Rohl
2	\$40.00	Rex	Nissen
3	\$40.00	John	Lange
4	\$40.00	Promedcare	
5	\$40.00	VFW Post 5759	
6	\$40.00	Vickie	Tschantre
7	\$40.00	Mark	Weidner
8	\$40.00	Denise	Walla
9	\$40.00	Rich	Campbell
10	\$40.00	Bill	Hughes
11	\$40.00	Donald	Inglis
12	\$40.00	Julie	Klein
13	\$40.00	AmVets Post 8	
14	\$40.00	Jeff	Krupicka
15	\$40.00	Donna	Sullivan
16	\$40.00	Arlen	Osterbuhr
17	\$40.00	Dale	Nicolaus
18	\$40.00	Joni	Schmeckpeper
19	\$40.00	Jerry	Chadwick
20	\$40.00	Mae	Lund
21	\$40.00	Ken	Curry
22	\$40.00	Brent	Harsin
23	\$40.00	Calvin	Kropatsch
24	\$40.00	David	Olsen
25	\$40.00	Andrea	Lopez
26	\$40.00	Dave	Wimmer
27	\$40.00	Phyllis	Keen
28	\$40.00	Robert	Real
29	\$40.00	Ralph	Duffey

Nebraska as of Tuesday, February 09, 2016

State	Post	Dst	Life	New	Reinst	Cont	Total	Adjusted Prior Year	Percent
District Totals		1	484	3	1	125	613	688	89.09%
District Totals		3	1183	5	1	260	1449	1587	91.30%
District Totals		4	905	2	5	201	1113	1220	91.22%
District Totals		6	1052	14	7	269	1342	1464	91.66%
District Totals		7	813	8	3	283	1107	1169	94.69%
District Totals		9	1473	18	4	378	1873	2063	90.79%
District Totals		10	3382	71	22	730	4205	4584	91.73%
District Totals		11	889	5	0	231	1125	1203	93.51%
District Totals		13	1000	2	1	164	1167	1241	94.03%
District Totals		15	753	4	0	139	896	1009	88.80%
District Totals		99	722	27	34	203	986	1089	90.54%
State Totals			12656	159	78	2983	15876	17317	91.67%

Running for Office? Now is the time to get your ad put together for the newsletter and the State Convention booklet. Rates are \$50.00 to \$250.00 for a full page in the newsletter. Call Department headquarters or you can find a form in February genmail.

Needed: Photos for the 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

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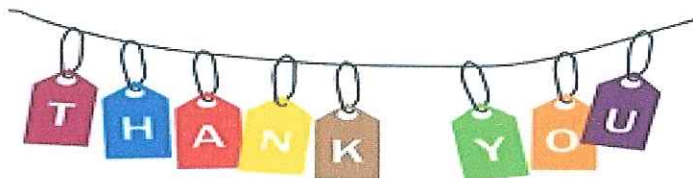
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Again, thank you to all of the individuals and posts that supported our students in the Voice of Democracy and Patriot's Pen competitions. It is because of you that we can continue to reward these young people for their patriotism.