



NEBRASKA VFW NEWS



Department of Nebraska Newsletter

February 2017



Thomas Hosford Wins Voice of Democracy Competition

The 10 District winners in the Voice of Democracy competition were awarded at the "Parade of Winners" on February 3rd in Lincoln at the Cornhusker Marriott. The theme for this year "My Responsibility to America" inspired 1297 entrants this year across the state. The top spot from Boone Central High School is Thomas Hosford from Albion. Thomas was sponsored by VFW Post and Auxiliary 736 Albion and represented District 15. Thomas is pictured above with award sponsor Post 2704 representative Larry Gerlt, Auxiliary President Sue Moore and State Commander Doug Whitaker. He received a \$2,000.00 scholarship award as well as an all expense paid trip to Washington D.C. and the chance to win a \$30,000.00 scholarship later this month at the National level. A total of \$29,149.00 was awarded for the year at the Post, District and Department levels.



Patriot's Pen Winner is Riley Kaup

The "Parade of Winners" saw the top 3 District winners across the state in this year's Patriot's Pen competition. The 3 winners represented Districts 3, 4 and 11. The theme for this year was "The America I Believe In". Out of 2628 entrants this year, Riley Kaup came out on top. Riley represented District 3 and Plainview Public School. He was sponsored by VFW Post and Auxiliary 5330 Plainview. Riley is pictured below with award sponsor Post 2704 representative Larry Gerlt, Auxiliary President Sue Moore and State Commander Doug Whitaker. A total of \$19,987.00 was awarded at the Post, District and Department levels. Riley was presented with a \$1,000.00 scholarship and the chance to win a \$5,000.00 scholarship at the National level.



Membership – the new terminology and what it means.

Once upon a time, we had annual members whose dues expired on December 31st. Now we have subscription dues members and their dues expire 12 months from current expiration date if they pay prior to their expiration date or 12 months after they pay if their dues have already expired. We also have to know a few facts about this:

1. A member in good standing is all members whose dues have NOT expired.
2. An Unpaid member is all annual/subscription dues members who have NOT paid for the current membership year – meaning their dues lapse prior to June 30th, the last day of the membership year.
3. You do NOT get credit for Unpaid members (to include members in good standing) until their dues are paid for the current membership year.
4. Unpaid members do not count as members when we lobby Congress!

So, what do you as a post Commander, post Quartermaster need to do? Let your subscription (annual) dues members know that they need to pay their dues at the START of the membership year (July & August) but certainly no later than December 31st.

If you are a subscription (annual) dues member and your membership lapses before June 30th, please pay your dues now! Your membership does not help us lobby Congress until you do. AND, we all know how well Congress takes care of us – not at all!

Larry Gerlt

**Membership Chairman
and State Sr. Vice
Commander**



AMVETS Nebraska is raising money to construct a Carillon at the Omaha National Veteran's cemetery. A Carillon is a musical instrument that is typically housed in the bell tower (belfry) of a cemetery bell tower. The instrument consists of at least 23 cast bronze, cup-shaped bells, which are played serially to produce a melody, or sounded together to play a chord.

AMVETS Nebraska is working to obtain \$60,000.00 for construction of the Carillon at the Omaha National Veteran's cemetery. This Carillon at the Omaha National Veteran's cemetery Will honor Veterans for centuries. AMVETS Nebraska need your personal donations and corporate donations to make this Carillon at the Omaha National Veteran's cemetery a reality.

Please visit the Go fund me page to make your donation.



Projector Needed

The VFW Department of Nebraska Auxiliary is in need of a projector for training classes. If you would be willing to donate or sell at a bargain price. Please contact Carol Brosnihan at 402-932-2143 or email: crlb669@aol.com



Midwinter included a Capitol Tour

Prior to the awards ceremony, the state Voice of Democracy and Patriot's Pen finalists toured the Capitol. Joining them was their families, National VFW Representative Kevin Jones, State Chairmen for the Voice of Democracy and Patriot's Pen John Iossi and Kim Abboud. Pictured above are Katrina Meier, Emma Cline, Isabelle Thompson, Jacob Carroll, Riley Kaup, Drew Boggs, Brandon Beamon, Cloe Moore, Thomas Hosford, John Grinvalds, Carter Thiele, Tiffany Myers and Alicia Brown-Kasten.



February 3rd was Legislative Day

Held in conjunction with the youth awards was Legislative Day. It allows the Nebraska Veterans Council, which includes members from 8 veteran organizations, to express their views on proposed legislative issues affecting veterans. At right are State Commander Doug Whitaker and State Legislative Chairman for the VFW Jeff Baker.



And the Winners Are...

Patriot's Pen

1st Place - Riley Kaup, sponsored by Post and Auxiliary 5330 in Plainview

2nd Place - Brandon Beamon, sponsored by VFW Post 3755 in Ogallala

3rd Place - Emma Cline, sponsored by VFW Post and Auxiliary 7029 in Ord

Lunch at the Governor's Residence

Following the Capitol tour was lunch with their families and a visit from Governor Pete Ricketts. The Governor congratulated the students for their success and spoke about the meaning of the themes this year for the contests. He encouraged the students to continue with their involvement as well as answered their questions. Pictured are Isabelle Thompson, State Commander Doug Whitaker, Katrina Meier, Emma Cline, Riley Kaup, Tiffany Myers, Cloe Moore, Carter Thiele, Alicia Brown-Kasten, Governor Ricketts, Thomas Hosford, Auxiliary President Sue Moore, Jacob Carroll, Brandon Beamon, Drew Boggs and John Grinvalds.

Voice of Democracy

1st Place - Thomas Hosford, sponsored by Post and Auxiliary 736 in Albion

2nd Place - John Grinvalds, sponsored by VFW Post 9844 in Yutan

3rd Place - Alicia Brown-Kasten, sponsored by VFW Post 9533 in Big Springs

4th Place - Katrina Meier, sponsored by VFW Post and Auxiliary 5330 in Plainview

5th Place - Tiffany Myers, sponsored by VFW Post and Auxiliary 3576 in Broken Bow

6th Place - Drew Boggs, sponsored by VFW Post and Auxiliary 5641 in Red Cloud

7th Place - Carter Thiele, sponsored by VFW Post and Auxiliary 5543 in Oakland

8th Place - Cloe Moore, sponsored by VFW Post 5547 in Syracuse

9th Place - Isabelle Thompson, sponsored by VFW Post 9675 in Papillion

10th Place - Jacob Carroll, sponsored by VFW Post and Auxiliary 5639 in Hay Springs



Thank you to the 2016-2017 Patriot's Pen and V.O.D. Sponsor Donors! Your generosity makes this program successful.

VFW Post 2704 in Omaha

VFW Past State Commanders

VFW Post & Aux 131 in Lincoln

Lyle C Petersen Memorial

VFW Nebraska and the VFW Nebraska Auxiliary

VFW Post 1581 in Omaha

Past National President and Past State Commander Dixie and Ron Hild

VFW Post 2280 in Bellevue

VFW Post 3755 in Ogallala



Beautiful Day Outside the Governor's Residence

PICTURED OUTSIDE THE GOVERNOR'S RESIDENCE ARE ASSISTANT ADJUTANT GENERAL, ADMINISTRATION AND PROGRAMS KEVIN JONES, EMMA CLINE, STATE YOUTH CHAIRMAN JOHN IOSSI, RILEY KAUP, DREW BOGGS, KATRINA MEIER, THOMAS HOSFORD, TIFFANY MYERS, ISABELLE THOMPSON, ALICIA BROWN-KASTEN, JOHN GRINVALDS, CHLOE MOORE, CARTER THIELE, JACOB CARROLL, STATE AUXILIARY CHAIRMAN KIM ABOUD, BRANDON BEAMON AND STATE COMMANDER DOUG WHITAKER.



Banquet Honors Students

THE FRIDAY EVENING BANQUET WAS A TIME TO ENJOY DINNER TOGETHER WITH THE STUDENT WINNERS AND THEIR FAMILIES. THE WINNER OF THE STATE PATRIOT'S PEN COMPETITION RILEY KAUP (TOP LEFT) AND THE STATE VOICE OF DEMOCRACY WINNER THOMAS HOSFORD (BOTTOM LEFT) SHARED THEIR SPEECH AND ESSAY. EMCEEING THE EVENT WAS YOUTH CHAIRMAN JOHN IOSSI. THE GUEST SPEAKER, PICTURED ABOVE LEFT, WAS ASSISTANT ADJUTANT GENERAL KEVIN C. JONES FROM NATIONAL HEADQUARTERS. PICTURED BELOW, STATE COMMANDER DOUG WHITAKER ADDRESSES THE GROUP AND PRAISES THE STUDENTS FOR THEIR WORK.





Mid Winter Membership Awards

The Division 1 award went to Jim Lutz (above) with 95.20% membership attained by January 1st. He is the Commander of District 13. The Division 2 award went to Leroy Clausen who is pictured below. Leroy is the District 3 Commander and attained 92.83% by the 1st of January. The awards were presented during the Council meeting on February 4th in Lincoln. Assistant Adjutant General Kevin Jones addressed the group to start off the meeting.



VFW LEGACY LIFE MEMBER EXPLANATION OF BENEFITS

MEMBER INCENTIVES	BRONZE \$400	SILVER \$800	GOLD \$1200
Plated Engraved Legacy Life Card	●	●	●
Lapel Pin	●	●	●
Hat Pin	●	●	●
Distinctive VFW Store Line for Legacy Life Members	●	●	●
Framed Legacy Certificate	●	●	●
Member Recognition on Internet & Convention Program	●	●	●
Member Recognition at Kiosks at Memorial Building in Washington, D.C. and Museum at National Headquarters	●	●	●
Special Legacy Life Plaque	●	●	●
Hat Patch	●	●	●
Personalized Brick at Centennial Plaza	●	●	●
VFW Store Discounts (for personal use only) *	5%	10%	15%
Increased Level of No-Cost AD&D Insurance *	\$2000	\$3500	\$5000
Annual Endowment: Post	\$6	\$12	\$18
Annual Endowment: Department	\$6	\$12	\$18

* does not apply to Memorial Life Legacy Membership





Thank you Burger King for Your Donation to Unmet Needs

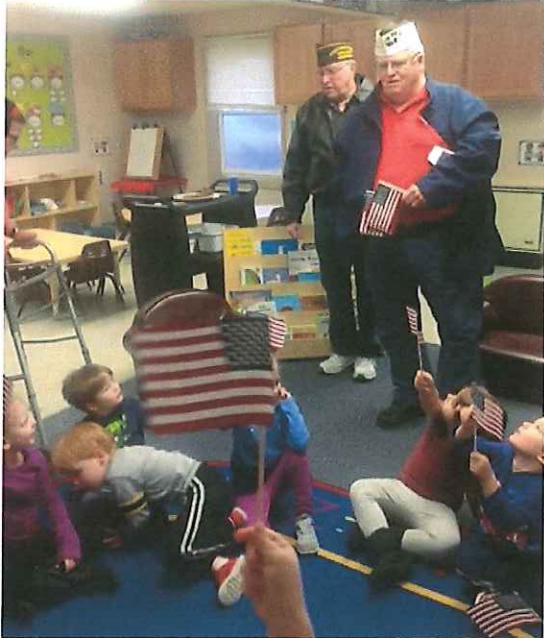
Grand Island, Hastings and York Burger King restaurants participated in this year's fundraiser for the VFW Unmet Needs Program. Nebraska National Council Representative John Iossi and Adjutant/Quartermaster John Liebsack presented the restaurants with plaques of appreciation. Throughout the state, a total of \$30,657. was raised for the program. Since 2007, participating franchised restaurants have raised nearly \$4 million in support of the program. Over 900 locations nationwide participated in last year's fundraising campaign.



2017-2018 VOICE OF DEMOCRACY AND PATRIOT'S PEN THEMES:

VOICE OF DEMOCRACY: AMERICAN HISTORY: OUR HOPE FOR THE FUTURE
PATRIOT'S PEN: AMERICA'S GIFT TO MY GENERATION





VFW Presents Flags to Preschoolers

VFW District 6 Commander Steve Calkin, Post 1077 Commander Donald Junker and Auxiliary 1077 President Lowanna Laflin handed out flags at the Beatrice Community Preschool on January 20th. The children really enjoyed them and it is so important to spread patriotism in our classrooms.



VFW FOUNDATION'S HOME DEPOT FOUNDATION COMMUNITY IMPACT GRANT COMPLETION GUIDE

ATTENTION: VFW POSTS -- TO APPLY FOR A HOME DEPOT COMMUNITY IMPACT GRANT, BEGIN BY GOING TO THE FOLLOWING WEBSITE:

<https://corporate.homedepot.com/grants/community-impact-grants>

Please, read through all information on the page before beginning the application so you will become acquainted with the process and the general rules. Do not worry that your Post is not a registered 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization. You can still apply as a 501(c)(19) nonprofit veteran's group. If you would like help with this process, call Department Headquarters at 402-464-0674.



Important Days to Remember:

MARCH 15TH IS THE DEADLINE FOR TEACHER ENTRIES TO THE DEPARTMENT. YOU MAY SEND THEM DIRECTLY TO THE OFFICE AT: PO Bos 4552; LINCOLN, NE 68504

MARCH 31ST IS THE DEADLINE FOR SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATIONS.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

February 2017

19 Dist 13 Mtg in Kearney Post 759 to host at 2:00. Snacks served

26 Dist 6 Mtg in Pawnee City Post 5289 to host at the Thomas Little American Legion Building 512 6th St Pawnee City at 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.

March 2017

1 Teacher entry to District level

1 Eagle Scout entry to Post

15 Teacher entry to Department

18 Cheyenne VA Medical Center St. Patty's Day Party at 9:00 am 2360 E Pershing Blvd Cheyenne WY

18 Scottsbluff Veterans Home St. Patty's Day Party at 7:00 pm 1102 W 42nd St Scottsbluff NE

19 Hot Springs VA Medical Center St. Patty's Day Party at 11:00 am 500 North 5th St Hot Springs SD

31 Scholarship Student application to Department

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 O'Neill Post 926 to host at the Courthouse 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

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. **Rep: John Liebsack**

February Calendar Winners

1	\$40.00	VFW Post 10579	581
2	\$40.00	Don Nelson	2193
3	\$40.00	VFW 1077	313
4	\$40.00	Charlotte Sell	3795
5	\$40.00	Gayland Bockhahn III	1316
6	\$40.00	Sam DeJohn	2779
7	\$40.00	Guy Nelson	838
8	\$40.00	Greg Meller	3064
9	\$40.00	Dale Bierma	2639
10	\$40.00	Aaron Kelberlau	2320
11	\$40.00	Larry Holmes	1655
12	\$40.00	Leisa Bohling	527
13	\$40.00	Mark Buckner	2321
14	\$40.00	Donna Sullivan	1127
15	\$40.00	Pat & Paul Book	1142
16	\$40.00	Zita Lomax	428
17	\$40.00	Kenneth Lee	3145
18	\$40.00	Rachel Lempka	4
19	\$40.00	Kenneth Moore	560
20	\$40.00	Robert Thompson	791
21	\$40.00	Pat Dunklau	2593
22	\$40.00	Christy Petersen	797
23	\$40.00	Mark Kisela	2241
24	\$40.00	Robert Christenson	2176
25	\$40.00	Levi Logan	3097
26	\$40.00	Don Mroczek	3081
27	\$40.00	Dan Raabe	2879
28	\$40.00	Donna Sullivan	1128

Nebraska as of Tuesday, February 21, 2017

State	Post	Dst	Life	New	Reinst	Cont	Total	Adjusted Prior Year	Percent
District Totals		1	471	25	6	119	621	635	97.79%
District Totals		3	1158	6	1	229	1394	1479	94.25%
District Totals		4	877	4	2	188	1071	1155	92.72%
District Totals		6	1015	7	1	238	1261	1402	89.94%
District Totals		7	799	6	1	249	1055	1128	93.52%
District Totals		9	1443	24	5	336	1808	1950	92.71%
District Totals		10	3415	78	40	704	4237	4496	94.23%
District Totals		11	864	12	2	209	1087	1150	94.52%
District Totals		13	985	8	1	155	1149	1187	96.79%
District Totals		15	721	6	1	127	855	916	93.34%
District Totals		99	704	29	13	177	923	1070	86.26%
State Totals			12452	205	73	2731	15461	16568	93.31%



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

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