



NEBRASKA VFW NEWS



Department of Nebraska Newsletter

January 2015

Issue # 15

CHEER SPREAD AT EASTERN NE VETERANS HOME PARTY

The Christmas Party in Bellevue brought smiles. VFW Hospital Chairman Gary Steckelberg handed out cards and gifts. Members of the VFW and the Auxiliary brought the spirit and shared laughs with the residents and carols were sung by a local church group.





On New VFW Members....

**From State
Judge Advocate
Larry Gerlt**

Happy New Year! Welcome to 2015 – the membership year is already halfway over. Speaking of membership, what do you do when a new member or reinstated member joins your Post? Do you send him/her a welcome letter/email? If new to the VFW and/or your Post, do you tell them anything about the history of your post: what year it was started, a few facts about who it was named for, who the post officers are and how to contact them. Do you encourage them to attend meetings? If they can't/don't/won't attend meetings, do you explain to them the importance of their membership – 95% of our membership does NOT attend meetings or assist the post and/or post home. But, we cannot effectively lobby congress without them! When they do come to a meeting do you make them feel welcome? Do you introduce them to those present? If they have something to say or a question (yeah, some of their questions may sound kind of dumb to us "old timers"), do you honestly listen to them? Do you give a polite, heartfelt response? Or do you dismiss their ideas with a: That won't work. We tried that 15 years ago. Etc!

A decade ago, we had 1.9 million members/auxiliary members. Now we have about 1.6! While recruiting is a issue, retention is an even larger issue. As a CNR, I can tell you that when I visit with past members, the biggest complaints I hear are: No one ever contacted me, so I didn't bother to renew. I wanted to help do things, but no one ever asked me to. I tried to get the membership to work on the programs, but all they wanted to do was drink at the bar. I suggested we..., but was told that won't work and it was dismissed out of hand.

Do you want your post to grow or die out and fade away? Do you want to the VFW to grow or die out and fade away? It's a new year. Let's all make a resolution to recruit new and past members and make them feel important – whether they come to meeting or not, to keep in contact with them, if only by email. We all say we're the greatest organization in the world. Let's go out and prove it!

OUR

F

Is for the **FREEDOM** that men and women fought and died for so that we may cherish it day after day.

But unlike the beauty of a fresh picked flower, we can never allow **FREEDOM** to just fade away.

L

Is for the **LOVE** of **GOD** and **Country** that each and everyone of us should enjoy.

The **LIBERTIES** and choices that we have that has cost us dearly in lives, others would like to destroy.

A

Is for **ALLEGIANCE** to **AMERICA** and family values that we can teach our children so that we can hand them a better place to live.

We have to work to clean up our environment and uphold the laws of our land, think less about taking and more about we **ALL** can give.

G

Is for **OLD GLORY** as we display it with unshakable pride, as it waves in the gentle breeze, it does look so **GRAND**.

As a nation under **GOD** we must try to love and help each other and try to go forth hand in hand.

hjr93



**ON YOUR RETIREMENT
COMMANDER BROSNIHAN!
THANK YOU BERNIE FOR
ALL THAT YOU DO.**



The winners are...

Dale Wittrock, Jim Pierce, Steve Calkin, Donna Fenske and Jane Petersen drew the winning tickets on Tuesday, January 6th at Department Headquarters. Log on to the VFW Nebraska website and you can see the list of winners in its entirety. They will also continue to appear monthly in this newsletter.

January Raffle Calendar Winners

1	\$500.00	Patty	Donley	17	\$40.00	Royal	Magee
2	\$40.00	Mary	Svoboda	18	\$40.00	Darwin	Walla
3	\$40.00	Harold	Schlender	19	\$40.00	VFW 7102	
4	\$40.00	Randy	Olson	20	\$40.00	Sporhase Plumbing	
5	\$40.00	Ron	Griess	21	\$40.00	Jesse	Schroeder
6	\$40.00	Gary	Wailer	22	\$40.00	Shirley	Smith
7	\$40.00	William	Riclands	23	\$40.00	Michael	Ewing
8	\$40.00	Joe	Zwiener	24	\$40.00	Lisa	Langan
9	\$40.00	Ann	Dubas	25	\$40.00	Jerry	Strand
10	\$40.00	Will	Engell	26	\$40.00	Rick	Trumbull
11	\$40.00	Lee	Farrell	27	\$40.00	Roger	Fehr
12	\$40.00	Russ	Snyder	28	\$40.00	James	Dasovic
13	\$40.00	Bronwyn	Gray	29	\$40.00	Recardo	Arellano
14	\$40.00	Garrett	Wagner	30	\$40.00	Tony	Mitzel
15	\$40.00	Michael	Ewing	31	\$40.00	Lon	Bohling
16	\$40.00	Pat	Hladky				



Their Sacrifices Make a Difference in Your Life; Together We can Make a Difference in Theirs

Have you ever found yourself feeling grateful admiration for the men and women who have so bravely and selflessly chosen to serve in the United States military? Now you can show your appreciation by providing aid to our armed forces and their families in their time of need. The VFW Foundation helps military personnel and veterans navigate the unique financial, physical and emotional obstacles they face.

Unfortunately, many American military members and veterans do not have access to the financial support and essential resources they need while on active duty or when they come home. It is up to us to serve them when they need us the most. Funded solely by people like you, the VFW Foundation, creates awareness for our veterans' needs and financially supports programs to assist our troops, retired military veterans and their families.

Jr. Vice Commander-in-Chief Brian J. Duffy will represent the national organization at Midwinter



Brian J. Duffy was elected as Junior Vice Commander-in-Chief of the Veterans of Foreign Wars on July 23, 2014, at the VFW's 115th National Convention, held in St. Louis, Mo.

Mr. Duffy served in the U.S. Air Force as a Jet Engine Mechanic on F-4 "Phantom" fighter aircraft, and later transitioned and served as a Flight Engineer on the C-141 "Starlifter" transport aircraft.

He deployed in support of several campaigns, to include Grenada, Panama and Desert Shield/Storm, and among his numerous military decorations are the Air Medal, an Air Force Commendation Medal, the Armed Forces Expeditionary Medal, the Southwest Asia Service Medal and Kuwait Liberation Medal. Upon returning from Grenada in 1983, he joined VFW Post 6590 in Cookstown, NI, but later transferred his membership to VFW Post 1170 in Middletown, KY., in 1989.

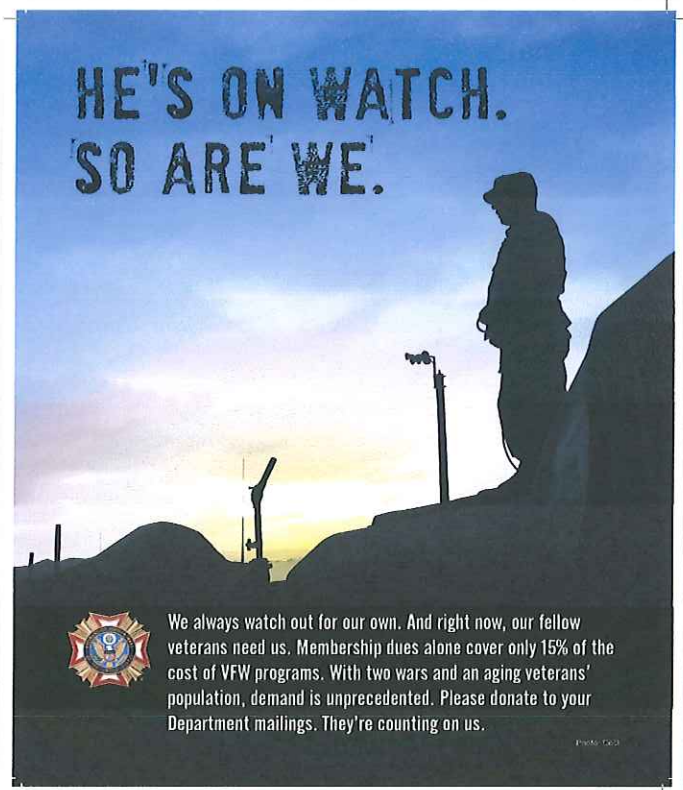
Following his military service, he was employed by several airlines as a Flight Engineer Instructor before joining United Parcel Service Airlines, where he rose through the ranks and would retire as Assistant Chief Pilot of UPS, after flying worldwide as an Instructor/Check Captain on the Boeing 757 and Boeing 767 aircraft.

When not in the cockpit, he enjoys playing competitive ice hockey and serving fellow veterans and military through numerous volunteer programs with the VFW, Honor Flight, and recovering warrior projects.

In 2006, Mr. Duffy was elected Commander of the VFW Department of Kentucky, and has achieved All-American status at Post, District and State levels. His Honor Flight activities have been recognized throughout the Louisville community, to include the Kentucky Derby Festival and the Kentucky Aviation Hall of Fame. In 2012, he was the recipient of President Obama's Volunteer Service Award, after being nominated by UPS to recognize his volunteer activities.

Mr. Duffy is a VFW Gold Legacy Life Member, as well as a member of the VFW National Home for Children, the Military Order of the Cooties, the American Legion and AMVETS. He and his wife, Jean, who serves as the VFW Post 1170 Ladies Auxiliary President, reside in Louisville, and have two adult children; Tara and Andrew.

Sponsor Donations for Voice of Democracy and Patriot's Pen are a great way to recognize an organization, your post or in memoriam. If you are interested in becoming a sponsor to one of these great kids please call Department Headquarters at 402-464-0674.



VFW

VETERANS OF FOREIGN WARS

The Veteran's Voice on The Hill

The Veterans of Foreign Wars (VFW) monitors all legislation affecting veterans, alerts VFW membership to key legislation under consideration and actively lobbies Congress and the administration on veterans issues. With VFW's own priority goals in mind, combined with the support of 2 million members of VFW and its auxiliaries, our voice on "the Hill" cannot be ignored!

Veterans of Foreign Wars, Department of Nebraska

Schedule of Events mid-Winter Conference (Tentative schedule as of 12/30/14)

Holiday Inn, 141 N 9th St. , Lincoln, NE (402) 475-4011

Thursday, February 5, 2015

- 3:00—5:00 pm Registration at the hotel and check in
 3:00 — ?? Recruiter Training



Friday, February 6, 2015

- 6:30—9:30 am Ticketed breakfast for registered hotel guests
 7:30 am— Registration at the hotel and check in
 8:00 am and 8:30 am Bus leaves hotel for Legislative meeting at the Capital
9:00 am Legislative Meeting at the Capital
 10:00 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—2:30 pm Quartermaster training / Web training / Service Officer School/
 Question and answer session
 3:00 pm Students, Parents and District Commanders and Presidents meet downstairs
 to line up.
3:30 pm VOD and Patriot Pen "Parade of Winners" (Open Attendance)
 6:30 pm VOD and Patriot Pen Banquet

Saturday, February 7, 2015

- 6:30—9:30 am Ticketed breakfast for registered hotel guests
 9:00 am Joint Meeting
 9:45 am VFW Council of Administration and Auxiliary Meetings
 Noon Lunch on your own / Past Commanders and Presidents luncheon
 1:30 pm Resume Council of Administration and Auxiliary Meetings

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

January 2015

Trustee Quarterly Report to Department. (Oct 1 to Dec 31)

11 Dist 7 mtg in Snyder Post 8439 to host at. Registration begins at 11:45 at the Snyder Auditorium one block south of the Catholic Church. VOD, PP & Teacher awards presentation at 12:30. Lunch at 1:00 free will donation.

16 Final deadline 20 Questions to Department

18 Dist 11 mtg in Ord at 2:00 pm Post 7029 to host. VOD, PP & Teacher Awards to be given Out before the meeting

25 Dist 3 mtg in Niobrara post to host. Registration at 12:00 \$5.00. Meeting at 1:00 Lunch after meeting. Auxiliary to meet same time at the fire hall.

25 Dist 6 mtg in Pawnee City at American Legion 512 6th st. Post 5289 to host at 1:00 pm Lunch to follow. Ladies same time at Methodist Church 849 F St. Dist 6 VOD & PP

February 2015

1 Dist 10 mtg in Springfield at post 9558 at 2:00 pm lunch to follow. VOD, PP, and Teacher awards

5-7 Mid Winter Conference Holiday Inn 141 N 9th Lincoln NE.

8 Grand Island Veterans Home Valentines Party. MOC meeting at 11:00 in conference room. Lunch at 11:30 and party begins at 1:30

14 Norfolk Regional Center Valentines Party 10:00

14 Norfolk Veterans Home Valentines Party 1:30

March 2015

1 Eagle Scout Entry to Post

31 Scholarship Student Application to Department

April 2015

12 Dist 10 mtg in Millard at Post 8334 at 2:00 pm.

11 Dist 11 mtg in O'Neill at Post 926 at 2:00 pm \$1.00 registration fee evening lunch

Ladies auxiliary same time and place

26 Dist 1 mtg in Gering at 2710 N 10th st. Post 1681 to host at 1:00 pm. Registration fee of \$5.00

Lunch to follow. Ladies same time and place



A Wreaths Across America event was held December 14th at Forest Lawn Cemetery in Omaha. Retired Maj. Gen. Roger Lempke, Nebraska National Guard and Maj. Gen. John Uberti, Chief of Staff, Strategic Command, Offutt Air Base, were speakers. Tom Bizzarri, Sr. Vice Commander, VFW Post 1581 attended this event.



Membership Nebraska as of January, 7th 2015

State	Post	Dst	Life	New	Reinst	Cont	Total	Prior Year	Percent
District Totals		1	531	4	4	134	673	756	89.02%
District Totals		3	1281	4	6	257	1548	1650	93.81%
District Totals		4	989	3	6	228	1226	1322	92.73%
District Totals		6	1154	5	2	294	1455	1615	90.09%
District Totals		7	857	4	7	289	1157	1252	92.41%
District Totals		9	1524	24	12	402	1962	2179	90.04%
District Totals		10	3454	47	110	803	4414	4778	92.38%
District Totals		11	941	5	4	246	1196	1284	93.14%
District Totals		13	1050	9	4	172	1235	1305	94.63%
District Totals		15	824	2	4	149	979	1024	95.60%
District Totals		99	704	22	9	216	951	1123	84.68%
State Totals			13309	129	168	3190	16796	18288	91.84%



**Happy
New
Year**

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

Send articles to
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