



NEBRASKA VFW NEWS



Department of Nebraska Newsletter

January 2016

Issue # 25



Holidays Celebrated All Over the State

The kids had a wonderful time with Santa Claus at the Holiday party in Grand Island. December 8th at the VA there was singing and dancing and holiday cheer. Mike Dunn, also known as Santa Claus, entertained the children. State VFW Commander Mike Medina and his wife Joyce (pictured at right) shared some laughs. Also attending the party were Hospital Chairman Gary Steckelberg (pictured bottom right with Santa), his wife Dorothy, State Surgeon Joe Smith, State Photographer Dan Petersen and Matt Jones.





Larry Gerlt
State Jr. Vice
Commander

Membership - The Life Blood of Our Organization

I have been asked to create a membership plan for the 2016-2017 Membership Year. The goal is to have a plan that:

1. Defines Post responsibilities/methods for retaining current members, regaining former members (reinstates) and recruiting new members.
2. A "should" do list and a can "try" list of activities to retain/recruit members at Post Level
3. Detail District and Department:
 - a. Responsibilities in assisting posts to attain 100% membership
 - b. assistance available to assists posts
 - c. lists of who to contact for assistance
 - d. a list of possible District/Department recruiting activities

While I have a lot of experience recruiting and the credentials to back it up (All American Post this past membership year, All State Post past 3 years, and numerous recruiting awards), I also know I DON'T know everything **and what works in Omaha won't necessarily work in other communities!**

I need your help! If you have suggestions on what to try/do **to retrain old and recruit new members** that have worked for you, didn't work for you, or other items to include, please let me know. You can email them to me at larry.gerlt@cox.net or jrvicecdr@ne.vfwwebmail.com or mail them to me at my home address:

Larry Gerlt, 8510 Monroe Street, Ralston, NE 68127.

This is YOUR plan. Help me make it one that works and where all post have the opportunity to achieve 100% membership!

8 tips to protect yourself from fraud:

1. Be aware that you are at risk from strangers—and from those closest to you.
2. Don't isolate yourself—stay involved!
3. Always tell solicitors: "I never buy from (or give to) anyone who calls or visits me unannounced. Send me something in writing."
4. Shred all receipts with your credit card number.
5. Sign up for the "Do Not Call" list and take yourself off multiple mailing lists.
6. Use direct deposit for benefit checks to prevent checks from being stolen from the mailbox.
7. Never give your credit card, banking, Social Security, Medicare, or other personal information over the phone unless you initiated the call.
8. Be skeptical of all unsolicited offers and thoroughly do your research.



**Donna Fenske
National Certified
Recruiter Trainer
Veterans of Foreign Wars
Auxiliary**



VETERANS OF FOREIGN WARS AUXILIARY

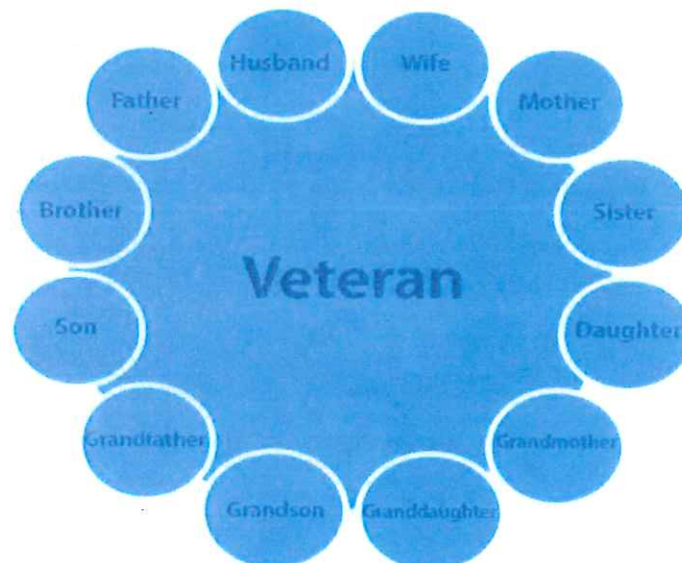
NATIONAL HEADQUARTERS

Membership Moment – Family Comes First

As of November 4, 2015 we have welcomed 3,910 male members into the VFW Auxiliary. More than 1,500 of these new members have joined in the last three weeks alone!

As you begin to recruit these new members into our organization, it is helpful to focus first on those male relatives closest to your eligible veteran: sons, brothers, grandsons, fathers, grandfathers, or spouses. These men are the ones most likely to join first because they recognize how passionate and dedicated you are as their family member to the success of the VFW Auxiliary moving forward.

At an upcoming Auxiliary meeting, ask each of your members to make a list of all of the eligible male (and female!) prospective members in their families. Please remember that step, half, and adopted family members count! Pass out the diagram below as a guide for your Auxiliary members as they determine who they can recruit within their own families.





Eastern Nebraska Veterans Home Christmas Party

On December 5th the VFW Hospital Chairman Gary Steckelberg and his team brightened the day for many veterans. VFW Auxiliary members dressed for the occasion. Along with presenting gifts and cards to the veterans, there was singing and laughing. Several VFW members and its Auxiliary members were in attendance.



PEARL HARBOR DAY PROGRAM

A program to honor the veterans killed on the surprise attack on Pearl Harbor was held at Auld Pavillion in Lincoln on Pearl Harbor Day December 7th.



Wreaths Across America

A celebration of the annual event was at Wyuka Cemetary on December 12th in Lincoln. Wreaths Across America is not government funded. It is made possible by individual wreath sponsors, corporate donors and volunteer truckers.



Pictured above at the event left to right are Matt Jones, Pat Sanockeck, Richie Maughan, Melvin Bates, Eno Berdowski, Ed Schauble, Doc. Williams, Larry Clymer and Dan Petersen.

Midwinter Notice:

The deadline for reservations for our Midwinter Conference is January 20th. If you have not already reserved your room, please call Department Headquarters at 402-464-0674.

It is encouraged that all Posts that sponsored a student that made it to state competition have representation.

Happy Valentines Day



Post 5547 Member is Warrior of the Day

Syracuse, NE. native MMN2 Jon Sporhase was recently recognized as Warrior of the Day aboard the USS Harry S. Truman (CVN75). He was selected for the award from a crew of more than 3,000 sailors. The award was given for outstanding performance while serving as Chief Reactor Watch. Jon, his father Brad and Grandfather Jesse have all served in the U.S. Navy. All are members of VFW Post 5547 in Syracuse.



2016 RAFFLE DRAWING

The 2016 calendar raffle drawing was held at State Headquarters on January 5th. Dale Wittrock and Commander Mike Medina got things started off, top photo. On deck to help were, left to right back row, Past Commander Bernie Brosnihan, Dale Wittrock, Steve Calkin, Jim Pierce, Jody Sullivan and Mike Medina. Front row are Donna Fenske, Jane Petersen and Joyce Medina. The results of the drawing are available online at vfwne.com or at Department Headquarters at 2431 N. 48th in Lincoln. They are also posted each month in this newsletter. January results are on page 9. Checks for the winners are mailed out weekly.

**LEAVE A
LASTING
LEGACY
FOR VETERANS.**

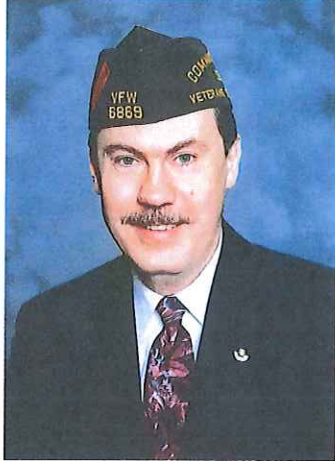
As a Legacy Life Member, future generations will know you not only for the sacrifices you made as a veteran but for the contributions you made as a member. That's a legacy to be proud of.



George R. Cramer Assigned to Midwinter

George R. Cramer was elected VFW Commander-in-Chief at the 94th VFW National Convention in Dallas, Texas in August 1993.

Prior to entering the military, Cramer earned a Bachelor of Arts degree in education from Loyola University in Chicago, Ill.



Following graduation he entered the U.S. Army, serving in Vietnam from October 1967 through December 1968 as an artillery surveyor with the 6/14 Artillery, 1st Field Forces. During his tour he was awarded the Vietnam Service Medal, the Air Medal and the Bronze Star for meritorious service.

Cramer joined the VFW in 1969 and is a Legacy Life Member of Post 3873 in Naperville, Ill. Cramer earned All-State Post Commander in 1972-74 and again in 1989-90, an All-American District Commander in 1976-77, a 100% Department Commander in 1983-83 and All-State Post Quartermaster 1976-1985; 2003-08. He is currently serving as the 19th District Quartermaster where he has earned All-American honors.

In addition, he has served as District and Department budget chairman and as National Chief of Staff in 1985-86, as well as serving on the National Council of Administration in 1989-91. He was selected as the Combined Veterans' Association Person of the Year.

Cramer retired as the Special Assistant to the Secretary of Veterans Affairs, serving as the Secretary's national veterans' service organization liaison. Prior to this appointment, he was the VSO liaison for the VA Chicago Health Care System and VISN 12 (Hines, Ill.), communications officer for the department's Capital Asset Realignment for Enhanced Services program. Cramer previously served eight years as assistant director for the Illinois Department of Veterans Affairs.

During his year as national commander, the VFW partnered with the VA to co-sponsor the National Veterans Golden Age Games. He traveled extensively during his term of office, including Normandy for the 50th anniversary of D-Day, where he placed a wreath at Omaha Beach in honor of those who died there.

Cramer is active in many civic and fraternal organizations including the Selective Service Board, American Legion, AMVETS and the Disabled American Veterans. He also serves on the advisory board at the Abraham Lincoln National VA Cemetery.

He and his wife Linda, son Scott, and daughter Cheryl make their home in Naperville, Ill.

70 Year Member

VFW Post 131 in Lincoln presented Joe Meehan his 70 year pin. Pictured is Post Quartermaster Bill Bechtolt and Joe Meehan.



From National:

KANAS CITY, Mo. – Sport Clips Haircuts made a record-breaking \$830,000 donation to the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States (VFW) December 14th to support active duty U.S. service members' and veterans' scholarships. Sport Clips clients and product partner donations, as well as Veterans Day contributions of \$1 per haircut service, made the franchise's annual "Help A Hero" campaign the most successful in program history. Established in 2007, Sport Clips' original Help A Hero-focus was on providing phone calls home for deployed and hospitalized military, and now, primarily benefits the VFW's "[Sport Clips Help A Hero Scholarship](#)" program.

**Veterans of Foreign Wars, Department of Nebraska
(Tentative) Schedule of Events Midwinter Conference
Holiday Inn, 141 N 9th St. , Lincoln, NE (402) 475-4011**

Thursday, February 4th, 2016

3:00—5:00 pm Registration at the hotel and check in

3:00— 4:00 pm Recruiter Training (Arbor Room)



Friday, February 5th, 2016

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—3:00 pm Open information session: (Arbor Room)

1:15 pm—2:00 pm Cindy Van Bibber (Omaha National Cemetery Director)

2:00 om—2:45 pm Becca Henry (Provider Relations Coordinator HoriSun Hospice)

Quartermaster question and answer session (Arbor Room)

3:15 pm Students, Parents and District Commanders and Presidents meet downstairs to line up. (Nebraska Ballroom)

3:30 pm VOD and Patriot Pen "Parade of Winners" (Open Attendance)

6:30 pm VOD and Patriot Pen Banquet

Saturday, February 6th, 2016

6:30—9:30 am Ticketed breakfast for registered hotel guests

9:00 am Joint Meeting (Salons A,B and C)

9:45 am VFW Council of Administration and Auxiliary Meetings

Noon Lunch on your own / Past Commanders and Presidents luncheon (Arbor Room)

1:00 pm Resume Council of Administration and Auxiliary Meetings

Calendar of Events

January 2016

10 Dist 9 mtg in Seward at Post 4755 at 2:00 pm. Lunch to follow Auxiliary same time and place.

16 Final deadline 20 Questions Department

17 Dist 4 mtg in North Platte at Post 1504 at 12:00 pm CDT. Registration \$7.50 lunch to be served. Auxiliary same time and place.

17 Dist 11 mtg in Broken Bow at Post 3576 at 2:00 pm. Registration \$1.00. Evening lunch to follow. Auxiliary same time and place.

20 Deadline for Reservations to Mid-Winter Conference.

February 2016

4-6 Mid Winter Conference Holiday Inn 141 N 9th Lincoln NE. (information included in Genmail)

13 Norfolk Veterans Home Valentine's Party 1:30

14 Grand Island Veterans Home Valentine's Party 1:30

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

31 Scholarship Student Applications to Department

January Raffle Winners...

1	\$500.00	Auburn Insurance Service	
2	\$40.00	Sharon	Bohling
3	\$40.00	VFW Post 5759	
4	\$40.00	Terry	Everhart
5	\$40.00	Ryan	Earleywine
6	\$40.00	Sophie Griess	c\o Sutton Legion Club
7	\$40.00	Sophie Griess	c\o Sutton Legion Club
8	\$40.00	Russell	Ethridge
9	\$40.00	Marvin	Holtzten
10	\$40.00	David	Kattleson
11	\$40.00	Don	Williamson
12	\$40.00	VFW Post 7102	
13	\$40.00	Steve	Hovendick
14	\$40.00	Broek	Johnson
15	\$40.00	Paula	Delaine
16	\$40.00	Mary Alis	Denor
17	\$40.00	Carolyn	Bruner
18	\$40.00	Dustin	Parde
19	\$40.00	Samuel	Jerys
20	\$40.00	Robert	Jensen
21	\$40.00	Ron	Habagger
22	\$40.00	Chris	Bush
23	\$40.00	Tim	Kint
24	\$40.00	Roger & Carol	Tschampl-Diesing
25	\$40.00	Illa	Pruska
26	\$40.00	Joseph	Hernandez
27	\$40.00	Chuck	Wolf
28	\$40.00	Christy	Griess
29	\$40.00	Sharon	Statz
30	\$40.00	Allen	Marth
31	\$40.00	Ron	Machacek

Nebraska as of Thursday, January 07, 2016

State	Post	Dst	Life	New	Reinst	Cont	Total	Adjusted Prior Year	Percent
District Totals		1	483	3	1	113	600	688	87.20%
District Totals		3	1181	4	1	239	1425	1587	89.79%
District Totals		4	905	1	4	187	1097	1220	89.91%
District Totals		6	1051	13	7	249	1320	1464	90.16%
District Totals		7	813	8	2	269	1092	1169	93.41%
District Totals		9	1471	15	4	348	1838	2063	89.09%
District Totals		10	3370	62	19	654	4105	4584	89.55%
District Totals		11	889	5	0	212	1106	1203	91.93%
District Totals		13	999	1	1	158	1159	1241	93.39%
District Totals		15	753	4	0	133	890	1009	88.20%
District Totals		99	721	22	32	186	961	1089	88.24%
State Totals			12636	138	71	2748	15593	17317	90.04%



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.



Like us on
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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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