



NEBRASKA VFW NEWS



Department of Nebraska Newsletter

January 2017

Spreading Christmas Cheer at the Medical Centers and Home

The Eastern Nebraska Veterans Home party kicked off the holiday season this year. It was on December 3rd, included in attendance were Hospital Chairman Mike Medina and his wife Joyce, State Sr. Vice Commander Larry Gerlt and his wife Bonnie, State Judge Advocate Joe Smith, Matt Jones, Women Veterans Chairman Anne Ream, Ann Thieman, Volunteer Veterans Chairman Mike Dunn and his wife Claudia. There was singing and refreshments and plenty of holiday cheer.



On the following day, December 4th was the VA Medical Center Christmas Party. Pictured at left are Fred Mears, Paulette Marquez, Gary and Dorothy Steckelberg, Jerry Ludwig, Carol Brosnihan, Matt Jones, Marsha Jones, Tim Ross, Joe Smith, Joyce and Mike Medina and Larry Gerlt.

Santa (also known as Mike Dunn) showed up to the Grand Island VA Medical Center Christmas celebration on December 11th. Pictured with him (left to right) is Past State Commander Bernie Brosnihan, State Auxiliary Sr. Vice President Carol Brosnihan, Past Commander and Hospital Chairman Mike Medina, Joyce Medina and State Judge Advocate Joe Smith.





LARRY M. GERLT
SENIOR VICE
COMMANDER
AND MEMBERSHIP
CHAIRMAN

Membership – Where do we stand, what do we need?

As of 19 January, we are second place in the Big Ten Conference and eighth nationally with 91.83%! This is due to the efforts of the membership team (Line Officers, District Commanders, Past State Commanders, Offutt Recruiting Team, and two volunteers) and your efforts. We have our best shot in a decade of being an All American Department. BUT, this isn't a lock. We still need 1362 more members to renew or be recruited to do it. Our membership team is here to help – to advise and assist you.

We need all hands on deck (and I ain't even Navy) to get the job done. Post Leadership (Commander, QM, Membership Chair) needs to ensure dues are collected from all annual "subscription" dues members. These members are more likely to renew if you have a post news letter sent to them and have someone call them twice a year – once to see how they are doing and if the post can assist them in any way and then a second time that includes asking for their dues. The Leadership also needs to conduct dues collection drives (notice it is plural) and well as at least one new member drive. I am constantly being told, "we don't have anyone eligible in our area." What this usually means is we haven't tried, we

are tired of trying because we have been doing it for 20/30/40/50 years. Make the effort one more time. Get the state membership team involved. We can do it, but it takes YOUR participation, commitment, and assistance to make your post 100% and for our Department to make All American!

Happy
VALENTINE'S
DAY



Veterans Homes Focus of Proposal

Governor Pete Ricketts announced a legislative initiative to transfer the administration of Nebraska veterans homes to the Department of Veterans Affairs on January 9th. VFW State Commander Doug Whitaker commended the action which will move jurisdiction from the Nebraska Department of Health and Human Services. The move will focus more attention on veteran services while reducing state taxpayer costs. About 550 veterans live in the 4 homes.



Post 2704 in Omaha Honors Comrade

December 14th VFW Post 2704 held its annual Christmas party and awards ceremony. Highlighting the evening was the inaugural presentation of the Ed Reyes Semper Fidelis Award for Post Involvement. The award is named after former Post and District 10 Commander Ed Reyes, who passed on Veteran's Day. Ed was instrumental in reviving the post and in honor of Ed the post has developed an award to recognize the member who has participated in the most post activities and has contributed greatly to the post mission. The winner of this award is selected by a panel comprising the Post Commander, both Vice Commanders and the Post Quartermaster. It was an honor to present this award to Vernon Campbell, who presently is serving as the Community Service Officer. Vernon has participated in many membership drives, poppy sales and a variety of other post activities. Presenting the award for the post was former State Commander Sam DeJohn and Mrs. Francis (Ed) Reyes.

SPREADING CHEER IN NEBRASKA CITY

On December 17, Nebraska City's Veteran's of Foreign Wars Post 2634 Auxiliary, assisted by Post members, handed out Christmas stockings, cookies, punch, and sang carols at the Nebraska City nursing homes. Making sure veterans in nursing homes know they are not forgotten. Pictured in the photos is Paula Waterfield, Post and District 6 Auxiliary President handing out gifts.



MARTIN LUTHER

KING

JR. DAY

"A Day On, Not a Day Off"



Campout and Flag Raising in Papillion

VFW Post 9675 in Papillion hosted Cub Scout Pack 60 in October. The event included a flag raising, it took place at the post home.





VFW Post 9675 Has Poppy Drive

The Shadow Lake Hy-Vee was the spot for a November 5th and 6th poppy drive. Pictured above is Dave Doolen, Steve Fisher, Chris Beauty and Jack Bauerele. Buddy Poppies are assembled by disabled and needy veterans who are compensated for their work. Money raised from donations goes to support veterans' programs across the nation, including providing financial assistance in maintaining state and national veterans' rehabilitation and service programs.

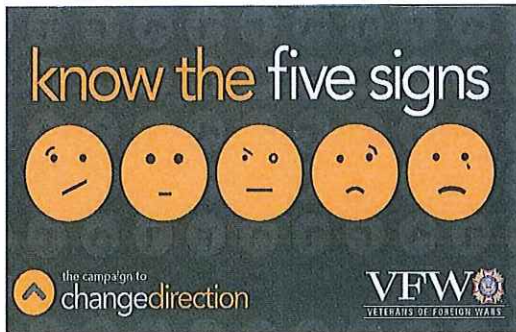
Calendar Raffle Drawing

The annual drawing for the calendar raffle was on January 10th at Department Headquarters. Due to some slippery weather, Dale Wittrock (pictured below) had to do most of the drawing. State Judge Advocate Joe Smith and Photographer Dan Petersen assisted him. January winners are on page 7 and a complete listing is available online.



The Things They Carry Ruck March

The University of Nebraska Lincoln Student Veterans Organization and the University of Iowa Veterans Association teamed up to ruck march the game ball from Memorial Stadium in Lincoln Nebraska 344 miles to Kinnick Stadium for the November 25th Cornhusker vs. Hawkeye football game. The ruckers began on November 17th and carried 22 pounds representing the 22 veterans who take their lives every day. State Sr. Vice Commander Larry Gerlt drove alongside the ruckers.



Kevin Jones Assigned to Mid Winter Conference



Kevin C. Jones was appointed Assistant Adjutant General, Administration and Programs in July 2015. Previously he held the position of director, VFW Programs, the past two years and was director, Administrative Operations from April 2006 to December 2013. He joined the VFW National Headquarters staff in 1996 as an accounting manager. His other appointments included serving as director, Marketing Services; deputy director, VFW Programs; assistant director, Development and as manager of institutional development, VFW Foundation.

Jones served in the U. S. Air Force for 12 years as an accounting technician, budget analyst and accounting manager. Among his assignments was a tour of duty at Osan Air Base, Korea. His numerous decorations include the Air Force Commendation Medal with two oak leaf clusters, Air Force Achievement Medal with one oak leaf, and the Air Force Outstanding Unit Award. He received his bachelor's degree in business from Troy State University while on active duty. He also received an associate of science degree in financial management from the Community College of the Air Force.

He is a member of the American Society of Military Comptrollers and the Alpha Sigma Lambda Honor Society, Troy State University. He is a Life Member of VFW Post 7356 in Parkville, Missouri.

Themes for 2017-2018 Contests:

VOICE OF DEMOCRACY

"AMERICAN HISTORY: OUR HOPE FOR THE FUTURE"



PATRIOT'S PEN

"AMERICA'S GIFT TO MY GENERATION"



Important

Changes to Post Publication Contest:

There is no Judging at Department level the winner of the Post Publication for the year.

If you would like to have your post publication considered for National awards you need to send it directly to National Headquarters. There is a form to fill out to accompany your submission that you can receive by calling Department Headquarters.

Veterans of Foreign Wars, Department of Nebraska
Tentative Schedule of Events Midwinter Conference
The Lincoln Marriott Cornhusker Hotel



Thursday, February 2nd, 2017

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

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
7:45 am Bus leaves hotel for Legislative meeting at the Capitol
8:00 am **Legislative Meeting at the Capitol**
10:45 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)
 State Convention Meeting discussion
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" (Lancaster ballroom 1,2,3)**
6:30 pm VOD and Patriot Pen Banquet (Grand ballroom A,B,C)

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
 (Arbor 1)
1:00 pm Resume VFW Council of Administration and Auxiliary Meetings

January 2017

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 Broken Bow at Post 3576 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

22 Dist 9 Mtg in Lincoln at Post 3606 at 1:00

February 2017

2-4 Mid-Winter Conference The Cornhusker 333 South 13th Lincoln NE.

11 Norfolk Regional Center Valentine's Day Party at 10:00 am 1700 N. Victory Rd Norfolk NE

11 Norfolk Veterans Home Valentine's Day Party at 2:00 pm 600 E Benjamin Avenue Norfolk NE

12 Grand Island Veterans Home Valentine's Day Party at 2:00 pm 2300 W. Capital Avenue Grand Island

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 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 and 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 500 North 5th St Hot Springs SD

31 Scholarship Student application to Department

April 2017

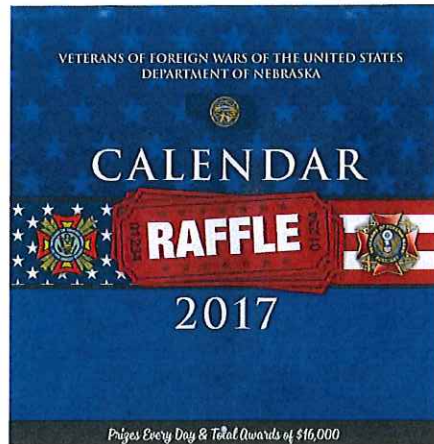
(T-4) Trustee Quarterly report to Department (Jan to March 31)

1 Eagle Scout State Entry to Department

January Calendar Winners

			Calendar #
1	\$500.00	James Blackstone	1363
2	\$40.00	Connie Kirk	1313
3	\$40.00	Ed Steffensmeier	1905
4	\$40.00	Larry Bowman	455
5	\$40.00	Sandy Seiler	320
6	\$40.00	Vannie Hoover	1350
7	\$40.00	Tom Tremel	3067
8	\$40.00	Leonard Ginder	802
9	\$40.00	Ed Steffensmeier	1905
10	\$40.00	Evan Riddle	1878
11	\$40.00	Michelle Tschantre	2042
12	\$40.00	Sarah Woehle	3066
13	\$40.00	Paul Weilandt	88
14	\$40.00	Craig Grams	765
15	\$40.00	VFW Post 5547	1510
16	\$40.00	Dave Scofield	567
17	\$40.00	Carl Elting	493
18	\$40.00	Dwaine Glathar	2601
19	\$40.00	Dick Hamling	1992
20	\$40.00	Ron Mindrup	2025
21	\$40.00	Clayton Glissman	2598
22	\$40.00	Kelly McIntosh	1566
23	\$40.00	Rebecka Ivan	1903
24	\$40.00	Ivan Backes	1994
25	\$40.00	Russell Meyer	3407
26	\$40.00	Alma Fittro	2819
27	\$40.00	Patricia Mackie	2520
28	\$40.00	Joe McKown	2006
29	\$40.00	Jon Gilfry	1911
30	\$40.00	Jeri Baker	189
31	\$40.00	VFW 10727 Aux	92

THANK YOU TO ALL THAT MADE THE CALENDAR RAFFLE A SUCCESSFUL FUNDRAISER. PLEASE HELP US WITH PHOTOS FOR NEXT YEARS CALENDAR RAFFLE. WE CAN ACCEPT PHOTOGRAPHS UNTIL MAY 15TH. PLEASE SEND THEM TO JODYS@VFWNE.ORG.



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

Running for Office? Now is the time to get your ad together for the newsletter and website.

Ad Rates:

Newsletter: 1/4 page \$75.00, 1/2 page \$125.00, full page \$250.00

State Convention Booklet: 1/2 page \$50.00, full page \$75.00

Nebraska as of Thursday, January 19, 2017

State	Post	Dst	Life	New	Reinst	Cont	Total	Adjusted Prior Year	Percent
District Totals		1	471	22	5	114	612	635	96.37%
District Totals		3	1158	5	1	222	1386	1479	93.71%
District Totals		4	877	4	2	168	1051	1155	90.99%
District Totals		6	1014	7	1	225	1247	1402	88.94%
District Totals		7	798	5	1	238	1042	1128	92.37%
District Totals		9	1440	15	4	324	1783	1950	91.43%
District Totals		10	3409	70	29	632	4140	4496	92.08%
District Totals		11	863	10	2	192	1067	1150	92.78%
District Totals		13	985	7	1	145	1138	1187	95.87%
District Totals		15	721	5	0	122	848	916	92.57%
District Totals		99	700	24	13	165	902	1070	84.29%
State Totals			12436	174	59	2547	15216	16568	91.83%