



NEBRASKA VFW NEWS



Department of Nebraska Newsletter

July 2016

VA Med Center Freedom Festival

The 6th annual Veterans Freedom Festival was held on June 18th at the VA Medical Center in Lincoln. Membership Chairman Larry Gerlt, Dave Beran, Bill Bechtolt (pictured below left to right) and Dan Petersen manned the VFW tent to greet people and worked membership. In addition to the live music, there were events for the kids and refreshments. Pictured below, Past VFW State Commander Dave Beran brought his truck to the event. Veterans have been chosen to drive the custom Patriot Fleet trucks from Crete Carrier. The Patriot Fleet doesn't stop with the men behind the wheel, more than 30 percent of Crete Carrier's workforce are veterans and military personnel.



Members from all of the veteran organizations joined together to display the colors. After the opening ceremonies, there were a total of 6 bands that performed as well as a veterans art show in the VA auditorium and information fair.

San DeJohn Department of NE Chief of Staff



The breakdown of membership, programs and trustee's reports for the year ending June 30th. This report covers all 135 posts.

37 Posts were 100% or better.

78 Posts only needed 10 or less to be 100%

57% Of the Department Posts needed 10 or less to be 100%

89 Posts reported completing Community Activities Reports

46 Posts did not report any Community Activities Repots

84 Posts reported completing Youth Activities Reports

51 Posts did not report any Youth Activities Reports

83 Posts reported completing Veteran/Volunteer Reports

52 Posts did not report any Veterans/Volunteer Reports

88 Posts reported completing Americanism Reports

47 Posts did not report any Americanism Reports

135 Posts were inspected

130 Posts were Bonded

5 Posts were not Bonded

8 Posts did not submit a Trustees Report

7 Posts submitted 1 Trustees Report

3 Posts submitted 2 Trustees Reports

15 Posts submitted 3 Trustees Reports

102 Posts submitted 4 Trustees Reports

98 Posts bought Poppies

37 Posts did not buy Poppies

100 Posts paid Delegate Fees

35 Posts did not pay Delegate Fees

We are going to be looking hard at Post that do not submit Trustees Reports, not paying Delegate Fees and doing very little in program reporting. You could be put under suspension so I suggest you comply with VFW By-Laws.

Comrades we need you to really work your membership program... Appoint a good recruiter. If you need Departments help just call the Headquarters. We will be glad to assist. Don't wait until January to get started.

Let's get the New Year started with a bang and make this the best Department within the National Headquarters.

Hope to see many of you at the VFW National Convention in Charlotte, NC.

Agenda
August Training
Seward Civic Center
616 Bradford Street
Saturday, August 6th, 2016

9:00 A.M.	Council of Administration, Training, District Commander packets reviewed
10:30 A.M.	Break
10:45 A.M.	Resume Council Meeting, Reports
Noon	Lunch, free will donations
1:00 P.M.	Resume Council Meeting
2:00 P.M.	Break
2:15 P.M.	Finish up Council Meeting, tour the Nebraska National Guard Museum for all that are interested.

Larry Gerlt
Sr. Vice Commander
&
Membership Chairman



Membership

Our new Department Commander, Doug Whitaker asked me just three questions after he was sworn in. Can we make 100%? Is it an attainable and realistic goal? What will it take? I replied: We can make 100%, it is a realistic goal, but it will take you, me and members from every post working on membership starting in July. January is too late for most posts.

What do we need to do?

Look at your numbers. What was your last Memstats total membership? How many deaths did you have? How many annual members do you have? Then do the math – total number in Memstats minus deceased is how many annual, new and reinstated members you need to attain 100%. The number of members you need to attain minus your annual members is how many new and reinstated members you need to attain 100%. Each member who does NOT renew means you need one more new or reinstated member!

Now is when you need to be planning your membership drives for: a. getting annual members to renew. (The sooner you get them to pay, the sooner you know how many will not renew and how many new and reinstated members you need!) b. Recruiting new and reinstated members. My experience is that obtaining 1 (an ok day) to 4 (an excellent day) members at a recruiting event can be expected. If you need 30 new and reinstated members, you need 8 events!

It has been a decade since the Department of Nebraska/we made 100%. We have a lot of posts that are barely hanging on. If you are in one of these posts where there are less than 25 members, most if not all are in their late sixties or even seventies, you have a choice; recruit or your post will cease to exist within the next ten years. Can you save your post? YES – but only if you and other members of your post are willing to work for it, earn it.

My post has an 80+ year history. It would be a horrible thing for it to pass into the night. How about your post?

That old World War II Uncle Sam poster was never truer than today – I need you! I need you and your post members to rise up, to decide to not go quietly into the night, to stand up and fight for your right to exist. It's recruit or perish! What will you do?

Some of the recent victories where the VFW Action Corps stood up for our veterans, service members and their families:

Ongoing: Continued efforts to get comprehensive caregiver support for all generations of veterans. Ongoing support for those veterans exposed to Agent Orange while serving at sea.

June 2016: Nearly 13,000 emails, letters and messages were sent opposing the privatization of the VA. More than half of VFW members surveyed have reported that they prefer their care at the VA, even when they have other options and would also recommend it to their fellow veterans.



4th Festivities in Wahoo

VFW Post 4502 Wahoo led off the children's parade in Wahoo on July 4th. Kids were invited to dress in patriotic attire and dress up their bikes for the event. The Auxiliary to the VFW in Wahoo sold hot dogs, chips and drinks at Smith Park in Wahoo.



Buddy Poppy Event in Omaha



VFW Post 1581's Buddy Poppy Event took place on Saturday, May 28th. Several VFW Post 1581 members and Boy Scouts helped with this event. Picture below, VFW Post 1581 Jr. Vice Commander and Nebraska Department of Veterans Affairs Director John Hilgert and VFW Post 1581 Chaplain Ann Thieman.



The VFW conducted its first poppy distribution before Memorial Day in 1922, becoming the first veterans' organization to organize a nationwide distribution. The poppy soon was adopted as the official memorial flower of the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States.

VFW Nebraska Scholarship Recipients

VFW 3704 COLUMBUS SCHOLARSHIPS:

\$1000.00 BRANDON HANEY
 \$1000.00 TAYLOR WOJCIK
 \$1000.00 AMBER MAZANKOWSKI
 \$1000.00 MADISON HANEY

VFW 2503 BENSON SCHOLARSHIPS:

\$1000.00 BRANDON BIENHOFF
 \$1000.00 TYLER BIENHOFF

PHILLIPS SCHOLARSHIPS:

\$1000.00 SAM ANDERSON
 \$1000.00 MADISON HOSTETLER

NUTS & BOLTS SCHOLARSHIPS:

\$500.00 TAYLOR PFEIFER
 \$500.00 DALE PETERSON
 \$500.00 KAMRYN TIMM

NEBRASKA VFW #1 SCHOLARSHIPS:

\$500.00 MATTHEW BENES
 \$500.00 MEGAN GALLIINO
 \$500.00 LYDIA ROBERTUS
 \$500.00 KENDRA STAAB
 \$500.00 JESSICA WOJCIK
 \$500.00 MAKENZIE JOHNSON
 \$500.00 ALEXIS ALLGOOD
 \$500.00 SARAH KREITMAN

1504 NORTH PLATTE \$500.00 TO JAMES WALLER

6016 HILDRETH \$500.00 TO AMANDA BERANEK

THIBAUT \$350.00 TO COURTNEY MELANSON

BELLOWS \$300.00 TO TIFFANY HANEY

HAINES SCHOLARSHIP \$250.00 TO ONA SHUCK

GROSSMAN \$200.00 TO SAM ANDERSON

PAST COMMANDERS \$200.00 TO AMANDA ERDEI



VILLARREAL COMMISSIONED BY MAJOR LEAGUE BASEBALL

Armando Villarreal, a life member of VFW Post 4688 in Imperial, has been commissioned by Major League Baseball to paint the official print for this year's All-Star Game. The insert shows the photo that he is going from. His early work produced prize-winning wildlife and military art. He now makes a living with works of major sports stars and scenes. Armando was at the Chase County Museum on June 12th working on the piece. Russ Pankonin of the Imperial Republican spoke with him. (Johnson Publications photo)



Homestead Parade

The parade took place on June 18th in downtown Beatrice. VFW Auxiliary President Lowanna Laflin rode in one of the pickups and helped give out flags. There were 1300 flags provided by the VFW and American Legion given out at the event. The pick-up was driven by VFW 1077 Commander Donald Junker.

VFW Fall Conference & Homecoming

October 7-8, 2016

Cobblestone Inn & Suites

127 Trotter Avenue Ord, NE 68862

40 Rooms Available

Room Rates: \$80.00 + Tax

Call Department or mail in form for Reservations!!

VFW Department of Nebraska 2431 N. 48th St. Lincoln, NE 68504

402-464-0674

email to: trudie@vfwne.org

Deadline for Reservations is September 21, 2016

Personal and Billing Information	
Traveler name	
E-mail	
Post	
Phone	
Billing address	
Badge name(s)	
Credit card number	
Credit card expiration date	
Lodging Information	
Destination	Cobblestone Inn & Suites
Check in date?	
Check out date?	
Cost per night	\$80.00 + tax
Number of people	
Room preference (e.g., king, double, single)	
Special requests?	

Calendar of Events

July 2016

10 Dist 10 mtg in Omaha at American legion Post 331 4830 S 21st at 2:00
23-27 VFW 117th National Convention Charlotte, North Carolina

August 2016

6 Council Meeting and August Training. Saturday 9:00 to 4:00. Seward Civic Center 616 Bradford St Seward. Lunch to be served, free will donations!!

Motel Accommodations

Friday August 5th: 10 rooms available Saturday August 6th: 5 rooms available
Cobblestone Inn 2575 Progressive Rd Seward, NE Room Rates: \$77.00 + tax Phone: 402-646-1004 (Make your own reservations)

14 Dist 6 Mtg in Beatrice at Post 1077 at 1:00. Auxiliary same time and place. There will be no meal.

September 2016

1 Bonds Due to Department
18 Dist 3 Mtg in Bloomfield. Post 4996 to host at Bloomfield Community Center at 12:00
\$5.00 reg fee. Lunch at 1:00.
Auxiliary same time and place.
18 Dist 11 Mtg in Pleasanton Post 9481 to host at Community Center at 2:00. \$1.00 reg fee.
Evening meal. Auxiliary same time and place.
25 Dist 7 Mtg in Dodge at Post 8597 at 1:30. Evening meal.
Auxiliary same time and place.

October 2016

(T-2) Trustee Quarterly Report to Department (July1 to Sept 30)
16 Dist 1 Mtg in Gering at Post 1681 will host at 2710 N 10th St at 1:00. \$5.00 reg. fee. 12:00 lunch beforehand.
Auxiliary same time and place.

July Calendar Winners

1	\$40.00	Jon	Jensen	1313
2	\$40.00	Cristopher	Moline	3862
3	\$40.00	Justin	Kelley	3564
4	\$500.00	Al	Vaclia	3338
5	\$40.00	Brandon	Jefferies	3063
6	\$40.00	Kurt	Knake	3016
7	\$40.00	Trever	Miller	4372
8	\$40.00	Tami	Meter	4709
9	\$40.00	Leslie	Bebee	3998
10	\$40.00	Merlin	Beahm	2854
11	\$40.00	Ethan	Cave	2913
12	\$40.00	Craig	Space	2876
13	\$40.00	Jerry	Kraul	31
14	\$40.00	Needles I		2465
15	\$40.00	Dean	Swanson	3035
16	\$40.00	Carlin	Engert	1325
17	\$40.00	Jim	Pierce	2563
18	\$40.00	Richard	Soto	3385
19	\$40.00	Krista	Norten	3064
20	\$40.00	Larry	Degner	4051
21	\$40.00	Bob	Baehr	2745
22	\$40.00	David and Alice	Stevens	3378
23	\$40.00	Ryan	Nissen	1316
24	\$40.00	Vern	Wait	721
25	\$40.00	Ray	Nelson	3934
26	\$40.00	Keaton Griess	c/o Sutton Legion Club	4004
27	\$100.00	Bill	Lambrecht	216
28	\$40.00	Tracey	Cederburg	2936
29	\$40.00	Larry	Karloff	3195
30	\$40.00	Gary	Wasserburger	4806
31	\$40.00	Ambrose	Podraza	721

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

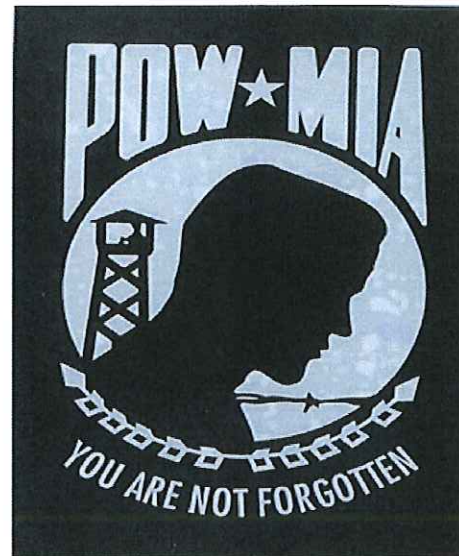
2017 Raffle Calendars are now available. They will be available to pick up at August training in Seward as well as at Department Headquarters.

Visit us on the web

www.vfwne.com

Homecoming

Please call Department Headquarters or fill out the travel form on page 6 and return it to Headquarters if you need a room for homecoming in Ord. The motel is limited in size and we will need to contact another motel if we have a lot of people staying. While the deadline is September 21st, there is no guarantee that there will still be rooms available at that time.



Final Year End June 30, 2016

State	Post	Dst	Life	New	Reinst	Cont	Total	Adjusted Prior Year	Percent
District Totals		1	487	5	2	143	637	688	92.58%
District Totals		3	1189	7	2	288	1486	1587	93.63%
District Totals		4	907	8	6	243	1164	1220	95.40%
District Totals		6	1059	22	15	313	1409	1464	96.24%
District Totals		7	816	16	5	295	1132	1169	96.83%
District Totals		9	1477	40	12	435	1964	2063	95.20%
District Totals		10	3413	111	86	898	4508	4584	98.34%
District Totals		11	891	14	1	252	1158	1203	96.25%
District Totals		13	1005	5	1	184	1195	1241	96.29%
District Totals		15	755	5	0	161	921	1009	91.27%
District Totals		99	733	43	37	259	1072	1089	98.43%
State Totals			12732	276	167	3471	16646	17317	96.12%