



NEBRASKA VFW NEWS



Department of Nebraska Newsletter

June 2016



VFW Nebraska Council of Administration 2016-2017

On Sunday June 12th the new Council was sworn in in Kearney at the closing day of the Department Annual Convention. Pictured above is (left to right) State Chaplain Jerry Ludwig, State Surgeon Dan Kramer, Jr. Vice Commander Gary E Bush Sr., State Commander Doug Whitaker and Sr. Vice Commander Larry Gerlt. The National Representative and Installing Officer was John Iossi. Commander Doug's wife Jenni puts the Commander pin on his lapel. The Auxiliary to the VFW Nebraska President Sue Moore and her officers were installed by Carol Thompson.



Larry Gerlt Membership Chairman



Membership – our daily battle! I qualified for the VFW based on Korean Service after 1954 so I never experienced combat. I have however talked with thousands of veterans over the years and all combat veterans of all conflicts have told me the same thing: For whatever reason they joined the service, when the bullets started flying, they fought not for their country, but for their comrade in the fox hole with them, their tank crew, their air crew, etc. Many of you have performed uncommon acts of valor to save your comrade(s)!

While most of us no longer have to face actual combat, we are still in a battle. We need to continue to fight for our comrades – past, present, and future. What do we fight for – benefits, obtaining assistance for our comrades in need (be it compensation, medical care, or other assistance). What is our weapon – membership!

We all know how Congress continues to chip away at our benefits, under fund the VA and VA Hospital system, close much needed VA Hospital facilities. The list goes on and on. The only way to fight congress is with members who let their Congressmen know what they think of their treatment of veterans. The more members telling them, the better they listen. Congressmen know that as a group, more veterans vote than any other group.

We need you to help your comrades again. We only have one month left to this membership year and we are still down about 800 members from last year! It's time to beat the bushes – personally contact your unpaid members, explain the need, solicit their support, and collect their dues. We can win this war, but not by sitting on the sidelines and counting on someone else to fight the battle. We need YOU!

National Home

Remember our National Home. How many times have we said these words in our meetings? More importantly, what have YOU done to “remember our National Home?” I recently took the Junior Vice tour of our National Home (and no, the VFW does NOT pay for it). I was deeply impressed by the quality of the people working there, the work they do, the facilities, and the military/veteran families with children residing there. Our National Home has been around for 91 years but never took any steps towards self-sustainment (funding basic budget without fund raising) until recently the Amy Ross endowment fund was established. The “Home” only draws interest from the fund and never touches the principal. Donations made to this fund will provide funding for the “Home” for the future as well as today. The next time you or your post donates to the “Home” consider donating it specifically for this endowment and help secure the future of your National Home. Remember our National Home!

By Larry Gerlt
State Sr. Vice Commander

VFW AUXILIARY CELEBRATES HISTORIC YEAR IN MEMBERSHIP

Kansas City, Mo., May 24, 2016 - The Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States (VFW) Auxiliary is excited to announce that it has achieved more than 100% in membership for the first time since 1993. More than 464,000 male and female members representing all 50 states, the District of Columbia and several foreign-based Auxiliaries stand united in their support of our nation's veterans, active-duty service members and their families.



VFWScout of the Year

The 2015-2016 Scout of the Year was honored at the 95th Annual State Convention on June 10th. Eagle Scout Jacob Sykora was awarded \$500.00 and a State Citation. Presenting him with his award is Governor Pete Ricketts. Through the VFW's Scout of the Year program, members of the Boy Scouts and Girl Scouts who display standout citizenship, patriotism and love of country have the opportunity to be rewarded with college scholarships of up to \$5,000.



COMMANDER MIKE MEDINA ACCEPTS THE DEPARTMENT SILVER LEVEL AWARD FOR VETERANS MILITARY AND SUPPORT PROGRAMS.



Group National Citations

The VFW National Organization presented posts that excelled in National Programs with awards. Those awards were presented by Commander Mike Medina at State Convention. Pictured below left is Commander of Post 4688 Imperial Bud Statz who received the award for Outstanding Community Service Activities. Pictured below right is Commander of VFW Post 3755 Ogallala Gary E. Bush Sr. receiving the Outstanding Teacher Award Program Activities.



The Bronze Award for a Post Publication went to Miller-Long Post 3606 in Lincoln and Jim Rall the Editor gladly accepted the award.



The National Awards for Outstanding Participation in V.O.D. and Patriot's Pen went to Post 4755 in Seward President Angie Ostrander, Commander Jeff Baker, District President Vicki Luebbe and Quartermaster Robert Ficke accept the awards.



Banquet Honors Teachers

The VFW awards teachers who promote civic responsibility, flag etiquette and patriotism. Each year, a classroom elementary, junior high and high school teacher whose curriculum focuses on citizenship education topics receives a cash award and state and national certificates to show the VFW's commitment to educating our youth. Pictured at right is District 7 and Post 8223 Commander Jerry Halladay, National Auxiliary Representative Dixie Hild, the K-5 teacher winner from North Bend Beverly Grueber and the 9-12 teacher winner Candace Cain from Burwell. The outgoing Commander Mike Medina and President Kim Abboud shared some laughs, gifts and jabs. State Chief of Staff Sam DeJohn emceed the event. The speaker for the evening was the Nebraska National Council Member and the National Representative John Iossi.



The 2015-2016 All-State Teams Were Recognized on Friday

The White Hat Commanders are the Post Commanders that were top performers in VFW programs and in membership. They receive a white hat signifying the achievements both individually as well as by the post. This years recipients are (left to right) from VFW Post 5537 Heartwell Matt Cavanaugh, VFW Post 759 Mark Woodside, Post 2280 Bellevue Anne Ream, Post 8221 Tecumseh Tom Rother, Post 4688 Imperial Bud Statz, from Post 1077 Beatrice, peaking his head around is Keith Goman, Post 3606 Lincoln Jim Rall accepting, Post 8223 North Bend Jerry Halladay, Post 10727 Bellevue Judy Mulligan, Post 2503 Omaha Fred Van Peer, Post 5289 Pawnee City and Captain of the All State Team is Harold Schlender, Post 2704 Steve Bolitho, Post 4755 Seward Jeff Baker, Post 7029 Ord Elton Zimmerman and Post 4996 Bloomfield Mike Hoffman.



The All-State District Commander is District 7 Commander Jerry Halladay. Jerry received an award check as well as a plaque. He is pictured below left with Jim Pierce and Chief of Staff Sam DeJohn. VFW Post 4755 Seward received the Cliff Polk Membership award. Pictured center accepting the award is Commander Jeff Baker. The Charles G. Klingman Memorial Award goes to the best all-around post and this years winner is VFW Post 5289 Pawnee City, Harold Schlender happily accepts the award.





ALL STATE QUARTERMASTERS SHOW OFF NEW WHITE HATS

The Captain of the All-State team is Larry Borchert from VFW Post 5289 in Pawnee City. Pictured with him to the right is Quartermasters from Post 1077 Beatrice Steve Calkin, Post 2503 Daniel Raabe, Post 4996 Leslie Yule, Post 3606 Jim Rall standing in, Post 8221 Tecumseh Tom Rother standing in, Post 10727 Ron Sibal, Post 7029 Ord Mike Pesek, Post 5537 Heartwell Ron Keen, Post 4688 Imperial P.J. Pajerski, Post 759 Kearney Jim Lutz, Post 2280 Bellevue Joe Smith, Post 2704 Omaha Larry Gerlt and Post 7722 Lincoln Merle Thompson.



State Volunteer Awards

The VFW knows just how important community service is to America. The Awards for members who volunteered in their communities are Howard Gebhardt (top right photo) nominated by VFW Post 1504 North Platte and Cheryl Feala, nominated by VFW Post 8223 North Bend. The non-member award recipient Lenny Ginder is pictured above and was nominated by VFW Post 5537 in Heartwell.



PUBLIC SERVANT AWARD CITATIONS FOR EMERGENCY MEDICAL TECHNICIANS, LAW ENFORCEMENT PERSONNEL AND FIREFIGHTERS

Volunteer chairman Harold Schlender presented the awards on Friday afternoon to this years Nebraska Emergency Service Recipients. The Law Enforcement Award went to Investigator Roger Freeze. Roger is pictured at right with Harold. He was nominated by VFW Post 1504 Commander Jerry Jurgens in North Platte. The Firefighter Award recipient this year is Ken Knoepfel. The EMT Award for the 2015-2016 program year is Pamela Ogg. Both Ken and Pamela were nominated by VFW Post 3755 in Ogallala. They are pictured with Post Commander Gary E Bush Sr.



Diamond Jubilee Award

VFW Post 3576 in Broken Bow is 75 years old. The National Veterans of Foreign Wars awarded the Diamond Jubilee Award to the post. It was presented by Department Commander Mike Medina to the officers and past officers during the State Convention in Kearney. Pictured is WWII Purple Heart recipient Wayne Mills, Post Commander Dell Moninger, Post Quartermaster Kelvin Kreitman and District 11 Commander Russ Horst.





National Individual Awards Recognition

The Department of Nebraska VFW received many National awards for the 2015-2016 year. Commander for the 2015-2016 year Mike Medina presented the honorees with their awards. The Recipients included (clockwise from top left) Buddy Poppy Chairman Dale Wittrock, Community Service Chairman Larry Gerlt, Safety and Citizenship Education Chairman Judy Mulligan, Loyalty Day Chairman Joe Smith, Veterans and Military Support Chairman Jeff Baker and Youth Activities Chairman John Iossi received awards for all of his programs, which also included V.O.D., Patriot's Pen and Teacher.



Guest Speakers Welcomed

A big thank you to those who shared their time. Lt. General Roger Lempke (top left), Grand Island Veterans Home Administrator Alex Willford (bottom left), DAV Adjutant Jim Shuey (clockwise top left), American Legion Commander Mike Reimers, Governor Pete Ricketts and Amvets Executive Director Mike Sweeney were guest speakers at the Joint meetings on Friday.





Post 2704 Returns to Offutt

On Monday, 2 May, members of VFW Post 2704 stood retreat at Offutt AFB for their 2nd annual Salute the Vets event. After standing retreat, post members remained at the entrance of the Main BX and thanked all Veterans for their service. Members in retreat photo from left to right: Richard Imgrund, Jim Galvin, Duke Barrientos, QM Larry Gerlt, Senior Vice Commander Richard Ratzburg, and Past Post and District Commander Eddie Reyes. Ever wonder what our WWII and Korean War vets are made of? Eddie (Korean War) is in his late 80s, has a "peg leg" and has to use his walker to get around. But he stayed standing the full 30 minutes we thanked veterans. We thank all veterans for their service and I offer a special to Eddie Reyes - the marine who just won't quit!



Thank you to all of the auxiliaries and sisters who sent me birthday cards! EIGHTY is a big one. When you are 20 or 30 that age seems a long way off but it creeps up on you rather quickly after 60. Thank you to all that attended my party hosted by my wonderful family.

Jane Petersen



Awards and Installation at VFW Post 2704

Families of Demi-Kopietz Post 2704 members gathered for a pot luck supper and officer installations. Guest speaker and Aid-De-Camp was Department Past Commander Sam DeJohn. Officers being Installed were: Commander Elect: Mathew Whitaker, Senior Vice Commander Elect: Richard Ratzburg, Junior Vice-Commander Elect: Al Cherubin, Adjutant/Quartermaster Elect: Larry Gerlt, Judge Advocate & 1 Year Trustee Elect: Benjamin Beans, Surgeon & Chaplain Elect: Francis Durham, 3 Year Trustee & Service officer Elect: Vern Campbell and 2 Year Trustee Elect: Sean O'Rourke.

The installing officer was Past Post and Past District Commander Eddie Reyes, a Korean War Veteran and lifelong member of the post. The highlight of the evening was presentation of a plaque for Lifetime Service Award, 1955-2016 and an appointment to Admiral in the Nebraska Navy by Governor Pete Ricketts to Eddie Reyes.





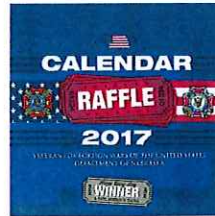
Tribute to Our Veterans at Colonial Chapel

ON SUNDAY MAY 22ND, COLONIAL CHAPEL IN LINCOLN HOSTED A TRIBUTE. THE SERVICE INCLUDED GUEST SPEAKER MATT JONES FROM VFW POST 7722 IN LINCOLN. POSTING THE COLORS FOR THE EVENT WAS THE VFW COLOR GUARD INCLUDING (LEFT TO RIGHT) FROM POST 7722 MATT JONES, POST 3606 RICHARD MAUGHAN, POST 131 PATRICK STANOSHECK AND (NOT PICTURED) FROM POST 131 DAN PETERSEN.



Calendars Available Soon

The VFW Nebraska raffle calendar will be available for distribution soon. This years calendar will be available at



August training. This year the calendar will be a full size calendar. If you are unable to attend training in August, be sure and call Headquarters and we will send your calendars with your District Commander.



PATRIOTIC ART WINNER

The American Creative Patriotic Art Contest winner for the 2015-2016 year is Adam Boggs. Adam was sponsored by Red Cloud Auxiliary 5641 in District 13.

JUNE CALENDAR WINNERS

1	\$40.00	Quintin	Teegerstrom	1391
2	\$40.00	Patsy	Tischofer	1120
3	\$40.00	Scott	Schrage	313
4	\$40.00	Duane	Krepel	218
5	\$40.00	Bob	Dillon	4201
6	\$40.00	Adams Bank & Trust		3152
7	\$40.00	Meyer-Earp Chevrolet		2435
8	\$40.00	Rich & Bea	Pehsick	774
9	\$40.00	Tracey	Cederburg	2936
10	\$40.00	Sam	DeJohn	2997
11	\$40.00	Howard	Friesen	1395
12	\$40.00	Leva	Cochran	3034
13	\$40.00	Sonya	Howell	3777
14	\$100.00	Doug	Otteman	4110
15	\$40.00	Connie	Otteman	4105
16	\$40.00	Tom	Ender	1575
17	\$40.00	Fred	Krebel	4561
18	\$40.00	Michael	Hoffman	3867
19	\$40.00	Mark	Devine	3522
20	\$40.00	Thomas	Menard	3899
21	\$40.00	Jody	Sullivan	2438
22	\$40.00	Joan	Lucas	2530
23	\$40.00	Marcia	Witmer	1389
24	\$40.00	Charles	Waters	3057
25	\$40.00	Angela	Brase	4018
26	\$40.00	Kyle	Bjork	2527
27	\$40.00	Jay	Wonch	4918
28	\$40.00	Veronica	Vieyra	4924
29	\$40.00	Duane	Thompson	4928
30	\$40.00	Dominick	Zappia	357

Calendar of Events

July 2016

(T-1) Trustee Quarterly Report to Department (April 1 to June 30)

4 Independence Day

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 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.

September 2016

1 Bonds Due in Department

25 Dist 7 Mtg in Dodge at Post 8597 at 1:30. Evening lunch. Auxiliary same time and place.

October 2016

(T-2) Trustee Quarterly Report to Department (July 1 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 before

Meeting. Auxiliary same time and place.

Visit us on the web

www.vfwne.com

Nebraska as of Monday, June 20, 2016

State	Post	Dst	Life	New	Reinst	Cont	Total	Adjusted Prior Year	Percent
District Totals		1	486	5	2	141	634	688	92.15%
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	20	13	312	1404	1464	95.90%
District Totals		7	816	16	5	295	1132	1169	96.83%
District Totals		9	1477	35	10	430	1952	2063	94.61%
District Totals		10	3412	109	85	895	4501	4584	98.18%
District Totals		11	891	14	1	251	1157	1203	96.17%
District Totals		13	1005	5	1	184	1195	1241	96.29%
District Totals		15	755	5	0	159	919	1009	91.08%
District Totals		99	733	43	37	258	1071	1089	98.34%
State Totals			12730	267	162	3456	16615	17317	95.94%



JOIN US FOR THE TD AMERITRADE COLLEGE HOME RUN DERBY & 32nd ANNUAL OMAHA WORLD-HERALD FIREWORKS

Sunday, July 3, 2016 at 7:30 p.m.
 TD Ameritrade Park – Omaha, NE
COLLEGEHOMERUNDERBY.COM

Special offer for Veterans and Military

Receive \$6 specially-priced adult tickets when you redeem the special code "VETS" while purchasing tickets one of the following ways:

1. Visit ticketmaster.com, search for TD Ameritrade College Home Run Derby, and enter "VETS" in the "Got an Offer Code" box.
2. Call Ticketmaster at 800-745-3000*.
*Service fees apply to phone and online orders.
3. Purchase ticket at the CenturyLink Center Omaha Box Office



•Have a group of 20+? Receive preferred, reserved seating for your group. Contact Avery Smith at asmith@intersportnet.com or 312.467.2824 for details.



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

Send articles to
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