



NEBRASKA VFW NEWS



Department of Nebraska Newsletter

March 2016

Issue # 27

Jack Duffy Takes State VOD

The District Voice of Democracy winners were honored February 5th in Lincoln. The winners were announced on that day and presented with their awards. Presenting the awards are the award sponsor representative, State Commander Mike Medina and Auxiliary President Kim Abboud, as well as the District Commander and Auxiliary Presidents. Winning with the theme this year of "My Vision For American" pictured below is 1st place winner Jack Duffy with (left to right) Commander Mike, Auxiliary VOD and Patriot's Pen Chairman Jane Petersen, Jack Duffy, President Kim, award sponsor Post 2704 representative Larry Gerlt, District 13 President Terrie Stokes and District 13 Commander Jim Lutz. Jack was sponsored by VFW Post and Auxiliary 5537 in Heartwell. He received a \$2,000.00 scholarship as well as a trip to Washington, D.C. and the chance to win a \$30,000.00 scholarship at National level.



Brooklyn Bailey Wins State Patriot's Pen

The top 3 of the 10 District winners in the Patriot's Pen competition are also guests for the Midwinter festivities. This year's winner Brooklyn Bailey was sponsored by VFW Post and Auxiliary 4912 in West Point. Brooklyn is pictured with (left to right) President Kim, Commander Mike, Jane Petersen, Donna Fenske, District 7 Commander Jerry Halladay and Larry Gerlt. She received a \$1,000.00 scholarship and the chance to win a \$5,000.00 scholarship at National level. In our great state, a total of \$15,042.00 in prize money was awarded to the participants in the Patriot's Pen competition. There were 2852 students that participated statewide this year under the theme "What Freedom Means to Me". In the Voice of Democracy, a total of \$20,986.00 was awarded at the Post, District and State levels. There were a total of 1158 students that participated this year.





Second place in the Patriot's Pen competition is Margaret Boedeker who was sponsored by VFW Post and Auxiliary 3606 in Lincoln. She is pictured above with President Kim, Commander Mike, Jane Petersen, District 9 Auxiliary President Vickie Luebbe and Hank Sauer. The third place winner is Rebekkah Drauker. Rebekkah was sponsored by VFW Post 3755 in Ogallala. Both received cash awards and an award certificate. She is pictured below with Kim, Mike, Jane, District 4 Commander PJ Pajerski and District 4 Auxiliary President Teresa Groff. Bottom are all of the state winners.



Post 9844 in Yutan sponsored the 2nd place winner in the Voice of Democracy John Grinvalds. He is pictured top with Mike, Jane, Kim, Past Commander and award sponsor representative Bernie Brosnihan, District 9 President Vickie Luebe and Hank Sauer. Gavin Brown placed 3rd and was sponsored by VFW Post 10042 in Adams. He was presented his award by sponsor representatives Kaitlyn Abboud and Barry Caster for Post 8334. With them is District 6 President Paula Waterfield and District 6 Commander Steve Calkin. The 4th place finisher Jack Taylor was sponsored by VFW Post and Auxiliary 6159 in Taylor. He is pictured with Mike, Jane, Kim, District 13 President Terrie Stokes and District 13 Commander Russell Horst.



James Moseman placed 5th and received the Lyle C. Petersen award. He was sponsored by VFW Post and Auxiliary 5543 in Oakland and is pictured top with Kim, Jane, Mike, Donna Fenske and District 7 Commander Jerry Halladay. The 6th place finisher is Clair Trenhaile, sponsored by VFW Post and Auxiliary 4996 in Bloomfield. Pictured with Clair in Mike, Jane, Kim, District 3 Commander George Rathman, Gayle Beran, Post 4996 Commander Mike Hoffman and District 3 Auxiliary President Linda Hansen. 7th place in the state competition is Dani McNeel who is pictured below with Mike, Jane, Kim, District 4 Commander P.J. Pajerski and District 4 Auxiliary President Teresa Groff.



8th place winner Taylor Rempp received the Dixie and Ron Hild scholarship. She was sponsored by VFW Post and Auxiliary 7970 in Harrison. Pictured with Taylor is Kim, Mike, Jane, Dixie and Ron Hild, District 1 President Joyce Witt and District 1 Commander Tom Arends. Isabelle Thompson placed 9th and is pictured with Kim, Mike, Jane, award sponsor Post 37555 representative Gary Bush, District 10 Commander Ron Sibal and District 10 President Bonnie Gerlt. Placing 10th in the state V.O.D. is Marissa Heins who was sponsored by VFW Post and Auxiliary 4836 in Schuyler. Marissa is pictured with Kim, Mike, Jane and District 15 President and Commander Geanne and Jerry Chlopek.





Midwinter Included a Capitol Tour

Prior to the awards ceremony, the student winners and their families went to tour the Capitol. They were given a bus ride as the snow began to fall. Along with the students and Voice of Democracy Chairmen, State President Kim Abboud and Commander Mike Medina joined them.



An Invitation from the Governor

A walk across the street to the Governor's Residence included a visit from Nebraska Governor Pete Ricketts. Not only did the Governor recognize and congratulate the students for their success in expressing their patriot view, he encouraged them all to return to the state as their education takes them all in different directions. He also posed for pictures with the students. Seated is Commander Mike Medina and President Kim Abboud. Standing left to right is Margaret Boedeker, Taylor Rempp, James Moseman, Jack Taylor, Marissa Heins, Governor Pete Ricketts, Rebekkah Drauker, Gavin Brown, Isabelle Thompson, Clair Trenhaile, Jack Duffy, John Grinvalds, Taylor Remoo and Brooklyn Bailey.



Joyce Medina and Donna Fenske share a laugh after a lunch of Valentino's pizza and a salad.

Midwinter Banquet

There was a banquet following the awards ceremony. The banquet honored the students patriotism. Commander Mike Medina (below) congratulated the group.



The first place finishers shared their essay and speech. Left is Jack Duffy, the Voice of Democracy winner. Right is Brooklyn Bailey, the state winner in the Patriot's Pen competition.



John Iossi, the state V.O.D and P.P. Chairman, was the emcee. Past National Commander George Cramer (right) was the guest speaker at the banquet on Friday evening.



Thank You Sponsor Donors

Thank you to all of the donors who sponsored these great winners. It is because of your generosity that this program can continue and be successful in Nebraska. Working alongside America's youth and instilling a sense of patriotism has always been, and will always be, a priority of the Veterans of Foreign Wars.

2015-2016 Sponsor Donors

VFW Post 2704 in Omaha

VFW Past State Commanders

VFW Post & Aux 8334 in Millard

VFW Auxiliary

Lyle C Petersen Memorial

VFW Post & Aux 1504 in North Platte

VFW Nebraska

Past National President and Past State Commander Dixie and Ron Hild

VFW Post 3755 in Ogallala

VFW Post & Aux 3704 in Columbus



Midwinter Membership Awards

The Division 1 Winner of top percentage in membership was District 13. District 13 Commander Jim Lutz received a cash award and certificate. (above) The Division 2 District that placed 1st was District 6. Receiving his award is the District Commander Steve Calkin. (below)



Nebraska National Council

During the Council of Administration meeting on February 6th, John Iossi was sworn in as the National Council Representative for Nebraska. George Cramer, Past National Commander, did the honors.



CALENDAR PHOTOS NEEDED

We are in need of photos for the 2017 raffle calendar. If you have a memorial or patriotic photo to share, send it in to:

Department Headquarters at:
2431 N. 48th St.

Lincoln, NE 68504 or email to Jodys@vfwne.org. We are still looking into cost and size for the next calendar and we would love to hear your input as well.





State Jr. Vice
Commander
Larry Gerlt
Membership

There are three parts of maintaining post membership: retention, regaining lost members (reinstates) and recruiting new members. If you want to retain current members, you must:

1. Have an active post that works the programs.
People feel good about themselves when they help other people and/or see them rewarded for their efforts. VOD, PP, Teacher of the Year, Scout of the Year. Do you seek entries? Do you provide meaningful recognition to your winners?
2. Recognize your volunteers for their efforts.
3. Minimize/resolve member conflicts.
4. Contact your annual members other than to request their dues. Post news letter, calling team, or an occasional visit by a post member.

Regaining lost members (Reinstates). Do you obtain a list of past post members to contact? Have you asked Department for a list of Relocates (members from other states who live in your area) and Department at Large (unpaid Nebraska VFW members who do not belong to a specific post)?

Recruiting new members. Do you conduct at least one new member drive each year? Set up a recruiting booth at a local fair/rodeo/auto show/etc. Host a meal or coffee and desert at your post home or local café.

Two things to remember: You can't renew your way to 100%. Recruiting is a team effort; no one person can make a post, district and our Department 100%. We need each post and each active member helping achieve this goal. You've heard it before, but I'll say it again, if each active member recruited just one new or reinstated member we could achieve 100%!

Legacy Life Membership enables current Life Members to leave a lasting impression on our great organization.



When you become a Legacy Life Member, you are helping us strengthen the VFW – where NO ONE DOES MORE FOR VETERANS. 3 prestigious levels of Legacy Life Membership are available, (Gold, Silver, or Bronze). Each level offers generous benefits reserved exclusively for Legacy Life Members. Once your Legacy Life Membership begins, an annual endowment in your name will be made to your Post, Department, and the organization. You will feel confident knowing your contributions to our organization are helping not only today's veterans but the veterans of tomorrow. Future generations will know and remember you for the sacrifices you've made during your time in uniform in addition to the contributions you've made as a VFW Legacy Life Member.

Scholarships

Applications for VFW and Auxiliary scholarships are due into the Department by March 31st. If you need applications or have questions, contact Headquarters at 402-464-0674.

Valentine's Day Parties

The Valentine's Day party was in Grand Island on February 14th. Hospital Chairman Gary Steckelberg (left) handed out cards to all of the residents with State Commander Mike Medina (right).



District 6 Awards in Pawnee City

The District 6 meeting on February 21st included awards for the District Voice of Democracy and Patriot's Pen winners. Pictured left to right is seated, Virginia and Harold Schlender, District 6 Chairman for V.O.D. and P.P. In the middle row is District 6 Auxiliary President Paula Waterfield, Mackenzie Barnard, Shannon Jones, Kaitlyn Otto and District 6 Commander Steve Calkins. Pictured in the back row is Dalton Anseron and Gavin Brown. Mitch Farris was unable to attend. Gavin Brown went on to win 3rd place at the State level.



Franklin, who penned the proverb "Early to bed and early to rise, makes a man healthy, wealthy and wise," was among the first to suggest the idea. In a 1784 essay he wrote that adjusting the clocks in the spring could be a good way to save on candles.

The practice of changing the clocks has had a somewhat bumpy history in the United States. It was first established in 1918, but then repealed a year later. During World War II, the country again took up the practice to conserve energy from 1942 to 1945.

**Could your Post/Aux use \$500
for a Community Service Project?**



Contact Jason Couch at the VFW Foundation for information on how to apply for the Community Service Matching Grant.

(816) 968-1174

JCouch@vfw.org



Post 2704 Supports the Scouts



On Sunday, February 28th VFW Demi-Koptietz Post 2704 Quartermaster Larry Gerlt attended the Eagle Court of Honor for Troop 282. It was to recognize their newest Eagle, Nathan Richards at St. Paul's Luthern Church in Millard. Larry presented him a certificate of achievement and a check for \$50.00. Larry is a former Scoutmaster of this troop and has 43 years continuous registration with the Boy Scouts of America.



On Wednesday February 24th the VFW Demi-Koptietz Post 2704 Commander Stephen Bolitho presented a Certificate of Achievement and check for \$50 to Troop 282's new Eagle Scout, Jaxon Parker.



10648 Donates to the Shelter

VFW Post 10648 in Princeton found out that the Homeless shelter was housing some veterans. They had some needs and shared them with the post who then got to work. They were in need of sheets, towels and laundry detergent for when they are released. The VFW Riders with Post 10648 initiated a drive. Within a week, they gathered 34 twin bed sheets, 68 towels and 42 bottles of detergent. They went to the shelter and delivered the items and met with the veterans. The shelter gave them a tour and an hour of alone time to talk to the veterans. The officers of 10648 in Princeton invited them to the post and offered them assistance if ever needed. 10648 Quartermaster Dionne Gorji said "It was a wonderful time to give back to the veterans who needed our assistance."

**HE'S ON WATCH.
SO ARE WE.**

We always watch out for our own. And right now, our fellow veterans need us. Membership dues alone cover only 15% of the cost of VFW programs. With two wars and an aging veterans' population, demand is unprecedented. Please donate to your Department mailings. They're counting on us.

FRANK G.D.

Thank you letters from Voice of Democracy Winners....

Dear Nebraska VFW,

Thank you very much for the opportunity to participate in the Vof scholarship program for 2 years. It has been an honor and a privilege.

Sincerely,
Jody D. Matemin

February 6, 2016

Dept. of Nebraska
Veterans of Foreign Wars
P.O. Box 4552
2431 S 48th Street
Lincoln, NE 68504

Dear Nebraska State VFW,

I would like to thank the Nebraska State VFW and Auxiliary as well as District #6 and VFW Post 10042 in Adams for giving me the opportunity to participate in the Nebraska VFW Voice of Democracy Competition in Lincoln, NE on Friday, Feb 5th.

While attending the VFW Midwinter Conference I was able to tour the State Capitol, watch the Senators vote on a bill, and meet our Governor Pete Ricketts. My family and I also met so many kind and generous Staff Members, Veterans and Auxiliary Members, including Jody, Mr. Peterson, the State Photographer, Linda Vogel, your State Auxiliary Chaplin, and Doug Whitaker, just to name a few.

Out of about 1,100 applicants and 10 finalists, I received 3rd place in the State Competition and a \$1,000 Scholarship that I will use towards college next year.

Thank you for this opportunity and for this award.

Sincerely,

Jody D. Matemin

Running for Office? Time to get your ad ready!

RATES FOR THE NEWSLETTER
ARE:

1/4 PAGE-\$75

1/2 PAGE-\$125

FULL PAGE-\$250

RATES FOR THE CONVENTION
BOOK:

1/2 PAGE-\$50

FULL PAGE-\$75

BACK COVER \$100

PLEASE SEND PHOTO YOU
WOULD LIKE TO USE AS WELL.

YOU CAN MAIL YOUR AD OR
SEND IT TO

JODYS@VFWNE.ORG



VFW Nebraska State Convention

June 9-12, 2016

Holiday Inn Hotel and Convention Center

110 S 2nd Kearney, NE

308-237-5971

Room Rates: \$99.95 + Tax

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

Travel Request Form for State Convention

email to: trudie@vfwne.org

Deadline for Reservations is May 20, 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	Holiday Inn Hotel and Convention Center
Check in date?	
Check out date?	
Cost per night	\$99.95 plus tax
Number of people	
Room preference (e.g., king, double, single)	
Special requests?	

Calendar of Events

March 2016

- 15 Teacher entry to Department
- 19 Cheyenne WY VA Hospital St Patrick's Day Party at 1:30
- 19 Western NE Veterans Home St Patrick's Day Party at 7:00
- 20 Hot Springs SD VA Hospital St Patrick's Day Party at 11:00 am. White Socks Party at 1:30
- 31 Scholarship Student Applications to Department

April 2016

- (T-4) Trustee Quarterly report to Department (Jan 1 March 31)
- 1 Eagle Scout State Entry to Department
- 3 Dist 10 mtg in Omaha Post 2503 to host at 2:00. Auxiliary same time and place. **Rep:** Bernie Brosnihan
- 3 Dist 15 mtg in Schuyler Post 4836 to host. Reg at 1:30, mtg at 2:00. **Rep:** Doug Whitaker
- 10 Dist 3 mtg in Tilden Post 7603 to host at American Legion Club. Reg at 12:00 \$5.00 fee. Lunch to follow. Auxiliary same time and place. **Rep:** Larry Gerlt
- 10 Dist 7 mtg in Blair Post 1251 to host 393 River Rd at 1:30 pm. Lunch to follow. **Rep:** Joe Smith
- 10 Dist 9 mtg in Yutan Post 9844 to host at 2:00 pm. Lunch to follow. Auxiliary same time and place. **Rep:** Gary Bush
- 15 Cut off (For all Awards State Convention June 9-12, 2016)
- 15 Top District Commander—State Convention
- 17 Dist 4 mtg in Imperial Post 4688 to host lunch at 12:00 MDT, meeting at 1:00. Reg fee \$7.50. Auxiliary same time and place. **Rep:** Gary Bush
- 17 Dist 13 mtg in Kearney Post 759 to host at the Post at 2 cst. Lunch to follow. Auxiliary to meet at VFW 759 reception hall. **Rep:** Joe Smith
- 24 Dist 1 mtg in Gering Post 1681 to host at 2710 N 10th st at 1:00 pm. \$5.00 reg fee. Lunch to follow. **Rep:** Mike Medina
- 24 Dist 6 mtg in Beatrice Post 1077 to host at 1:00 pm. Auxiliary same time and place. Lunch to follow. **Rep:** Larry Gerlt
- 30 Post Service Officer entry to Department

May 1 2016 Cut off for Election Reports!!

- 1 Americanism- Post Scrap Book
- 1 Blood report (information in Genmail)
- 1 Chaplain Memorial Record to Department
- 1 Community Service Record Book to Department
- 1 Loyalty Day (May 1, 2015 activity)—Record book to Department.
- 1 Post Color Guard
- 1 Youth Activities—Post Scrap Book
- 1 Volunteer of the Year (Letter of Nomination)
- 1 Community Service Report (November to April)
- 15 Delegate Registration due to Department
- 15 Dist 11 mtg in Taylor Post 6159 to host at Loup Co. Community Center at 2:00 pm. \$1.00 registration fee evening lunch to follow. Auxiliary same time and place. **Rep:** Mike Medina

March Calendar Winners!

1	\$40.00	Richard	Zechmann
2	\$40.00	Jason	Martindale
3	\$40.00	Mark	Long
4	\$40.00	Rich & Bea	Pehsick
5	\$40.00	Amy	Kuhl
6	\$40.00	William	Nelson
7	\$40.00	Bruce	Hassler
8	\$40.00	Pat	Wetavick
9	\$40.00	Glen	Vollmer
10	\$40.00	Ruben	Reyes
11	\$40.00	Gordon	Fox
12	\$40.00	David	Kettleson
13	\$40.00	VFW Post 131	
14	\$40.00	Lloyd	Coates
15	\$40.00	Scott	Johnson
16	\$40.00	Cindy	Johnson
17	\$40.00	Marlin	Brabec
18	\$40.00	Jim	Manes
19	\$40.00	Donna	Sullivan
20	\$40.00	Larry	Bradbury
21	\$40.00	Dave	Bunger
22	\$40.00	Bill	Arends
23	\$40.00	Larry	Brezinski
24	\$40.00	Sheri	DeGeorge
25	\$40.00	Arland	Stratman
26	\$40.00	Jeri	Liebig
27	\$40.00	Roger	Rybin
28	\$40.00	Phyllis	Keen
29	\$40.00	Judy	Mulligan
30	\$40.00	Brian	Wells
31	\$40.00	Adams Bank & Trust	

Nebraska Membership as of March 3rd, 2016

State	Post	Dst	Life	New	Reinst	Cont	Total	Adjusted Prior Year	Percent
District Totals		1	484	3	1	127	615	688	89.38%
District Totals		3	1184	5	1	269	1459	1587	91.93%
District Totals		4	905	5	6	212	1128	1220	92.45%
District Totals		6	1052	17	11	279	1359	1464	92.82%
District Totals		7	816	12	3	287	1118	1169	95.63%
District Totals		9	1473	24	6	387	1890	2063	91.61%
District Totals		10	3383	81	28	771	4263	4584	92.99%
District Totals		11	889	8	1	240	1138	1203	94.59%
District Totals		13	1000	4	1	169	1174	1241	94.60%
District Totals		15	753	4	0	143	900	1009	89.19%
District Totals		99	724	28	36	214	1002	1089	92.01%
State Totals			12663	191	94	3098	16046	17317	92.66%



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

Auxiliary Editor

Angela Ostrander

PO BOX 114

Goehner, NE 68364

Email: litfireball2000@yahoo.com



Planning for Upcoming Meetings

2016 State Convention

June 9th thru the 12th

Holiday Inn in Kearney

Council Meeting and August Training

August 6th, 9am to 4pm

VFW Post 4755 in Seward, NE

Fall Council and Homecoming

October 7th and 8th, 2016

VFW Post 7029 in Ord, NE

Midwinter and Council of Administration

February 2nd thru the 4th, 2017

Lincoln Marriott Cornhusker in Lincoln

2017 State Convention

June 8th thru the 11th, 2017

Holiday Inn in Kearney