



NEBRASKA VFW NEWS

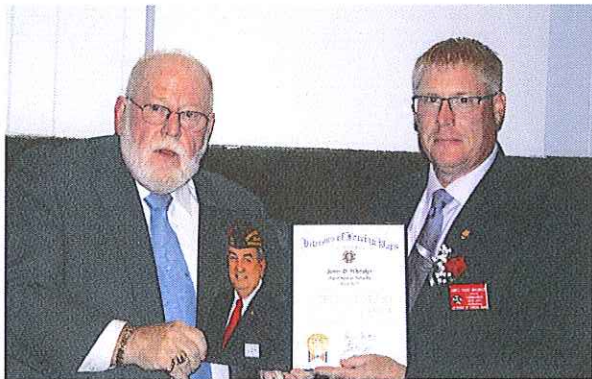


Department of Nebraska Newsletter

October 2016

Celebration in Ord for Commander Doug and President Sue

The Commander and President's homecoming was on Friday October 7th at VFW Post 7029. It was a time to congratulate, celebrate, poke fun and play jokes on them. Below left, the National Sr. Vice Commander in Chief Keith Harman presented Commander Whitaker with his certificate of congratulations from National Commander Brian Duffy. Below right, Nebraska Auxiliary Jr. Vice President Linda Vogel and VFW Jr. Vice Commander Gary E. Bush Sr. did a little skit for the group.



Prior to dinner, State Commander Whitaker spoke about the National Commander's initiative to bring awareness to mental health issues facing veterans. This year, the National Commander declared October 8th as "A Day to Change Direction". A campaign to make communities aware of the five signs of emotional suffering: personality change, agitation, withdrawal, poor self-care and hopelessness. Emceeding the event was Parliamentarian Jim Pierce.





**Gary E Bush Sr.
Jr. Vice Commmander
And
National Home
Chairman**

The Christmas party for the National Home will be on December 2nd. I would like to extend an invitation to all to attend this festive event.

I would also like to encourage individuals and posts to become a member of the National Home. It is only \$35.00 to become a life member of the home. There are 2 kinds of memberships:

- 1) VFW and VFW Auxiliary members and organizations are eligible to become Life Members. Life Members may vote for the trustees who represent their National Home District and approve any proposed changes to our bylaws and articles of incorporation.
- 2) Any individual or organization wishing to support the National Home's mission can become an Associate Life Member. Associate Life Members do not have voting privileges.



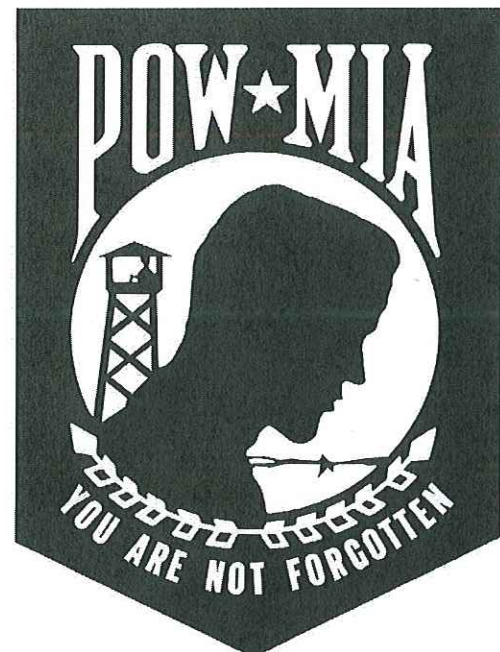
**Larry Gerlt
Sr. Vice
Commander
and
Membership
Chairman**

First Key to Retention: Post newsletter. If you are not doing anything for a post news letter, you are missing the boat! A post newsletter is your first line of communication with your membership. If you are only doing an online newsletter, you are not reaching all of your membership. Most of our posts have senior members (80+) who do NOT use a computer. They can't go on line to read a post news letter. No where do the by-laws state what a member receives for his dues. But National sends every member a magazine and the Check Point news letter. I believe your members are entitled to a post newsletter. You should consider not charging senior (80+) members for a hard copy mailed to their home. Why should an annual member keep paying his dues to your post if you make no effort to contact him?



VFW NATIONAL HOME FOR CHILDREN

Since its founding, the VFW National Home for Children has grown from an old frame farm house to a sprawling campus with playgrounds, park areas, and multiple buildings, including single-family homes, a community center and gymnasium, child care facility, guest lodge, chapel and administrative offices. Over the years, the National Home has evolved to meet the changing needs of America's military and veterans' families. Through it all, one thing has remained constant: the National Home's commitment to honor our nation's veterans and active-duty military by providing help and hope for their children and families.



The views and opinions expressed in this article are those of the authors and do not necessarily reflect the official policy or position of the Department of Nebraska VFW.

Dear VFW Comrades,

There are over 144,000 veterans in Nebraska, over 14,000 are military retirees, over 14,000 are disabled veterans. It is gratifying that many veterans contribute much to their communities by involvement in non-profit community organizations which assist its citizens. It is, however, deeply concerning that so few of us are actively involved in the democratic process in Nebraska. That includes being knowledgeable about what our leadership is doing to ensure Nebraska's economy is viable for decades to come.

The Nebraska Veterans Coalition has since early 2014 been working with Nebraska Legislators, the Governor's Office, other Nebraska Executive Offices, along with the Nebraska and Omaha Chambers of Commerce, to persuade all concerned to use veterans and military retirees as part of a concerted first step to improve the numbers of highly skilled leaders and workers in Nebraska's work force.

We believe that Nebraska must make more efforts to expand its skilled labor population to attract more businesses to Nebraska. It does not make good sense to not make needed efforts to retain veterans and military retirees as a logical first step to increasing the work force. It is a complex issue on how best to increase Nebraska's population. It involves reform of taxation, use of educational systems, marketing of Nebraska, developing long term plans and investments to achieve goals, to name just a few...

Why do retirees flee Nebraska? According to the Platte Institute the main reason is taxation.. In 2014, 3,500 Nebraskans moved to Iowa. Why? Because Iowa has done much more for retirees and for veterans and more effectively understands the value of retaining higher income people and veterans. It is not enough to increase veterans benefits to compete with other states. Nebraska must market itself to people to increase its workforce Nebraska has not had an effective program to market itself nationwide to attract new citizens to Nebraska nor does it have a coordinated plan or effort to retain its veteran population. Your help is vitally needed.

What can you as one citizen do about this? Become involved. All it takes is to know who your state senator is, contact them and ask for their views on economic development and what they are doing to make a difference.

You may find your Senator and their contact information at :

http://www.nebraskalegislature.gov/senators/senator_find.php

Find us on FaceBook at Nebraska Veterans Coalition.

Ronald J. Dupell, CMSgt, USAF (Retired)

Dean Kenkel, CWO5, US Army

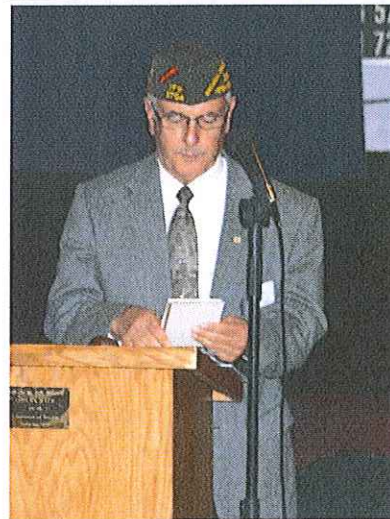
Steve Stevens, Colonel, USAF (Retired)

Fall Council Meeting in Ord

The Council meeting was held in conjunction with Homecoming in Ord on October 8th. National Sr. Vice Commander in Chief Keith Harman presented National Awards and spoke to the group about the changes being implemented at the National level. Accepting his All-American Post award is VFW Post 4755 in Seward Commander Jeff Baker. The state had a second All-American Post, Post 5289 in Pawnee City achieved the award however Post Commander Harold Schlender was unable to attend to receive his award.



State Commander Doug Whitaker was presented with his Commander certificate from National by Keith Harman.



State Golf Chairman Joe Smith presented Commander Doug Whitaker with a check for \$3,000. for the van fund. Pertinent reports were made on Youth Programs and the dates for the visits to the Hospitals. Bottom photo, Past State Commanders Mike Medina and Bernie Brosnihan were presented with Admiralships.



Saunders County Veterans Memorial Dedication

Several members of the Wahoo VFW Post 4502 and Legion assisted in the recent Saunders County Veterans Memorial dedication on September 25th. Congressman Jeff Fortenberry attended and spoke at the event.



PATRIOT DAY EVENT IN LINCOLN

VFW Post and Auxiliary 3606 in Lincoln prepared a breakfast for the Patriot Day Flag lowering ceremony. Abate of Nebraska motorcycle club lowered the flag. Matt Jones reminded us of the sacrifices made and the honor guard gave the 21 gun salute with taps.



Reminder....

The deadline for student entries for the Voice of Democracy and Patriot's Pen competition is November 1st. The theme for the Voice of Democracy this year is "My Responsibility To America" and is open for students in grades 9-12. The National winner will receive a \$30,000 scholarship. The Patriot's Pen theme for this year is "The America I Believe In" and is open to grades 6-8. The National winner will receive a \$5,000 award.



Sponsorship Needed For These Competitions

We would like to be able to present awards to all 10 District VOD winners and the top 3 District winners of the Patriot's Pen. We need your help to make this happen. You can be recognized personally, as an organization, or as a memorial donation. Last year we were able to award a total of \$8,900 to these 13 students. Sponsoring these programs enables us to reward these students for their love of country and support these programs that are so important to the VFW.



50 Year Member Awards

VFW Post 5637 in Fort Calhoun honored 3 fifty year members. On October 1st the District 7 Commander and the Post Commander presented the awards. Pictured left to right are Paul Schuler, Jerome Halladay with 50 year members Gene Smith, Charles Hawkins and Gayle Maine.



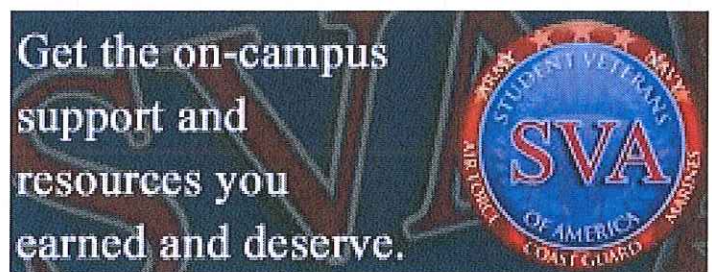
The Auxiliary to Post 247 in Omaha donated bingo balls to the Eastern Nebraska Veterans Home. Presenting them is Auxiliary president Christine Hennarty on the right.

November is Veterans in the Classroom Month and National Veterans Awareness Week is November 6th through the 12th.

I know many of our members go into the classroom to promote Americanism, safety, and other initiatives promoted by the VFW, including their own service to our country. Please recognize them for their dedication to educating America's youth by notifying Department Headquarters.



A video documentary crew is seeking combat-wounded veterans who returned home to farm or ranch in rural America. Contact Mike Schrader at 720-283-4317 or mschrader@moxiecca.com if interested. The film is being underwritten by CoBank.



The membership team visited Kimball Post 2243 on September 7th thru the 10th to meet with the Post and work membership. Following that visit, a nice article appeared in the paper. Eight new members were recruited and a new Commander and Quartermaster were elected. That visit resulted in a 19 percent increase in membership for the post. The roster now spans 4 generations of veterans.

Calendar of Events

November 2016

- 1 20 Questions to Department
- 1 Inspection- 100% District
- 1 VOD and Patriot Pen Entry to Post Level
- 5 Medal of Honor Wall Dedication Ceremony at the Heartland of America Park, 800 Douglas Street Omaha NE at 2:00.
- 10 6 Month Community Service Report (May to October) first report.
- 10,11,12 Membership Recruiting Offutt AFB
- 13 Dist 6 Mtg in Beatrice at Post 1077 at 1:00 pm. Auxiliary same time and place. Pot luck following meeting.
- 15 Patriot Pen and VOD to District Level

December 2016

- 3 Eastern Nebraska Veterans Home Christmas Party 1:30 pm 12505 S 40th Bellevue NE 68123
- 4 VA Medical Center Omaha Christmas Party 1:30 pm 404 Woolworth Ave Omaha NE 68105
- 9 Lincoln Regional Center Christmas Party 10:00 am 801 Prospector Place Building 5 Lincoln NE 68522
- 11 Grand Island VA Medical Center Christmas Party 2:00 pm 2201 N Broadwell Ave Grand Island NE 68803
- 13 Patriots Pen and VOD Entry to Department
- 13 Patriots Pen and VOD Summaries to Department
- 14,15,16 Membership Recruiting Offutt AFB

January 2017

- (T-3) Trustee Quarterly report to Department (Oct 1 to Dec 31)
- 1 Cut off (Mid Winter Conference February 2-4, 2017)
- 1 Top Membership District Commander Mid-Winter
- 1 Inspection 100% District
- 1 Public Servants Award (EMT;Firefighter;Law) to Department
- 16 Final deadline 20 Questions to Department

October Calendar Winners

1	\$40.00	Tony	Hartman	225
2	\$40.00	Donna Sullivan	for the VFW	2664
3	\$40.00	Cory	Parr	2819
4	\$40.00	Peggy	Kuser	2457
5	\$40.00	Auburn Insurance Service		2450
6	\$40.00	Laverne	Herzinger	3768
7	\$40.00	Laverne	Schneider	201
8	\$40.00	Sophie	Knudsen	2481
9	\$40.00	Gerald	Hubbard	1376
10	\$40.00	Alisa	Uhing	4185
11	\$40.00	Tammy	Schroeder	3781
12	\$40.00	George	Olsen	3730
13	\$40.00	Steve	Lammers	3726
14	\$40.00	Janet	Bridges	4025
15	\$40.00	William Dean	Marr	4524
16	\$40.00	Doug	Harbottle	3948
17	\$40.00	John	Cotton	4065
18	\$40.00	Gerald	Hubbard	1376
19	\$40.00	Donna Sullivan	for the VFW	2658
20	\$40.00	Bernie	Brosnihan	4525
21	\$40.00	Mike	Wescom	1526
22	\$40.00	Brad	Martindale	269
23	\$40.00	Paula	Waterfield	2535
24	\$40.00	Burtons Bend Post 9357	% Glen Monter	4384
25	\$40.00	Doris	Krepel	3708
26	\$40.00	Dennis	Cetak	773
27	\$40.00	Kent	Exstrom	2872
28	\$40.00	Nichole	DeGeorge	2996
29	\$40.00	Brett	Welding	185
30	\$40.00	Mary	Nichels	752
31	\$40.00	Cheryl	Teel	3050



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



We have calendars.

\$16,000 in cash to win! Please contact Department Headquarters to get yours today at 402-464-0674.

The raffle gives you multiple chances to win. They also make great gifts!

Thank you volunteers!

The Department of Nebraska VFW has already logged 14,486. volunteer hours for this calendar year beginning July 1st. It is because of you that nobody does more for veterans.



Department membership as of October 14th

State	Post	Dst	Life	New	Reinst	Cont	Total	Adjusted Prior Year	Percent
District Totals		1	468	17	4	67	556	635	87.55%
District Totals		3	1153	1	1	153	1308	1479	88.43%
District Totals		4	874	2	1	101	978	1155	84.67%
District Totals		6	1010	5	1	148	1164	1402	83.02%
District Totals		7	794	3	0	146	943	1128	83.59%
District Totals		9	1433	11	2	228	1674	1950	85.84%
District Totals		10	3383	44	18	381	3826	4496	85.09%
District Totals		11	861	3	0	123	987	1150	85.82%
District Totals		13	980	5	1	103	1089	1187	91.74%
District Totals		15	717	2	0	79	798	916	87.11%
District Totals		99	698	13	13	93	817	1070	76.35%
State Totals			12371	106	41	1622	14140	16568	85.34%