



NEBRASKA VFW NEWS



Department of Nebraska Newsletter

September 2016

Omaha National Cemetery Dedication Ceremony

Hundreds of veterans gathered at Sumter Amphitheatre on August 5th for the ceremony. The 236 acre cemetery will serve as a place to celebrate and mourn eligible Veterans and their spouses. The property purchased by the VA in December of 2012 will become the second national cemetery in Nebraska. The keynote speaker was the Secretary of Veterans Affairs Robert McDonald, he is pictured below addressing the group. Also speaking at the ceremony were Governor Pete Ricketts; U.S. Representatives from Nebraska Adrian Smith, Jeff Fortenberry and Brad Ashford; U.S. Senators Ben Sasse and Deb Fischer and the Director of the Omaha National Cemetery Cindy VanBibber.



Included in the audience representing the VFW are (left to right) State Chief of Staff Sam DeJohn, State Adjutant/Quartermaster John Liebsack, Publicity Chairman Marty Reimenschneider and State Webmaster Steven Youngberg. The Patriot riders displayed the flag at the event.





VFW AUXILIARY

UNWAVERING SUPPORT FOR UNCOMMON HEROES®

ESTABLISHED SEPTEMBER 14TH 1914, MEMBERS OF THE VETERANS OF FOREIGN WARS OF THE UNITED STATES AUXILIARY SET OUT TO SERVE THE VETERANS OF THIS COUNTRY AND OUR COMMUNITIES IN HONOR OF THE SACRIFICES AND COMMITMENT OF EVERY MAN AND WOMAN WHO HAS SERVED IN UNIFORM. THE VFW AUXILIARY IS ONE OF THE NATION'S OLDEST VETERANS' SERVICE ORGANIZATIONS AND OUR MEMBERS ARE THE RELATIVES OF THOSE WHO HAVE SERVED IN OVERSEAS COMBAT. WE HAVE NEARLY 470,000 MEMBERS IN MORE THAN 4,000 AUXILIARIES NATIONWIDE WHO VOLUNTEER MILLIONS OF HOURS AND FUNDRAISE MILLIONS OF DOLLARS FOR CHARITABLE PROJECTS THAT BENEFIT VETERANS, MILITARY SERVICE PERSONNEL AND THEIR FAMILIES.

THROUGH OUR NATIONAL PROGRAMS, WE ASSIST THE VFW PASS OR BLOCK LEGISLATION THAT IMPACTS VETERANS AND THEIR FAMILIES, PROVIDE NEARLY A MILLION VOLUNTEER HOURS IN THE VA MEDICAL SYSTEM, CONDUCT PATRIOTIC PROGRAMS WITH THOUSANDS OF STUDENTS AND OFFER HUNDREDS OF THOUSANDS OF DOLLARS IN SCHOLARSHIPS FOR OUR NATION'S YOUTH.



Auxiliary #1347 members worked the Veterans Appreciation Day at the Nebraska State Fair. Pictured left to right is Billie Herron, LaVonne Catron, Jean Seeley and Lori Skala. Not pictured is Pat Gieger.

Larry Gerlt Sr. Vice Commander and Membership Chairman



Do you have an auxiliary? If not, do you want one? Why should you want one? An auxiliary is an important part of a post. Why? When both spouses are involved, they are more likely to stay active. Many of the "extras" are done by your auxiliary: Commander's Book, Community Service Book, Poppy Displays, to name a few. An Auxiliary can't exist without an "owning" post. If your post folds, so does your auxiliary. Membership retention and recruiting is essential to the existence of both. My post auxiliary folded before I became a member of it. We have just finished re-instituting it and that takes nearly as much work as starting a new post. If you have an auxiliary, protect it and help it grow. If you don't have one, consider starting one – it will improve the prospect for your post's future as there will be more drive for retaining your post, not to mention the increased program participation by your post with their help. Now that males can be members of the Auxiliary, you have a significantly increased pool to recruit from!

OUR VISION: Ensure that veterans are respected for their service, always receive their earned entitlements, and are recognized for the sacrifices they and their loved ones have made on behalf of this great country.



Always a Good Time to Recruit

While recruiting at the Omaha National Cemetery Dedication Ceremony, Certified National Recruiter and State Senior Vice Commander Larry Gerlt (top photo) and State Recruiter Bill Robinson (bottom photo) were presented Vietnam Commemorative Pins by Phil Waite from the Veterans Administration.



New Auxiliary in Omaha

ON August 30th a new auxiliary was instituted at Deml Kopietz Post 2704. Organizer and Department Auxiliary Conductress Bonnie Gerlt performed the institution ceremony. Installation of Auxiliary Officers was performed by State Senior-Vice Commander Larry Gerlt. Post 2704 Commander Matthew Whitaker and Chaplain Frank Durham were present as well. Teri Durham was sworn in as President, Trudy Zellmer as Secretary/Treasurer, Pamela Christensen as Chaplain/Trustee, Arden Gerlt as Conductor, Jason Gerlt as Guard and Chuck Walls as Trustee. 15 months is all it took from the day the post decided to have an auxiliary until it becoming a reality. 5 ½ years ago the post was reorganized with the help of Larry Gerlt and four WWII and Korean War Veterans. Since reorganization, the post has earned All State four times (to include QM & Commander being Captains of the All State Team) and All American once. They would like to welcome the newest brothers and sisters into the VFW fold.



**Sr. Vice Commander
in Chief
Keith Harman
Assigned to Homecoming
and Fall Council**



Keith E. Harman was elected Senior Vice Commander-In-Chief of the Veterans of Foreign Wars on July 27, 2016, at the 117th VFW National Convention in Charlotte, N.C.

Keith served in the U. S. Army from 1967 to 1969. He served in Vietnam as a crew chief and door gunner on UH-1 Huey helicopters. His decorations include the Air Medal, Vietnam Service Medal with two bronze service stars, Vietnam Campaign Medal, Republic of Vietnam Gallantry Cross with Palm Unit Citations, and the Aircraft Crewmember Badge.

Keith joined the VFW in 1983 at Post 3035 in Delphos, Ohio, where he is a Gold Legacy life member. He has served in elected and appointed positions at Post, District and Department levels, culminating with his election as commander of the VFW Department of Ohio in 2004, where he achieved All-American status. On the national level, he has served on several committees, including chairman of the National Veterans Service Committee.

He is a life member of the VFW National Home, Military Order of the Cootie, AMVETS, Disabled American Veterans, Vietnam Veterans of America, and a member of American Legion and Alpha Troop Alumni Association.

Keith attended Griffin Jr. College and Kansas State Teachers College. He is retired with 22 years of service as a county veterans' service officer.

He and his wife, Mary Lou, make their home in Delphos, Ohio. They have two children, Adam and Keri, and five grandchildren.

**Also Assigned to Fall Meeting,
Our Own Donna Fenske
National District Council Member #21**

Donna Fenske of Fremont represents Nebraska and Minnesota on the National Council of Administration, which governs the Auxiliary to the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States between National Conventions. Installed at the 102nd National Convention in Pittsburgh, she is serving a two-year term as one of 28 representatives who make up the Council along with the top seven National Officers, the National Chief of Staff and the four Junior Past National Presidents.

A life member of Larson-Peterson Auxiliary #854, she has served in many capacities for the organization including Auxiliary, District and State President. She joined on the eligibility of her husband, who served in the United States Navy in Evacuation of Saigon March 1973 and Operation Desert Storm Operation Desert Shield 1990-1991.

In her spare time she enjoys traveling and spending time with her family.

Donna's family includes husband Dale, four children and six grandchildren.





Johnson County Veterans Parade

Participating in the parade is Syracuse VFW Post 5547 and the Syracuse American Legion. The parade was held on the final day of the Johnson County Fair in Tecumseh on Sunday August 21st. Organizing the veterans parade was VFW Post 8221 Tecumseh Commander Tom Rother.

Recruiting at Yellow Ribbon Event

Jim Rall from VFW Post 3606 in Lincoln and Parliamentarian Jim Pierce did some recruiting at the Cornhusker Marriott on August 20th. Pictured below is Jim Rall, Bonnie Bessler with the National Guard and Jim Pierce.



Thank You General Dynamics

General Dynamics continues to show support for veterans and the VFW. Presenting an appreciation award to Diane Forrest is Dan Petersen and Adjutant/Quartermaster John Liebsack. General Dynamics is a global aerospace and defense company. General Dynamics shows its commitment and respect for the men and women in uniform who bravely defend and secure our freedoms. Last year they committed to hiring 5,000 veterans and military spouses over the next 5 years. They provide funding, volunteers and special programs to support the military, veterans and their families.

**Fall Council of Administration and Homecoming
DEPARTMENT OF NEBRASKA, VETERANS OF FOREIGN WARS
OCTOBER 7th and 8th
ORD VETERAN'S CLUB
AT 246 S 15TH ST; ORD, NE**



FRIDAY, OCTOBER 7TH

5:00 P.M. Social time

6:30 P.M. Homecoming dinner at the Ord Veteran's Club
Music and dancing to follow

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 8TH

9:00 A.M to 10 Council opening session with Question and answer session with candidates for Jr. Vice Commander 2019-2020 Jesse Jones and Matthew "Fritz" Mihelcic

11:45 to 1:00 Lunch available at the Veteran's Club

1:00 to 2:45 Reconvene VFW meeting

2:45 to 3:00 Break

3:00 to 4:30 Resume Meeting

Calendar of Events

September 2016

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. **Rep: Bernie Brosnihan**

18 Dist 11 Mtg in Pleasanton Post 9481 to host at Community Center at 2:00. \$1.00 reg fee.

evening lunch, Auxiliary same time and place.

Rep: Harold Schlender

18 Dist 4 Mtg in North Platte at Post 1504 at 1:00 pm CDT. Noon lunch.

Auxiliary same time and place. **Rep: Dan Kramer**

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

Rep: Dan Peterson

25 Dist 15 Mtg in Columbus Post 3704 to host at 2:00 pm. Lunch will be served. Auxiliary same time and place. **Rep: John Iossi**

25 Dist 13 Mtg in Kearney at Post 759 at 2:00 pm. Auxiliary same time and place. Snack/lunch

To follow. **Rep: Mike Medina**

October 2016

(T-2) Trustee Quarterly Report to Department (July 1 to Sept 30)

7-8 VFW Fall Conference & Homecoming Cobblestone Inn & Suites 127 Trotter Ave. Ord NE.

9 Dist 10 Mtg in Omaha Post 2503 to host at 2:00. Auxiliary same time and place. **Rep: Larry Gerlt**

16 Dist 1 Mtg in Gering 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. **Rep:**

Larry Gerlt

November 2016

1 20 Questions to Department

1 VOD and Patriot Pen Entry to Post Level

10 6 Month Community Service Report (May to October) first report.

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

September Calendar Winners

| | | | | |
|----|----------|------------------------|---------------|------|
| 1 | \$40.00 | Gary | Weiler | 2431 |
| 2 | \$40.00 | Tim | Beck | 2930 |
| 3 | \$40.00 | George | Grillo | 4545 |
| 4 | \$40.00 | Jim | Gallagher | 3356 |
| 5 | \$40.00 | Joyce | Medina | 1021 |
| 6 | \$40.00 | Nathan | Cheek | 2882 |
| 7 | \$40.00 | Elaine | Moore | 3967 |
| 8 | \$40.00 | Iva | Carlson | 1405 |
| 9 | \$40.00 | Jene | Custer | 3534 |
| 10 | \$40.00 | David | Wesely | 3677 |
| 11 | \$100.00 | Arlen | Osterbuhr | 2933 |
| 12 | \$40.00 | Brad | Farr | 4381 |
| 13 | \$40.00 | Kathy | Thielen | 4852 |
| 14 | \$40.00 | Karen | Palmer | 4174 |
| 15 | \$40.00 | Tom | Meis | 1524 |
| 16 | \$40.00 | Michael | Clark | 4968 |
| 17 | \$40.00 | Rich & Bea | Pehsick | 774 |
| 18 | \$40.00 | Paul | O'Brien | 4932 |
| 19 | \$40.00 | Mae | Lund | 3789 |
| 20 | \$40.00 | Delbert | Kunkee | 3532 |
| 21 | \$40.00 | Fred | Shotkoski | 782 |
| 22 | \$40.00 | Gary | Dasher | 3742 |
| 23 | \$40.00 | Jim | Rall | 90 |
| 24 | \$40.00 | Rick | Lengeduzzi | 358 |
| 25 | \$40.00 | Burtens Bend Post 9357 | % Glen Monter | 4388 |
| 26 | \$40.00 | Pam | Hill | 4947 |
| 27 | \$40.00 | Dave | Bunger | 2950 |
| 28 | \$40.00 | Karen | Huettmann | 3767 |
| 29 | \$100.00 | VFW Post 1077 | | 2722 |
| 30 | \$40.00 | Lanny & Mary | Burr | 2458 |



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

Homecoming

PLAN TO ATTEND AND CELEBRATE WITH COMMANDER DOUG AND PRESIDENT SUE. ANYONE STILL IN NEED OF A ROOM FOR HOMECOMING AND FALL COUNCIL, CALL THE AIRPORT MOTEL AT 308-728-3649.



Visit us on the web

www.vfwne.com



Membership as of September 1st, 2016

| State | Post | Dst | Life | New | Reinst | Cont | Total | Adjusted Prior Year | Percent |
|-----------------|------|-----|------|-----|--------|------|-------|---------------------|---------|
| District Totals | | 1 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 46 | 47 | 637 | 7.37% |
| District Totals | | 3 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 113 | 114 | 1486 | 7.67% |
| District Totals | | 4 | 0 | 1 | 1 | 77 | 79 | 1164 | 6.78% |
| District Totals | | 6 | 0 | 3 | 0 | 104 | 107 | 1409 | 7.59% |
| District Totals | | 7 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 103 | 104 | 1132 | 9.18% |
| District Totals | | 9 | 0 | 7 | 1 | 166 | 174 | 1964 | 8.85% |
| District Totals | | 10 | 0 | 28 | 7 | 280 | 315 | 4508 | 6.98% |
| District Totals | | 11 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 84 | 85 | 1158 | 7.34% |
| District Totals | | 13 | 0 | 4 | 1 | 82 | 87 | 1195 | 7.28% |
| District Totals | | 15 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 54 | 55 | 921 | 5.97% |
| District Totals | | 99 | 0 | 7 | 1 | 72 | 80 | 1072 | 7.46% |
| State Totals | | | 0 | 54 | 12 | 1181 | 1247 | 16646 | 7.49% |