



The Navigator

Stay on Course for Our Veterans

VFW Auxiliary

Department of Nebraska

August 2017

Dear Members,

The year began in an explosion of activity! We need to remember that we are all members of this organization for the same reason, to honor and support our veterans and their families.

We cannot accomplish this mission without working together! Each and every member of this organization has something to offer regardless of age, health concerns, or jobs, whether it knowledge, time or a special talent. We need one another to be successful. Yes, we have a mission to accomplish and maintain for future generations, so let's put aside personality conflicts, petty differences, personal gain, and bitterness to work for the greater good of our Auxiliaries, our Department, but most of all our veterans and their families!

Let's always remember to be patient and kind to one another. I understand that people do not always see eye to eye and personalities clash, but as sisters and brothers of the Auxiliary, we owe one another courtesy and respect especially in our meetings.

Our membership year is up and running and I hope that everyone has their dues reminders mailed out. Let's make 100% early this year. We have been so close the past couple of years and I know that we can do it!

We will soon begin traveling across the state training on the new MALTA membership system. PLEASE make sure every Treasurer and President knows they are highly encouraged to attend a session in your area. These trainings are open to all members and the more people who attend and learn about the new system the better.

Hope to see many of you at School of Instruction on Saturday, August 5th at 9:00 a.m. in Seward.

Loyally,

Carol Brosnihan

LEGISLATIVE

Many of our members have just returned from National Convention. There are lots of changes, but one thing that hasn't changed are the goals of our Legislative program.

They are to keep members up-to-date on all issues and pending bills relating to veterans, and hold the legislators accountable for promises to our veterans.

How can we help do this?? A few simple ways are to write letters to our Representatives, contact them by phone or fax, email them, or take part in a town hall meeting.

School of Instruction is August 5, 2017, in Seward and I hope to see a "Representative" from each Auxiliary there. (Did you notice my pun?)

Please don't wait to send in your reports, send them each month if you can. The more you send the better we are helping our veterans and families, now and in the future.

Vicki Luebbe

YOUTH ACTIVITIES

Auxillaries can sponsor any youth group and encourage the youth to get involved in any programs to honor our veterans or help with active-duty military. A few examples of youth groups your Auxillary could work with are school clubs, home-school associations, youth sport teams, and after-school programs.

Summer is ending soon and school starting is right around the corner. Now is the time to start going into schools to see what the youth can do to help our veterans.

Let's get busy this year, stay on course and catch the dream for our veterans. Don't forget to promote Youth Activities each and every day!

Katlyn Abboud

MALTA TRAINING SCHEDULE (all times are CDT unless noted otherwise)

- August 5 in Seward at School of Instruction
- August 7 at VFW Post 8334 Millard (1:00—3:00 p.m.)
- August 8 at VFW Post 1644 Norfolk (10:00 a.m.—12:00 p.m.)
- August 8 at VFW Post 926 O'Neill (3:00—5:00 p.m.)
- August 9 at Senior Center Valentine (10:00 a.m.—12:00 p.m.)
- August 9 at Senior Center Chadron (2:00—4:00 p.m.) MDT
- August 10 at VFW Post 1681 Gering (9:00—10:30 a.m.) MDT
- August 10 at VFW Post 1504 North Platte (3:30—5:30 p.m.)
- August 11 at VFW Post 1347 Grand Island (10:00 a.m.—12:00 p.m.)
- August 11 at VFW Post 1077 Beatrice (2:00—5:00 p.m.) District 6 meeting

AMERICANISM

The colors of red, white and blue are seen when flying the American Flag on street corners, homes, businesses, schools, churches, etc. The Patriotic Instructor and Auxiliary members can take the lead to see that everyone has an American flag and knows the pledge to the flag.

In August make plans to visit schools to present an Americanism program. When presenting a program you might give pencils with the Pledge of Allegiance, pens, rulers with our Presidents, and special citations to school children for saying the Pledge of Allegiance. We must not forget youth groups in our communities. If the school does not have a flag, provide one for each classroom.

Reach out to everyone so they know that freedom is not free. It was made possible by the sacrifices of our veterans - veterans who fought under the American flag. When we talk and look at the flag, we are looking at the magnificent history of all Americans - our ancestors. America is the most enduring nation of free people that has ever existed.

Promote patriotism, nominate an outstanding teacher for the Smart-Maher National Teacher award (due October 31 at Post level), observe patriotic holidays, plan a Family Freedom Festival, etc. are some suggestions for the Americanism program.

Americanism can be summed up in five words: PATRIOTISM - *the love of our flag*; AMERICANISM - *the love of America*; HEROISM - *our veterans made many sacrifices for us*; DUTY - *our pledge to remember American's veterans*; FAITHFULNESS - *keeping patriotism alive*.

Come to Seward on August 5th for the school of instruction and hear all the program chairmen present their program in a new way.

Eleanor Pacas

NATIONAL SCHOLARSHIPS

Welcome to August, the month that most kids go back to school. This is the perfect time to get into the schools and promote the Voice of Democracy and Patriot's Pen essay (scholarship) contests. All entries for both of these contests need to be received at the post level by October 31, 2017, at midnight.

The Patriot's Pen essay contest is open to youth in 6th-8th grades and is a 300-400 word essay with the theme America's Gift to My Generation. The Voice of Democracy oral essay contest is open to kids in 9th-12th grade with the theme American History: Our Hope for the Future.

I am challenging all Auxiliary members to write an essay once again this year, using the Patriot's Pen theme of "America's Gift to My Generation." Please send your essays to me by mail or email by December 31st.

Loyally,

Kim Abboud

GOLD STAR AND CHAPLAIN

Greetings to all brothers and sisters. I hope everyone had a safe and happy 4th of July. Also, how did you enjoy School of Instruction? If I had some information that some of you might need more of, please let me know and I will send some out to you.

Now for my "Featured" Gold Star member. I think all of us know Iva Carlson, but I for one did not know her story of how she became a Gold Star member. Here is what she shared with me.

"My brother's name was Pfc. Douglas J. Winchell Jr. He was killed in Vietnam on February 22, 1969, while I was a senior in high school. He had just been home for Christmas and it was hard to imagine he would not be there for another Christmas. At first I had a lot of things on my mind with graduation coming so I tried not to think about what it all meant. I remember how hard it was for my parents, especially my Dad. He mentioned once that just a few days before getting the news, he had a strong feeling that Jim (my brother) was calling for him.

I joined the VFW Auxiliary in 1971 as a way of trying to honor his memory. At the time, I did not think I would have much time to be involved, but as you can see, I was wrong!

When I visited the Vietnam Wall, I knew I had done the right thing by being a part of the VFW Auxiliary, and I can only hope my big brother knows how proud I am of him and what he did for his country. I am also proud of my Dad, a veteran of WWII and Korea, and my son who served in Desert Storm."

Thank you Iva for sharing your memories with us.

If anyone has a story you would like to share as a Gold Star member, please let me know.

Bonnie Gerlt

Care and Concern

I just received word from Past Department President Milrae Kruse that she suffered a massive heart attack on March 29. She was airlifted and spent time in intensive care before receiving a pacemaker and defibrillator. She continues to recuperate at home. If you would like to send Milrae a card or note, her address is: 209 Grandview Drive, Ozark, AL 46460. I'm sure she would appreciate knowing that the members in Nebraska are thinking of her.

SCHOOL OF INSTRUCTION

SATURDAY, AUGUST 5, 2017

SEWARD CIVIC CENTER

9:00 A.M.—4:00 P.M.

DEPARTMENT SCHOLARSHIP

Well here we go, off on your chartered course, ready to set sail for parts near and far. Ready to reach the goals we have set for the new year. Do you have your map and compass in hand so we don't lose our way? This will be a fun adventure so let's get on board for smooth sailing.

First thing I want to let you know is the results of the 50/50 raffle - With the help of all of the Aux and individuals who bought tickets we split \$910.00 and Auxiliary 5767 Wisner was the winner of \$455 and Department Scholarship fund gained \$455. Thank you all for making this a successful venture.

August 6th is fast approaching and I hope you are all planning on coming to Seward for the School of Instruction. All of the chairman will have lots of information on this year's programs so don't miss out on the chance to get everything you need to chart your course for a final destination of great things for our veterans.

School will be starting before you know it so it isn't too soon to start thinking about getting scholarship forms ready to get to the people who will be needing them. Let's see how many applications we can get for the committee to have to go through to choose the winners. I will have the 50/50 raffle again this year so we can add to the funds and watch our program grow.

If anyone has questions my phone # and email are in the book and I will help you anyway I can.

Now let's "STAY ON COURSE FOR OUR VETERANS" and have a great adventure along the way.

Iva Carlson

A Note or Two from your Department Secretary

I've included the change form that your Auxiliary will use if the President, Secretary, or Treasurer changes their name, address, phone number, or email; if you need to let us know that there has been a change of officer; or if your Auxiliary has changed the amount of your dues. President's please hand the form you received in the mailing to your Secretary so she can file it away and then you'll have 2 copies and not excuses not to get the information to us. DO NOT wait until next April to tell us your President has moved and the Sr. Vice was elected to take her place or one of your 3 officers has unfortunately passed away and someone new has been elected. We don't know what is going on in your Auxiliary if you don't let us know.

August 5 is the School of Instruction in Seward and your Auxiliary has received a letter by now announcing the schedule for Treasurer Sandee's trip across the state to teach everyone about the new M.A.L.T.A. computer system at National. Please try to attend one of these trainings (know I will need to as well.)

Be sure that you have gotten the 2017-18 bond for your President and Treasurer. The information is no longer mailed to you. If you are having trouble getting it paid, please contact Department Treasurer Sandee and she will be able to assist you.

After reading through the Department President's article I hope that many of you will pay close attention to her words. Our Auxiliary membership numbers are dwindling in Nebraska and it is time to come together and work for the good of our veterans and their families.

As I was sitting at the Century Link Center last night with a few (thousand) of my closest friends, my dear friend Sir Paul McCartney sang the song *We Can Work It Out* and there is one line in it that really says it all....*Life is very short, and there's no time, For fussing and fighting, my friend.* And you know what? He hit the nail right on the head. Go back to your Auxiliary meetings and if you've had a difference of opinion with another member, put that difference behind you and move forward. If you have to be the bigger person and make the first move to getting everyone back on the same page. Everyone makes mistakes. We all know how short life is and *We Can Work It Out* if we only give it a try. You're all out there trying to bring new members into your Auxiliary, but if I were the new member and got a bad taste in my mouth from all the bickering and fighting I wouldn't want to come back. Now I'll get off my soapbox.

I know when it's hot and humid we don't want to be out and about but I hope that all of you are working hard to get all your members to pay their dues now. Just think how nice it will be when your Auxiliary has gotten 100% of their membership.

October 6-7 will be here before we know it. That is the weekend we celebrate President Carol and Commander Larry at their Homecoming in Omaha. Come join the fun and stay for our Fall Conference meeting on Saturday. Our chairmen can be a wealth of information and always have great ideas to share.

If you need anything please let me know. You can contact me via email (jeanbarton@windstream.net), snail mail (8100 Regent Drive/68507-3366), or give me a call (402-464-1586.) If you do call, be sure to leave a message.

Keep cool and we'll see you in Seward.

Jean

BACK

School



R U Healthy? Auxiliary To-Dos and Deadlines

What Your Auxiliary Needs to Do:

Election of Officers, and Delegates and Alternates chosen.

Installation Report forwarded to Department and National Headquarters.

Bond Application submitted for offices of President and Treasurer bonded with an indemnity company authorized by National Headquarters.

Itemized report of the financial and membership status of the VFW Auxiliary.

District Dues - Based on June 30 membership of prior year.

Audit Reports

Period 10/1-12/31 due by 1/31

Period 1/1 – 3/30 due by 4/30

Period 4/1 – 6/30 due by 7/31

Period 7/1 – 9/30 due by 10/31

Project, promotion and/or donation to each National Program. See the National Program Book for Key Goals, awards and more information.

Deadline:

- April
- May
- July
- 30 days after assuming the office of President
- September 30
- No later than the end of the month following the expiration of each calendar quarterly period
- March 15

30 days after assuming the office of President, an itemized report of the financial and membership status of the VFW Auxiliary will be given to the Post Commander, according to the National Bylaws.

Veterans of Foreign Wars Auxiliary
"In Fortitude and Loyalty"

OFFICER CHANGE OR CORRECTION

Auxiliary No. _____ Dept. of _____

Change from: _____
Name President, Secretary or Treasurer

Change to: _____
Name President, Secretary or Treasurer

Membership ID No. _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____

E-Mail: _____

Change of Annual Auxiliary Dues: from _____ to _____

.....This form is not to be used to report Annual Elections.

Copy to: VFW Auxiliary
National Headquarters
406 West 34th St., 10th Floor
Kansas City MO 64111

Phone: 816-561-8655
Fax: 816-931-4753

Copy to: Department Secretary
Jean Barton
8100 Regent Drive
Lincoln, NE 68507-3366