

# Family Matters

## Veterans: Our Family, Our Heroes

VFW Auxiliary

Department of Nebraska

August 2020

From Department Treasurer Sandee Bellows:

Bonds for the 2020-2021 year are due and payable from July 1 – August 31. The current bond is delinquent on September 1, 2020. If you are not on the computer and unable to pay your bond on-line through MALTA, please let me know right away. I have a couple options that will help your Auxiliary get it's 2020-2021 bond. I can send a paper bond form directly to your Treasurer, which she can fill out, write a check, get signatures, and mail to National Headquarters. An Auxiliary can now mail their check to me and I am allowed to pay their bond for them through MALTA.

Hello everyone,

Time seems to be going by rather quickly. It has been over a month since our June convention and it has been a very busy one for me, and as of July 1<sup>st</sup>, the 2020-2021 program year has begun, which says it is time for all Auxiliary members to get busy working the programs in your new program books. Be sure to read about the new program, Auxiliary Community Outreach. Program Chairman Liz Davis kindly accepted this challenge. All the chairmen will have information to share with you at School of Instruction. I highly encourage ALL Auxiliary Presidents and Treasurers to attend this meeting. If for some reason either one or both are not able to attend, other members are encouraged to come and learn about the programs and take back information to share with your Auxiliary. Everyone is welcome, the more the merrier.

As your President, I hope to visit with as many Auxiliaries I can. If you would like for me to attend a special dinner or event your Post or Auxiliary is having, let me know and I will do my best to be there. Upcoming events that will not only be informative, but also fun:

August 8<sup>th</sup>, 9:00 a.m.—4:00 p.m. School of Instruction, Seward. Seward VFW Post 4755 will be serving lunch.

October 2-3, 2020, Fall Conference and Commander Dan and President Bonnie's Homecoming in North Platte. More information included elsewhere in this newsletter.

October 16-18, 2020, Big Ten Conference. More information coming soon.

November 16-18, 2020, National Auxiliary President Sandra Onstwedder's visit to Nebraska. More information will be coming at a later date.

November 20, 2020, hoping to have the annual Stand Down in Omaha. I will be collecting donations for this any time.

As we continue our daily lives during these unprecedented times, remember: **VETERANS: OUR FAMILY, OUR HEROES.** Please reach out to those who may need our assistance.

God Bless and always BE KIND,

Bonnie Gerlt, Department President

### MEMBERSHIP

Greetings to all my Sisters and Brothers. I hope everyone had a safe and fun 4<sup>th</sup> of July.

It is summer time and some of us like to go fishing so as my South Dakota membership friend said let's go FISH - "*Fresh Ideas Start Here!*"

As the National Ambassador Marilyn said in her program, last year we changed our approach to the membership program and began to use the words: *Invite*, *Include*, and *Invest*, so I put them into my program. We believe those three words assist us in the recruiting efforts and help us to keep current members. When we invite new members and include them and all our current members, we invest in the future of the VFW Auxiliary. So, let's get some Membership Team Members together and Invite, Include, and Invest in our Auxiliary for our **Veterans: Our Family, Our Heroes**. "*TEAM — Together Everyone Achieves More.*" – **Author Unknown**. Like it says at the bottom of my program – if you need me, email me, or call me (please call my home number and leave me a message if I am not there.) I will do my best to help you and if I don't have the answer, I will find someone who does and get back to you. School of Instruction is Aug 8, 2020, and I hope to see you all in Seward.

Thank you. God's Blessings,

Vicki Luebbe

### GOLD STAR AND CHAPLAIN

Happy summer! Hope you are all staying cool. This Covid-19 has the majority of us staying close to home. Our older members don't get out as often. If your Gold Star member is alone and out of touch, make a point to stop by and say hi, see if they need anything or just call and let them know you are thinking of them. My local Gold Star sister will be 96 on July 19<sup>th</sup> and she is being honored with a birthday party. Any Gold Star member needs to be remembered often.

Chaplains - if you are new to the position or even if you have had the position for a while, make sure you are in control of the floor when approaching or leaving the Altar. If there is not total silence, stop and wait until there is silence and then continue. Hope to see you all at School of Instruction.

Carol Thompson

## MENTORING FOR LEADERSHIP

August is just around the corner. Membership and recruiting will be in full swing.

As mentor in your Auxiliary it is time to review with your sisters, brothers, and recruiters. Look around and ask your friends, family, volunteers, neighbors, and church groups who may have eligibility, to join our AUXILIARY. If you don't ask it is an automatic no.

School of Instruction is on August 8, 2020, in Seward. Membership chairman and Jr. Vice President Vicki Luebke and I will have an in-depth exercise on completing the membership application. We will go over what is needed and how to obtain the information.

At your next meeting do some role playing in recruiting. Give each member an application and the eligibility wheel and offer to help them fill out the application. Give them some guidelines on where and how to locate proof of eligibility.

Let me hear from you with suggestions or topics you would like to go over for mentoring.

VETERANS: OUR FAMILY, OUR HEROES.

Loyally,

Donna Fenske

## HISTORIAN/MEDIA RELATIONS

Congratulations to the newly appointed 2020-2021 National Historian/Media Relations Ambassador Nicole Koutz. She has suggested the following guidelines for Newsworthy and Photography tips:

### ASK YOURSELF:

- Does it help the community?
- Does it involve local people?
- Does it interest non-members?
- Is it timely?
- Is it unique and new?

### Photography Tips:

- Photos should be clear and sharp (in focus, not blurry)

### AVOID:

- Closed eyes
- Mouth open or full of food
- Distracting objects in the frame or awkward placement of people or things
- Offensive language on articles of clothing

Thanks to all Auxiliaries forwarding articles for the newsletter!

The President's Special Awards for Historian/Media Relations and Communications programs will be given out at the next Department of Nebraska event due to time limitations at the last meeting.

**NOTE REMINDER:** Please forward articles sent to Jody at Department as a copy to Judy Workman to be included for

participation credit in the Nebraska Historian/Media Relations programs.

You can make this a time to feature your Auxiliary, Post, and community activities supporting the veterans and families in Nebraska.

FAMILY MATTERS - be sure to report what your veterans and families are doing! You can email it to me at opusworkman@yahoo.com

Loyally,

Judy Workman

## HOSPITAL

I have already received two reports! The first came from the energetic Fremont Auxiliary #854. Member, Melissa Brown made 358 masks and donated them to the Children's Hospital in Omaha. Good job Fremont! And the second report, from Omaha #3421, came as an email! I was extremely excited to see this and I told Edith Kortus I would be bragging about her.

Question number 6 for the Hospital Year End Report asks: Did you use the Hospital Program Guide? Every Auxiliary will be able to mark yes for this question if they read the Department newsletter. Each month I will cover a section of the guide as we learn the Hospital Program together.

**Hospital Volunteers:** Any member in good standing can volunteer at a facility in the name of the VFW Auxiliary if that member has been approved by the Auxiliary to do so. Members can volunteer alone or in a group at any hospital.

**Sponsored Volunteers:** Nonmembers can volunteer under the VFW Auxiliary sponsorship if they are interviewed and screened. The sponsored volunteer is governed by the same ethics and rules prescribed for members.

**VFW Auxiliary Hospital Service Pins** are awarded by the National Organization. A VFW Auxiliary member in good standing who has volunteered a minimum of 150 hours in any hospital is eligible. Forms for ordering the pins and recognition awards are at [www.vfwAuxiliary.org](http://www.vfwAuxiliary.org) or by contacting the Program Awards Administrator at National Headquarters. I will have some at School of Instruction.

To print forms: Go to the VFW Auxiliary website, click on What We Do, click on Access Auxiliary Program and General Resource, scroll to Hospital, scroll to Application for VFW Auxiliary Hospital Service Pins.

Do this now so the pins can be awarded at a meeting and posted on Facebook. Win-win!

Synthia Stanoscheck

## LEGISLATIVE REPORT

August is here and it's time to think about county fairs and parades. How can we report on Legislative during this time? Have you ever had a politician walk by you at one of these events and hand you something? A sticker or if you are lucky a piece of candy. Take some of their time and tell them about your veterans and ask what they are going to do for them. Get to know who your representatives are and what they stand for. Sign up for VFW Action Corp Weekly. Find out what's going on nationally. Remember elections are coming up so prepare now to inform your area about the need to get out and vote. In my opinion, if you don't vote, you really don't have the right to say anything about anything, do you? I hope to see you at School of Instruction and get to know new people. If you have any questions, I'll do my best to answer them. Have a great month!!

Faithfully,

Barb Goebel

## NATIONAL SCHOLARSHIPS

SCHOOL WILL BE STARTING SOON! Not the school days most of us remember! I would like the National Scholarships to be at the schools as soon as possible. The school day will be different for all students so please go to your schools as soon as possible, keep in touch with the teachers and get an email address or phone number so you can reach those teachers easily. These are challenging times for teachers and students because of a possibility of online classes and some in-school classes. Teachers will not be spending as much time with their students to the time they will be spending will be limited to class work, so be organized, have all information in a folder and be sure the teacher has your email or phone number. Be sure to answer questions promptly.

Contact your local newspapers and see if they will help you get information about our scholarship programs in the newspaper. Be sure to give names and telephone numbers so you are available to answer questions.

USE ALL THE CRAYONS IN THE BOX! Hearing and speech impaired students should email the National Voice of Democracy office at [youthscholarships@vfw.org](mailto:youthscholarships@vfw.org) for special instructions.

You have my email address and phone number so contact me if you have questions.

At this time Families Matter so stay safe and be patient. This too, will pass but probably not as fast as we want it to!

Elizabeth Jane Petersen.

## VETERANS AND FAMILY SUPPORT

Wow! Here we are starting a new year of service to our veterans and their families. Some of you have come out of the gate running. I have received reports from 3 Auxiliaries already. Keep up the good work.

- We all know about the core parts of this program. There are 2 new parts this year: First is the National President's Special Project which is Combating Food Insecurity Among

our Nation's Military and their families.

- Second is Support for Veteran & Military Caregivers.

Read my program in the Program Book to learn more about these two new parts.

District assignments for the basket raffles are as follows:

Fall Conference (North Platte) 1, 4, & 13

Mid-Winter (Lincoln) 6, 9, & 15

Convention (Norfolk) 3, 7, 10, & 11

If you or your District is of a mind to, you can bring a basket to more than one.

Linda Hansen

## AMERICANISM

I have an exciting project for each of you that will help show your pride for flying our United States flag. More information will be introduced at our School of Instructions on Saturday, August 8, 2020, in Seward. I will also have the project put into our September *Family Matters* newsletter.

Today we need to reach out into our communities and teach others about our Flag history, respect for our Flag, Flag etiquette, and how to properly retire the Flag. Ways to do this include:

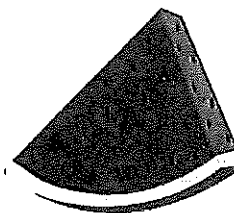
- ◇ Give out Patriotic certificates to businesses and individuals in your community who display the Flag.
- ◇ If you see a tattered or worn out Flag flying in your community, offer to replace it with a new one.
- ◇ Provide a community flag disposal receptacle to collect Flags that no longer be displayed.
- ◇ Ask a Boy Scout to help with the outdoor retirement ceremony.
- ◇ Invite your community to come learn a proper disposal of the Flag.

All these ways can be done with social distancing yourself with others. You still will be able to educate others about the importance of our nation's most prominent symbol and still share the great work our organization does to promote patriotism.

I hope to see many of you at our School of Instruction.

## VETERANS: OUR FAMILY, OUR HEROES

Linda Vogel



Watermelon Day is August 3.

ENJOY!

### *A note or two from your Department Secretary*

As we move forward with our new year, some of our pandemic restrictions have been listed but I beg each and every one of you do to what you can to protect yourself and others while still carrying out our programs to assist our veterans and their families.

Department Officers (elected and appointed) and Auxiliary Presidents: IF YOU HAVE NOT RECEIVED A PACKET FROM ME with your new Program Book, Roster, set of report forms, and certificates of participation from 2019-20, CONTACT ME IMMEDIATELY and I will make it right. Presidents received theirs by priority mail and I can track when they were delivered. PLEASE open them and look at all the information we've sent. Everything was sent without staples this year to allow for everything to be in one packet. Please share it with your members. It won't do anyone any good if you keep it to yourself.

District Presidents be sure to bring your white notebooks with you to School of Instruction in Seward. Don't take any of the pages out (except the report forms from 2019-20.) You will get the new ones in Seward. New District Presidents, if you have not yet received the notebook from your predecessor please ask them to get it to you before Seward. Department Officers please bring your notebooks as well so we can get them updated as well. If any of you have taken a page out and not copied and put the original back, please check the list in the front of the notebook and let me know ahead of time so I can get the pages you need to you.

**PLEASE**, if you have changed your address (President, Secretary, or Treasurer and other officers) use the enclosed form to report that change to me. I use bulk mailing to send our newsletters out each month to get all our information to you as inexpensively as possible, but when you don't change your address, I have to not only pay to send your newsletter, I have to pay for wrong addresses. And...I only have to ask for address corrections every three months so you may not get your newsletters if I don't have your correct address.

Secretaries I hope that you will keep your Auxiliary on top of their game by reminding your President of all the important information that needs to be addressed at your monthly meetings. If any of you have questions or concerns, please get in touch with me. I'm here to help you

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 on your programs to assist our veterans and their families and to get all your members to pay their dues now. Just think how nice it will be when your Auxiliary is 100% in membership.

If you need anything, please let me know. You can contact me via email ([jeanbarton@windstream.net](mailto:jeanbarton@windstream.net)), snail mail (8100 Regent Drive/68507-3366), or give me a call (402-464-1586.) If you do call and I'm not available at that moment, be sure to leave a message.

When the following shows up in the mailings, please make the change to your roster right away so you don't have to come to

me later and say your mail to an officer or chairman was returned. Also please let me know if something needs to be changed. I make mistakes ALL THE TIME and fortunately for me my friend Jane Nelson looks over Program Book and Roster before it is printed so you don't see all of them! ☺



#### **Roster Corrections/Additions/Changes:**

**Page 5: Patriotic Instructor: Linda Vogel Auxiliary 3602, 501 East Prospect, Norfolk 68701**

402-750-6487 [jlvogel73@gmail.com](mailto:jlvogel73@gmail.com)

**Page 7: Cheyenne VAMC, Pershing Road, Cheyenne, WY 82001**

**Chief of Voluntary Services: Barbara Sowin**

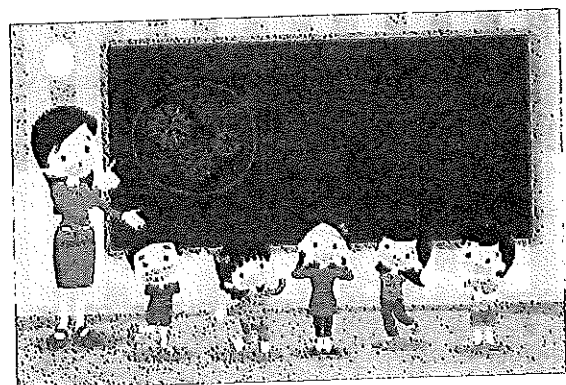
2360 E. Pershing Blvd., Cheyenne, WY 82001-5356

307-778-7317

**Page 18: Lepert-Wolever Auxiliary No. 2543, Plattsmouth**

Meeting day/time is 3<sup>rd</sup> Thursday at 2:00 p.m.

**Deadline for September Family Matters  
is August 14.**



**Schools are starting soon!!**

# Department of Nebraska VFW Auxiliary Memstats as of 7/24/2020

Auxiliary	Life New	Life Relin	Life Continuous	Annual New	Annual Relin	Annual Continuous	Total	Prior Total	Percentage
131	0	0	0	151	0	0	151	154	73.33 %
1609	0	0	0	11	0	0	11	29	60.42 %
3606	0	0	0	80	0	0	80	80	100.00 %
4502	0	0	0	74	0	0	74	74	100.00 %
4755	0	0	0	134	0	0	134	134	100.00 %
9776	0	0	0	26	0	0	26	36	69.44 %
Total - DNE09	0	0	0	476	0	0	476	507	73.27 %
247	0	0	0	41	0	0	41	41	100.00 %
2503	0	0	0	229	0	0	229	229	100.00 %
2543	0	0	0	73	0	0	73	73	100.00 %
2704	0	0	0	7	0	0	7	7	100.00 %
3421	0	0	0	24	0	0	24	24	100.00 %
8334	0	0	0	134	0	0	134	134	100.00 %
10727	0	0	0	64	0	0	64	85	55.81 %
Total - DNE10	0	0	0	572	0	0	572	593	56.48 %
1347	0	0	0	144	0	0	144	144	100.00 %
3576	0	0	0	27	0	0	27	27	100.00 %
4677	0	0	0	13	0	0	13	13	100.00 %
5820	0	0	0	14	0	0	14	20	55.71 %
6159	0	0	0	31	0	0	31	32	56.14 %
7029	0	0	0	180	0	0	180	180	100.00 %
8256	0	0	0	29	0	0	29	45	49.83 %
Total - DNE11	0	0	0	438	0	0	438	461	66.71 %
759	0	0	0	57	0	0	57	81	56.44 %
890	0	0	0	16	0	0	16	16	100.00 %
1346	0	0	0	67	0	0	67	67	100.00 %
5136	0	0	0	79	0	0	79	79	100.00 %
5539	0	0	0	48	0	0	48	48	100.00 %
5641	0	0	0	18	0	0	18	18	100.00 %
Total - DNE13	0	0	0	285	0	0	285	309	88.97 %
736	0	0	0	47	0	0	47	47	100.00 %
3704	0	0	0	61	0	0	61	61	100.00 %
4836	0	0	0	16	0	0	16	16	100.00 %
5814	0	0	0	10	0	0	10	10	100.00 %
Total - DNE15	0	0	0	134	0	0	134	134	100.00 %
NE	0	0	0	286	0	0	286	286	100.00 %
Total - NE	0	0	0	3431	0	0	3431	3621	61.10 %

Auxiliary	Life New	Life Relin	Life Continuous	Annual New	Annual Relin	Annual Continuous	Total	Prior Total	Percentage
131	0	0	0	151	0	0	151	154	73.33 %
1609	0	0	0	11	0	0	11	29	60.42 %
3606	0	0	0	80	0	0	80	80	100.00 %
4502	0	0	0	74	0	0	74	74	100.00 %
4755	0	0	0	134	0	0	134	134	100.00 %
9776	0	0	0	26	0	0	26	36	69.44 %
Total - DNE09	0	0	0	476	0	0	476	507	73.27 %
247	0	0	0	41	0	0	41	41	100.00 %
2503	0	0	0	229	0	0	229	229	100.00 %
2543	0	0	0	73	0	0	73	73	100.00 %
2704	0	0	0	7	0	0	7	7	100.00 %
3421	0	0	0	24	0	0	24	24	100.00 %
8334	0	0	0	134	0	0	134	134	100.00 %
10727	0	0	0	64	0	0	64	85	55.81 %
Total - DNE10	0	0	0	572	0	0	572	593	56.48 %
1347	0	0	0	144	0	0	144	144	100.00 %
3576	0	0	0	27	0	0	27	27	100.00 %
4677	0	0	0	13	0	0	13	13	100.00 %
5820	0	0	0	14	0	0	14	20	55.71 %
6159	0	0	0	31	0	0	31	32	56.14 %
7029	0	0	0	180	0	0	180	180	100.00 %
8256	0	0	0	29	0	0	29	45	49.83 %
Total - DNE11	0	0	0	438	0	0	438	461	66.71 %
759	0	0	0	57	0	0	57	81	56.44 %
890	0	0	0	16	0	0	16	16	100.00 %
1346	0	0	0	67	0	0	67	67	100.00 %
5136	0	0	0	79	0	0	79	79	100.00 %
5539	0	0	0	48	0	0	48	48	100.00 %
5641	0	0	0	18	0	0	18	18	100.00 %
Total - DNE13	0	0	0	285	0	0	285	309	88.97 %
736	0	0	0	47	0	0	47	47	100.00 %
3704	0	0	0	61	0	0	61	61	100.00 %
4836	0	0	0	16	0	0	16	16	100.00 %
5814	0	0	0	10	0	0	10	10	100.00 %
Total - DNE15	0	0	0	134	0	0	134	134	100.00 %
NE	0	0	0	286	0	0	286	286	100.00 %
Total - NE	0	0	0	3431	0	0	3431	3621	61.10 %

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9776	0	0	0	26	0	0	26	36	69.44 %
Total - DNE09	0	0	0	476	0	0	476	507	73.27 %
247	0	0	0	41	0	0	41	41	100.00 %
2503	0	0	0	229	0	0	229	229	100.00 %
2543	0	0	0	73	0	0	73	73	100.00 %
2704	0	0	0	7	0	0	7	7	100.00 %
3421	0	0	0	24	0	0	24	24	100.00 %
8334	0	0	0	134	0	0	134	134	100.00 %
10727	0	0	0	64	0	0	64	85	55.81 %
Total - DNE10	0	0	0	572	0	0	572	593	56.48 %
1347	0	0	0	144	0	0	144	144	100.00 %
3576	0	0	0	27	0	0	27	27	100.00 %
4677	0	0	0	13	0	0	13	13	100.00 %
5820	0	0	0	14	0	0	14	20	55.71 %
6159	0	0	0	31	0	0	31	32	56.14 %
7029	0	0	0	180	0	0	180	180	100.00 %
8256	0	0	0	29	0	0	29	45	49.83 %
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5641	0	0	0	18	0	0	18	18	100.00 %
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3704	0	0	0	61	0	0	61	61	100.00 %
4836	0	0	0	16	0	0	16	16	100.00 %
5814	0	0	0	10	0	0	10	10	100.00 %
Total - DNE15	0	0	0	134	0	0	134	134	100.00 %
NE	0	0	0	286	0	0	286	286	100.00 %
Total - NE	0	0	0	3431	0	0	3431	3621	61.10 %

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2704	0	0	0	7	0	0	7	7	100.00 %
3421	0	0	0	24	0	0	24	24	100.00 %
8334	0	0	0	134	0	0	134	134	100.00 %
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5136	0	0	0	79	0	0	79	79	100.00 %
5539	0	0	0	48	0	0	48	48	100.00 %
5641	0	0	0	18	0	0	18	18	100.00 %
Total - DNE13	0	0	0	285	0	0	285	309	88.97 %
736	0	0	0	47	0	0	47	47	100.00 %
3704	0	0	0	61	0	0	61	61	100.00 %
4836	0	0	0	16	0	0	16	16	100.00 %
5814	0	0	0	10	0	0	10	10	100.00 %
Total - DNE15	0	0	0	134	0	0	134	134	100.00 %
NE	0	0	0	286	0	0	286	286	100.00 %
Total - NE	0	0	0	3431	0	0	3431	3621	61.10 %

This is part of the "or two" notes from your Department Secretary:

**Officers, District Presidents, Chairmen**

PLEASE CHECK YOUR EMAIL OFTEN. We may have to make quick announcements without waiting until the next *Family Matters* comes out like we did this past year and we need you to be able to get those announcements right away.


District Presidents, we then have you get the message out to your Auxiliaries.

**Chairmen:**

I would also appreciate getting the articles for *Family Matters* via email. If you do not have the ability to attach a Word document, you can type it as you would a message to a friend in the body of your email.

Please **DO NOT** send a PDF document to me. I cannot convert them to Word and that means I re-type and reconfigure everything.

Please remember that you are encouraged to promote your program monthly in *Family Matters*. **(YOU MUST PROMOTE YOUR PROGRAM A MINIMUM OF FOUR (4) TIMES (mailed or emailed) THIS YEAR to your National Ambassador and you can use the *Family Matters* articles.)** A short paragraph or two is more likely to be read than a whole page.

Thank you so much! 

# Homecoming Dinner

Choice of Swiss Steak or Chicken Fried Steak  
House Salad, Roasted New Potatoes,  
Green Beans W/Bacon & Red Onions,  
Rolls W/Butter.

Coffee and Ice Tea

Brownies

\$12.50 per Person Cutoff date September 18th

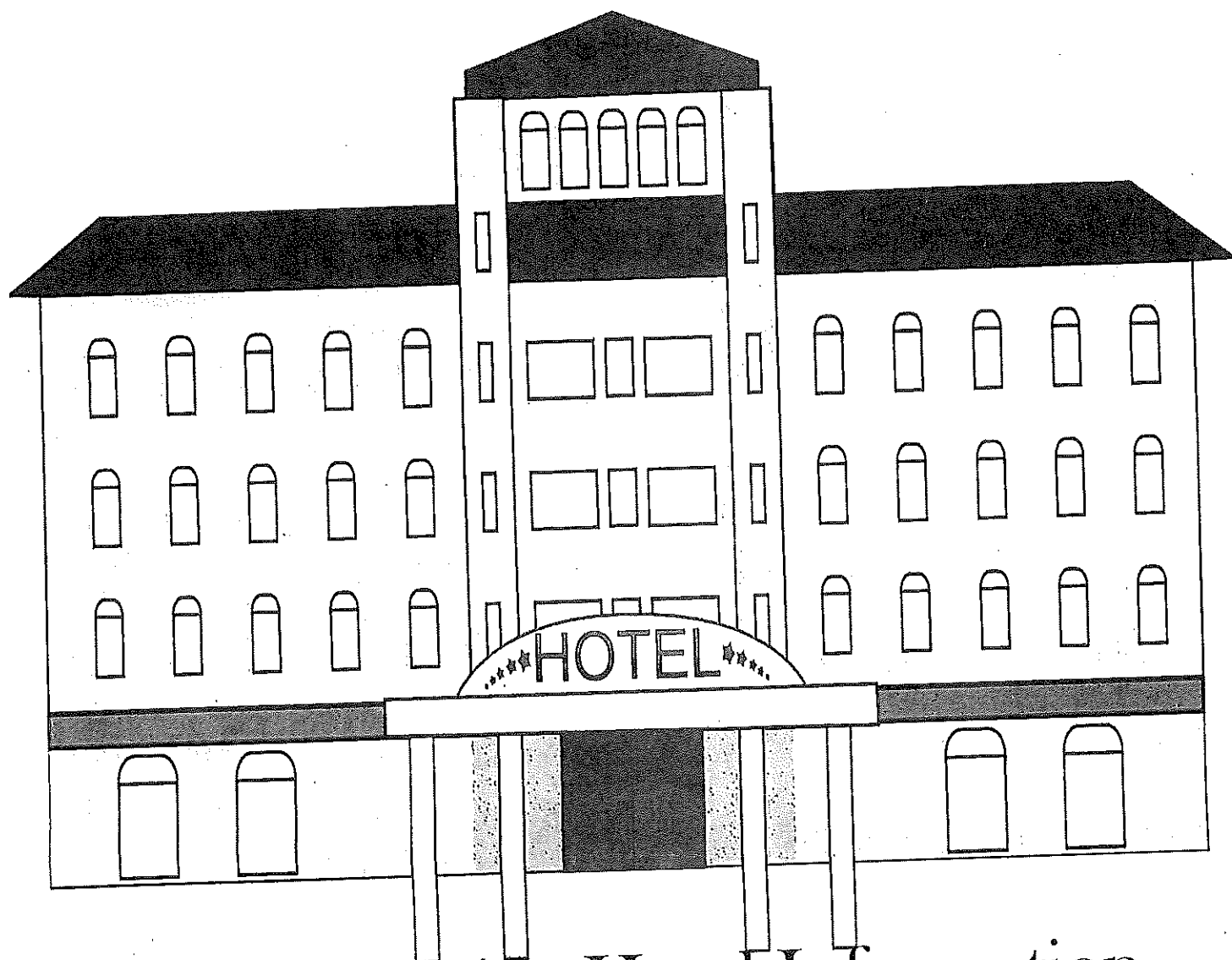
Swiss Steak                      or                      Chicken Fried Steak

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Choose your main entrée, Mail check to Headquarters

2431 N 48th Lincoln NE 68504



## Homecoming Hotel Information

Ramada By Wyndham

2102 S Jeffers St

North Platte NE

308-532-9090

Room Rates:\$72.00+Tax

\$92.00+Tax 2 Room Suite



*Veterans of Foreign Wars Auxiliary*  
*"In Fortitude and Loyalty"*

**AUXILIARY OFFICER CHANGE OR CORRECTION**

Auxiliary # \_\_\_\_\_

Department of Nebraska

Change from: \_\_\_\_\_

President	Sr. Vice President	Name Jr. Vice President	Secretary	Treasurer
Chaplain	Conductress	Guard	Trustee #1	Trustee #2
				Trustee #3

(Circle the appropriate officer)

Change to: \_\_\_\_\_

Name

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. ....

Send to: Department Secretary  
Jean Barton  
8100 Regent Drive  
Lincoln, NE 68507-3366  
Email: jeanbarton@windstream.net

**PLEASE DO NOT SEND THIS FORM TO NATIONAL  
OR CHANGE ANYTHING IN MALTA.**