



The Navigator

Stay on Course for Our Veterans

VFW Auxiliary

Department of Nebraska

June 2018

Dear Auxiliary Sisters and Brothers,

It has been an honor and a privilege to serve as your Department President this past year. We have faced many challenges this year, but we have persevered. We will continue to face challenges in the upcoming years as well. We need to focus on why we joined this great organization and to know and live its objectives.

Always remember the obligation that you took when you joined and always strive to be kind and thoughtful of one another.

There have been many changes this year and I am sure that there will continue to be more. Remember my button and forget "We've always done it this way" as it will not work anymore. We must read, read, read and ask questions. No one has all the answers, but we can certainly find them. You can only learn if you ask the question.

Please continue to support the incoming officers of the Department of Nebraska. I have asked Jean to include some final thoughts for you in this newsletter. Thank you for all that you do for our veterans and their families and the VFW Auxiliary. Each of you are important to the work that we do and very much appreciated. Also, keep on recruiting and retaining!

Loyally,

Carol Brosnihan
Department President



Our own Past National President to be National Representative at State Convention, June 9-10, 2018,

Past National President Dixie Hild of Omaha, Neb. is a Life Member of Herman Godbersen Auxiliary 8334 in Millard. She is eligible through her husband, Rolland, who served in the U.S. Army in Vietnam and is a past VFW State Commander.

As National President in 2008-2009, she led 560,000 members under her theme, "*Our Dreams Become Rainbows.*"

Dixie has served as Auxiliary and District President, and when she was 1994-1995 Department President, she was named Runner-Up President of the Year in her membership group.

She has served in numerous other capacities for the organization, including three terms as Department Chief of Staff. On the National level, she has served as National Aide-de-Camp,

Convention Page, Flag Bearer, Youth Activities and Voice of Democracy Director, "Buddy"® Poppy Director, and Big Ten Conference Chairman for the Safety, Legislative and Community Service programs.

Hild retired after spending 21 years in insurance and bonding management and five years in pharmaceutical sales. She is a Life Member of the Disabled American Veterans Auxiliary and is also active in her community through the Divine Shepherd Lutheran Church.

The Hilds have been married for 51 years. They have one daughter, Kim, a Life Member of Auxiliary 8334; two sons, Greg and Troy, Life Members of VFW 8334, seven grandchildren and one great-grandson.

POINTS TO PONDER

Engage your members"

Greet each member when they come into your meeting or Post.

Make each member special by letting them know that you are glad that they came.

Find a job that they would enjoy doing and ask them to help out. Nothing will make them feel more welcome than the feeling of being included and needed.

Welcome everyone's ideas (even if you don't agree, we are a democratic organization.) Everyone has the right to voice their questions, ideas, and concerns, if it is done in a respectful and appropriate manner!

Offer a member a ride to your meeting or function.

Contact any member that you know is ill and let them know that they are remembered and thought of. Send a card, it only takes a minute.

If a member stops coming to the meetings, call them right away to find out why and let them know that they are missed.

MOST OF ALL BE KIND AND CONSIDERATE TO ONE ANOTHER

WE ARE ALL HERE FOR THE SAME REASON

LEGISLATIVE

June Convention is almost here so that means the year end reports should have been in and counted.

The election year continues. Some candidates in your hometown and some of our Senators are leaving or are up for re-election. Before you vote find out which candidates will best serve your home town and find out which Senators will best serve our veterans. Most Importantly **VOTE!!**

If you are signed up for Action Corps Weekly, there is still a lot going on. Here are just two things to read about, and report to your Auxiliary:

VFW-supported Bill to Expand Commissary Access Introduced: Representatives Daniel Lipinski, D-Ill., and Walter Jones, R-N.C., introduced H.R. 5467, the *Purple Heart and Disabled Veterans Equal Access Act of 2018*, which is endorsed by the VFW and would allow veterans with a service-connected disability, Medal of Honor recipients, veterans formerly held as prisoners of war, and veteran caregivers to use commissaries and MWR programs.

VFW-supported Bill to Improve Transition Assistance Program: This week Congressman Don Bacon, Neb., 2, introduced H.R. 5553 to improve DOD's process to prepare service members transitioning to civilian life. The VFW-endorsed bill focuses on veteran homelessness, unemployment and suicide prevention for transitioning service members. The VFW has worked with VFW member Ryan Loya and VFW Auxiliary member Katherine Kostreva to advocate for this legislation. The VFW encourages grassroots efforts of veterans helping veterans as a way to continue serving after leaving military service.

Although this year's deadline is over you can get started towards your next year's legislative reports. Write down and keep track of things you have read to your Auxiliary and voice your opinions by phone calls, emails, and letters to your Senators and Congressman.

It was truly an honor for me to be Carol's Legislative Chairperson this year. I really learned a lot about the Nebraska legislators and how they work for our veterans. After reading all the reports from our Auxiliaries and the many ways they are communicating with our legislators on helping out our veterans was fantastic. Keep up the good work and like Carol's theme says, "Stay on Course for our Veterans."

Thank you everyone and God's Blessings

Vicki Luebbe

A Note or Two From Your Department Secretary

Thanks to all those who were so understanding when I had to return the Installation Reports this year for additional information and/or correction. This has truly been a learning experience. I wish we had been able to teach about the report before we had to start using it, but we'll just muddle through it and be better prepared next year.

I'm still hoping that you will all make plans to attend State Convention in Omaha next weekend. Our attendance numbers continue to dwindle and it sure would be nice to see all of you pick up your awards and accolades. You deserve the recognition.

This will be the last edition of *The Navigator* but I hope you have shared the information sent out with your members and that everyone learned at least a couple things. The chairmen work very hard to come up with new ideas for you and they also deserve a big thank you for volunteering their time to get the information out to you.

Thanks for all you do for our veterans, their families, and your communities. **YOU** are what makes this organization great.



