

# The Navigator

## Stay on Course for Our Veterans

VFW Auxiliary

Department of Nebraska

October 2017

Dear Auxiliary Sisters and Brothers,

Another month is already behind us. Before we know it, the holidays will be upon us along with the hustle and bustle that accompanies them. I know that the situation with the delay of the MALTA access has set us all back, but now we need to step it up and get that membership in. As of today, our membership is at 62.09%. We can do much better. Let's make this year different and get our membership in early. Wouldn't it be wonderful if we could finish out the year in relaxation rather than that mad fight to get those lingering members in at the end of the year? Our Department faces some struggles, but I am confident that if we work together we can overcome them.

I look forward to seeing many of you in Omaha for our Fall Conference and Homecoming. Our National Representative will be Laurie Dale, 21<sup>st</sup> District Council Member from Minnesota. I would love to see a great turnout to welcome Laurie to Nebraska.

As always, the Department Officers and I are here to assist you in any way that we can. Your District President is always your first line of contact if you have an issue. If they cannot assist you, please feel free to contact me and I will get assistance to you. If you utilize your Bylaws and Ritual, along with the information supplied by Department and National, the answers are there.

Also, feel free to contact our Department Chairmen at any time regarding their programs.

Respectfully,

Carol Brosnihan, Department President

*Laurie Dale, National District Council Member #21, 2017-2019, to be National Representative at Fall Conference.*



Laurie Dale, of Kenyon, Minnesota, represents Minnesota and Nebraska on the National Council of Administration, which governs the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States (VFW) Auxiliary between National Conventions.

Installed at the 104th National Convention in New Orleans, Louisiana, she will serve 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 Conrad Osthum Auxiliary 141, she has served in many capacities for the organization including Auxiliary, District and Department (state) President. She also served as the National Veterans & Family Support Ambassador in 2015-2016.

She joined on the eligibility of her grandfather, who served in the U.S. Army in World War II.

In her spare time she enjoys traveling, and is a member of the Holden Lutheran Church and of the Military Order of the Cooties (MOCA).

Laurie and her husband, John, have a son, Austin.

### MEMBERSHIP AND LEADERSHIP

We are now 3 months into our new membership year. Some of you seem to be navigating through this year without any problems, while others haven't even left port yet. Our membership stands at 61.61% now. We have 5 new life members, 9 new annual members, and 2 rejoin members. We still need more new and rejoins to meet our National quarterly goal, but I know we can do it. Please remember about the National Catch 5 award. Fill out the form as soon as you have reached the goal of 5 new, rejoin, or combination of both, to receive your Catch 5 pin.

We are fast approaching our first port of call (100% membership deadline). October 31<sup>st</sup> is the date for Auxiliaries with memberships up to 50 members to achieve 100% and be entered into the drawing for \$25. Auxiliary 7970 Harrison has already reached this goal. How many others will join them? I hope that all of you in that membership group do.

I want to apologize for this being my first newsletter article of the year. I have just now been able to access memberships for the whole department which is why I am just now able to report membership numbers to you. If we all "Stay on Course for our Veterans" we will have a very successful membership year. If you are ever in need of assistance please call any of the Line Officers, Donna Fenske, or me and we will be happy to assist you.

Yours in Service,

Linda Hansen



## CHIEF OF STAFF AND EXTENSION

I am so excited!!! I hear we have a baby on the way. Reveal party will be announced shortly.

Local Auxiliary and District Presidents, our National Chief of Staff Jane wrote that we need to **Stop, Look, and Listen** to become **Healthy Auxiliaries**.

**STOP** for a moment and reflect on the history of your Auxiliary. Ask yourself what goals the members set and achieved over the years. Thinking and looking back can re-energize your members.

**LOOK** around your meeting room. Who is participating in your meeting? Is it the same few members, and is there a particular age group attending? Are there male and female members attending? What can we do to increase attendance. Do we need to change meeting day and time? Do we need to change location of the meeting. Do we need to set up a telephone tree to call our members and remind them of the meeting? Do we need to see if they need a ride to the meeting?

**LISTEN** carefully to what the members are telling you and what they are saying about the Auxiliary. Ask your members for new ideas. Ask them what they want to happen in the Auxiliary room. Do they want a different project to work? Is there a member who is suffering and needs some assistance or maybe a sister or brother to talk to. Be compassionate and loving. Let your members know that their sisters and brothers of their Auxiliary care about them.

For those of you that have a computer go to [vfwAuxiliary.org](http://vfwAuxiliary.org) to locate the **Healthy Auxiliary Toolkit** in the Program and Publicity Resources, Chief of Staff/ Extension. There you will find many resources to help our Auxiliaries and Districts.

Remember that **COMMUNICATION** is the key to an Auxiliary or District's success. Keep in touch with each other and if you hear of a problem please let an Officer know that there is a problem. I have said it before, it is much easier to fix in the beginning than it is at the end.

I am looking forward to seeing everyone at Fall Conference. Do not tell Carol Brosnihan but I bet there will be some type of roasting done and I do not mean with marshmallows.

Wishing each of you a wonderful fall. Take time to enjoy before winter sets in.

Happy Trails to all as we **REMEMBER TO STAY ON THE COURSE FOR OUR VETERANS** and also **CATCH THE DREAM FOR OUR VETERANS**.

Loyally

Dixie Hild, Chief of Staff

## LEGISLATIVE

*The leaves are falling and Halloween will be here soon.*

Among the VFW's most recent and important legislative victories was making college education affordable for military service members with the signing of the Post-9/11 GI Bill, and ensuring America's service members and veteran receive the care they deserve by passing the Veterans Access, Choice and Accountability Act. This is just one thing that I have read about, that you could send a report on.

Go to <https://www.vfw.org/advocacy/national-legislative-service> and check out recent VFW Congressional testimony and see where we stand on the issues.

If use this link (<http://Nebraskalegislature.gov/pdf/about/unicamkids.pdf>) it will take you to a booklet entitled UNICAM KIDS. You can copy the booklet and hand it out to children, maybe even for Halloween.

I have also put a few things on my Facebook page. My FB is Vicki Lynne Zwick Luebbe.

Have you looked at the pamphlet I handed out at the School of Instruction on the *2017 VFW Priority Goals*? Please take a few minutes to read and try to promote some of the goals. Our nation made a promise to those who serve and we fight to ensure it is kept so we need to "Stay on Course for our Veterans."

Our hearts and prayers are with all those impacted by the hurricanes and fires. God's Blessing on you all.

Vicki Luebbe

## HOSPITAL

Fall is here, let's celebrate! Our 2<sup>nd</sup> goal is Volunteer Recruitment and Recognition.

As I am sitting here pondering what to write for this article I keep going back to the word Volunteer. So I got out the "old school" Webster dictionary and looked up the definition of Volunteer. This is what I found: Volunteer: 1. one who enters into any service of his own free will. 2. One who voluntarily enters military service. So- **Volunteer = Veterans of Foreign Wars Auxiliary.**

Looks like it has been spelled out pretty clear, what do you think? So keep up the good work volunteering in the hospitals, nursing homes and assisted living centers, etc. Please send in those monthly reports so we don't forget later what was done. Always celebrate what your members are doing to help others.

Remember you can brighten anyone's day with your smile!!!!

If I can be of any help please let me know. And remember "Stay on Course for our Veterans"

Sharon J Thorne

## GOLD STAR AND CHAPLAIN

Greetings to all my sisters and brothers. It's here, it's here!!! President Carol and Commander Larry's homecoming celebration is here. There will be good food, music and karaoke, and lots of laughter. I hope to see many of you there. And, don't forget Fall Conference on Saturday.

We have lost several more Auxiliary members, so please say a prayer for them. Also, our heartfelt sympathy goes out to Karen Linden and her family on the death of her beloved husband Bob.

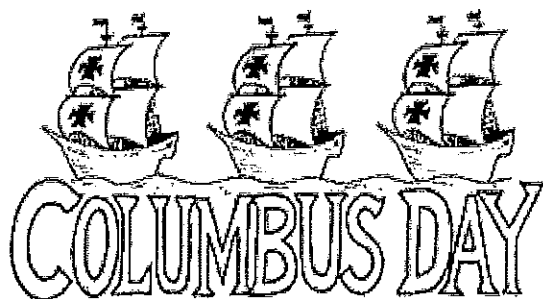
September 24<sup>th</sup> was Gold Star Sunday. I hope each Auxiliary has done something to honor their Gold Star members, or, if you do not have any, consider a donation to a charity in honor of them. I am still looking for Gold Star members willing to share a memory or story of a loved one who died serving our great country. Contact me at the information provided in your program book or roster.

This month's "feature" article comes from Chris Wolf, a Nebraska Gold Star mother from Scottsbluff. Her son, Army SPC James R Wolf, KIA 11/06/2003, Mosul, Iraq.

"James always loved coming home to see friends and family. He just always made the best of everything, no matter what the conditions. When R&R started, he was one of the first ones to be given a chance to go home and it was the best 10 days of my life. We were so happy to have him home. He went back to see his choir teacher, and he liked nothing better than to walk through his high school in his dress uniform to show what he had accomplished and to show those who doubted him what he had done with his life and that he was making a difference in the world. He went to Lincoln to see two of our other children who are in school. He was very sad he missed our youngest daughter's high school graduation while he was in Iraq, but he made up for lost time when he was home, as they had always been close. His trip to Lincoln led him to his first Cornhusker football game which was such a thrill for him! I remember getting a message on the answering machine, calling from the stadium. He was so excited to be there. We took lots of pictures of him with lots of family and enjoyed every minute he was home. I hated sending him off, but we all knew he had to go back. James had a sense of responsibility to his comrades who were doing his job while he was gone. So with a kiss and a prayer we said goodbye to him. That was October of 2003."

ALWAYS REMEMBER TO THANK A VETERAN. "Land of the Free, Because of the Brave"

Bonnie Gerlt



## YOUTH ACTIVITIES

As the leaves are changing colors school is back in full swing. Make sure you are working with your local school districts. As we head into October, it brings thoughts of Halloween. Plan a Halloween party for the kids.

October also brings Fire Safety Week. Work together with your local fire department to promote and sponsor events for youth on fire safety.

Do you see youth thanking a veteran for their service? Or do you watch someone place their hand on their heart correctly? Give him or her a R.A.P. card/coin. This is an excellent way to engage the youth as "We Catch the Dream for Our Veterans."

We must remember the youth of today will be the leaders of tomorrow; the leaders of our country, our communities, and our own organization. By engaging them in our Youth Activities program, we can enrich their lives and they can learn about our veterans and the sacrifices they made to maintain the freedoms we enjoy daily. Let's continue to work together and Stay on Course for our Veterans.

Katlyn Abboud

## NATIONAL SCHOLARSHIPS

### PROMOTE...RECOGNIZE...REWARD...

Happy October and coming of fall. This month the National Scholarship program really begins to ramp up! School has been back in session, so I hope that you have all been out promoting the Patriot's Pen and Voice of Democracy Scholarship competitions. Entries for both contests must be received by October 31, 2017. Please reach out to your contacts at the schools to ensure that all students are aware of this deadline.

Recognize: While we are on the topic of the Patriot's Pen and Voice of Democracy contests, ask yourself this question: What can we do to further promote and recognize everyone who participates in the program? It isn't just the students who participate, but the teachers, counselors and staff at the school as well as your volunteers who make this scholarship competition the success that it is. Remember everyone with a thank you card or similar gesture.

Reward: What do you do to honor those youth who have received top prizes at your local Post and Auxiliary? Find out if the school will let you participate in a Pep Rally or assembly to help recognize and then reward those winners. Not only does this help recognize and reward those students, teachers and counselors who have participated, but it will also help promote the opportunities available through Patriot's Pen and Voice of Democracy to all students in the school. Work with the veterans at the Post to help with this as a way of giving them recognition for their service as well. Dinners are also a nice way of rewarding those who have participated and who have helped with the program. I am anxious to hear what you are doing to celebrate the success of this wonderful scholarship opportunity for our youth.

Kim Abboud

## AMERICANISM

When we hear about patriotism, we know what it means – deeply loving, supporting, and defending our country. The song “America” begins, “My Country Tis of Thee, Sweet Land of Liberty.” America is a land of liberty and freedom given by the veterans who have fought for that freedom for all Americans.

Without our nation’s veterans, America wouldn’t be the great nation it is today. Our youth deserve to learn about our rich history, traditions and the role of our veterans in creating and shaping America. The VFW Teacher of the Year award recognizes 3 exceptional teachers for their outstanding commitment to teach Americanism and patriotism to their students. Teachers whose curriculum focuses on citizenship education topics for at least half of the school day in a classroom environment can be nominated for this award. **The deadline for the nomination on the Post level is October 31.**

**NOTE:** The Fremont Auxillary notified me that I had forgotten one letter in the word theme entitled “The American Flag”. In the list of words, ‘observe’ is missing the letter “d” at the end of the word. Add the “d” to “observe” before presenting them to the schools. Thank you Fremont Auxillary for bringing this to my attention.

See you at Fall Conference on October 6-7 in Omaha.

Fly the flag every day or on the following days:

October 9 – Columbus Day

October 27 – Navy Day

Eleanor Pacas

## CARE AND CONCERN

Bob Linden, husband of Past Department President Karen Linden, passed away on September 5, 2017. You can send messages of sympathy to Karen at 3720 W. State Street, #A7, Grand Island 68803. Please keep Karen and her family in your thoughts and prayers during this difficult time.

## A NOTE (OR TWO) FROM YOUR DEPARTMENT SECRETARY

Three months of our new year has flown by. Even though it still feels like the middle of summer (at least in eastern Nebraska today), fall has arrived. Halloween is less than 40 days away, Veteran’s Day - about 50 days away, Thanksgiving is less than 65 days away, and it’ll be Christmas in 93 days! We are going from 100° (heat index) today to the 70’s next week. The leaves will begin to fall, followed closely by snow and before that starts to fly you may want to have all your membership in. I’m sure we all want to be done with the majority of work by November so we can take the time to enjoy the holidays and our loved ones.

On October 6 and 7 we will be gathering in Omaha to celebrate President Carol’s homecoming and have our Fall Conference. I know that each of the Department Chairmen will be passing along important and interesting information about each of our programs. I hope many of you can attend to gather and take information back to your individual Auxiliaries.

If you ever have questions or concerns please let me know. If I can’t help you I know a lot of people I can turn to and find the answers you need. I do check my email daily ([jeanbarton@windstream.net](mailto:jeanbarton@windstream.net)), you can send it through the mail, 8100 Regent Drive, Lincoln/68507, or you can leave a message on my voicemail (402-464-1586) and I will get back to you.



# DEPT. OF NEBRASKA VFW AUXILIARY

Dept. President	Carol Brosnihan	2017-2018
TOTAL NUMBER OF AUXILIARIES:		78
LAST YEARS TOTAL MEMBERSHIP:		6,688
9/2/2017		4,121
CURRENT PERCENTAGE:		61.618%

DIST. 1		TOTAL	LIFE	ON/NEV	CURRENT	%	NEED
1375	CHADRON	55	29	0	29	52.73%	26
1681	GERING	76	49	0	49	64.47%	27
2243	KIMBALL	78	26	0	26	33.33%	52
5639	HAY SPRING	14	5	4	9	64.29%	5
7970	HARRISON	25	25	0	25	100.00%	0
TOTAL		248	134	4	138	55.65%	110

DIST. 3		TOTAL	LIFE	ON/NEV	CURRENT	%	NEED
1151	CREIGHTON	86	42	0	42	48.84%	44
1644	NORFOLK	429	233	93	326	75.99%	103
3602	STANTON	191	98	66	164	85.86%	27
4504	LAUREL	33	18	10	28	84.85%	5
4996	BLOOMFIELD	84	33	13	46	54.76%	38
5287	NELIGH	17	3	0	3	17.65%	14
5291	WAYNE	19	6	10	16	84.21%	3
5330	PLAINVIEW	31	11	0	11	35.48%	20
5545	RANDOLPH	35	6	0	6	17.14%	29
5765	WAKEFIELD	11	3	0	3	27.27%	8
5816	ELGIN	20	2	0	2	10.00%	18
5824	WAUSA	14	0	0	0	0.00%	14
7603	TILDEN	17	6	0	6	35.29%	11
7838	OSMOND	11	8	0	8	72.73%	3
TOTAL		998	469	192	661	66.23%	337

DIST. 4		TOTAL	LIFE	ON/NEV	CURRENT	%	NEED
1504	NO. PLATT	174	84	0	84	48.28%	90
1652	McCOOK	49	14	18	32	65.31%	17
4688	IMPERIAL	72	26	0	26	36.11%	46
5379	OSHKOSH	18	14	0	14	77.78%	4
6219	CULBERTSON	31	13	0	13	41.94%	18
7028	PALISADE	72	46	0	46	63.89%	26
8258	STAPLETON	35	14	0	14	40.00%	21
9155	STRATTON	51	6	35	41	80.39%	10
TOTAL		502	217	53	270	53.78%	232

DIST. 6		TOTAL	LIFE	ON/NEV	CURRENT	%	NEED
1077	BEATRICE	114	37	34	71	62.28%	43
1765	FALL CITY	98	26	0	26	26.53%	72
2634	NE. CITY	38	13	0	13	34.21%	25
3113	FAIRBURY	58	22	9	31	53.45%	27
4959	CRETE	91	55	0	55	60.44%	36
5289	PAWNEE CO	103	46	12	58	56.31%	45
5547	SYRACUSE	97	15	0	15	15.46%	82
7102	GENEVA	95	16	1	17	17.89%	78
8221	TECUMSEH	30	12	0	12	40.00%	18
10042	ADAMS	37	14	0	14	37.84%	23
10579	DAVENPORT	28	12	0	12	42.86%	16
TOTAL		789	268	56	324	41.06%	465

DIST. 7		TOTAL	LIFE	ON/NEV	CURRENT	%	NEED
854	FREMONT	115	54	27	81	70.43%	34
1251	BLAIR	0	0	0	0	0.00%	0
4912	WEST POINT	92	33	11	44	47.83%	48
5543	OAKLAND	35	6	0	6	17.14%	29
5767	WISNER	55	32	0	32	58.18%	23
6928	PENDER	47	11	0	11	23.40%	36
7998	LYONS	73	19	0	19	26.03%	54
8223	NO. BEND	84	42	0	42	50.00%	42
8332	ARLINGTON	58	36	14	50	86.21%	8
TOTAL		559	233	52	285	50.98%	274

DIST. 9		TOTAL	LIFE	ON/NEV	CURRENT	%	NEED
131	LINCOLN	294	197	13	210	71.43%	84
1609	YORK	58	18	15	33	56.90%	25
3606	LINCOLN	130	71	0	71	54.62%	59
4502	WAHOO	118	75	10	85	72.03%	33
4755	SEWARD	154	131	0	131	85.06%	23
9776	ASHLAND	59	25	9	34	57.63%	25
TOTAL		813	517	47	564	69.37%	249

DIST. 10		TOTAL	LIFE	ON/NEV	CURRENT	%	NEED
247	OMAHA	85	48	0	48	56.47%	37
2503	OMAHA	451	242	127	261	57.87%	190
2543	PLATTSMOUTH	151	76	0	76	50.33%	75
2704	OMAHA	16	5	3	8	50.00%	8
3421	OMAHA	54	28	0	28	51.85%	26
8334	MILLARD	265	135	79	214	80.75%	51
10727	BELLEVUE	130	62	0	62	47.69%	68
TOTAL		1152	596	209	805	69.88%	347

DIST. 11		TOTAL	LIFE	ON/NEV	CURRENT	%	NEED
926	O'NEILL	57	42	8	50	87.72%	7
1347	GRAND ISLAND	233	148	50	198	84.98%	35
3576	BROKEN BOW	91	25	0	25	27.47%	66
4677	ALDA/WR	22	15	0	15	68.18%	7
5138	VALENTINE	41	10	4	14	34.15%	27
5820	RAVENNA	55	11	2	13	23.64%	42
6159	TAYLOR	60	31	0	31	51.67%	29
6215	ANSELMO	0	0	0	0	0.00%	0
7029	ORD	229	154	0	154	67.25%	75
8256	NAPER	41	25	15	40	97.56%	1
TOTAL		829	461	79	540	65.14%	289

DIST. 13		TOTAL	LIFE	ON/NEV	CURRENT	%	NEED
759	KEARNEY	120	58	37	95	79.17%	25
890	COZAD	39	18	0	18	46.15%	21
1346	HASTINGS	126	78	5	83	65.87%	43
5136	LEXINGTON	104	81	0	81	77.88%	23
5537	HEARTWELL	0	0	0	0	0.00%	0
5539	HARVARD	69	49	0	49	71.01%	20
5641	RED CLOUD	44	18	14	32	72.73%	12
TOTAL		502	302	56	358	71.31%	144

DIST. 15		TOTAL	LIFE	ON/NEV	CURRENT	%	NEED
736	ALBION	78	53	1	54	69.23%	24
3704	COLUMBUS	136	70	1	71	52.21%	65
4836	SCHUYLER	44	16	11	27	61.36%	17
5814	DAVID CITY	38	11	13	24	63.16%	14
TOTAL		296	150	26	176	59.46%	120

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

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