

# THE RUBY SLIPPER

Thanks to Our Veterans There's No Place Like Home



VFW Auxiliary

Department of Nebraska

December 2019

Dear Sisters and Brothers,

Veterans Day was November 11. The posts on Facebook show how much our Auxiliary members honor and thank our veterans! Department Commander Joe Smith, District 13 President Terrie, District 13 Commander Jim Lutz, and I (along with other Kearney VFW members) rode a float in their Veterans Day Parade on Saturday, November 9. It was beautiful weather. I was impressed with the great community turnout and involvement. Several businesses gave free tickets to the semi-pro hockey game that night where they honored veterans. There were many veterans and several members from Central Nebraska Veterans Home in attendance.

National sent out a memo advising that due to the closure of the VFW Auxiliary Headquarters offices for the Thanksgiving holiday, they have extended the membership award deadline from Saturday, November 30<sup>th</sup> to Monday, December 2<sup>nd</sup>. Each Auxiliary that reaches 95% by December 2<sup>nd</sup> will receive \$50.

As we enjoy the holiday season with our families, don't forget our veterans. It's a great time to go visit veterans who live in one of our four Veterans Homes, or perhaps a nursing home, as some may be alone and without families.

Please consider attending one of the hospital Christmas parties. It would mean a lot to the veterans who reside in those facilities. The Christmas party at Eastern Nebraska Veterans Home (Bellevue) is 1:30 p.m., on Saturday, December 7. Sunday, December 8 at 1:00 p.m., is the party at the Omaha VAMC. Friday, December 13 is the party at the Lincoln Regional Center at 10 a.m. Saturday, December 14 at 2:00 p.m., is the party at Grand Island VAMC.

I wish everyone a very Merry Christmas!

Thanks to Our Veterans, There's No Place Like Home.

Loyally,

Liz Davis, Department President

## MEMBERSHIP

Hope everyone had a Happy Thanksgiving! Before the hustle and bustle of Christmas let's get those dues paid up. As of this writing 11/24/19 we are at 88.16%, not too bad but we need to be 95% by December 2, 2019. National gave us 2 extra days to reach that goal.

We have 7 more Auxiliaries joining the 100% & plus club, they are as listed: Sidlo Auxiliary 5641 -Red Cloud, Osmond Auxiliary 7838 - Osmond, George Raymond Jelley Auxiliary 8221- Tecumseh, Adrian Kaup Auxiliary 4912-West Point, Louis Black

Auxiliary 3421- Omaha, Clement Auxiliary 6159- Taylor, and Naper Auxiliary 8256-Naper. Congratulations and keep up the good work.

There are lots of opportunities to "ASK" the question, "are you interested in joining?" or "this is what the Veterans of Foreign Wars Auxiliary does, would you like to help?" If you go for coffee, play cards, or just to socialize there is always someone around that would love to join if you just "ASK." "GO TEAM M & M" (Membership Matters!)

Here is a little cheer for you:

**Membership, Membership that's our Cry  
Veterans are our Reason Why!!!!**

Please remember to report to me what you have been doing for your membership drives. As always if you need me call or email. I will help in any way possible.

"Thanks to our Veterans, There's No Place Like Home!"

Loyally,

Sharon J Thorne

## MENTORING FOR LEADERSHIP

Greetings Auxiliary Brothers and Sisters,

Hopefully you all had a fantastic Thanksgiving and are ready for Christmas! We have been fortunate having pretty nice weather through the fall months.

I am not receiving many reports for the Mentoring For Leadership program. Please send in your reports so we can be 100%! I know most Auxiliaries all participate in being mentors and that is fine, but we need those reports sent in to tell me what you do with your new or tenured members and if you are trying to get members who have not been active for several months or even years.

I would like to see each Auxiliary use the Mentoring at VFW Auxiliary-Relationship Building for the Future program, available at [vfwauxiliary.org/resources](http://vfwauxiliary.org/resources). This will help you implement the CARE mentor concept.

Mentoring is very important to share experiences gained as a member, chairman, or officer with a new member, also to bond with those members who may have lost interest in the organization. Mentoring translates to leadership skills for both the mentor and mentee.

Remember, completed year-end reports will increase interest in pursuing National awards, so let's get those reports in!

Sue Ann Moore

## GOLD STAR

I want to thank everyone who has sent me reports on how they honor their Gold Star Members and families.

I know I'm a broken record about sending your reports to me, Sandee, and your District Chaplain but we need the information on your deceased members to report in our register. You can send them to me by email also. (Just make sure it say's "VFW Gold Star Report" in subject line.)

Make sure you remember your Gold Star Members and veterans, and their families who need us. Thank them with a Christmas card or note telling them we are thinking of them, during the holidays. For losing their loved one can be difficult time during the holidays.

I have Gold Star Reports from: District 1/None; District 3/None; District 4/1; District 6/3; District 7/2; District 9/3; District 10/1; District 11/2; District 13/2; District 15/None. Some of the Auxiliaries have sent in two reports so please send in your reports and if you don't have a Gold Star Member send a report saying so. Thank you.

Another website I found by typing "Gold Star Meanings" in my search engine (Google it!) should pull up "Gold Star Peak is 'Closer to Heaven'." A VFW member in Alaska led an effort to name a mountain peak in honor of Gold Star KIAs and their families, and since February 2018, he has taken more than 120 families and veterans to its summit. For more information go to ([www.goldstarpeak.org](http://www.goldstarpeak.org).)

Merry Christmas everyone.

Vicki Luebbe

## HISTORIAN/MEDIA RELATIONS/VFW NEWS

Wow - what a great month for news! Several Auxiliaries reported on activities in their communities and at their Post Homes. The Veterans Day events were varied and interesting to read about. If you have an article not yet published send me an email or give me a call.

Department President Liz Davis and Commander Joe Smith rode on the Kearney Post 759 float waving at a packed crowd down Main Street. They then attended the Veterans and Family free Chili Feed at the Post Home in Kearney. Thanks to both for attending!

The Central Nebraska Veterans Home was a busy place on Veterans Day including the unveiling of a new sculpture (pictured below), speech by the Nebraska Lt. Governor, Mike Foley, many more guest speakers, and music by Offutt Air Force Base. In the morning each veteran received a pinwheel with a Buddy Poppy attached made by the Post 759 Auxiliary and a note thanking them for their service. Linda Vogel Past Department President attended along with Joe Smith, Department Commander, and Jim Lutz, District 13 Commander. The event was covered by CNN and local NTV channels. The channels had various reports throughout the day! If you get a chance try to visit and view the sculpture. It is magnificent.

If you recognize a local Auxiliary member or such as the article from Pender and the article on the Auxiliary member taking flight be sure to send it in right away to make newsletter deadlines. Thanks to all of you reporting!

Remember - "There is no place like home to report on!"

Loyally, Judy Workman

## AMERICANISM

On December 7<sup>th</sup>, we observe National Pearl Harbor Remembrance Day. On this day the American Flag is to be flown at half-staff until sunset. Many of our veterans from that era have passed away. No matter when a veteran served our country, we must always "thank" them for their service. By flying the American Flag you are showing the veteran your patriotism and love for America.

Speaking of the flag, you can contribute flags to schools, Boy & Girl Scout troops, libraries, and other institutions in your community. If a business displays a flag every day, be sure to recognize them with a Certificate of Recognition or a personal "Thank you for flying the American Flag."

Another part of the Americanism program you might like to stress is how to take care of the American Flag. The following information might be presented in a local newspaper or at a patriotic program in your community:

- If soiled, the flag may be washed or dry cleaned.
- When torn or frayed but not faded, the flag may be mended.
- A worn or faded flag should be retired with respect. Fold the flag and place it on a fire. The ashes should be buried.

With the holidays later this month, remember to fly your flag on Christmas Day.

Our program year is half over, but don't stop now! Keep "Old Glory" flying free over America!

*A very Merry Christmas and a Happy NewYear to you and your family.*

Eleanor Pacas

## BIG TEN CONFERENCE

THANK YOU TO ALL THE VOLUNTEERS WHO CAME TO PACK THE WELCOME BAGS FOR OUR GUESTS AT THE BIG TEN CONFERENCE IN OMAHA! WOW! THAT PROJECT WENT SO FAST IT MADE MY HEAD SPIN! TALK ABOUT TAKING CHARGE AND COMPLETING A PROJECT! I DIDN'T GET EVERYONE'S NAME BUT YOU ARE ALL GRRRRRREAT VOLUNTEERS! NEBRASKA NICE! My greeting will be Welcome to Nebraska Nice!

Jane Petersen, Big Ten Chairman

## Care and Concern

Past Department President (1987-88) Barbara Collins passed away on Tuesday, November 18. A graveside service was held on Saturday, November 23. Memorials are suggested to the Ord Flag Fund.

### "BUDDY" POPPY/ VFW NATIONAL HOME FOR CHILDREN

I have been hearing of Auxiliaries having their "Buddy" Poppy drives. Make out your report and send it to me while everything is fresh in your mind as to what took place and dates when you held your "Buddy" Poppy Drive. Thank you for the Auxiliaries that have sent in your report.

With the holidays approaching this would be a good time to get those Christmas cards with adding a "Buddy" Poppy to them and either send or take them to a veteran in the Veterans Home or the homebound. A visit would add cheer to their holiday!

This would also be a good time to send to The VFW National Home for Children a donation for the Santa Shop to add smiles to the children living at the Home. Remember to send all funds to National Headquarters, 406 W. 34th Street, 10<sup>th</sup> Floor, Kansas City, MO 64111.

Thanks to Our Veterans, There's No Place Like Home.

Have a very Blessed Christmas and a Joyous New Year!

Linda Vogel

### BIG TEN REPORT

Congratulations NEBRASKA, you accepted the challenge to supply items for the Big Ten. We asked and the Districts, Auxiliaries, Line Officers, Past Department Presidents, District Presidents, and individuals stepped up in a huge way.

A big thank you to the following: Karen Linden working the 50/50 drawing, Sarah Mumma working the craft table, Linda Vogel and myself for the raffle items. And to the workers who volunteered your time and talent in so many ways to help make the event a big success. Many hands make light work. Thank you to: Sharon Thorne, Vicki Luebbe, Bonnie Gerit, Dixie Hild, Katlyn & Kim Abboud, Terrie Stokes, Barb Goebel, Wendy Yount, Linda Hansen, and Sandee Bellows.

Linda Vogel & Donna Fenske, Fund raiser event coordinators

### NATIONAL SCHOLARSHIPS

I hope everyone had a winner or winners to enter in the judging of Voice of Democracy and Patriot's Pen. Now is the time before the end of the school semester to check with the art teacher at your school and see if he/she has any questions about our Creative Patriotic Art program or if he/she has all of the rules for entries in the program. Remember that there are now new categories in our art scholarship program. I look forward to our Mid-Winter meeting in Lincoln where our state winners will be announced. Be sure to honor all of the students who entered our scholarship programs. They all did their best and if they are eligible next year be sure to encourage them to enter again. Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!

E. Jane Petersen National Scholarship Chairman

### LEGISLATIVE

Happy Fall!

It was great seeing everyone at Fall Conference and welcoming our new leaders at the Homecoming dinner. What a wonderful place to hold the celebrations. The food was fantastic!

At the conference, I gave each District President a handout with the Auxiliaries who have sent a report. I want to ask the District Presidents for more help. Please contact the Auxiliaries in your District who need to send a report. One report is all we need from each Auxiliary. If someone sends me an email that states, I voted in a local election, I watched one TV show about what is happening in the Legislature, I watched one political debate, etc. I will record your report for you. If you watch any news on TV, you can't help but hear about politics. Drop me a line.

It is an exciting time in politics. I work at the voting station and I brought a stack of magazines the last time. I thought we would be slow since it was not a big election. Boy was I wrong! We were busy the whole day. And there were a lot of young people. I asked a young man, "What is making the young people come to vote?" He said, "It's Trump!" and he walked on. I thought, well if you like him you will come to vote and if you don't like him you will come to vote. Either way, people are really showing up at the polls.

Enjoy your families during the holidays in this wonderful home of ours. Thank-you Veterans!

Synthia Stanosheck

### Roster Additions and Corrections

Page 7 – Grand Island VAMC

Deputy Representative: Billie Herron, 419 W. Koenig Street, Grand Island 68801-6515 Phone: 308-218-1238

Page 17 – Winter Munson Auxiliary No. 1644, Norfolk

President: Marjorie Miller, 500 S. 18<sup>th</sup> Street, #611, Norfolk, NE 686701-7310 Phone remains the same.

### *A Note or Two from your Department Secretary*

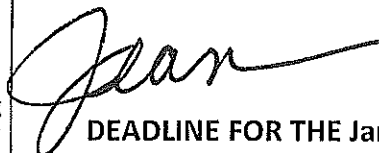
I know that you've read this same thing year after year, but December 31 will be here before you know it and if your annual members have not paid their dues, they will no longer be members in good standing for your Auxiliary. It's not too late to make a call to those who haven't paid their dues and let them know what it will mean if they don't pay before December 31.

I hope that everyone had a safe and bountiful Thanksgiving. I give thanks for all of you and everything you do for our veterans and their families throughout the year.

The Mid-Winter Conference and Legislative Day agenda will be coming next month.

Can you believe in just a few short weeks we will be entering another decade!! Wow – 2020!

Sending my best wishes to all for a very Merry Christmas and a Happy and Healthy New Year,



**DEADLINE FOR THE January Ruby Slipper is  
December 13, 2019**

# Department of Nebraska VFW Auxiliary Memstats as of 11/24/19

Auxiliary	Life		Life Continuous	Annual New	Annual Rejoin	Annual Continuous	Total	Prior Total	Percentage
	Life New	Rejoin							
854	0	0	63	0	0	40	103	106	97.17 %
1251	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	29	0.00 %
4912	1	0	35	0	0	42	78	78	100.00 %
5543	0	0	6	0	0	0	6	24	25.00 %
5767	0	0	30	0	0	10	40	49	81.63 %
6928	0	0	12	5	1	27	45	40	112.50 %
7998	0	0	18	0	0	36	54	56	96.43 %
8223	1	0	57	3	8	69	69	80	86.25 %
8332	1	0	34	0	20	54	54	57	94.74 %
Total - DNE07	2	0	255	8	1	183	449	519	86.51 %
131	0	0	174	2	0	35	211	235	89.79 %
1609	0	0	12	0	0	37	49	53	92.45 %
3606	2	1	78	3	1	28	113	116	97.41 %
4502	1	0	76	1	0	19	97	112	86.61 %
4755	0	0	133	0	0	11	144	147	97.96 %
9776	0	0	26	0	0	21	47	54	87.04 %
Total - DNE09	3	1	499	6	1	151	661	717	92.19 %
247	0	0	41	1	0	8	50	62	80.65 %
2503	0	0	228	2	0	163	393	435	90.34 %
2543	0	0	74	0	0	0	74	145	51.03 %
2704	0	0	7	0	0	5	12	18	66.67 %
3421	0	0	26	2	0	17	45	43	104.65 %
8334	1	0	130	4	0	84	219	235	93.19 %
10727	1	0	62	4	0	44	111	141	78.72 %
Total - DNE10	2	0	568	13	0	321	904	1079	83.78 %
926	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	53	0.00 %
1347	0	0	151	1	0	50	202	219	92.24 %
3576	0	0	26	0	0	43	69	83	83.13 %
4677	0	0	14	0	1	2	17	18	94.44 %
5138	0	0	9	0	0	28	37	38	97.37 %
5820	0	0	13	0	0	24	37	56	66.07 %
6159	0	0	33	0	0	25	58	58	100.00 %
7029	0	0	184	1	0	39	224	199	112.56 %
8256	0	0	25	0	0	12	37	37	100.00 %
Total - DNE11	0	0	455	2	1	223	681	761	89.49 %
759	1	0	58	5	0	40	104	111	93.69 %
890	0	0	15	0	0	18	33	35	94.29 %
1346	0	0	68	0	0	30	98	107	91.59 %
5136	0	0	80	0	0	0	80	102	78.43 %
5539	1	0	47	0	1	13	62	61	101.64 %
5641	3	0	16	0	0	22	41	40	102.50 %
Total - DNE13	5	0	284	5	1	123	418	456	91.67 %
796	0	0	51	0	0	15	66	74	89.19 %
3704	0	0	64	0	1	47	112	113	99.12 %
4836	0	0	16	0	1	15	32	33	96.97 %
5814	0	0	10	0	0	15	25	34	73.53 %
Total - DNE15	0	0	141	0	2	92	235	254	92.52 %
NE	0	0	304	0	0	304	304	300	101.33 %
Total - NE	13	1	3525	42	14	1894	5489	6226	88.16 %

Auxiliary	Life		Life Continuous	Annual New	Annual Rejoin	Annual Continuous	Total	Prior Total	Percentage
	Life New	Rejoin							
1375	0	0	25	0	0	0	25	36	69.44 %
1681	0	0	43	1	0	16	60	67	89.55 %
2243	0	0	27	0	6	8	41	53	77.36 %
5639	0	0	4	0	0	6	10	12	83.33 %
7970	0	0	23	0	0	0	23	23	100.00 %
Total - DNE01	0	0	122	0	7	30	159	191	83.25 %
1151	0	0	39	0	0	7	46	74	62.16 %
1644	0	0	218	1	119	338	364	92.86 %	
3602	0	0	93	0	89	182	184	98.91 %	
4504	0	0	17	0	15	32	34	94.12 %	
4996	0	0	31	0	25	57	76	75.00 %	
5287	0	0	4	0	12	16	17	94.12 %	
5291	0	0	8	0	9	17	18	94.44 %	
5545	0	0	7	0	28	35	35	100.00 %	
5816	0	0	7	0	4	11	27	40.74 %	
5824	0	0	0	0	14	14	14	100.00 %	
7838	0	0	8	0	2	10	10	100.00 %	
Total - DNE03	0	0	432	0	1	325	758	854	88.76 %
1504	0	0	79	0	0	13	92	100	92.00 %
1652	0	0	12	0	0	25	37	40	92.50 %
4588	0	0	25	0	39	64	73	87.67 %	
5979	0	0	11	0	0	11	15	73.33 %	
6219	0	0	14	0	4	18	32	56.25 %	
7028	0	0	48	0	19	67	68	98.53 %	
8258	0	0	13	1	0	19	33	59.42 %	
9155	0	0	4	0	29	33	45	71.74 %	
Total - DNE04	0	0	206	1	148	355	409	86.80 %	
1077	0	0	40	0	41	86	98	87.76 %	
1765	0	0	26	0	39	65	88	73.86 %	
2634	0	0	15	0	1	16	27	59.26 %	
3113	0	0	23	0	18	41	58	70.69 %	
4959	0	0	46	2	19	67	80	83.75 %	
5289	0	0	46	0	33	79	90	87.78 %	
5547	0	0	15	0	50	65	77	84.42 %	
7102	0	0	14	0	64	78	84	92.86 %	
8221	1	0	10	0	15	26	26	100.00 %	
10042	0	0	14	0	18	32	33	96.97 %	
10579	0	0	10	0	0	10	25	40.00 %	
Total - DNE06	1	0	259	7	298	565	686	82.36 %	

Wishing you Joy and Peace at the Holidays and throughout the New Year

Liz Davis  
President

Bonnie Gerlt  
Sr. Vice President

Sharon Thorne  
Jr. Vice President

Sandee Bellows  
Treasurer

Jean Barton  
Secretary

Vicki Luebbe  
Chaplain

avonne Hornik  
Conductress

Katlyn Abboud  
Guard

Donna Fenske  
Chief of Staff



The Joy  
of CHRISTMAS  
CELEBRATE THE SEASON

