

# THE RUBY SLIPPER

Thanks to Our Veterans There's No Place Like Home

VFW Auxiliary

Department of Nebraska

February 2020



Dear Sisters and Brothers,

I would like to thank those who attended the Department Christmas parties at the Eastern Nebraska Veterans Home and the Omaha VA Hospital. I had the pleasure of talking with a veteran who was turning 100 years old later that week.

Our Midwinter Conference is February 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> at the Marriott Cornhusker Hotel in Lincoln. Our National Representative will be National Conductress Carla Martinez. Come and hear our Voice of Democracy and Patriot's Pen winners on Friday night at the banquet. I have heard a couple of Voice Of Democracy speeches and a Patriot's Pen essay this year. We have some amazing youth.

Our Department Valentine Day parties will be at Norfolk Veterans Home on February 1<sup>st</sup> at 2:00 p.m. and Central Nebraska Veterans Home in Kearney on February 2<sup>nd</sup> at 2:00 p.m. In addition, or if you can't attend one of these parties, you could deliver Valentine cards to our veterans or go for a visit.

Congratulations to the Department of Nebraska! We were at 95% membership by December 31<sup>st</sup>. Thank you to all!

Keep up the good work you are all doing for our veterans. Please don't hesitate to call if we can be of help to your auxiliary.

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

Loyally,

Liz Davis, Department President



## MEMBERSHIP

As of this writing 1/17/2020 we are at 95.84%.

We have 12 more Auxiliaries joining the 100% & plus club, they are: Kimball Auxiliary 2243, Kimball; Llewellyn B Whitmore Auxiliary 5291, Wayne; Andrew Kinder Auxiliary 4688, Imperial; Moorhous-Steffen-Propp Auxiliary 6219, Culbertson; Ryan Auxiliary 5543, Oakland; North Bend Auxiliary 8223, North Bend; Harris-Fraleay Auxiliary 131, Lincoln; Herman Godberson Auxiliary 8334, Millard; Bernard O'Connor Auxiliary 10727, Bellevue; Hall County Auxiliary 1347, Grand Island; Ravenna Auxiliary 5820, Ravenna; and Plum Creek Auxiliary 5136, Lexington.

**Congratulations** and keep up the good work. We have so many more Auxiliaries that are so close, we only need 259 members to be 100% for the Department. So let's keep our "ASKS" going! If you know of members that are having a hard time financially, help them out by paying their dues, keeping them involved helps the whole organization.

You can earn all three National awards!

5 new and/or rejoined members

**RED PLUMERIA PIN**

5 new and/or rejoined members from the RED PLUMERIA PIN

Award PLUS (+) 5 MORE new and/or rejoined members

**WHITE PLUMERIA PIN**

10 new and/or rejoined members from WHITE PLUMERIA PIN

Award PLUS (+) 10 MORE new and/or rejoined members

**BLUE PLUMERIA PIN**

## SPECIAL VFW AUXILIARY MEMBER DRAWING

**Recruit five (5)** new and/or rejoined members - your name will be entered into the Special VFW Auxiliary Member Drawing one (1) time.

**Recruit ten** new and/or rejoined members - your name will be entered into the Special VFW Auxiliary Member Drawing two (2) times.

**Recruit 15** new and/or rejoined members - your name will be entered into the Special VFW Auxiliary Member Drawing three (3) times.

**Recruit 20** new and/or rejoined members - your name will be entered into the Special VFW Auxiliary Member Drawing four (4) times.

Please send in those reports as soon as possible. And as always if you need me call, email I will help in any way possible.

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

Sharon J Thorne

## DEPARTMENT SCHOLARSHIPS

Here we are going into a new calendar year and I want to say a big THANK YOU to all the Auxiliaries (54) and Districts (6) who have returned their 50/50 raffle tickets and the Auxiliaries (15) and 1 District who have reported all your work for the Department Scholarship program. I look forward to hearing from everyone else.

Now is the time we really need to make sure everyone eligible to apply for a scholarship has the forms they need --- DEADLINE for applications to be at Headquarters is March 31st!!! There is so much going on right now with our country we need to help as many of our veterans and their family members as we can to get the education they need to be the next generation of leaders.

I want to see a larger number of applications than we had last year so PLEASE check with your members and make we reach as many as we can.

Keep up the good work and remember --- scholarship deadline March 31<sup>st</sup> and

"THANKS TO OUR VETERANS -- THERE'S NO PLACE LIKE HOME"

Iva Carlson

## AMERICANISM

The cold winter winds have really blown this last month. It was amazing to see the American Flag as it was waving in the winds. However, many flags became tattered so observe the flags that are still flying and present a new flag if needed.

**A reminder - the coloring contest and word theme entries are due to me February 15<sup>th</sup>.**

Videos and photo collages can tell the story about the VFW Auxiliary and what you do for our veterans and in your community. To make a **photo collage on cardboard base** it should be no larger than 20"x 20" or smaller than 14"x14". Photos should be in color and be descriptive. The display should show involvement in community. Also, is it patriotic, is there a VFW Auxiliary logo included, and are members included in the Official Look?

**The video must be longer than 1 minute 30 seconds** to say we are the VFW Auxiliary. It should show others what we do for our community and veterans. This video can be a link or explanation on how to find out more about the VFW Auxiliary. **Deadlines for video and photo collages are due to me by March 31.**

We observe Valentine's Day on February 14<sup>th</sup>. Remember our veterans with a card or visit to say, "Thank you for your service and our freedom."

Remember to fly your flag every day or on the following dates:

February 14 - Valentine's Day

February 17 - President's Day

Continue promoting Americanism every day.

Eleanor Pacas

## CHAPLAIN/GOLD STAR

We should be getting ready for Midwinter Conference where we always get new ideas when you attend.

I have looked for a new website to share about Gold Star Families, etc. but think I have shared everything on internet that I can find. If you have something I have not shared please let me know and I will share it in the next Ruby Slipper.

I have filed all the reports I have gotten so far but I'm still missing a lot of them. I will report my findings at Midwinter. You can give me your reports at Midwinter then I will file them when I get home.

My condolences to the families of our Auxiliary Members who have passed away.

Remember your Gold Star Families this month with a Valentine card or a phone call just let them know we care.

Happy Valentine's Day and God's Blessing,

Vicki Luebbe

## MENTORING FOR LEADERSHIP

Dear Brothers and Sisters of the VFW Auxiliary,

The year is fast coming to an end and we are FAR from being 100% on reporting on the Mentoring for Leadership Program! In a few short months year-end reports should be completed and submitted. We have deadlines and must commit to adhering to them.

Complementing mentorship is leading by example. Our overall membership will be influenced by a leader's actions. They take their cues from us. Remember your life and experiences are the real curriculum for mentoring.

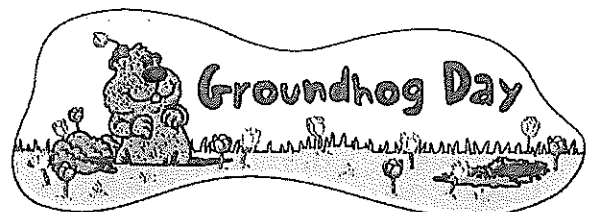
The first and last item on your leader/mentoring/mentee list should be open and honest communications. Communicating is a major part of creating a vision for members to follow.

If your members are doing a great job, sing their praises! Acknowledge their success. Be their biggest supporter! We want our leaders and members to be appreciated and not looked upon as being invisible. Once a leader or member feels they are invisible...they may soon be invisible altogether. Don't let this happen!

Please get your reports in, we want the Department of Nebraska to be 100% in reporting!!

Loyally,

Sue A. Moore



## LEGISLATIVE

Happy February VFW Auxillary Sweethearts,

Governor Pete Ricketts outlined Nebraska's top four priorities for 2020 in his weekly email. The third most important goal is to retain retired veterans.

Taken from Finding 2020 Vision for Nebraska: "Third, Nebraska needs to do more to retain our retired veterans. We are the only state in our region with a declining veteran population. This week, Senators unanimously advanced LB 153, a proposal introduced at my request last year. This bill would exempt 50 percent of military retirement benefit income from state income taxation. LB 153 is a step to keep us competitive with other Midwestern states, most of which do not tax military retirement benefits at all. By helping to retain and recruit military retirees, LB 153 also strengthens our workforce. Since many military personnel can retire after twenty years of service, they often finish their military career in their 40s or 50s. At this age, they are still looking for ways to actively invest their wealth of skills and experience in a new job. Given our state's need for talented workers, we cannot afford to have military retirees exit our state for a more favorable tax situation elsewhere."

You can stay up to date on all bills using [billtrack50.com](http://billtrack50.com).

I received many more reports. Two from Auxiliaries that had not sent reports yet! More yellow squares in my spreadsheet. I will have blank Legislative forms at Midwinter Conference. Stop at the raffle ticket table and fill one out. You will have completed your yearly obligation.

Legislative Day will not be held during the conference. It is on January 31st this year. Hope to see you at the Capitol.

Stay warm in your homes, thanks to our Veterans.

Synthia Stanosheck

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

For more than 90 years, the VFW National Home for Children located in Eaton Rapids, Michigan, has helped military and veteran families who need a fresh start. Families can live there rent free up to four years and have access to professional care management services, on-site licensed child care, life skills training, tutoring and other educational services, as well as recreational and community service opportunities. Families find healing in a safe and peaceful environment of tree-lined streets, 42 single-family homes, facilities such as a gym, library, computer and science labs, daycare center, playgrounds, fishing pond, hiking trails, and more.

Founded in 1925, the VFW National Home for Children serves as a living memorial to American veterans by helping our nation's military and veteran families during difficult times.

The National Home's community is open to families of active-duty military personnel, veterans, and descendants of members of the VFW and VFW Auxillary. The family can be one or both parents with one or more children.

Now you know how important it is for our Auxiliaries to send funds to support The VFW National Home for Children. One

way would be through the Health & Happiness Fund of 10 cents per member or 25 cents per member. Contributions are critical since the campus and its programs receive no government funding. Donations can be made online in MALTA or by mail. To donate by mail, send a check earmarked Health & Happiness to VFW Auxillary National Headquarters, Attn: Health & Happiness Donations, 406 W.34<sup>th</sup> Street, 10<sup>th</sup> Floor, Kansas City, MO 64111.

### SERVING OUR VETERANS WITH ALOHA

Linda Vogel

### HOSPITAL/VAVS

Now is the time to send your nomination for outstanding volunteer from your Auxillary. March 15, 2020, is the deadline. Reports are needed.

Joyce Witt

### CHIEF of STAFF/EXTENSION

As I sit here with the cold and snow all around, I dream of warmer weather. April showers bring May flowers and a very busy VFW time.

District Presidents please set your Auxillary Presidents up for SUCCESS with their Spring Convention delegates. The Auxillary Presidents will need the delegate form found in your District President's white notebook. With Auxiliaries meeting early in the month, they will need these forms as soon as possible. **District delegate forms MUST be sent to the District Secretary** as stated on the form in your notebooks. Department Secretary Jean has already put 1 form per Auxillary in your notebook and you should use them.

If you have questions check the 2020 Bylaws and Ritual, pages 32-35. Article III, Sec 303-District, Sec 304-Department, Sec 305-National Convention. Delegates must be elected, voted on and accepted by motion. This will give the delegates the privilege to vote for the candidate of their choice and will complete the process for Department and National Delegates.

Results are recorded in the minutes and forwarded to the District Secretary (for District Convention) and Jean Barton for Department Convention. National Convention Delegates (If the Auxillary does not want to enter them in MALTA) may also be sent to Jean.

Remember President Liz and myself are always ready to assist you with any questions or concerns you may have.

Thank you for all that you do to assist OUR VETERANS.

Loyally

Donna Fenske



February 17, 2020

## NATIONAL SCHOLARSHIPS

The Department judging of the Voice of Democracy and Patriot's Pen have been completed. So now we are in a state of suspense! Who are the winners? We will find out at Midwinter Conference in Lincoln, the times for the students to board the bus and tour the capital have changed so read the agenda for that event carefully! All students involved will receive a letter telling them the time to board the bus for the capitol tour. I hope all local and District winners will be honored by your Posts and Auxiliaries, this will encourage other students to participate and those students who are eligible will participate next year. Be sure to thank the teachers who promoted the program this year, they will then promote the programs next year.

Our next scholarships to continue to promote are The Continuing Education Scholarship and Creative Art. The Continuing Education Scholarship is a great opportunity to finish yours, or a family member's, desire to finish or add additional courses to enhance your career. You must be a current member, spouse, son, or daughter of a current member, and 18 years of age or older. The qualifying member must have been a member of the VFW for one year by the application submission date. Four \$1,000 scholarships are awarded each year to one individual in each Conference. The rules and application are on the National VFW Auxiliary website at [vfwAuxiliary.org/resources](http://vfwAuxiliary.org/resources). Please read the form carefully and answer all questions on the form. Write your essay and send the application to National Headquarters no later than February 15, 2020.

The Young American Creative Patriotic Art Contest is open to all students including home schooled students in grades 9 – 12, no older than 18 years of age, and a U.S. student or U.S. National. The artwork will be judged on patriotic theme and technique. One Department winner will be forwarded to Auxiliary National Headquarters. Students must attend school in the state of the sponsoring Auxiliary. Please see the student brochure for more details. The Patriotic Art contest will now accept expanded additional forms of art. See the National website for the details on the rules and expanded art forms. The Deadline to get your art to me is easy to remember - APRIL 15, 2020!

E. Jane Petersen

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

Mother Nature has shown us her true winter face in the last week here in eastern Nebraska. I hope all of you have been able to stay out of the cold and off of the icy roads.

Now that we are headed into February if you still have annual members that haven't paid their dues, it's time to contact them again. Let them know they are no longer members in good standing. Encourage them to pay their dues now. Let them know how much they can help our veterans by being members. After all, they are members because of those veterans and we need all our members so we can give the veterans and their families all the assistance they need. You can do this.

Soon we'll be getting ready to elect officers for the 2020-21

year. Start thinking about members in your Auxiliary that would make good officers and help your Auxiliary be the healthiest it can be. I'll be sending the forms for you to complete at the end of March so you'll have them by your April meeting which is when our Bylaws tell us we need to elect officers. The day following your election you will need to send the application to me so that I can send you an Installation report form that will need to be completed at your installation in May. You will need to elect and install officers even if they remain the same as the previous year. If you are having issues finding officers please contact your District President, President Liz, Chief of Staff Donna, or me as soon as possible. DON'T WAIT!!!!

I'll also be sending the forms for you to let us know who will be representing your Auxiliary as delegates and alternates to the Department Convention in June.

Your Auxiliary should be receiving the form to elect District delegates and alternates from your District President in the very near future as well. Please note that those forms are to be sent to the DISTRICT Secretary. If you send them to me it only delays the process.

Secretaries I'm asking you to make sure all the paperwork I send actually gets completed and sent to me by the required dates. I work closely with the Department President and you should be doing the same with your Auxiliary President.

### ROSTER CHANGES

Presidents and Secretaries – PLEASE notify me if your name, address, phone, or email changes. The most important is your address. If you don't send me the change I have to pay the Post Office to get it. All of you have my address (8100 Regent Drive, Lincoln/68507-3366) and email ([jeanbarton@windstream.net](mailto:jeanbarton@windstream.net)) so please do me the courtesy of getting it to me and then when I post changes here, get your Roster out and change it immediately. I don't mind talking to you but if you just read what I write and then take a minute or two you won't have to take time out of your day to call me to see why your mail is being returned. THANKS!!!!

Page 4, Name and email change – PDP Kim Hild Williams (Abboud), email [kimberlywilliams1320@yahoo.com](mailto:kimberlywilliams1320@yahoo.com)

Page 4, District 4 President Sue Moore's phone number should be 308-350-2860

Page 6, Buddy Poppy and National Home for Children Chairman Linda Vogel's new email address is [llvogel73@gmail.com](mailto:llvogel73@gmail.com)

Page 6, Page 12, and Page 17 PDP, Assistant Veterans & Family Support and 1347 Auxiliary President Karen Linden, 711 W. Hedde St, Grand Island NE 68801-7191

Page 19, 2543 President Sondra Albertson's new address is 4002 Raynor Pkwy #1113, Bellevue, NE 68123-6124.

Thanks for all you do for our veterans, our Auxiliaries, and our communities.

Stay Warm!



Auxiliary	Life New	Life Rejoin	Life Continuous	Annual New	Annual Rejoin	Annual Continuous	Total	Prior Total	Percentage	Auxiliary	Life New	Life Rejoin	Life Continuous	Annual New	Annual Rejoin	Annual Continuous	Total	Prior Total	Percentage	
1375	0	0	5	0	0	0	5	36	13.89 %	854	2	0	62	1	0	0	108	106	101.89 %	
1681	0	0	37	0	1	20	58	67	86.57 %	1251	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	29	10.00 %
2243	0	0	27	5	21	53	53	53	100.00 %	4912	1	0	35	0	0	41	77	78	98.72 %	
5639	0	0	22	0	7	29	29	12	241.67 %	5543	0	0	6	2	0	17	25	24	104.17 %	
7970	0	0	23	0	0	23	23	23	100.00 %	5767	0	0	30	0	0	18	48	49	97.96 %	
Total - DNE01	0	0	114	6	48	168	191	191	87.96 %	6928	0	0	12	5	1	27	45	40	112.50 %	
1151	0	0	38	0	30	68	68	74	91.89 %	7998	0	0	18	0	0	36	54	56	96.43 %	
1644	0	1	217	1	125	344	364	364	94.51 %	8223	1	0	57	4	0	24	86	80	107.50 %	
3602	0	0	91	0	89	180	184	184	97.83 %	8332	0	0	34	0	0	21	55	57	96.49 %	
4504	0	0	17	0	15	32	34	34	94.12 %	Total - DNE07	4	0	254	12	1	227	498	519	95.95 %	
4996	0	0	30	0	41	71	76	93.42 %	131	1	0	176	4	0	54	235	235	100.00 %		
5287	0	0	4	0	12	16	17	17	94.12 %	1609	0	0	12	0	0	37	49	53	92.45 %	
5291	1	0	8	0	9	18	18	18	100.00 %	3606	2	1	75	9	1	33	121	116	104.31 %	
5545	0	0	7	0	28	35	35	35	100.00 %	4502	1	0	76	1	0	33	111	112	99.11 %	
5816	0	0	7	0	19	26	27	96.30 %	4755	0	0	133	0	0	12	145	147	98.64 %		
5824	0	0	0	0	14	14	15	93.33 %	9776	0	0	26	0	0	25	51	54	94.44 %		
7838	0	0	8	0	2	10	10	100.00 %	Total - DNE09	4	1	498	14	1	194	712	717	99.30 %		
Total - DNE03	1	1	427	0	384	814	854	95.32 %	247	0	0	40	1	0	20	61	62	98.39 %		
1504	0	0	79	0	19	98	100	98.00 %	2503	1	0	228	3	0	171	403	435	92.64 %		
1652	0	0	12	0	24	36	40	90.00 %	2543	0	0	74	0	0	53	127	145	87.59 %		
4688	0	0	25	1	47	73	79	100.00 %	2704	0	0	0	7	0	11	18	18	100.00 %		
5379	0	0	12	0	2	14	15	93.33 %	3421	0	0	26	2	0	17	45	43	104.65 %		
6219	0	0	15	0	17	32	32	100.00 %	8334	4	0	130	5	1	95	235	235	100.00 %		
7028	0	0	48	0	20	68	68	68	100.00 %	10727	1	0	62	7	0	77	147	141	104.26 %	
8258	0	0	13	1	20	34	35	97.14 %	Total - DNE10	6	0	567	18	1	444	1036	1079	96.01 %		
9155	0	0	4	0	36	40	45	86.96 %	926	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	53	100.00 %	
Total - DNE04	0	0	208	2	185	395	409	96.58 %	1347	0	0	151	6	0	62	219	219	100.00 %		
1077	0	0	40	5	45	90	98	91.84 %	3576	0	0	25	0	0	52	77	83	92.77 %		
1765	0	0	25	0	59	84	88	95.45 %	4677	0	0	14	0	1	2	17	18	94.44 %		
2634	0	0	12	2	7	21	27	77.78 %	5138	0	0	9	0	0	28	37	38	97.37 %		
3113	0	0	23	0	18	41	58	70.69 %	5820	0	0	14	1	0	41	56	56	100.00 %		
4959	0	0	46	2	20	68	80	85.00 %	6159	0	0	32	0	0	25	57	58	98.28 %		
5289	0	0	46	0	39	85	90	94.44 %	7029	1	0	183	1	0	42	227	199	114.07 %		
5547	0	0	15	0	61	76	77	98.70 %	8256	0	0	25	0	0	12	37	37	100.00 %		
7102	0	0	14	0	68	82	84	97.62 %	Total - DNE11	1	0	453	8	1	264	727	761	95.53 %		
8221	1	0	10	0	14	25	26	96.15 %	759	1	0	58	5	0	43	107	111	96.40 %		
10042	0	0	14	0	18	32	33	96.97 %	890	0	0	15	2	1	18	36	35	102.86 %		
10579	0	0	10	0	12	22	25	88.00 %	1346	0	0	68	0	0	32	100	107	93.46 %		
Total - DNE05	1	0	255	9	361	626	686	91.25 %	5136	0	0	80	0	0	22	102	102	100.00 %		
									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	7	2	150	448	456	98.25 %		
									736	1	0	51	0	0	21	73	74	98.65 %		
									3704	0	0	64	0	0	47	112	113	99.12 %		
									4836	0	0	16	0	1	15	32	33	96.97 %		
									5814	0	0	10	0	0	17	27	34	79.41 %		
									Total - DNE15	1	0	141	0	2	100	244	254	96.06 %		
									Total - NE	23	2	3500	70	15	2357	5967	6226	95.84 %		

Department of Nebraska VFW Auxiliary

Memstats as of 01/17/2020