

# THE RUBY SLIPPER



## Thanks to Our Veterans There's No Place Like Home

VFW Auxiliary

Department of Nebraska

June 2020

Dear Auxiliary Sisters and Brothers,

It has been a privilege and honor to serve as your Department President this year.

Our year ended rather abruptly due to the unprecedented times, and we have had to elect our officers for next year in a different way this year. However, there have been many highlights to remember.

We worked hard and had fun when we hosted our National President and the Big 10 Conference in Omaha. I have many wonderful memories of traveling throughout Nebraska and meeting our members. Your generosity and kindness means a lot to me. I also had the pleasure of meeting and talking with veterans in three of our state's Veterans Homes and our medical facilities.

Our programs did very well. It is clear how much Nebraska cares for our veterans and their families. We are doing well in our membership. As I write this, we are at 96.24%.

All the Department Presidents at the CAFÉ event in Hawaii were introduced by their state's membership ranking. I was very proud of Nebraska when I was the seventeenth President (after Hawaii's President) introduced.

Another highlight was the Voice of Democracy Parade of Winners in Washington, D.C. It was an exciting night as Nebraska's entry was the National winner. Also during that trip, Nebraska met with our representatives and senators to discuss veterans' issues. There was also time to visit the memorials, the Capitol, the Supreme Court, and Library of Congress, and also the camaraderie with the other attendees.

June Convention will be a one-day event on June 20, 2020, at 9:30 a.m. At this time, our plan is to do only what business has to be done which includes election of officers. Please refer to the Agenda included in this mailing.

National Convention has been cancelled. However, National will hold a one-day event for the purpose of electing officers. All Auxiliaries will have their full voting strength provided they have entered their delegates in MALTA by June 30. Department Secretary Jean will provide instruction to the Auxiliaries.

Thank you to our Past National President, Past Department Presidents, Line Officers, Floor Team, Program Chairmen, District Presidents, and all Auxiliaries members for their support and hard work throughout the year.

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

Loyally,

Liz Davis, Department President

### MEMBERSHIP

I am so proud of the work Nebraska has done this year in membership. It has been a trying few months but you are still working and trying to get those members. We are at 96.24% as of this writing, having lost a few members but gained some also. We have 34 new life members and 96 new annual members that joined this year so far.

We still have time to get those members who haven't paid yet just remind them that if they are paid by June 30 they will remain continuous members and back in good standing. After June 30 they will have to sign up again (rejoin) and lose all their years of continuous membership.

Until we meet again stay safe and healthy! Go Team Nebraska Go!!!! Membership is a TEAM effort, so let's "get our ASK in gear!"

And 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

### AMERICANISM

This month we observe Flag Day on June 14<sup>th</sup>. Encourage the flying of the American Flag. An article on Flag Day could be put in local newspapers, TV, as a flyer or on the radio.

Present Certificates of Recognition to businesses and citizens in your community for flying the American Flag. Everyone needs to be aware of how to care for the flag, the proper way to display and retire the flag.

June 21<sup>st</sup> is Father's Day. We do not need a special day to thank our fathers and those who are veterans, do it every day throughout the year.

Americanism is a program that should be promoted every day all year long. Patriotism begins at home and by flying the American Flag you show your patriotism to America.

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

Eleanor Pacas

## HISTORIAN/MEDIA RELATIONS/VFW NEWS EDITOR

The past months have proven challenging to hold meetings and get work completed for VFW Auxiliaries across Nebraska. The innovation to deal with social distancing and the COVID-19 virus has forced us to expand our communication skills to get things done. The end of year reporting included many articles about Auxiliaries at work in Nebraska. In speaking with the Department Editor, it is uncertain if the next issue of the Department newsletter will be published. I have submitted articles to Department and National and here are just a few examples of the work Auxiliaries have been doing:

- A tribute to the heroism of truckers - Auxiliary members made hearty meals for truckers and they were joined by the State Patrol to pass them out at a weigh station as the truckers travel through Nebraska.
- Honor Guards at funerals were able to continue by using distancing and face masks sewn by Auxiliary members to perform at funerals and small functions.
- Face masks sewn by members were used to help in Veterans Homes, hospitals, nursing homes, and provided to homebound and high risk individuals in the community.
- V.A. Home was awarded \$2,000 for their personnel to hold activities. Equal donations of \$500 came from joint donations by V.F.W., D.A.V., American Legion and a private donor. The Auxiliary member nurse delivered the check in full compliance and attire for COVID-19.
- Concerts have been held outside VA Homes, assisted living and nursing homes.
- Post & Auxiliaries are preparing for Memorial Day by live streaming the Memorial Services with limited numbers and COVID-19 restrictions observed.
- Auxiliary members volunteered to make and take meals (prepared at nonprofit centers and businesses) to feed homebound and families in need.
- Post and Auxiliary help elderly vote at the courthouse or deliver absentee mail-in ballots to shut-ins. Auxiliary members helped at polling precincts and transported voters to the polls while observing COVID-19 restrictions.
- Auxiliary members have actively called and sent cards to homebound individuals and residents at Veterans Homes to give them outside contact.
- Cruise night with local volunteers driving by homes and hospitals, waving at residents and thanking health care and emergency response personnel.
- 90<sup>th</sup> Birthday party and graduating Senior High School students were also recognized with cruise parties.

Books, puzzles, and crosswords, etc. delivered to homebound using COVID-19 RULES.

If your Auxiliary does not have an Historian/Media Relations/News Editor, don't let it stop you. You as a member can submit a report or send in a local news release. Send to Department Historian Chairman Judy Workman, POB 814, Kearney, NE 68848 or email to opusworkman@yahoo.com. Thanks to our Veterans, There's No Place Like Home to report on!

Loyally,

Judy Workman

## CHAPLAIN/GOLD STAR

June Convention is going to be different this year because of Covid-19 but year-end reports should have been in and counted, I only received 53 reports out of 73 Auxiliaries. Really sorry I didn't hear from you all.

It was truly an honor for me to be President Liz's, Chaplain and Gold Star Chairman this year. I really learned a lot after reading all the reports from our Auxiliaries and the many ways they honor our Gold Star Members and their families and helping out our veterans.

God's blessings to all the Auxiliaries who had a member pass away. They will truly be missed. Again remember to Drape the Charter for each of your deceased members at your meetings. This is an honor for being a member of your Auxiliary.

Keep up the good work and like Liz's theme says, "Thanks to Our Veterans There's No Place Like Home."

Thank you everyone and God's Blessings

Vicki Luebbe

## LEGISLATIVE

My last article for the year. It has been an interesting one! We started out so busy with our visits from the National President and at Fall Conference, our National Commander. When are you ever given the chance to throw pie in the face of your leaders? Great memories and we raised a LOT of money in a short time (minus the cost of whipped cream and plastic for the floor!) After Mid-Winter Conference came the extreme slow down. Who could imagine missing going to meetings?

The polling place was interesting this time. Blue x's on the floor, everyone in a mask, and the ballot sleeves have not been this clean since they were brand new. With 80% of the ballots mailed back I was surprised at the number of people who still came to vote in person. The atmosphere was not quite as festive, but we still cheered each first-time voter. We could not give out I VOTED stickers, but we encouraged a voting booth selfie. And everyone got to go home with a free pen.

Thank you to everyone who kept reporting on activity for the Legislative program. There are some amazing Auxiliaries in Nebraska. They are connected to what is going on in our state and they get the message about our veterans to our State Senators and Congress. Keep up the good work!

There is No Place Like Home, Thanks to Our Veterans. What a fitting motto for our year. I am grateful to live in a country that protects and values all its people. Top awards for Legislature will be publicized in the Year-End Report Book. I will miss our State Convention and handing out the awards.

Have a safe and wonderful summer.

Synthia Stanosheck

## NATIONAL SCHOLARSHIPS

I would like to share some more information about our National Voice of Democracy winner. Her class rank is 1 out of 166 students. Her ACT score is 35. She will be attending Harvard to study psychology and public policy. She has received twelve scholarship awards including the National Voice of Democracy 1<sup>st</sup> place award. The teacher that had the biggest impact on her was her AP Government teacher who guided her to get involved in her community which guided her to endorse public policy. Her perspective on the pandemic has made her aware of how little control she has over her life and how a virus can change the course of our entire lifestyle. She also realizes the importance of in-person relationships and friendships. She attended Omaha Marian High School with my granddaughter.

I have had questions about the Art Contest. The entries have been judged and Department Treasurer Sandee will be writing checks to the winners. I will be getting the artwork back to the District Presidents to return to the students. The first place winner has been sent and received by the National Headquarters' Mail Room. I do not know how the National office will handle judging or when the entries will be judged. I have the winners listed in the Department Convention Book you usually get at Department Convention. Not sure what Department Convention format will be but you will get the booklet somehow, sometime.

These are difficult times that sometimes try our patience but we will all do our very best to carry out our responsibilities. Thanks to everyone who participated in the National Scholarship contests.

Jane Petersen

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

Aloha VFW Auxiliary Members,

I want to shout out to each one of you that sent me a completed report on everything you have done with "Buddy" Poppy and the VFW National Home for Children that has helped our veterans and their families. Thank you also for the Auxiliaries that took time to use their time and talents to find ways to use the "Buddy" Poppy and VFW National Home for Children in our programs. I was very proud of your great efforts toward my contest. The top winner will be printed and put into the Year-End Report Book. Thank you again for everything you are doing for our veterans.

I want to let you know that President Liz Davis has informed me that we won't be able to have any poppy displays brought to our Convention. I know that some of you let me know that you are participating in making a "Buddy" Poppy display. If you have those completed my suggestion is to save them for next year's Convention. We will miss seeing the "Buddy" Poppy displays at Convention.

THANKS TO OUR VETERANS, THERES NO PLACE LIKE HOME

Stay Safe,

Linda Vogel

## A Note or Two from your Department Secretary

We understand that these are difficult times and we need to get our election/installation process completed as soon as possible. You can do it with email, phone calls, etc. if you cannot meet to do so. To those of you who have completed your "election" and Application for Warrant, thank you! To those who have not, if you know who your President, Secretary, and Treasurer are going to be, please fill out the Application ASAP and get it to me either through the Post Office or by email (jeanbarton@windstream.net.) I will send the Installation Report back to you by email if one of these officers has an email or through the mail. Please get it filled out and returned to be by either method and I will get it entered in MALTA for you. Remember that the Auxiliary Secretaries are the only local officer that can enter them if you want to do it yourself.

Presidents, please be looking for a letter from me regarding an opportunity for your Auxiliary to vote on the National level this year! Everything will be explained in the letter.

Thank you for all you have done to keep assisting our veterans, their families, and our communities during these unprecedented times.

If you have ANY questions/concerns please contact me at jeanbarton@windstream.net or 8100 Regent Drive, Lincoln, NE 68507-3366. You can also leave a message on my home phone at 402-464-1586. I'm not home much right now but will check voicemails as I can.



June 21, 2020

Dept of Nebraska Membership																			
Auxiliary	Life New	Life Rejoin	Life Continuou	Annual New	Annual Rejoin	Annual Continuou	Total	Prior Total	Percentage	Auxiliary	Life New	Life Rejoin	Life Continuou	Annual New	Annual Rejoin	Annual Continuou	Total	Prior Total	Percentage
1375	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	36	0.00 %	854	2	0	60	1	0	43	106	106	100.00 %
1681	0	0	37	4	1	24	66	67	98.51 %	1251	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	29	0.00 %
2243	0	0	27	0	5	21	53	53	100.00 %	4912	1	0	34	0	0	41	76	78	97.44 %
5639	0	0	23	0	0	7	30	12	250.00 %	5543	0	0	6	2	0	17	25	24	104.17 %
7970	0	0	23	0	0	0	23	23	100.00 %	5767	0	0	30	0	0	18	48	49	97.96 %
DNE01	0	0	110	4	6	52	172	191	90.05 %	6928	0	0	11	5	1	25	42	40	105.00 %
1151	0	0	37	0	0	28	65	74	87.84 %	7998	0	0	18	0	1	36	55	56	98.21 %
1644	0	1	218	0	1	126	346	364	95.05 %	8223	1	0	57	4	0	24	86	80	107.50 %
3602	1	0	89	0	0	89	179	184	97.28 %	8332	0	0	34	0	0	22	56	57	98.25 %
4504	0	0	17	0	0	15	32	34	94.12 %	DNE07	4	0	250	12	2	226	494	519	95.18 %
4996	0	0	30	3	0	41	74	76	97.37 %	131	3	1	165	5	0	52	226	235	96.17 %
5287	0	0	4	0	0	12	16	17	94.12 %	1609	0	0	11	0	0	37	48	53	90.57 %
5291	1	0	8	0	0	9	18	18	100.00 %	3606	3	1	75	12	1	33	125	116	107.76 %
5545	0	0	7	0	0	28	35	35	100.00 %	4502	1	0	76	1	0	34	112	112	100.00 %
5816	0	0	7	1	0	19	27	27	100.00 %	4755	1	0	133	2	0	12	148	147	100.68 %
5824	0	0	0	0	0	12	12	15	80.00 %	9776	0	0	26	0	0	26	52	54	96.30 %
7838	0	0	8	0	0	2	10	10	100.00 %	DNE09	8	2	486	20	1	194	711	717	99.16 %
DNE03	2	1	425	4	1	381	814	854	95.32 %	247	0	0	40	1	0	20	61	62	98.39 %
1504	0	0	79	0	0	19	98	100	98.00 %	2503	1	0	229	4	0	174	408	435	93.79 %
1652	0	0	12	0	0	24	36	40	90.00 %	2543	0	0	72	0	0	63	135	145	93.10 %
4688	1	0	25	1	0	47	74	73	101.37 %	2704	0	0	7	0	0	11	18	18	100.00 %
5379	0	0	12	0	0	2	14	15	93.33 %	3421	0	0	26	2	0	17	45	43	104.65 %
6219	0	0	15	0	0	17	32	32	100.00 %	8334	5	0	129	6	1	95	236	235	100.43 %
7028	0	0	47	0	0	20	67	68	98.53 %	10727	1	0	62	10	0	77	150	141	106.38 %
8258	0	0	13	1	0	20	34	35	97.14 %	DNE10	7	0	565	23	1	457	1053	1079	97.59 %
9155	0	0	4	0	0	36	40	46	86.96 %	926	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	53	0.00 %
DNE04	1	0	207	2	0	185	395	409	96.58 %	1347	0	0	149	7	1	62	219	219	100.00 %
1077	0	0	39	5	0	52	96	98	97.96 %	3576	0	0	25	0	0	51	76	83	91.57 %
1765	0	0	25	0	0	58	83	88	94.32 %	4677	0	0	13	0	1	2	16	18	88.89 %
2634	0	0	11	2	0	7	20	27	74.07 %	5138	0	0	9	0	0	28	37	38	97.37 %
3113	0	0	23	0	0	27	50	58	86.21 %	5820	0	0	14	1	0	41	56	56	100.00 %
4959	1	0	46	2	0	18	67	80	83.75 %	6159	0	0	31	0	0	25	56	58	96.55 %
5289	0	0	45	0	0	38	83	90	92.22 %	7029	1	0	179	2	0	41	223	199	112.06 %
5547	0	0	15	0	0	61	76	77	98.70 %	8256	0	0	26	0	0	11	37	37	100.00 %
7102	0	0	14	0	0	68	82	84	97.62 %	DNE11	1	0	446	10	2	261	720	761	94.61 %
8221	1	0	10	0	0	14	25	26	96.15 %	759	2	0	57	7	0	45	111	111	100.00 %
10042	1	0	14	1	1	18	35	33	106.06 %	890	1	0	15	3	0	16	35	35	100.00 %
10579	0	0	10	0	0	13	23	25	92.00 %	1346	0	0	68	0	0	33	101	107	94.39 %
DNE06	3	0	252	10	1	374	640	686	93.29 %	5136	0	0	80	0	0	22	102	102	100.00 %
										5539	1	0	48	0	1	13	63	61	103.28 %
										5641	3	0	15	1	0	22	41	40	102.50 %
										DNE13	7	0	283	11	1	151	453	456	99.34 %
										736	1	0	45	0	0	20	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	18	28	34	82.35 %
										DNE15	1	0	135	0	2	100	238	254	93.70 %
										Total - NE	35	3	3460	96	18	2380	5992	6226	96.24 %

PLEASE NOTE: This agenda is for our Department Convention which is expected to last only 2 hours on Saturday, June 20, 2020 starting at 9:30 a.m. The meeting will take place at the Seward Civic Center, 616 Bradford Street, Seward, NE.

If you don't care to drive to attend the meeting for 2 hours there is a way for you to still "be there" virtually (by phone.) Follow the instructions from Treasurer Sandee. You can see them on the next page. We sincerely hope you will join us.

If you do plan to attend, make sure you have sent your Department Delegates on the form that was mailed to you in the April Ruby Slipper.

We will not be having anything that day except for what the agenda (below) shows. What it means is there will be no Buddy Poppy Display Contest, no History Book judging, no Chairmen giving out certificates and awards, etc. We will plan to send all certificates with the Program Book and Roster around July 1, 2020. Please feel free to reach out to me if you have any questions.

#### DEPARTMENT CONVENTION

June 20, 2020

- 9:30a.m. 2019-20 Council of Administration meeting
- Present Financial Report
  - Vote on Budget overages
  - Old business
- 9:45 a.m. Open General Session
- Nominations
  - Commander Joe Smith
  - President Liz's Special Project
  - Scholarship 50/50 raffle
  - Election
  - Installation
- 10:45 a.m. 2020-21 Council of Administration meeting
- Approve proposed 2020-21 Budget
  - Approve any special requests for fund raising (i.e. Department Scholarships)
- 11:30 a.m. Convention closes

Dear Sisters & Brothers

The One-Day Department Convention will be held in Seward on June 20, beginning at 9:30 am. We expect the meeting to last no more than 2 hrs. There is more information in the agenda.

You are invited to attend the meeting via a Cisco Webex Business Meeting Conference Call.

**VFW Ladies Auxiliary – Nebraska Conference Call**

- Call the following number.
  - **1-312-535-8110** (Chicago Area)
- When prompted, enter the meeting number: **618 183 291** followed by the **#** sign.
- Follow the verbal instructions.
  - Non-Host attendees will just need to press the **#** sign again.
- Remember to use a phone or cell that has unlimited long distance because depending on your phone service account, long-distance charges may apply to their personal phone accounts.
- When you enter the meeting room you will need to announce yourself by name and Auxiliary.
- When you are NOT speaking you will need to mute your phone because this system tends to pick up background noise.
- The meeting room will be open beginning @ 9:15 am and will remain open until the meeting is concluded. Roll call of Auxiliary and participants will take place between 9:15 and 9:30 am. You may stay for the entire meeting or you may select to hang up at any time.

Sandee Bellows  
Department Treasurer