

# The Navigator

## Stay on Course for Our Veterans

VFW Auxiliary

Department of Nebraska

September 2017

Dear Auxiliary Sisters and Brothers,

First, I would like to thank all of those who attended the Department School of Instruction in Seward. I hope that you found it enjoyable and informative. A special thank you to the Seward Post and Auxiliary for hosting our event and the wonderful taco bar and desserts for lunch.

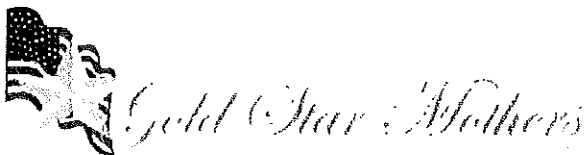
Our Chairmen work very hard to provide you with the information that you need for successful program participation. If you have questions regarding a program, please give the appropriate chairman a call and ask questions or for any information that you may need. They are there to assist you in any way that they can. Our Department can only be as successful as our Auxiliaries, so please let us help you.

I would like to thank our Department Treasurer for allowing me to travel with her while she provided MALTA training in the western portion of the state. I so enjoyed meeting and visiting with the officers and members that we don't always get to see. It was a real pleasure. I hope that all of you have sent your bond request in and are transmitting your memberships to Sandee. PLEASE DO NOT HOLD YOUR MEMBERSHIP.

I would like to ask for a little assistance from our Officers, District Presidents, Chairmen and our members. Please do not give notes to me, Sandee, or Jean at a meeting or text us messages with questions or requests for information. We are often trying to do several things at once and chances are your note will get lost in the shuffle and not be addressed. Email or written communications are always best. If you are conveying information for which a form is provided (i.e. District Meetings, Changes in Officers, or member changes,) PLEASE use the proper form. This will help us assist you much more efficiently, save errors and confusion, and provide a record of the communication.

Thank you,

Carol Brosnihan  
Department President



### CHIEF OF STAFF AND EXTENSION

Our National Chief of Staff, Jane Ziebarth, states, "Mentoring will enhance the chances of maintaining a stronger membership on every level of our organization. Mentoring can make the difference in obtaining and maintaining members, given the large number of other organizations who are vying for member's time and talents."

In her program article she asks that we encourage you to embrace and promote the CARE concept within our Auxiliaries:

- \*CATCH the member when they first join
- \*ASK them to participate
- \*REMEMBER what it felt like to be new
- \*ENGAGE them in a program that fits them

When a new member attends his/her first meeting take the time to:

- \* Introduce them to the rest of the members attending
- \* Make that new member welcome
- \* As you proceed through the meeting take the time to explain what you are doing. (Example Parade Rest, Attention, etc.) and have your chairmen explain a little about their program. He/she will not leave the meeting muttering to themselves, "what did I get myself into?"

I want to thank everyone who participated in the School of Instruction on August 5. We had wonderful attendance and I hope that you enjoyed the format with the Chairmen programs. There are some improvements and additions that will be looked at but all in all I thank each chairman for the work that they did to get ready for the meeting, setting up their tables, and explaining their programs to the attendees. This one-on-one definitely gave the members a chance to get to know the Chairmen for 2017-2018.

In closing, should you notice an Auxiliary struggling and having some issues, please let us know. It is so much easier to help in the beginning stages of a problem. Continue working on your membership and recruiting those new members. This is the year of 100% membership.

REMEMBER TO STAY ON COURSE FOR OUR VETERANS and also CATCH THE DREAM FOR OUR VETERANS.

Loyally,  
Dixie Hild

## LEGISLATIVE

It was so nice to see so many "Representatives" from the Auxiliaries at the School of Instruction. I hope you learned a little more about the programs by going from booth to booth and asking the Chairmen in person about their program. I have already received one report. I would like to see more reports and news clippings that you have read or letters you have sent to our Congressmen in Washington or our Senators in Nebraska. Also, if you have been to any town hall meetings let me know about those, too. (Write it down on your report sheet and get them to me soon, don't wait until April 15.)

VFW Lauds Unanimous House Passage of "Forever GI Bill." I hope you have been reading up on this bill and are staying informed about what is going on. Our veterans need this bill to pass so please keep writing your Senators and Representatives. If you would like to find out more about what is going on with our legislators check out the Action Corps Weekly at <http://capwiz.com/vfw/mlm/signup.htm>. There is a lot to learn from this web site. Now, let's "Stay on Course for Our Veterans"

Vicki Luebbe

## EDITOR

Another successful School of Instruction is in the books! There were a lot members in attendance with a lot of good questions about the programs. I hope all that attended got the answers they were looking for and feel comfortable submitting their reports.

Just a few quick reminders about the Editor program.

1. Pictures cannot be submitted on printed paper or newspaper. They need to be actual picture paper.
2. Newspaper articles can be submitted but we need an authorization release from the newspaper.
3. Make sure the pictures are clear and there is a brief description of the activity and the individuals involved.

Feel free to message me if you have any questions.

Let's share your articles and pictures to show how you are "Staying on Course for Our Veterans!"

Angela Ostrander



## HOSPITAL

September is Veteran & Military Suicide Awareness Month!

I hope you picked up the papers I had at School of Instruction, please read the material and help our veterans to find other ways to cope. Know and recognize the warning signs. This is not just the young veterans, it is also the older ones who are dealing with PTSD and other problems. Be there for them, show them they are not alone. We, the Veterans of Foreign Wars Auxiliary, are their family and we care what happens to them.

The Veterans Crisis Line is available 24-7. Dial 1-800-273-8255, press 1 to talk to someone NOW or text to 838255, they have Live Veterans Chat.

There is a lot of good information out there so let's make sure it is available to whoever needs the help. [WWW.veteranscrisisline.net](http://WWW.veteranscrisisline.net) has a lot of information, check it out!

It was nice to see everyone at the School of Instruction in August. I hope you liked the way we presented our programs. It was more one-on-one this time.

Just a quick mention on the Hospital Monthly report. Please disregard the deadline dates (left in by accident), I would appreciate a monthly report.

If I can be of any help please let me know.

Don't forget to wear your Blue Teardrop and "Stay the Course for our Veterans."

Loyally,

Sharon J Thorne

## YOUTH ACTIVITIES

School is back in full swing so make sure you are working with the youth every day! They added the Veterans History Project to Youth Activities this year. Veterans History Project collects, preserves, and makes accessible the personal accounts of American war veterans so that future generations may hear directly from veterans and better understand the realities of war. A participant may be a veteran, an interviewer, or a person donating a veteran's collection. Students in the 10<sup>th</sup> grade and above may also participate and there are special resources for educators and students. There are 4 easy steps to follow. Print the Veterans History Project field kit (required forms), prepare for the interview, conduct the interview, and send your collection to the Library of Congress. For more information about Veterans History Project you can visit <https://www.loc.gov/vets/about.html>. Make sure you send reports in as you do things with the youth! Let's continue to work together and Stay on Course for Our Veterans.

Katlyn Abboud

## CHAPLAIN AND GOLD STAR

I hope everyone learned some new things about this year's programs and also enjoyed the great meal that was provided at School of Instruction. Commander Jeff Baker and District 9 President Vicki Luebbe did a fantastic job with everything! Looking forward to seeing everyone at Commander Larry and President Carol's Homecoming and Fall Conference in October.

I have been receiving notices of Auxiliary sisters who have passed since June convention and I would ask that you say a prayer for them.

This month I have two Gold Star members to feature. The first one is Pat Mracek who is the President of Nebraska Gold Star Mothers. Here is what she shared with me.

"My son's name is Sgt. Cory R. Mracek. He enlisted in the army in 1995 with the 82nd Airborne. Cory played football, basketball, baseball, and track. He loved Nebraska football as well as the Denver Broncos and the Colorado Avalanche. I remember how much Cory loved to laugh and he loved to do imitations of movie and television characters.

On January 27, 2004 while serving in Iskandaryiah, Iraq, he was killed. Cory had only been in country for 8 days. Listed are the medals he received: Bronze Star, Purple Heart, Army Commendation, Army Achievement Medal with 3 leaf clusters, Good Conduct, Korean Defense, National Defense Service, Iraq Campaign, and the Global War on Terrorism Service Medal." What an amazing young man.

Joyce Medina posted the following on Facebook but gave me permission to put it in the newsletter. Thank you Joyce. "On July 28, 1968 our family received the most dreaded notice a family could ever receive. My brother John William Zuehlsdorf had been killed in Vietnam. To this day, as if it were happening right now; it takes my breath away the same as it did 49 years ago.

Even though Bill (as his family and friends called him) was 9 years older than me, we always had a kindred spirit. Like so many little sisters, I worshiped the ground he walked on, even if sometimes it got me in trouble! My memories of Bill include fun and the love he had for life. I took a long walk that day to ponder what we had together and would no longer share in this life.

I miss you Bill, and will always treasure the time we had together. I love you. And until we meet again, rest in peace. John William Zuehlsdorf 3 March 1942 - 28 July 1968."

Thank you Pat and Joyce for sharing these memories. Cory and Bill, sending both of you a thank you for your valor and service to our country.

Remember our Gold Star families on Gold Star Sunday, September 24, 2017.

Bonnie Gerlt

## AMERICANISM

This month there are a several patriotic days for all to show their patriotism by flying the American Flag. The first weekend we observe Labor Day which is a holiday in honor of workers. Congress had passed an act making the first Monday in September a legal holiday as a tribute for all. FLY THE AMERICAN FLAG.

Patriot Day, September 11, is known as a National Day of Service and Remembrance in memory of those killed during a terrorist attack. Congress designated September 11 of each year as "Patriot Day." THE FLAG SHOULD BE FLOWN AT HALF-STAFF ON PATRIOT DAY.

Did you know that September 17<sup>th</sup> is CONSTITUTION DAY AND CITIZENSHIP DAY? It was established as the framework of our government and the rights and freedoms that "We the People" enjoy today. A patriotic day so FLY THE AMERICAN FLAG.



The third Friday in September (the 15<sup>th</sup> this year) is observed as National POW/MIA Recognition Day honoring the commitments and sacrifices made by our nation's Prisoners of War and those who are still Missing in Action. A patriotic day, FLY THE BLACK POW/MIA FLAG below THE AMERICAN FLAG or by itself.

"Gold Star Mothers and Family Day" is observed the last Sunday in September. This day honors mothers and families who have lost a service member in combat. FLY THE AMERICAN FLAG.

This month show your patriotism on special patriotic days, however, FLY THE AMERICAN FLAG every day all year from sunrise to sunset and at night if illuminated properly.

We have freedom every day, not just on the above special patriotic days. Thank a veteran for our freedoms and Stay on Course for Our Veterans and help them Catch Their Dream.

Eleanor Pacas

### A NOTE OR TWO FROM YOUR SECRETARY

Fall is on the way! School is back in session! Football teams are gearing up for up for another season. And...of course, the holidays will be here before we know it. Now is the time to get busy on your membership and programs.

I've included the agenda for our Fall Conference and the announcement for President Carol and Commander Larry's Homecoming. The celebration will be a lot of fun and we'll have a great meeting on Saturday.

Also included in this month's mailing is the schedule for your District meetings. I hope everyone plans to join their Auxiliary brothers and sisters at their meeting. A lot of important information is passed along at both District and Department meetings.

# Homecoming

Join Larry & Carol October 6th for their Homecoming!!

Omaha Comfort Inn Suites

7000 Grover Street Omaha NE

Meal: Grilled Rib-Eye Steak 12 oz.

mixed green salad, baked potato, vegetable, dinner roll,

... freshly brewed coffee & iced tea.

Choice of: Assorted Cheesecakes & Carrot Cake

\$10.00 Per Person

Names of attendees:

Cocktails at 5:00 Dinner at 6:00

Mail to Department of Nebraska by September 22nd

2431 N 48th

Lincoln, NE 68504

Enjoy a fun filled night of Karaokeing

By Blame it on the Karaoke!!!

By DJ Anthony Infante



VFW AUXILIARY  
DEPARTMENT OF NEBRASKA  
FALL CONFERENCE

October 6 & 7, 2017

Comfort Inn & Suites

7007 Grover Street  
Omaha, Nebraska

**FRIDAY, October 6, 2017**

- 1:00 p.m.            Audit – Carol Thompson, Chairman—President Carol's room  
5:00 p.m.            Social Hour  
6:00 p.m.            Dinner - Homecoming Celebration—Comfort Inn & Suites

**SATURDAY, October 7, 2017**

All council members and floor work team are asked to wear their red polo shirts.

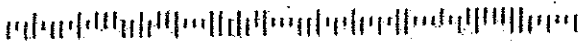
All other members are asked to wear business casual with patriotic accessories (**NO JEANS**)

- 7:30 a.m.            Line Officers meeting  
8:00 a.m.            COUNCIL OF ADMINISTRATION MEETING  
                          (Officers and District Presidents must answer roll call)  
9:00 a.m.            General Session  
                          Veterans and Family Support – Gayle Beran  
                          Americanism/Patriotic Instructor—Eleanor Pacas  
                          Historian—Sheree Brown  
                          Legislative—Vicki Luebbe  
                          Editor—Angela Ostrander  
                          Youth Activities—Katlyn Abboud  
                          Gold Star—Bonnie Gerlt  
11:30 a.m.            Lunch on your own  
1:00 p.m.            Hospital check presentation  
                          Hospital/VAVS—Sharon Thorne  
                          Membership—Linda Hansen  
                          National Scholarships – Kim Abboud  
                          Department Scholarships – Iva Carlson  
                          Extension—Dixie Hild  
                          Awards received at National Convention  
                          21<sup>st</sup> District Council Member Remarks—Laurie Dale

Agenda is subject to change at the discretion of the Department President.

## Fall District Meeting Schedule 2017

Date	District	Representatives	City	Address	Time
August 27, 2017	9	Donna Fenske	Wahoo	112 E. 7 <sup>th</sup> Street	2:00 p.m. CDT
September 10, 2017	7	Vicki Luebbe	Hooper	113 N Street	1:00 p.m. CDT
September 17, 2017	4	Carol Thompson	Stapleton	249 Main Street	12:00 p.m. CDT
	11	Linda Vogel	O'Neill	410 Harrison	2:00 p.m. CDT
	15	Bonnie Gerlt	Albion	127 3 <sup>rd</sup> Street	1:30 p.m. CDT
September 24, 2017	13	Sue Moore	Cozad	1319 N Street	2:00 p.m. CDT
October 8, 2017	3	Liz Davis	Creighton	813 Main Street	1:00 p.m. CDT
	10	Jane Petersen	Millard	5083 S.136 <sup>th</sup> Street	2:00 p.m. CDT
October 22, 2017	1	Sue Moore	Gering	2710 N. 10 <sup>th</sup> Street	12:00 p.m. MDT
November 12, 2017	6	Carol Brosnihan	Beatrice	701 Dorsey Street	2:00 p.m. CST



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