

Do Unto Veterans As They Have Done Unto You

VFW Auxiliary

Department of Nebraska

September 2018

Dear Auxiliary Members,

Coming away from our 105th National Convention for VFW Auxiliary in Kansas City this past July gave us the experience of listening to many great speakers but by far my favorites were the Patriot's Pen and Voice of Democracy winners. Listening to them speak from their hearts was so overwhelming. It showed me that we need to help keep these programs in existence and encourage as many youth as possible to use their talents in writing their speeches. If at all possible, be ready to take the material to the schools as soon as they start so each student will have the opportunity to start working on their speeches. The deadlines are listed in your program book. I personally want to thank everyone that was able to attend the Convention as we had a good following from Nebraska.

Now on to School of Instructions that was held on August 11, 2018, in Seward. I was pleased with our turnout of members. The program chairmen were well prepared to present their program for the year.

- Eleanor Pacas shared her personal experience of why we need to show our patriotism by flying our American flag daily. Her program is filled with ideas to promote patriotism.
- Joyce Witt had a basket filled with items to be handmade from poppies. Her promotion was a Valentine Poppy Display Contest and making a corsage out of poppies for the Voice of Democracy winners at Mid-Winter Conference.
- Angle Ostrander explained the importance of sending in your pictures and articles for the VFW newsletter. You are able to order a paper copy for \$15 to cover cost or access it on your computer.
- Sharon Thorne read an article on when Gold Star Mothers were started and the importance of recognizing them. We had a Gold Star Sister in attendance that shared on losing her brother to war.
- Sheree Brown gave a good explanation on why the Media Relations was added to our program. You will find her program in the program book.
- Linda Hansen explained why we are in need for more volunteers to help out in our hospitals. Paulette Marquez, a VAMC representative told us there is training available for new volunteers.
- Donna Fenske had a fun game for all members to explain her Extension program. Health Checkups for your Auxiliary will be required again this year.
- Kim Abboud explained the importance of knowing your legislators and being advocates.

- We had a visit from Rosie (Bonnie Gerlt) to show her enthusiasm in growing our membership to the next level with offering money prizes for 100% membership in our Auxiliaries.
- Jane Petersen explained the importance of the VOD contest title "Why My Vote Matters" and Patriot's Pen contests title "Why I Honor the American Flag." She added the Young American Creative Patriotic Art awards and VFW Auxiliary Continuing Education Scholarship.
- Department Scholarships will have another 50/50 raffle to help with funds for the scholarships.
- Baskets for our VFW Support Table will need to be provided by Districts 1, 4, and 13 at our Fall Conference.
- Please don't forget how important our youth are as they are our future veterans and members.

Dixie Hild topped off our day with explaining her work in helping put together *Building On The VFW Auxiliary Foundation* and how important this is. This information can be accessed from MALTA.

Thank your for everyone that will be able to welcome our National President, Sandi Kriebel to Nebraska.

Loyally,

Linda Vogel

PLEASE NOTE

National has issued revised forms, "VFW Auxiliary Membership/Member Transfer Applications", and "VFW Auxiliary Change/ Update Form" (attached). Please check the dates on your forms and throw out any that do not have the 8/2018 date.

Auxiliaries, District Presidents & Department Officers can also download forms directly from https://vfwauxiliary.org/treasurer-resources/

NATIONAL SCHOLARSHIPS

School has started so if you have not been to your school to promote our National Scholarships do it soon! Be sure to state correct deadlines, leave an entry form for each scholarship and your telephone number, if there are questions or concerns. Also for home schooled students put a news article in your local newspapers, give title of scholarships, grade levels, and deadlines for these scholarships. Give a telephone number and your name as a contact person. Reach out in any other way you can to all students in your area. I will have a gift for each report I get by October 1 telling me how you promoted the National Scholarships in your area.

Elizabeth Jane Petersen

GOLD STAR

It was so nice to see so many at the School of Instruction in Seward. It was a great day to get the education we need to carry out our programs to the best of our abilities.

September 30 is Gold Star Mother's Day. Remember to honor the families with a card, flowers, or even a phone call to let them know you appreciate what their family has given up for our great country. Don't forget to report every time you do something for your Gold Star member or family.

Please send me an updated list of your Gold Star members to verify that we have them on file.

Send all deceased members to Sandee Bellows and myself, so that we can be sure to get them in the register. Please print the member's name, Auxiliary number and date of death clearly. Remember the Golden Rule: "Do Unto Veterans as They Have Done Unto You."

Sharon J Thorne

HOSPITAL REPORT

September is Suicide Awareness Month and September 10-16 is Suicide Awareness Week. This will be a good time to wear your blue teardrops to draw attention to the issue. We know when we wear them people are curious about what they mean. Make sure you have the card with the 5 signs and the number for the Veterans crisis line available. You just never know if the person that you are talking to may need that information at some point.

I am still looking for Christmas cards with poppies for our veterans that will be in the hospital when we go for our holiday party. We will also be giving some out when we are at the Veterans Home for their holiday party. You can bring them to me at Fall Conference in October.

Linda Hansen

AMERICANISM

This month we have many memorial ceremonies or observation days in our country. This would be a time to recognize homeowners and businesses that fly the American Flag every day or on special patriotic days. This is a way to promote patriotism.

September 3 Labor Day

September 11 we observe "Patriot Day." This day is designated in memory of the citizens who were killed in the terroristic attack on 9/11/2001. Memorial ceremonies can be held for the victims. On this day fly the American Flag at half-staff until sunset.

September 21 is POW/MIA National Recognition day which is observed each year on the third Friday of the September. In the United States it is a national observance. Set up the Missing Man Table and fly the POW/MIA flag. Let everyone know the POWs or those missing in action are still missing.

September 30 is Gold Star Family Sunday. Honor the families who had a family member give the ultimate sacrifice to our country.

We need to continue to teach Americanism by distributing literature, displaying our flag, reciting the Pledge of Allegiance, and standing and saluting whenever the flag passes by in a parade. Let's set an example for others to follow to show their patriotism.

Fly the Flag every day or on the special dates listed.

Eleanor Pacas

CHIEF OF STAFF AND EXTENSION

THE OFFICES OF President and Treasurer MUST be bonded by August 31, 2018.

What a great School of Instruction! President Linda had an excellent presentation on "Building on the VFW Auxiliary Foundation." The goal of the guidebook is to develop and maintain consistent practices across the organization; to train and equip leaders of today and tomorrow; and to strengthen the basic building blocks of the organization: the foundation.

The chairmen did a fantastic job promoting their programs, complete with decorative boards, information, suggestions, and handouts.

The District Presidents, or their representatives, will be scheduling VISITS to your Auxiliaries. Please make every attempt to get the visits scheduled and have the information they request readily available so the visit will go very smoothly and they are completed before the Nebraska snow flies.

District meetings are scheduled so I look forward to receiving the visit forms and reading about all the wonderful work that you do for our veterans.

"Do Unto Veterans As They Have Done Onto You!"

Loyally,

Donna Fenske

MEMBERSHIP

Hello to my sisters and brothers,

What a wonderful turnout for School of Instruction!! I was very happy to see so many Auxiliary Presidents there. But for those who might not have been able to attend and for all Auxiliary membership chairmen, this article will be focusing on what I brought up at that meeting.

The end of June or first of July I sent a letter out to all district presidents asking for their help in getting membership rosters for each Auxiliary in their district. Auxiliary Presidents, if you need help getting these current rosters, PLEASE let your District President knowl Then, go through these rosters and find members who have not renewed their dues for 1 or more years. Contact them to let them know you would love to see them pay their current dues and come back to your meetings. This will show them that they are still important and vital for the VFW Auxiliary.

Auxiliary Presidents, I would like for you to send me the names and addresses (if you have them) of your 25+ year members. Also, reach out and call or send cards to them thanking them for their continued support of our veterans. I will be sending out a card to each of them as well.

Membership Goals: National Membership Chairman Nicole Koutz has given each department two goals to be completed by December 31, 2018.

- 1. Send to me, by December 31, 2018, exact information on how you trained your Auxiliary members in the art of recruitment (training materials, Power Points, handouts, etc.) I will then forward one winner to the National Ambassador by January 31, 2019, so the award can be announced at the 2019 National Mid-Year Conference.
- 2. Make a fact sheet or brochure that you or your members created to pass out to potential or new members. When creating these fact sheets or brochures be sure to include information you would have loved to have received yourself as a brand new member. Same timeline to send to me as the above goal, December 31, 2018. I will select a winner to be sent to National where winner will be named at the 2019 Mid-Year Conference. Both of these goals could win your Auxiliary a cash award! Auxiliary Membership Chairman, National recognizes that you ARE the expert at recruiting new members on the local level.

At School of Instruction everyone who attended should have picked up all the information flyers that were on the membership table. If your Auxiliary did not get any of this info, please let me know and I will be happy to send it to you.

Instead of my usual quote at the end, I am going to list 1 of 13 things mentally strong people avoid. GIVE UP AFTER FAILURE. Sometimes we have to contact potential new members several times about joining or send out dues renewal notices often. Keep going.

BELIEVE! You can do it.

Bonnie Gerlt

DEPARTMENT SCHOLARSHIPS

Greetings everyone Are you ready for a new adventure? Ready or not here we go to a new year and I have no doubt you will jump in and make Linda's year a one of success just like you always do.

The Department of Nebraska Scholarship program awards 30 scholarships in the amount of \$18,500 and I am very happy to say that amount will increase this year because Wahoo Auxiliary 4502 has donated \$1,500 to the Marilyn Haines Scholarship fund bringing it up to \$500.

I am once again doing the 50/50 raffle to support all of the scholarship funds. The District Presidents have the tickets to give to their Auxiliaries and because several Auxiliaries asked me to give them more tickets I have increased the number from 10 to 20 and, I also gave the District Presidents 10 to sell for the cause. Thank you in advance for your support of this project.

School is starting and it is never too soon to get the forms out for students. We are the ones who make this work. If we don't get out there and talk to those who can apply no one else will.

Our veterans have done so much for us it is time for us to give back to them and their families. What better way than helping them with their plans for higher education.

All the information is in the program book and if anyone has any questions don't hesitate to call me and I will do whatever I can to help.

Until next time "Do UNTO our Veterans as they have done UNTO vou"

Iva Carlson

Fall District Meeting Schedule 2018

Date	District	Representatives	City
	6	Liz Davis	Beatrice
August 19	9	Bonnie Gerlt	Lincoln
September 9	7	Sharon Thorne	Oakland
	4	Linda Vogel	North Platte
September 16	11	Bonnie Gerlt	Ravenna
	13	Sheree Brown	Kearney
September 30	15	Linda Vogel	Humphrey
	3	Linda Vogel	Stanton
October 14	10	Vicki Luebbe	Plattsmouth
October 21	1	Gayle Beran	Gering

YOUTH ACTIVITIES

I'm sorry I was not able to attend the School of Instruction in Seward for a day full of learning and fun. I hope everyone that went to Kansas City for National Convention had a great time.

Youth Activities has 4 program goals this year: Creating, Sponsoring and Working with Youth Groups, Youth Groups Supporting Our Veterans National Citations, Random Acts of Patriotism (R.A.P.), and Creating a Contest for students in Grades K-5.

Make your Auxiliary accessible to today's youth. It has never been so easy to communicate your cause and events to the world. Social media as teaching and information tools have natural collaborative elements allowing our youth to view and comment on each other's activities. They are tweeting on Twitter, posting on Facebook, instantly sending pictures on Instagram, and "liking" the videos on YouTube. If you don't know what any of this is – LEARN.

INVOLVE YOUTH IN ALL AUXILIARY PROGRAMS-Youth plays such an important role in our future. Encourage involvement from an early age in all Auxiliary programs. Every young person can find their place to serve when they are presented with a variety of opportunities to serve their communities and veterans. Teach youth about Auxiliary efforts to: • Respect and take pride in our country • Serve hospitalized veterans • Elect leaders who appreciate our military • Pass legislation that secures benefits for our veterans • And many other worthy efforts!

The VFW Auxiliary is in a unique position to help teach our youth the skills to become responsible adults through serving our country, communities, and veterans. We have a new generation of veterans who need the support of family, friends, and country as they serve overseas and when they come home from conflicts abroad. Today's youth are the future of our nation.

Don't forget to get your reports turned in, don't wait until the end of the year to send them in.

Thank you,

Katlyn Abboud

OCTOBER 5-6, 2018
OGALLALA, NE

A Note or Two From Your Department Secretary

Summer is over (except for the hot temperatures and on the calendar) so now we need to concentrate on membership and things we can do in the schools. Get those dues notices sent out as quickly as possible to give members a chance to get it done before the holidays get here. They'll be here before we know it — I saw Halloween decorations out 2 weeks ago!

I've enclosed an agenda for the Fall Conference and Homecoming in Ogallala October 5-8. Hope many of you will take the time to attend the festivities and the meetings. I will be working in Indianapolis that week and not flying back until late Saturday afternoon so I won't be able to be with all of you. My dear friend Dixie Hild has graciously accepted my plea to fill in for me.

We had a good turnout for the School of Instruction, a lot of wonderful ideas were shared, and we're off to a great start. Keep working and reporting and we'll have a fantastic year.

If you have any questions/concerns please feel free to contact me at 402-464-1586 and I'll return your call as soon as I can or refer it to someone who will be better at answering the question than me; email me at jeanbarton@windstream.net; or send me a letter at 8100 Regent Drive, Lincoln/68507-3366.

Roster Changes:

Miller-Long Auxiliary No. 3606, Lincoln

Secretary: Marjorie Schwabauer, 1708 SW 16th Street, Lincoln

68522-1520 Phone: 402-483-7816

Meet on 2nd Wednesday

Sharkey Reuss Auxiliary No. 5816, Elgin

President: Julie Dwyer, 83449 508th Avenue, Bartlett

Deadline for the October *The Golden Rule is September 14.*

VFW Auxiliary Member Change/ Update Form

Rev. 8-18

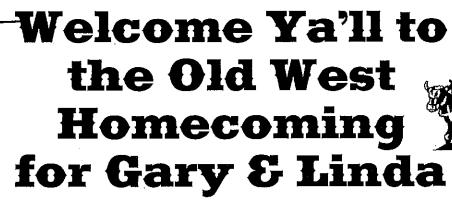
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VFW AUXILIARY MEMBERSHIP/N	MEMBER TRANSFER APPLICATION PLEASE F	PRINT CLEARLY
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LIFE MEMBERSHIP Check here if this is a gift.	LIFE MEMBERSHIP ACH (Bank withdrawl)	LIFE MEMBERSHIP FEES
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BLIGATION the presence of Almighty God and the members of this organization here fraud this organization nor a member thereof nor permit either to be wro cording to our Bylaws. I further state that I believe in God. I will be faithfu embership with this organization cease in any way, I will consider this obli- omise, Signature	nged if in my power to prevent it. I will never propose for membersi Il to the United States of America, obedient to the laws and loyal to a gation as binding outside of the organization as though I had remain (Must be signed by all members.)	ip any person not eligible, the Flaa. Should my

Department of Nebraska VFW Auxiliary Memstats as of 8-19-18

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FRIDAY, OCTOBER 5, 2018

Front Street Steakhouse (Upstairs - Elevator available) 519 East 1st - Ogallala, Nebraska

Belly Up to the Bar: 5:00 p.m. MT

Grub: 6:00 p.m. MT

All Ya Can Eat Buffet

Hamburgers, Brats, Cowboy Beans, Chips, Cobbler \$10.00 per Person If ya'll gots it, dress in Cowboy/Cowgirl Duds

(no suits required)

FALL CONFERENCE SATURDAY, OCTOBER 6, 2018

Roundups (Meetings): 9:00 a.m. MT

Please RSVP by September 21st

Name

Number of Persons

Mail to: Dept. of Nebraska VFW, P.O. Box 4552, Lincoln, NE 68504



VFW AUXILIARY DEPARTMENT OF NEBRASKA

FALL CONFERENCE

October 5 & 6, 2018

519 E. 1st Street Ogallala, Nebraska

(All times are Mountain Daylight Time MDT)

FRIDAY, October 5, 2018

3:00 p.m.

Audit - Carol Thompson, Chairman, location TBD

5:00 p.m.

Social Hour

6:00 p.m.

Dinner - Homecoming Celebration — Front Street Steakhouse (519 E. 1st Street)

SATURDAY, October 6, 20178

All council members and floor work team are asked to wear their blue Auxiliary or red polo shirt.

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

Americanism/Patriotic Instructor—Eleanor Pacas

Buddy Poppy/VFW National Home for Children - Joyce Witt

Editor—Angela Ostrander

Extension—Donna Fenske

Gold Star-Sharon Thorne

Historian/Media Relations-Sheree Brown

Hospital/VAVS—Linda Hansen

Hospital check presentation

Legislative—Kim Abboud

Membership-Bonnie Gerlt

Department Scholarships - Iva Carlson

National Scholarships – Elizabeth Jane Petersen

Youth Activities—Katlyn Abboud

Veterans and Family Support - Gayle Beran

Lunch will be on your own

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