

VFW Department of Nebraska Genmail

CALENDAR OF EVENTS AS OF 8/25/20

VFW WEB SITE: VFWNE.COM EMAIL: JOHNL@VFWNE.ORG

September 2020

1 Bonds due to Department

4 Annual NE VFW golf tournament

20 District 4 meeting in Stapleton at the Community Center. Meeting at noon with Post 8258 hosting.

20 District 11 meeting in Taylor at Post 6159. 2pm meeting.

27 District 3 meeting in Hartington at Post 5283. 11am registration. Light lunch at noon with meeting to follow.

27 District 7 meeting in Wisner at Post 5767. 1pm meeting.

27 District 13 meeting in Kearney at Post 759. 2 pm meeting.

27 District 15 meeting in Columbus at Post 3704. 2pm meeting.

October 2020

(T-2) Trustee report to Department (July 1 to Sept 30)

2-3 Homecoming and Fall Council in North Platte.

11 District 10 meeting in Omaha at Post 2503. 2pm meeting. [Rep: Jeff Baker](#)

18 District 1 meeting in Gering at Post 1681. 1:30pm meeting.

31 Patriot's Pen, VOD and Teacher to Post level

November 2020

1 20 Questions to Department

1 Inspections (100%)

Notice Please note: the following page is to replace pages 51 and 52 in your program book. Page 52 was incorrect when it was mailed out.

Fall Council of Administration and Homecoming
DEPARTMENT OF NEBRASKA VETERANS OF FOREIGN WARS
OCTOBER 2nd and 3rd
AT THE RAMADA INN IN NORTH PLATTE

Friday, October 2nd

5:00 P.M. Social time

6:00 P.M. Homecoming dinner at the Ramada

Saturday, October 3rd

9:00 A.M. Council opening session

Noon Lunch

1:00 P.M. Reconvene VFW meeting

2:45 P.M. Break

3:00 P.M. Resume Meeting

2020-21 Official Student Patriot's Pen Competition Entry Form Must Be Completed by All Contestants Please Print or Type Clearly

Name: First, M.I., Last _____

Address _____

City, State, Zip _____

Phone (____) _____ Email _____

Date of Birth (mm/dd/yy) _____ Gender _____ Grade in School _____ Essay Word Count _____

School Name, City, State _____

Teacher's Name and Email (if applicable) _____

Parent/Guardian's Name Phone/Email _____

I Have Read and Understand the Contest Rules

To Be Completed by the VFW Post

I certify that this student has an authorized entry in our VFW Post Level Patriot's Pen Competition.

Post Commander/s/Chairman's Signature _____ Post # _____

VFW Auxiliary President's/Chairman's Signature _____

Post Address _____ City, State, Zip _____

VFW Post Email _____

No. of students participation _____ No. of winners advanced to District _____

Amt. of Post/Aux. awards \$ _____

To Be Completed by the VFW District

I certify that the student named in the previous section is the duly selected winner of the Patriot's Pen Essay Contest District Competition and is our sole entry into the Department finals.

District Chairman's Signature _____ Dist. # _____

Address (____) _____ City, State, Zip _____

Phone _____ Email _____

To Be Completed by the VFW Department Chairman

I certify that the student named in the previous section is the duly selected first-place winner of the Patriot's Pen Essay Department Competition, and is our sole entry into the National Judging.

Department Chairman's Signature _____

Daytime Phone _____ Email _____

The winner has been will be (check one) notified that they are the first place Department winner on _____. Note: National Headquarters will contact your winner after this date to notify them of their national placement.

PATRIOT'S PEN

Student Entry Deadline: October 31, 2020
Patriotic Essay Writing Contest
Grand Prize: \$5,000 Award



Twisted X Brands
A Proud Sponsor

For assistance contact:

816.756.3390 ext. 6155
Email: youthscholarships@vfw.org
VFW.ORG

VFW STORE ORDER NO. 4420

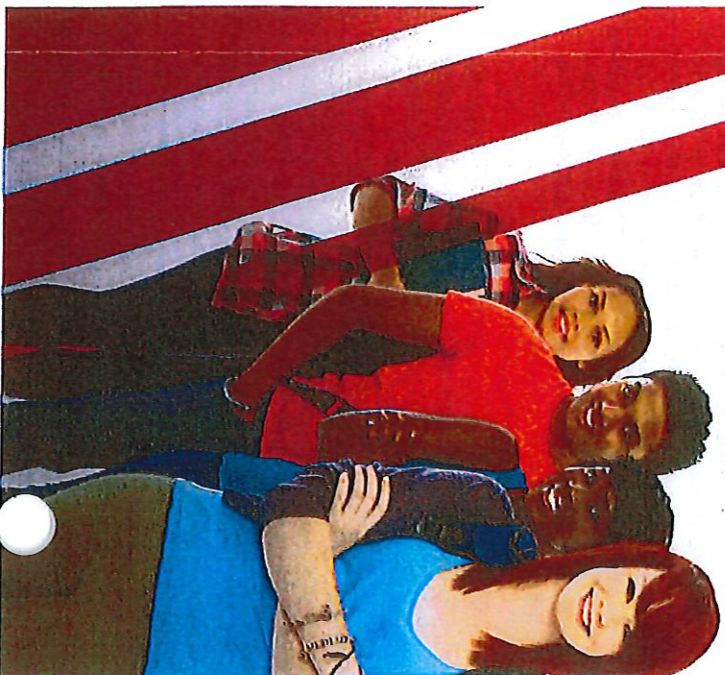
LOCAL VFW POST INFORMATION	
CONTACT:	_____
PHONE:	_____
BEST TIME TO CALL:	_____
ALTERNATE CONTACT:	_____
PHONE:	_____
BEST TIME TO CALL:	_____

Revised 3/2020



2020-2021 Theme:
"What is Patriotism to Me?"

PATRIOT'S PEN



What Is Patriot's Pen?

Conducted nationwide, this VFW-sponsored youth essay competition gives students an opportunity to write essays expressing their views on an annual patriotic theme. We invite you to join the more than 138,000 students who participated last year in this contest. The national winners will receive at least \$500. The first-place national award is currently \$5,000. The National Association of Secondary School Principals (NASSP) has again approved this contest for its National Advisory List of Contests and Activities.

Big National Prizes

National awards total: \$55,000.
Prizes include the various amounts listed below:

1st: \$5,000	7th: \$1,750
2nd: \$4,000	8-10th: \$1,500
3rd: \$3,500	11-12th: \$1,250
4th: \$2,750	13-23rd: \$1,000
5th: \$2,500	24-25th: \$750
6th: \$2,000	26th-55rd: \$500

The Internal Revenue Service requires that any recipient that receives more than a \$599 award should receive a Form 1099 identifying the proceeds as taxable. This may require the winner to provide their social security number.

How Does the Contest Work?

All entries begin at the Post level. The only exception is where schools/classes/youth groups have large numbers of students and wish to conduct their own competition, submitting one winner for each 15 students to the local VFW Post competition. Individual students may submit their entry directly to the Post. This participating Post should be within your local area and within your U.S. state of residence.

The contest consists of four levels. The first level (entry) is sponsored by local VFW Posts. Post winners advance, one for every 15 entries, to the VFW District (regional) level where the one first-place winner is advanced to the VFW Department (state) level. The one first-place winner at the Department level is then advanced into the VFW national competition. The winner from each Department (state) then competes for the national prizes.

Who Can Enter?

Patriot's Pen is open to 6th-, 7th- and 8th-grade students enrolled by the Oct. 31 deadline in public, private or parochial schools in the U.S., its territories or its possessions. Home-schooled students also are eligible. Although U.S. citizenship is not required, students must be lawful U.S. permanent residents or have applied for permanent residence (the application which has not been

denied) and intends to become a U.S. citizen at the earliest opportunity allowed by law. (Foreign exchange students and former winners that placed in the National contest are excluded from the contest.)

How Do I Get Started?

- Ask a teacher or youth group/club adult leader to supervise the Patriot's Pen writing competition.
- Contact a local VFW Post within your local area within your state and indicate your interest in participating.
- Establish a contact person who is a member of that VFW Post or its VFW Auxiliary.
- Make sure that your essay is submitted to the VFW Post before the contest deadline of Oct. 31, 2020. You can submit your essay and entry form electronically (by email) upon the Post's approval. Entries sent to VFW National directly will be returned.

How Am I Judged?

You will be judged on how well you understand, develop and present the theme. A positive approach is recommended to express your viewpoint.

Knowledge of the theme is worth 30 points:
You must show a thorough knowledge of the theme in your work. Demonstrate you have researched the issue extensively.

Theme development is worth 35 points:
Answer all relevant facts about the theme such as the who, what, where, when and why. Relate the theme to your own experiences.

Clarity of ideas is worth 35 points:
Write your essay in an easy-to-understand format. Leave your reader with a clear understanding of your explanation of the theme.

What Is the Theme?

VFW's Commander-in-Chief annually chooses the year's theme. The 2020-21 theme is **What Is Patriotism to Me?**

What Are the Rules?

- Essay length: 300-400 typewritten words (+ or - 5 words max).
- You must write your own essay.
- All essays should be typed in English with no color or graphics and cannot be less than 300 words or greater than 400 words in length. (Essays under or over these word amounts will be eliminated.) Every word is counted regardless of length. The essay title (theme) or added footnotes do not contribute to the word count.

At any time during the contest additional participant personal information (i.e. SSN, photo, etc.) could be requested by the VFW.

In no way may contestants identify themselves within their essay (including, but not limited to, your name, school, city, state, race or national origin.) Do not put your name on your essay. The entry form is your essay's cover sheet. Secure the Official Student Entry Form with a staple or other fastener on top of your essay. Contestants are allowed to enter only once each year if otherwise eligible (One Post competition). Contestants found in violation of this rule will face elimination from the competition and will be required to return any and all prize money awarded or received.

The essay must be a contestant's original work and a product of the contestant's own thinking. The approach to the Patriot's Pen theme should be positive and clearly focused. Poetry is not acceptable. Quotations may be used sparingly if plainly identified wherever used. A contestant's teacher, counselor or parent may check the essay for punctuation, grammar and/or spelling, but the content must remain the contestant's. Contestants will be judged on the basis of their essay alone and are not required to present the essay orally. All essays become the property of the Veterans of Foreign Wars. The VFW retains non-exclusive rights to use your essay and likeness in the promotion and execution of the organization's programs and activities.

Deadline Information

To qualify, all entries must be submitted to a sponsoring local VFW Post by midnight October 31, 2020.


Note:

If you need help finding a participating VFW Post in your area, follow these instructions:

First, visit vfw.org/FindaPost to "Find A VFW Post." Be sure this Post is within the state you reside in.

If you do not have success in finding a Post, or if you have trouble getting in touch with them, you can contact your VFW Department (state) headquarters office to see if they can offer any information or assistance. You can visit vfw.org/contactus and look for "Find a State Contact" to get your VFW state office's phone number and email.

If you need assistance, please email us at the VFW National Headquarters at youthscholarships@vfw.org.



**Please join Commander
Danny and President
Bonnie in North Platte
for their homecoming.**

It will be held at the Ramada Inn on October 2nd. The cost is \$12.50 for dinner. Your choice of Swiss Steak or Chicken Fried Steak with a salad, roasted potatoes, green beans, roll with butter, coffee and iced tea and brownies.

Please let Headquarters know by September 18th of your dinner choice along with your payment. Mail please to 2431 North 48th St.; Lincoln, NE 68504

Please make reservations for overnight rooms by calling the hotel at 308-532-9090.



Council of Administration and August School of Instruction

Post 4755 in Seward, NE August 8th, 2020

August 8, 2020 Saturday 9:00 am.

Commander Kramer opened the meeting in due form.

A motion was made to dispense with the reading of the rules by District 6 Commander Steve Calkin and seconded by District 4 Commander Gary Bush. Motion passed.

Roll call of officers. Excused absent was Surgeon Ken Yount. Representing District 7 was Sr. Vice Commander Cheryl Feala. Representing District 9 was Sr. Vice Commander Tony Anton. Also absent was District 3 Commander Tom Nelson.

A motion was made by State Judge Advocate Chris Beaty to dispense with the reading of the minutes and to approve them as they were mailed out. Motion seconded by Sr. Vice Commander Jerry Chlopek and motion passed.

State Adjutant John Liebsack passed out the final budget report. State Adjutant John Liebsack read the budget. A motion by District 6 Commander Steve Calkin to approve as read, seconded by District 9 Sr. Vice Commander Tony Anton. Motion passed.

Commander Kramer began School of Instruction.

Program reporting via zoom with State website designer.

All American dashboard training via zoom with Lynn Rolfs from the National organization.

Adjutant Liebsack addressed how to complete Trustees Reports and bonds. Inspector Roger Broecker went over inspections. Membership Chairman Larry Gerlt discussed recruiting.

Commander Kramer called on Chairmen for their reports. Reports were given by: Homeless Veterans Chairman Jerry Ludwig, Hospital Chairman Gary Steckelberg, State Legislative Chairman Jim Lutz, National Legislative and MAP Chairman Jeff Baker and Youth Activities Commander Kramer.

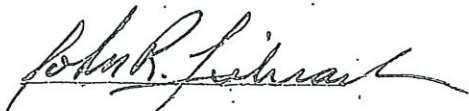
Commander Kramer called for any further business. Ron Sibal announced that he will be running for State Surgeon.

District 13 Commander Cathy Winegarden made a motion to take tabled motion to buy car magnets for Department officers off of the table. Seconded by District 1 Commander Tom Arends and motion passed. There was a vote to spend the money to buy the magnets and the motion carried.

Commander Kramer closed the meeting in due form. Chaplain delivered the closing prayer.

Commander announced the next Council of Administration meeting will be at Fall Conference in North Platte at the Ramada Inn.

Attest to:



Date: August 8, 2020



John Liebsack, State Adjutant/Quartermaster Department of Nebraska, VFW

Recruiting in Grand Island

State Commander Danny Kramer and Chief of Staff Roger Broeker were in Grand Island recruiting membership.



Lincoln Auxiliary Celebrates 100 Years

The Harris-Fraleay VFW Auxiliary 131 held a dinner at Crooked Creek Golf Club to honor the Auxiliaries 100th anniversary. Several attendees celebrated with a dinner and short program. Included in attendance were President Bonnie, District 9 President Charlene Hobelman, National 21st District Council Member Sandee Bellows and Past Department President Liz Davis. There was a 50/50 raffle and raffle prizes followed by bingo.



ELEANOR PACAS RESIGNS HER POST

Americanism/Patriotic Instructor Chairman Eleanor Pacas stepped down from the position after 17 years of service on September 8th. She received several National and Department awards throughout the years. The most recent 2019-2020 receipt of the National Americanism Award. She is pictured above with President Bonnie Gerlt.

Sr. Vice Commander-in-Chief Fritz Mihelcic has been assigned to Homecoming and Fall Council. Please welcome him in North Platte.



Teacher of the Year Award

The 2019-2020 middle school teacher of the year was Mike Policky. Unable to be presented his award at State Convention, he was recognized at the Post meeting. Mike was sponsored by VFW Post and Auxiliary 1077 in Beatrice. Pictured are Post Commander Brad Thompson, Auxiliary President Faye Hagan, Mike Policky and District 6 Commander Steve Calkin. Mike teaches at Beatrice Middle School.

School of Instruction in Seward

Hoping to teach and inspire, members of both the VFW and the Auxiliary shared their knowledge at the Seward Civic Center on August 8th. The purpose is to ensure all officers are equipped with the things they need for a successful year.



Donna Fenske, Vicki Luebke and Larry Gerlt assisting with membership and recruiting.



Diamond Jubilee

Post 2543 in Plattsmouth received their Diamond Jubilee award in Seward on the 8th. Accepting for the Post is Quartermaster Terry Tilson.



Jeff Baker, Jim Lutz and Barb Goebel working with Veterans Legislative priorities.



July 24, 2020

Kansas City, MO

Veterans of Foreign Wars Auxiliary National Mini Convention 2020.

Department of Nebraska, Harris Fraley Auxiliary 131 of Lincoln, Nebraska, wins a National Program Award.

A National Citation and \$50 to one Auxiliary in the nation for the most outstanding video promoting patriotism with community involvement during the 2019-2020 Program Year.