NEBRASKA VFW NEWS

Department of Nebraska Newsletter December 2019

Nebraska Hosts Big 10 Conference

The Downtown Omaha Doubletree was the location once again for the Big 10 Conference. There were business sessions and time to catch up with friends old and new. Representing the National organization were Jr. Vice Commander-in-Chief Fritz Mihelcic and President Peggy Haake. The banquet was held on Saturday night. Big 10 Chairman Jerry Gorski addressed the group in the photo below.

The Master of Ceremonies was Big 10 Vice Chairman Chris Johnston.

Visiting Our Veterans

On the evening prior to the kick off of the Big 10 Conference, Jr. Vice Commander-in-Chief Fritz Mihelcic, State Commander Joe Smith and several others visited the Eastern Nebraska Veterans Home.

The Winner Pays It Forward

Sr. Vice Commander for the Department of Iowa Paul Arnold Sr. won the 50/50 raffle and donated his winnings of $654.00 to Javelean. The Javelean project is Nebraska Department Commander Joe Smith and Auxiliary President Liz Davis' special project for service dogs. National President Peggy Haake's special project is also service dogs. Pictured are Paul Arnold Sr., Peggy Haake, and Liz Davis.

Auxiliary Officers at Big 10

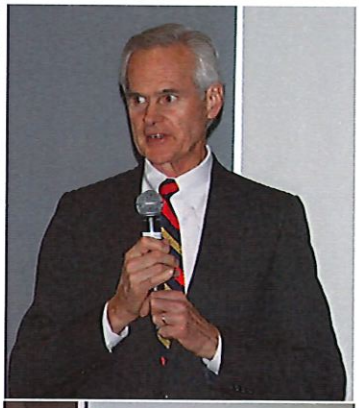
The officers took a break from business to pose for a picture. Front row are Jeri Sherwood, Big Ten Secretary, Jackie Davis, Big Ten President, Carol Thompson, Big Ten Vice President and Sandra Bellows, Big Ten Treasurer. In the back row are Judy Northcutt, Installing Conductress, Drusilla Novak, Big Ten Musician, Ella Edwards-Kirtley, Big Ten Soloist, Faith Elford, Big Ten Guard, Vicki Rosse, Big Ten Conductress, Sandra Bauer, Big Ten Chaplain, Betty Arnold, Installing Officer and Janet Barlar, Installing Conductress.

LEGACY LIFE MEMBER EXPLANATION OF BENEFITS

MEMBER INCENTIVES	BRONZE $400	SILVER $800	GOLD $1200
Plated Engraved Life Member Card	●	●	●
Lapel Pin	●	●	●
Hat Pin	●	●	●
Distinctive VFW Store Line for Legacy Life Members	●	●	●
Framed Legacy Life Membership Certificate	●	●	●
Member Recognition on Internet & Convention Program	●	●	●
Member Recognition at Kiosks at Memorial Building in Washington, D.C. and Museum at National Headquarters	●	●	●
Special Legacy Life Member Plaque	●	●	●
Hat Patch			●
Personalized Brick at Centennial Plaza			●
VFW Store Discounts (for personal use only) *	5%	10%	15%
Increased Level of No-Cost AD&D Insurance *	$2000	$3500	$5000
Annual Endowment: Post	$6	$12	$18
Annual Endowment: Department	$6	$12	$18

CNVH Celebrates Veterans Day

The first Veterans Day program at the Central Nebraska Veterans Home included the unveiling of a new piece of art. The piece, a year in the making, was produced by artist Douwe Blumberg. He spoke about the piece and the soldiers reflection in the water. Lt. Governor Mike Foley addressed the residents on behalf of Governor Ricketts and the Offutt Brass performed.



Each resident received a pinwheel covered with poppies and 5 or 6 cards from various schools across the state. There were over 1,000 cards received thanking veterans for their service. Auxiliary members from Red Cloud and Kearney helped CNVH Activity Director Nancy Klimeck with the distribution.

Veterans Parade in Kearney

VFW Posts 759, 5820 and 5641 participated in the parade that took place on November 9th. Joining them was State Commander Joe Smith and State President Liz Davis. There was soup and cake after the parade at Post 759 in Kearney. Life member Larry Sayer was presented with an Admiralship at the ceremony following the parade.

Veteran's Day Honorees in Stanton

3602 honored home town veterans with Quilts of Valor. Those receiving their quilts are (left to right) Jim Duncan, Todd Keenan, Dave Claus, Rt. Loren Carroll and Kathy Reikofski. The Quilts of Valor were made and donated by Wakefield quilter group.

Commemorating Our Public Servants

Laurel VFW Post 4504 and the Legion presented a Flag of Heroes Flag. On the flag are the names of the firefighters, EFT and police officers that lost their lives that day. The flag was flown at City Hall on September 11th and will be given to the new Fire Hall when it is completed. Pictured above are Lloyd Luedke, Gene Twiford, Dwayne Freeman and Post Commander Regg Ward.

Members Helping the Homeless

VFW Post 9675 members, along with donations from VFW Post 10727, and Department Chaplin and Homeless Veterans Chairman Jerry Ludwig distributed boots. A total of 121 pairs of boots were handed out to homeless veterans at the 2019 Veterans Stand Down on Friday, November 15th at the Milo Bail Student Center at UNO. Stand Down provides Omaha's homeless veterans access to VA Healthcare, legal and mental health, clothing and other donated material goods.

Flag Raising Ceremony in Bellevue

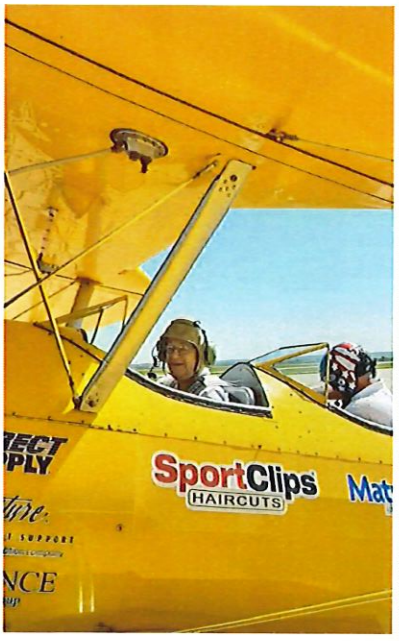
VFW Post 10727 members spent Veteran's Day at the Family Fare for a flag raising ceremony.

Progressive Insurance Keys to Progress

VFW Post 1581 members and State Commander Joe Smith attended the event where Progressive gave two cars and additional items to Veterans in need. The event took place on the 7th of November.

Ride of a Lifetime for Auxiliary Member

Lifetime member of VFW Auxiliary #7028 in Palisade LaVeta Howard was treated to a flight in a restored WWII Stearman Biplane at the McCook airport. The plane is one of four operated by the Ageless Aviation Dreams Foundation, a nonprofit organization which provides flights to veterans and seniors. Pictured above with LaVeta is pilot Scott Delong.



Giving His Time to Help the Elderly

Sawyer LaDell Dibburn spent his Wednesday afternoons during the summer assisting with bingo at Senior Living Choices in Curtis. Auxiliary 1504 in North Platte thanked Sawyer with a certificate.

Bank Donates to Local Post

The Homestead Bank in Cozad presented a check to VFW Post 890 Commander Brad Peltier on November 6th to assist veterans.

Calendar of Events

December 2019

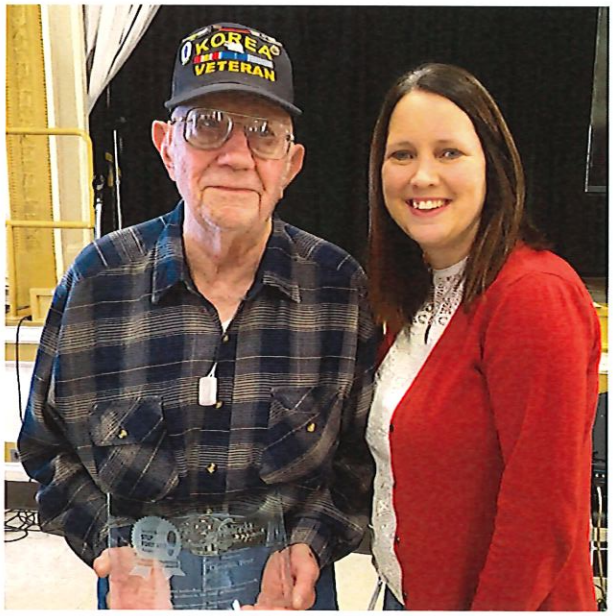
15 Patriot's Pen, VOD and Teacher to Department
25 Christmas

January 2020

1 Cut off Mid Winder Conference
Top Membership District Commander
100% Inspected
1 Public Servant Awards to Department
8 Calendar drawing
15 Patriot's Pen, VOD and Teacher summaries to Department
16 Final deadline 20 questions to Department

February 2020

7-8 Midwinter Conference at the Cornhusker Marriott
14 Valentine's Day



Veterans Volunteer Honoree

The State of Nebraska honored VFW Post 131 member Dietrick Frye. He was given this award for his 9,000 hours of volunteer work wince 1952.

December Calendar Winners...

1	$40.00	Cory	Walcott	634
2	$40.00	Russell	Robinson	210
3	$40.00	John	Cleveland	999
4	$40.00	Kevin	Johnson	3879
5	$40.00	Amvets of Neb		3865
6	$40.00	Jody	Meier	1853
7	$100.00	Sarah	Van Ornum	2227
8	$40.00	Jeff	Kruger	3759
9	$40.00	Paul	G O'Brien	1626
10	$40.00	Richard	Frenzen	2224
11	$40.00	Larry	Kroeker	3430
12	$40.00	Adam	Claycamp	123
13	$40.00	Ron	Packard	2206
14	$40.00	Riginald	Sissel	156
15	$40.00	Gabe	Winter	2898
16	$40.00	Chermok Furnal Home		1163
17	$40.00	Illa	Prusha	2849
18	$40.00	Gerold	Cleveland	1728
19	$40.00	Stephen	Seward	1602
20	$40.00	Steve	Clabaugh	3895
21	$40.00	Steven	Grueber	3734
22	$40.00	Joe F	Peters	813
23	$40.00	Bob	Pronske	1871
24	$40.00	Ben	Mend	3213
25	$40.00	Corey	Ebert	171
26	$40.00	Barbara	Reidema	3215
27	$40.00	Rich	Odbert	2649
28	$40.00	Jay	Nelson	180
29	$40.00	BG+S Transmission		417
30	$40.00	Richard	Strain	1792
31	$40.00	Victor	Sorge	3642

Important Notice

THERE HAVE BEEN A FEW CHANGES FOR THE MID WINTER CONFERENCE THIS YEAR. LEGISLATIVE DAY AT THE CAPITOL IS IN JANUARY INSTEAD OF FEBRUARY SO IT WILL NOT BE HELD IN CONJUNCTION WITH OUR CONFERENCE. ADDITIONALLY, THERE WILL NOT BE A LUNCH FOR THE STUDENTS AT THE GOVERNOR'S RESIDENCE SO THE TOUR OF THE CAPITOL WILL TAKE PLACE AT 1:00PM.

Share what is going on in your posts and communities. Please send news for the VFW Nebraska Newsletter to Department Headquarters at 2431 N. 48th Street in Lincoln, NE 68504 or better yet email to: jodys@vfwne.org.

Nebraska Membership as of Tuesday, November 26th

State	Post	Dst	Life	New	Reinst	Cont	Total	Adjusted Prior Year	Percent
District Totals		1	391	1	0	57	449	535	83.92%
District Totals		3	937	0	0	121	1058	1185	89.28%
District Totals		4	719	7	8	79	813	942	86.30%
District Totals		6	792	5	7	119	923	1044	88.40%
District Totals		7	695	11	1	124	831	999	83.18%
District Totals		9	1322	17	9	189	1537	1767	86.98%
District Totals		10	3192	64	17	349	3622	4142	87.44%
District Totals		11	746	1	0	99	846	980	86.32%
District Totals		13	818	5	1	92	916	1026	89.27%
District Totals		15	627	1	0	63	691	786	87.91%
District Totals		99	578	23	1	92	694	818	84.84%
State Totals			10817	135	44	1384	12380	14224	87.03%