



NEBRASKA VFW NEWS



Department of Nebraska Newsletter

February 2018

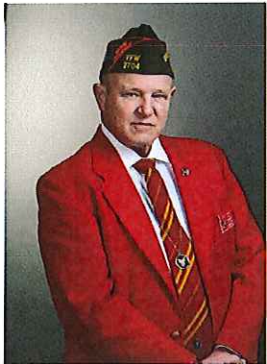
Wreaths Across America Event in Lincoln

Several VFW and Auxiliary members participated in this year's event on December 16th at Wyuka Cemetery. Top right are Matt Jones, Pat Stanosheck, Norman Anton, Larry Klymer and Danny Petersen. The Lincoln VFW color guard assisted in presenting the colors (pictured below right). The theme for this year's program was "I'm an American. Yes, I am!" Retired U.S. Senator Ben Nelson was the keynote speaker. The laying of the wreaths on military graves at Wyuka Cemetery began after the program. This year around 1,600 wreaths were laid at the 2 Soldiers Circles in Wyuka cemetery.



Wreaths Across America is an annual event to pay tribute to fallen members of the military, honor those who serve and their families and teach our children the value of freedom by placing wreaths on military graves during the holiday season. Started in 1992 at Arlington National Cemetery with laying 5,000 wreaths, Wreaths Across America now has programs in hundreds of communities in the U.S., abroad and at sea. This marks the eighth year of the event in Lincoln.





**State Commander
& Membership
Chairman
Larry Gerlt**

Post Health – for the past several weeks, I have been chatting with Post Quartermasters and Commanders (if the QM isn't available). Why did I choose the QM instead of the Commander? The Commander is the head of the post, but the QM is the heart. Cold hard facts about the post aren't enough to determine if a post is healthy. The QM not only knows the facts, but because he IS the QM for years on end, he knows more about where his post has been and where it is headed. He not only knows which VFW programs the post is participating in, but also the budget for those programs, how hard/easy it is for the post to pay their bills, AND usually has the history of funds earned/expended for over a decade. He knows which post officers are annual (subscription) dues members and when they will lapse. He is the only one who can make sure they DON'T! He not only knows the post membership statistics, but knows who will/won't pay dues with a dues notice, who needs to be called, whose door needs to be knocked, and who just ain't interested. More importantly, he is the one who knows if there are enough unpaid member who will pay to make a 100%. If your post QM is new, he probably doesn't know all this. If he has been around for several years and doesn't know all this, doesn't do all this, doesn't care about all this, it's time for a transplant. The body (post) can't function well with a weak, erratic heart (QM)!

I'm sure most of you think I am only doing this to discuss membership and either not keeping track of what I discussed with each post but nothing could be farther from the truth. Before calling a post QM/CC, I not only look at their membership (how close they are to 100%, but how many they need, how many unpaids are on their roster, who has lapsed and who has yet to pay, and how many former (reinstates) live within X miles of their post meeting place. More importantly I look at their All State standing (what programs they have participated in or NOT participated in). What do I do with the information I gather and what the Post leader tells me? I designed a database to record it in so that I can refer back to that post with everything I have learned from my research and what the post leader tells me! It takes me about 15 – 20 minutes to prep for the call. While some calls are as short as 10 minutes, many are over 30 minutes. If a post leader tells me they have issues getting members to attend post meetings, we discuss possible solutions, activities or ways to encourage participation. Why am I willing to spend all this time for each post? Because I CARE! I just want each post to make 100% membership, I want them to succeed, to be here next year, and the year after that, and! This is our department and it is comprised of YOUR posts. Without you and your Posts, we will cease to be! If I can help, if you just want to chat, if you can think of any way I or Department can help, LET ME KNOW! My complete contact information is not only in our roster book, it is on every letter and email I send. Although I am nearly always busy planning or executing something for the VFW, I return calls, emails, and text messages as promptly as I can. HELP ME HELP YOU!!!!

Quote of the month: If you aren't part of the solution, you are part of the problem.

Spreading the Christmas Cheer

There was a wonderful turnout for the Holiday party in Bellevue at the Eastern Nebraska Veterans Home. State Hospital Chairman Mike Medina and Joyce Medina had several elves to help spread the holiday cheer on December 3rd.



Santa Showed Up in Grand Island

The VFW Christmas Party at the Grand Island VA Medical Center had a nice surprise. Joining President Carol Brosnihan, Commander Larry Gerlt and Bonnie Gerlt, Hospital Chairman Mike Medina and Joyce Medina was our own Santa. Mike and Claudia Dunn, Matt Jones, Karen Linden and Danny Petersen helped spread the Christmas cheer to the veterans.



Calendar Raffle Drawing

The drawing for this years calendar raffle was on January 9th at State Headquarters. \$16,000.00 in cash awards were drawn. The lucky winners will receive a check in the mail the week of the award. Monthly winners will be published in the newsletter. To see a full list of this years winners go the vfwne.com click on news and events, click on news, 2018 calendar winners.



Post 9675 Help Feeding the Veterans

Post members took ground beef to New Visions Home on December 22nd. Pictured are Post Commander Ernest Garcia, Adjutant Faron Myers and District 10 Commander Chris Beaty. New Visions Omaha is a complex with 26 transitional living units for honorably discharged veteran's and 14 permanent supportive housing units for people who are homeless.



Santa Delivered an early Christmas present for State Photographer Danny Petersen at Department Headquarters. Mike Dunn aka Santa and Matt Jones are pictured with Danny.



NEBRASKA
VETERANS' AFFAIRS



**We're working to
better serve the men
and women who
bravely served us.**

**CNAs in our veterans'
homes now start at
\$14.04/hr,
with paid training and great
state benefits.**



AUXILIARY MEMBER CELEBRATES 95TH

Eileen Beman celebrated her 95th birthday on December 4th. Eileen is a 70 plus year member of the VFW Auxiliary. Presenting her with her 70 plus years of service certificate is VFW Post 5138 Quartermaster Jim Edwards. Family and over 100 friends celebrated at the event. Eileen was a Second Class Petty Officer Cryptographer in the US Navy during WWII.

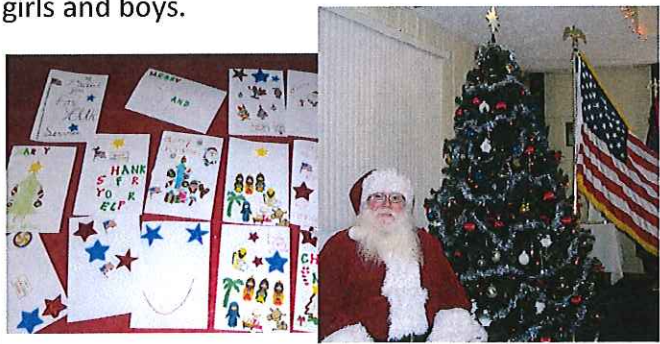


Santa Delivers a New Car for Christmas

A veteran from Omaha received an early Christmas gift when Santa awarded him keys to a 2008 Honda Accord at a ceremony on December 6th. Howard Perry, a Marine veteran and UNO student, was chosen by the Nebraska VFW to receive a Recycled Rides™ from CARSTAR Auto Body.

Omaha Post Hosts Christmas Party

Children at the VFW Post #3421 annual Children's Christmas party on December 10th made cards for patients at the VA hospital in Omaha. After crafts and games Santa arrived to visit with all the good girls and boys.



BE A HERO.
**HELP A
HERO.**

Josh Pickering - Scholarship Recipient

On December 11th, Sport Clips Haircuts donated \$1.25 million to the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the U.S. Foundation to support active-duty U.S. service members' and veterans' scholarships through the Help A Hero program. This year's fundraising target was shattered when Sport Clips' clients and product partner donations exceeded the original \$1 million goal, and Sport Clips made its own Veterans Day contributions of \$1 per haircut service. To date, more than 900 VFW-administered scholarships have been awarded to qualified, active-duty military and veterans who wish to pursue college degrees and vocational certifications.



Merry Christmas From Holbrook

Burtons Bend Post 9357 in Holbrook celebrated the holidays with a Christmas party on December 12th. Several in attendance are pictured clockwise starting top left; Sharon Evans, Kelly Evans, Albert Miller, Glen Monter, Duane Phillips, Joe Kasson, Alice Kasson, Dwight Parrish, Maxine Parrish, Luella Trosper, Wren Trosper, Carol and Roger Brom, Nancy Brown, Jerry Brown, Terry Smith, Wesley Smith, Kathryn VanMeter, Lloyd Frandsen, Bonnie Rishling, Billy Rishling, Georgene Carskadon and the photographer Lee Carskadon. By all accounts the meal was fantastic and the company even better.



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Princeton Post Holliday Party

The Hickman Legion hosted the Christmas party for VFW Post 10648 in Princeton. The event took place on January 14th with a nice large turnout.

Legacy Life Membership

Legacy Life membership enables VFW Life members to leave a lasting impression on our great organization.

Each level offers generous benefits reserved exclusively for Legacy Life members. Once your Legacy Life membership begins, an annual endowment in your name will be made to your Post, Department and the national organization. You will feel confident knowing your contributions to our organization are not only helping today's veterans but the veterans of tomorrow.

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	\$8	\$12	\$18

District 9 Honors Students

This years District 9 winners for the Voice of Democracy and Patriot's Pen competitions were honored on January 21st. The District meeting was hosted by VFW Post 9844 in Yutan. Presenting the awards were District 9 Commander Dionne Gorji and District 9 President Vicki Luebbe. In the top photo, Thomas Bosmeniel received the top award for his speech in the Voice of Democracy competition. In the bottom photo, the 2nd place winner for the Patriot's Pen competition Korbin Opfer receives his awards. The State winners will be recognized in Lincoln on February 2nd at the Cornhusker Marriot.





Sr. Vice Commander Vincent "B.J." Lawrence assigned to Mid Winter

Vincent "B.J." Lawrence was elected Sr. Vice Commander-in-Chief of the Veterans of Foreign Wars on July 26, 2017, at the 118th VFW National Convention in New Orleans, La.

B.J. served with the United States Army from 1983 to 1986, earning his VFW eligibility by serving in Korea, where he earned the Korean Defense Service Medal.

Upon joining VFW Post 7686 in Alamogordo, N.M., in 2000, he immediately began to dedicate his efforts toward moving the organization forward into the new millennium and beyond. He has proven to be a highly effective and dynamic leader, serving in a myriad of critical leadership positions, to include being elected to command his Post, District and the VFW Department of New Mexico, as well as serving on the National Appeals Committee, and as Vice Chairman of the National Legislative Committee. He was also elected to the VFW National Council of Administration in 2009.

During the 2010 VFW National Convention, he joined the ranks of a select few when he was recognized for his distinctive membership recruiting achievements on the Post, District and Department levels by earning the coveted designation of "VFW Triple Crown Winner."

B.J. attended the New Mexico State Law Enforcement Academy, New Mexico Firefighters Academy, and the United States Drug Enforcement Administration Narcotics Enforcement School. He served his community as a police officer for several years, including time as an undercover agent. Prior to his retirement in 2015, he was a private investigator and owner of Lawrence Investigations.

In 2008 he became a Legacy Gold Life member. He is also a life member of the VFW National Home for Children and the Military Order of the Cootie.

B.J. and his wife, Mary, reside in Alamogordo, N.M.



President Dee Guillory assigned to Mid Winter Conference

Dee Guillory of Gloucester, Va., was elected National President of the Veterans of Foreign Wars (VFW) of the United States Auxiliary at its 104th National Convention in New Orleans, La., on July 26, 2017.

A Life Member of Wilkins-Edwards Auxiliary 176, she joined on the eligibility of her grandfather, who served in the U.S. Army in World War II from 1943-1946 and Korea from 1952-1954. On her 16th birthday, she joined the Auxiliary. Before leaving for college, Dee served as District Color Bearer and Conductress, and remained a member while attending Virginia Tech.

Dee has served the organization in many capacities, including Auxiliary, District and Department (state) President, for which she was named Outstanding President of the Year for her membership group. She served several terms as both Treasurer and Secretary for her Auxiliary. On the National level, she was Director for the Legislative, Rehabilitation, Junior Girls and Extension programs; she served on the Council of Administration from 2003-05 and as National Chief of Staff in 2010-11.

Dee has a Bachelor's degree in Political Science from Virginia Tech, a master's degree in Public Administration from Troy University and a master's in Strategic Planning from the Naval War College. After serving 34 years as a civil servant in the Department of Defense, Dee retired in July 2013 from the Pentagon where she worked for the Chief of Naval Operations in the Office of Operations, Strategy and Policy. Dee was honored to have received the Navy's Civilian Meritorious Award, a Joint Civilian Service Commendation Award, and a Civilian Global War on Terrorism Medal during her career. She occasionally wears the miniature military awards on her suit lapel.

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Dee is a life member of the VFW National Home for Children and the American Society of Military Comptrollers. She is a member of the Military Order of the Cooties Auxiliary 1 and American Legion Auxiliary 25. She is a Lector at the Church of St. Therese, and in her spare time, Dee loves boating, gardening and beekeeping.

Dee's husband, Mark, and oldest son Mark Jr., are both Life Members of the VFW. Dee and Mark have another son, Paul, who is a nurse at the VA Tripler Clinic in Hawaii, and five grandchildren.

February Calendar Winners

1	\$40.00	Joyce	Medina	1617
2	\$40.00	Jeri	Baker	2407
3	\$40.00	Craig	Space	3892
4	\$40.00	Thomas	Jones	2158
5	\$40.00	Dick	Strehle	2034
6	\$40.00	Anita	Graber	32
7	\$40.00	Kendra	Cutler	837
8	\$40.00	Joe	Bracken	1807
9	\$40.00	Michael	Osterbuhr	3464
10	\$40.00	Jessamyn	Johnson	3359
11	\$40.00	Dorthea	Przybilla	2083
12	\$40.00	Marty	Baker	668
13	\$40.00	Morgan	Miller	870
14	\$40.00	Merle	Thompson	685
15	\$40.00	Nancy	Field	433
16	\$40.00	Lee	Bates	3726
17	\$40.00	Andrews	Monument	3728
18	\$40.00	Mike	McKenzie	2039
19	\$40.00	Bill	Arends	1737
20	\$40.00	Joe & Amb	Book	2690
21	\$40.00	Michael	Kint	2698
22	\$40.00	Day	Sedlack	3392
23	\$40.00	Sandy	Zoubek	2321
24	\$40.00	Jerry	Chlopek	1714
25	\$40.00	Leonard	Ginder	3814
26	\$40.00	Carl	Ashman	3825
27	\$40.00	Ernest	Garcia	1437
28	\$40.00	James	Dasovic	2645

Calendar of Events

February 2018

1-3 Mid Winter The Cornhusker 333 South 13th St Lincoln, NE

10 Norfolk Veterans Home Valentine's Day Party 2:00 pm 600 E Benjamin Ave Norfolk, NE

11 Grand Island Veterans Home Valentine's Day Party 2:00 pm 2300 W. Capital Ave Grand Island, NE

March 2018

1 Eagle Scout Entry to Post

17 Cheyenne VA Medical Center St. Patty's Day Party at 10:30 am 2360 Pershing Blvd Cheyenne WY

17 Scottsbluff Veterans Home St. Patty's Day Party at 7:00 pm 1102 W 42nd St Scottsbluff NE

18 Hot Springs VA Medical Center St. Patty's Day Party at 11:00 am 500 North 5th Hot Springs SD

31 Scholarship Student Applications to Department

April 2018

(T-4) Trustee Quarterly Report to Department (Jan 1 to March 31)

1 Eagle Scout State Entry to Department

8 District 7 mtg in North Bend Post 8223 to host at the Post at 1:30 lunch to follow Auxiliary same time and place

15 District 3 mtg in Norfolk Post 1644 to host at 12:00 reg \$5.00 Meeting at 1:00 . Auxiliary same time and place. Lunch to follow

22 District 1 mtg in Gering Post 1681 to host at 1:30. Lunch at 12:30 \$5.00 reg. fee. Auxiliary same time and place

22 District 6 mtg in Beatrice Post 1077 to host at 2:00, pot luck to follow meeting. Auxiliary same time and place.

Election of officers at this meeting

30 Post Service Officer entry to Department

Nebraska Membership as of January 24th

State	Post	Dst	Life	New	Reinst	Cont	Total	Adjusted Prior Year	Percent
District Totals		1	422	12	5	112	551	636	86.63%
District Totals		3	1038	3	7	195	1243	1324	93.88%
District Totals		4	798	5	3	156	962	1058	90.92%
District Totals		6	893	9	10	211	1123	1172	95.81%
District Totals		7	768	12	4	210	994	1077	92.29%
District Totals		9	1397	26	6	300	1729	1885	91.72%
District Totals		10	3275	81	75	616	4047	4311	93.87%
District Totals		11	812	11	11	175	1009	1055	95.63%
District Totals		13	885	7	1	151	1044	1119	93.29%
District Totals		15	684	4	1	119	808	838	96.42%
District Totals		99	640	30	5	151	826	1025	80.58%
State Totals			11612	200	128	2396	14336	15500	92.49%

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VFWNE.COM**



Running for Office? Now is the time to get your ad together for the newsletter and Convention book.

Ad Rates:

Newsletter: 1/4 page \$75.00, 1/2 page \$125.00, full page \$250.00

State Convention Booklet: 1/2 page \$50.00, full page \$75.00



We would love to hear
what is going on at your posts
as

well as communities.....

Send articles to
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