



NEBRASKA VFW NEWS



Department of Nebraska Newsletter

July 2018



Celebrating Department Teachers of the Year in Omaha

The winner of this years grades K-5 is Jana Post who teaches at North Bend Central Elementary. The teachers were presented with the awards at the Banquet on June 9th during the State Convention. The winner for grades 9-12 is Ken Streff who teaches at North Bend Central High School. VFW Post and Auxiliary 8223 in North Bend sponsored all three of this years award recipients. Pictured below with the teachers is Post 8223 and District 7 Commander Jerry Halladay. Melissa Cody was the teacher of the year for grades 6-8 but was unable to attend. Each year the Department awards 3 teachers that promote citizenship with a monetary award, a certificate and a chance to win on the National level. This year the guest speaker and National representative was Past Commander in Chief Tommy Treadwell. State Quartermaster John Liebsack presented Commander Gerlt with a letter of congratulations for achieving 100% in membership.



State Commander Gary E Bush Sr.



Comrades,

I'm proud to start serving as the State VFW Commander. I believe that if we work together as a team we will accomplish good things. As you might have heard, I have replaced Larry Gerlt as the membership chairman and Joe Smith has taken on that chairmanship. Every Commander has their ideas and goals and this is mine:

I'm not going to demand District Commanders will have to take care of sign ups, reinstates and renews in their Districts, but instead I'm asking that all District Commanders work their Districts on membership. Those that pick a day and go recruiting will receive mileage and one meal if you turn in a voucher. By doing it this way, we can save on overnight stays. Joe is there to assist if needed and so am I.

I hope to see high numbers, but I believe about half of those who signed up under last term will probably not renew unless someone else pays for them. We cannot go in the hole to get to our goals.

This years cutoff date is April 15 and it is 95%, but higher is better. I am also in hopes that we reach 92% by December 20th as by doing so our Quartermaster has a chance at a good prize from National.

I believe that 95% or 100% can be done if it is June to July or March to April. My thought is if you have a target to shoot at, go for it. All awards will be handed out at State Convention. I do not like using

someone else's time to my benefit.

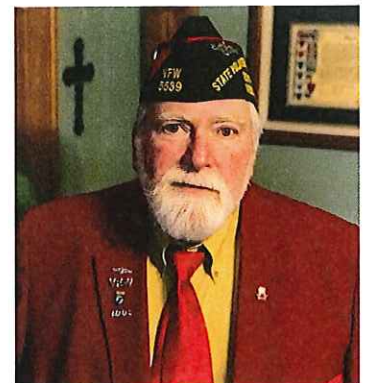
I've led other organizations with no problems, so working together we'll get it done. The 100% for State was accomplished, but at a cost that could have been used elsewhere. It will make it hard for those following. All I can say is we can try to get 100% again. I ask for everyone's help to try and get it done.

Remember, I will not demand that comrades do things a certain way, I'll ask that we can work together. If anyone has questions or needs assistance, give me a call at 308-284-0816. I am usually around early evenings. My cell phone number is 308-464-2874 (BUSH) and if I don't answer, leave a message.



Mike Dunn

State Surgeon and
Volunteer Chairman



I am honored and humbled to serve as your Veterans of Foreign Wars Department of Nebraska State Surgeon. I will do me very best to help all veterans, the Department, Districts and Posts to be the best. Thank you all for your support and votes.

Scout of the Year is Jacob Sykora

The VFW partnership with the scouts dates back to 1915. The 2017-2018 Eagle Scout of the Year Scout Jacob Sykora was entered by VFW Post 9675 in Papillion. The Department of Nebraska VFW awards the state Scout of the Year with a \$500.00 scholarship and the opportunity to win \$5,000.00 at the National level. Past State Commander and Scouting Chairman Larry Gerlt presented Jacob with his award.



2017-2018 Color Guard Recognized

Among those recognized by Past Commander Gerlt for their hard work and dedication to make his term a success at State Convention was his color guard. Pictured left to right are Sgt-At-Arms Sharon Cooper, Anne Ream and Ann Thieman.



Guest Speakers Welcomed

State leaders came to the Convention to give a warm welcome to all of the members and award recipients. Pictured clockwise from top left is District 10 Commander Chris Beaty and District President Katlyn Abboud, Past National President Dixie Hild, Omaha Mayor Jean Stothert, Steve Van Bergen with the National Home for Children, Deputy Director of Veterans Affairs John McNally, Governor Pete Ricketts and Past National Commander Tommy Treadwell.





Below is Firefighter Ted Minarick who is the Fire Chief in Morse Bluff. Ted was entered by VFW Post 8223 in North Bend. Family, friends and coworkers attended to show their support. Each year, the Veterans of Foreign Wars selects emergency medical technicians, law enforcement and firefighter personnel to receive the VFW Public Service Awards. Local winners then advance to the next level of recognition. If you would like to nominate an individual for these awards, please call Department Headquarters. Deadline for entry for the 2018-2019 year is January 2nd, 2019.



Public Servant Awards

The joint session also recognized individuals who serve their communities and have been recognized by their colleagues or those they serve for excellence in their field. Pictured above is the Department Emergency Medical Technician of the year Ashleigh Larson. She is an EMT with Ogallala Fire and Rescue and was entered by Post 3755 in Ogallala. Below is the winner of the Law Enforcement Officer award Antonio Espejo. He works for the city of Omaha as a Gang Intelligence Liaison and was entered by Post 1581 in Omaha.





Awards Presentation

The 2017-2018 winner of the Cliff Polk Memorial Award was Post 2704 in Omaha. The award is for the top Post in membership increase. Accepting is Post Quartermaster Larry Gerlt (pictured top left). The winner of the Charles Klingman Memorial Award was Post 3606 in Lincoln. The award goes to the best all-around Post and District 9 Commander Dionne Gorji accepted the award for the Post. The Service Officer of the Year was Joe Peters from Post 3755 in Ogallala.

2019 Raffle Calendar

The 2019 VFW raffle calendar will be available soon for distribution. Thank you to all of you that have supported this program over the years. The calendars will be available at August training in Seward. If you are unable to attend, contact Headquarters and we will make arrangements to get them to you.



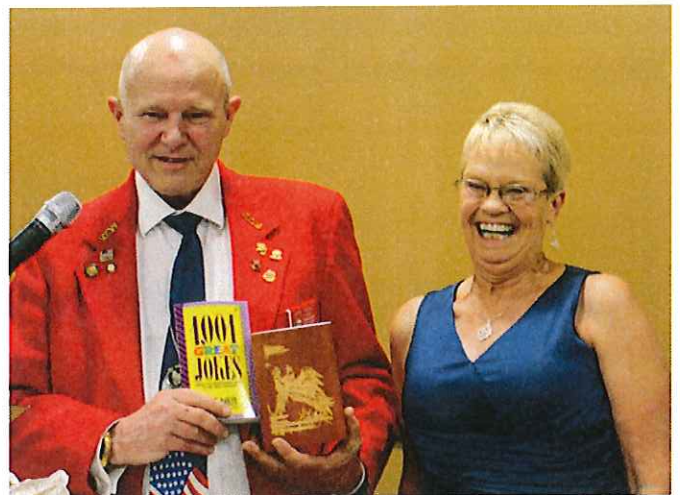
VFW

"Buddy" Poppy



State Volunteer Recognition

The 2017-2018 volunteer awards went to two people who extend a hand to their communities in so many ways. Jane Nelson (pictured above) is a member of the Auxiliary to Post 131 in Lincoln. Jane was nominated by VFW Post 131 Commander Norman Anton. She is a chairman for the Veterans and Family Support and gives her time to the veterans at the Homes. Pictured below is Bob Kavan who is a Scout Master and volunteer Firefighter and EMT in his community of North Bend. Bob has logged over 1600 hours in just those activities. He was nominated by VFW Post 8223 in North Bend Commander Jerry Halladay.



Commander Larry and President Carol shared some laughs and tokens of appreciation for their support throughout the year.





Nebraska Council of Administration 2018-2019

On Sunday afternoon, the new VFW Council was sworn in at the closing of the department annual convention by Past National Commander Tommy Treadwell. He is pictured above with Commander Gary E Bush Sr. and Past Commander Larry Gerlt. Pictured below is the rest of the elected officers, Chief of Staff, Inspector and Parliamentarian.



2018-2019 Auxiliary Council of Administration

The Auxiliary officers were installed by Past Department President Jane Petersen. Auxiliary President Linda Vogel was escorted by her husband Jerry Vogel and her brother Kermit Bourek.



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.



NEBRASKAland Days Parade

The State Color Guard and Commander participated in the parade in North Platte on June 16th. All are members of VFW Post 3755 in Ogallala. Pictured left to right are John VanVelson, District 4 Commander Joe Peters, State Commander Gary E Bush Sr., Darrel Munson and Sgt-At-Arms Chuck Roberts.



Freedom Festival in Bellevue

VFW Post 10727 in Bellevue hosted their 1st Family Freedom Festival for the community. There were display boards showing all of the programs that the Post supports. The police department and the fire department came down and joined in the event offering children stickers and safety tips. There was a DJ for entertainment, an art showing, a bounce house, giant Jenga, fishing and more fun for the children in the community. The Post and Auxiliary were able to attract new members.

Calendar of Events

JULY 2018

Trustees report to Department

4 Independence Day

21-25 National Convention in Kansas City

28 Aircraft Carrier get together in North Bend. Anyone who served on an Aircraft Carrier is invited. Contact Jerry Halladay at 402-719-1014.

AUGUST 2018

11 August training in Seward. Everyone will meet at the Civic Center.

Join us for some good information and an opportunity to connect with other members and officers.

19 District 6 mtg at 1077 Beatrice at 2:00. Auxiliary same time and place.

SEPTEMBER 2018

1 Bonds due to Department

3 Labor Day

7 Annual State VFW Golf Tournament in Bellevue

11 Patriot Day

OCTOBER 2018

Trustee report to Department (July 1 to Sept 30)

5th and 6th Homecoming and Fall Council in Ogallala at Front Street Steakhouse. \$10.00 per person.

21 District 1 mtg at 1681 Gering at 1:30, \$5.00 reg. fee. Lunch at 12:30. Auxiliary same time and place.

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

July Calendar Winners...

1	\$40.00	Doug	Tweton	943
2	\$40.00	Scott	Weber	892
3	\$40.00	Dianne	Salver	1152
4	\$500.00	Lonny	Gowrey	3934
5	\$40.00	Gerry	Kluch	3897
6	\$40.00	Diane	Emanuel	2167
7	\$40.00	Leva	Cochran	2491
8	\$40.00	Arnold	Lammers	3098
9	\$40.00	Jeannine	Beer	2163
10	\$40.00	Bob	Freudenbu	1130
11	\$40.00	Mel	Horton	1450
12	\$40.00	Max	Weaver	3868
13	\$40.00	William	Stunkel	452
14	\$40.00	Tyler	Devine	1615
15	\$40.00	Tom	Bertsch	1717
16	\$40.00	Leonard	Janke	1999
17	\$40.00	Judy	Tomanek	16
18	\$40.00	David	Gautier	1447
19	\$40.00	Perry	Elting	198
20	\$40.00	The Added Touch		3746
21	\$40.00	Robert	Fricke	954
22	\$40.00	Karen	Lawler	2333
23	\$40.00	Dawn	Durgin	2509
24	\$40.00	Zachary	Grams	3877
25	\$40.00	Sandie	Walker	3958
26	\$40.00	Earl	Jones	379
27	\$100.00	Logan	Grimm	786
28	\$40.00	Colton	Lowers	1238
29	\$40.00	Dave	Bondegard	3634
30	\$40.00	Andrew	Bowder	1422
31	\$40.00	Thomas	Rother	1217

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

Send articles to
Department of NE VFW
John Liebsack
PO BOX 4552
Lincoln, NE 68504
Email: jodys@vfwne.org

OUR MISSION:

*To foster camaraderie among
United States veterans of
overseas conflicts. To serve
our veterans, the military and
our communities. To advocate
on behalf of all veterans.*



September 7th is the Annual
Golf Tournament. It is a 4 person
scramble at Willow Lakes Golf
Course in Bellevue. Sign up early,
the deadline is August 27th.
Contact Chairman Joe Smith or
Department Headquarters.



Nebraska as of Thursday, June 28, 2018

State	Post	Dst	Life	New	Reinst	Cont	Total	Adjusted Prior Year	Percent
District Totals		1	426	21	14	146	607	636	95.44%
District Totals		3	1042	5	18	227	1292	1324	97.58%
District Totals		4	804	10	14	212	1040	1058	98.29%
District Totals		6	900	16	15	247	1178	1172	100.51%
District Totals		7	771	25	16	272	1084	1077	100.64%
District Totals		9	1410	49	54	425	1938	1885	102.81%
District Totals		10	3316	147	119	837	4419	4311	102.50%
District Totals		11	820	22	29	216	1087	1055	103.03%
District Totals		13	892	16	5	182	1095	1119	97.85%
District Totals		15	687	11	14	139	851	838	101.55%
District Totals		99	644	43	169	185	1041	1025	101.56%
State Totals			11712	365	467	3088	15632	15500	100.85%