



# NEBRASKA VFW NEWS



Department of Nebraska Newsletter

March 2018



## Midwinter Celebrates Voice of Democracy and Patriot's Pen Winners

The State District winners in the Voice of Democracy competition and the top three in the Patriot's Pen competition enjoyed lunch at the Governor's Residence. Joining them were their families, Lieutenant Governor Mike Foley as well as Department and National representatives. Pictured left to right is Mariana Hermosillo, Leigh Jahnke, Thomas Bosmeniel, National Auxiliary President Dee Guillory, Scott Wright, Morgan Peterson, State President Carol Brosnihan, Michaela Kelley, National Sr. Vice Commander in Chief B.J. Lawrence, Katrina Meier, State Commander Larry Gerlt, Felisha Moore, Dylan Conover, Brooklyn Slaymaker, Samuel McArtor, National Color Bearer Patty Thron, Krista Wamhoff and Avery Kildow.





## The Winners Are...



## Morgan Peterson Takes Patriot's Pen

There were 2,854 statewide participants in this years competition under the theme "America's Gift to My Generation". The top 3 District winners were invited to Midwinter and presented with scholarship awards. The 1st place winner is Morgan Peterson, pictured below with Auxiliary Youth Chairperson Kim Abboud, President Carol Brosnihan and Commander Larry Gerlt. Morgan was awarded a \$1,000.00 scholarship and the chance to win a \$5,000.00 scholarship at the National level. Morgan was sponsored by VFW Post & Auxiliary 4688 in Imperial.

## Krista Wamhoff Wins State V.O.D.

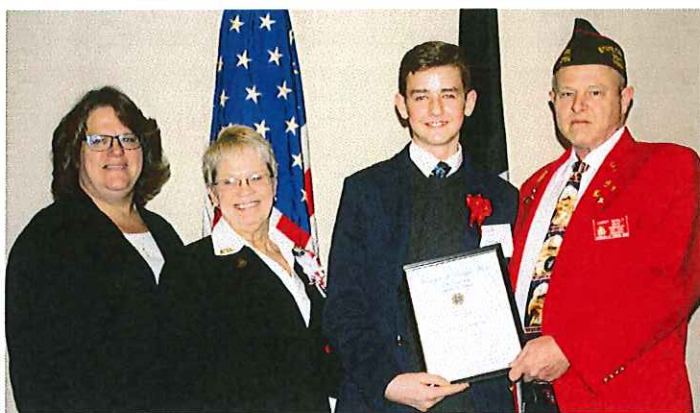
All 10 of the District winners in this years Voice of Democracy competition were on hand in Lincoln on February 2nd. Winning with this years theme of "American History: Our Hope for the Future" is Krista Wamhoff. Krista is pictured above with Auxiliary Youth Chairperson Kim Abboud, Auxiliary President Carol Brosnihan and VFW Commander and award sponsor representative Larry Gerlt. Krista was sponsored by VFW Post 9675 in Papillion. She received a \$2,000.00 scholarship, a trip to Washington D.C. and the chance to win a \$30,000.00 scholarship at the National level. This year 1314 students in Nebraska participated in the Voice of Democracy competition.



Presenting the awards at the "Parade of Winners" is Nebraska National Councilman and State Youth Chairman John Iossi.







Placing second in the state in the Patriot's Pen competition is Dylan Conover who is pictured above. Dylan was sponsored by VFW Post 9558 in Springfield. The third place finisher is Brooklyn Slaymaker who was sponsored by VFW Post and Auxiliary 759 in Kearney. She is pictured below with Kim Abboud, President Carol, award sponsor representative Anne Ream and Commander Larry.



## 2018-2019 THEMES:

**PATRIOT'S PEN**

**"WHY I HONOR THE  
AMERICAN FLAG"**

**VOICE OF DEMOCRACY**

**"WHY MY VOTE MATTERS"**



Placing second in the Voice of Democracy competition this year is Scott Wright. In addition to Kim, Carol and Larry, Mike Medina is the award sponsor representative for the Past State Commanders presenting the award. Scott was sponsored by VFW Post and Auxiliary 736 in Albion. The third place winner is Katrina Meier who was sponsored by VFW Post 5283 in Hartington. The donor representative is Post 131 Commander Norman Anton. Placing fourth is Mariana Hermosillo who is pictured in the bottom photo. She was sponsored by VFW Post and Auxiliary 890 in Cozad. The donor representative is Jane Petersen.







Michaela Kelly is pictured above with Past National President Dixie Hild and Past State Commander Ron Hild who sponsored her 8th place award. She was sponsored by VFW Post and Auxiliary 6159 in Taylor. Samuel McArtor is pictured below with Gary E Bush Sr. the donor representative. He was also sponsored by Post 3755 in Ogallala. Thomas Bosmeniel was sponsored by VFW Post and Auxiliary 4755 in Seward. Thomas is in the bottom photo with Kim, Carol, donor representative Anne Ream and Larry.



Post and Auxiliary 10042 in Adams sponsored Felisha Moore who is the fifth place winner and is pictured in the top photo. The sixth place winner is Avery Kildow. Avery was sponsored by VFW Post 9915 in Bayard. Pictured below is Leigh Jahnke who was sponsored by VFW Post and Auxiliary 4912 in West Point. Leigh is pictured with Kim Abboud, Carol Brosnihan, Larry Gerlt and the donor representative Virginia Schlender.





# Off to the Capitol

The student winners and their families visited the Capitol and took a tour. The tour and celebration are held in conjunction with Veterans Legislative Day. The day allows for the Nebraska Veterans Council to seek support for proposed legislative issues that affect veterans. The Nebraska Veterans Council includes members from The Veterans of Foreign Wars, The American Legion, Vietnam Veterans of America, Paralyzed Veterans of America, Disabled American Veterans, Military Order of the Purple Heart, American Veterans and Nebraska Association for Professional Veterans Advocates.



Speaking at the Warner Memorial Chamber regarding legislative priorities on behalf of the Veterans of Foreign Wars was Past State Commander Doug Whitaker. Attending were many VFW and Auxiliary members to listen to Governor Ricketts and members from several veteran organizations.



Pictured left to right in the Supreme Court Chamber are Thomas Bosmeniel, Samuel McArtor, Leigh Jahnke, Dylan Conover, Morgan Peterson, Felisha Moore, Avery Kildow, Scott Wright, Mariana Hermosillo, Krista Wamhoff, Michaela Kelley, Katrina Meier and Brooklyn Slaymaker.

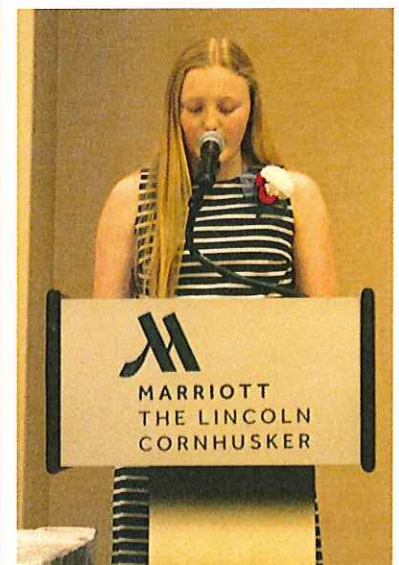
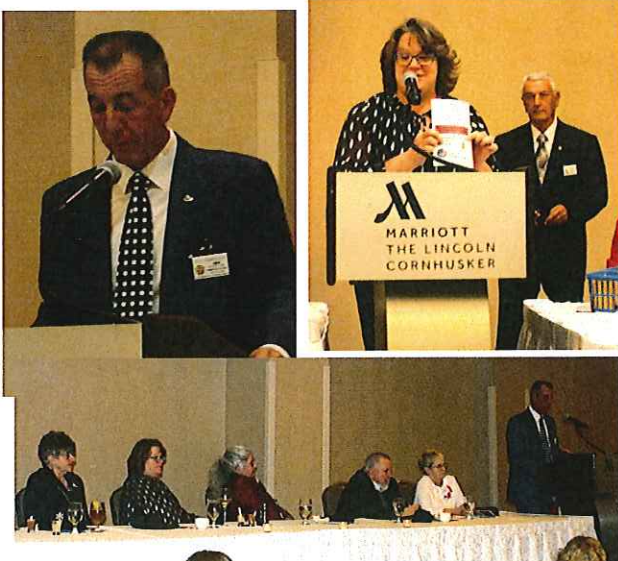






## Midwinter Banquet Honors These Students Patriotism

The Friday evening banquet allowed the two first place winners to share their speech and essay (pictured below right). The guest speaker was National Sr. Vice Commander in Chief Vincent "B.J." Lawrence (pictured below left).







Raffle Calendar Photos are due in by the end of May. Please help us make the 2019 calendar a beauty. Send your patriotic photos to [jodys@vfwne.org](mailto:jodys@vfwne.org). We really need some winter photos so snap some pictures now!

**Thank you to the all of the  
2017-2018 Sponsor Donors.  
Your generous contribution to  
these programs helps to make  
these programs successful.**

**VFW Post 2704 in Omaha**

**VFW Past State Commanders**

**VFW Post 131 in Lincoln**

**Lyle C Petersen Memorial**

**Nebraska VFW Auxiliary**

**Nebraska VFW**

**Harold Schlender Memorial**

**Past National President and Past  
State Commander Dixie and Ron Hild**

**VFW Post 2280 in Bellevue**

**VFW Post 3755 in Ogallala**



Saint Patrick, who lived during the fifth century, is the patron saint and national apostle of Ireland. Born in Roman Britain, he was kidnapped and brought to Ireland as a slave at the age of 16. He later escaped, but returned to Ireland and was credited with bringing Christianity to its people. In the centuries following Patrick's death (believed to have been on March 17, 461), the mythology surrounding his life became ever more ingrained in the Irish culture: Perhaps the most well known legend is that he explained the Holy Trinity (Father, Son and Holy Spirit) using the three leaves of a native Irish clover, the shamrock.





National Auxiliary President Dee Guillory and National Sr. Vice Commander in Chief B.J. Lawrence addressed the group.



The Joint meeting welcomed guests including the founder of Patriot Outreach Tony Monaco. Patriot Outreach is a 501 © 3 serving veterans offering an extensive range of non-intrusive therapeutic support from canine and equine, to music and art, from employment and financial support, to recreational and self-awareness.



*Happy Spring!*



## Council of Administration at Midwinter

At the Council meeting Commander Gerlt presented membership awards. Leading Division 1 in membership was District 15 Commander Don Hilger. Leading Division 2 in membership was District 6 Commander Steve Calkin. He also presented a special award of appreciation to Quartermaster John Liebsack for the support and help that he has given him throughout the year.



## Sea Cadet Honored

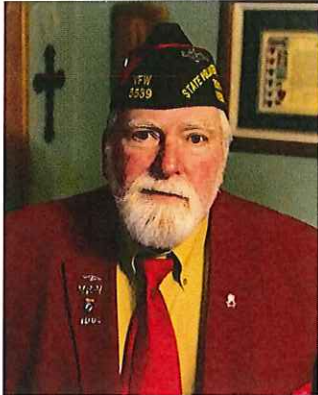
On Sunday February 11th, VFW Nebraska State Commander Larry Gerlt presented United States Naval Sea Cadet Corps, Cornhusker Division's Cadet PO3 Aiden Schollmeyer with a special citation and medal. PO3 Schollmeyer's citation and medal were presented to him as a special recognition of outstanding achievement and exceptional leadership ability.



## State Commander Tour

State Commander Larry Gerlt organized a tour with the help of Parliamentarian Jim Pierce and Quartermaster John Liebsack. The first was Eastern Nebraska where Larry and John visited and invited Posts to get together to share ideas. Post information was gathered to allow them to see opportunities to strengthen their posts. It was an opportunity to meet the Commander and Quartermaster as well as encourage and help with membership recruiting. On February 13th through the 15th, Larry and John visited 13 Post locations. All of the Posts in the 6 Districts visited were invited to attend.





**VOTE FOR  
MIKE DUNN  
STATE SURGEON  
2018-2019  
Pride Runs Deep  
Committed to Veterans**

U.S. Navy Submarine Veteran 1970-1975  
Legacy Life Member of Post 5539 Harvard  
All State Team Captain 2012-2013  
Served as VFW District Commander 2010-2013  
District Sr. Vice, National Aide-de-Camp  
Life member Military Order of the Cooties,  
DAV, American Legion and U.S. Submarine  
Veterans  
Endorsed by 9 Past State Commanders and  
several past and present District Commanders  
Your Support and Vote is Appreciated!



**The Home Depot (HD) has opened their  
Community Impact Grant for 2018**

VFW members can receive up to \$5,000  
to fund repairs or construction projects  
at their Post building.

To begin the process, go to:

[corporate.homedepot.com/grants/  
community-impact-grants](http://corporate.homedepot.com/grants/community-impact-grants)

If you need assistance contact Headquarters  
at: 402-464-0674.

**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.**





## March Raffle Winners...

1	\$40.00	Richard	Fischer	3972
2	\$40.00	Dave	Brester	2396
3	\$40.00	Deb	Backman	1676
4	\$40.00	Deb	Hoehne	2317
5	\$40.00	Joel	Dagerman	1641
6	\$40.00	Donna	Dugan	1222
7	\$40.00	Kory	Koch	386
8	\$40.00	Chris	Johnson	1762
9	\$40.00	Chris	Engert	2155
10	\$40.00	John	Plock	222
11	\$40.00	Sporhase P & H		3754
12	\$40.00	Joel	Reinke	215
13	\$40.00	Cary	Deane	406
14	\$40.00	Dean	Buse	2302
15	\$40.00	Ann	Thieman	2516
16	\$40.00	Lynne	Hansen	4
17	\$40.00	Dorthea	Przybilla	2083
18	\$40.00	Kathy	Lanphier	2394
19	\$40.00	Jerry	Halladay	2636
20	\$40.00	Lisa	Straudt	3157
21	\$40.00	Jerry	Chlopek	1716
22	\$40.00	Karen	Space	3176
23	\$40.00	Janet	Felt	2910
24	\$40.00	Robert	Corwine	2415
25	\$40.00	Earl	Motschenk	3986
26	\$40.00	Owen	Anderson	2022
27	\$40.00	Jeff	Cornelius	3531
28	\$40.00	Pamela	Huie	2254
29	\$40.00	Scott	Weber	895
30	\$40.00	Mike	Krivohlaue	1393
31	\$40.00	Albert	Ensor	1396

## Calendar of Events

### MARCH 2018

1 Eagle Scout Entry to Post

9-11 MOC Homecoming North Platte, NE

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 42<sup>nd</sup> St Scottsbluff NE

18 Hot Springs VA Medical Center St. Patty's Day Party at 11:00 am 500 North 5<sup>th</sup> 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 Dist 10 mtg in Omaha Post 2503 to host. Award Banquet for VOD & PP at 12:30, mtg to follow. Auxiliary same time and place. **Rep: Larry Gerlt**

8 Dist 7 mtg in North Bend Post 8223 to host at the Post at 1:30 lunch to follow Auxiliary same time and place. **Rep: Jerry Chlopek**

8 Dist 13 mtg in Harvard Post 5539 to host at 2:00. VFW to meet at the Community Center, Auxiliary to meet at the Methodist Church. Light snacks to follow. **Rep: Dan Kramer**

15 Dist 4 mtg in Imperial Post 4688 to host at the Post at 12:00mt. Auxiliary same time and place. **Rep: Joe Smith**

15 Dist 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. **Rep: Larry Gerlt**

15 Dist 11 mtg in Broken Bow Post 3576 to host at 2:00. Reg fee \$2.00 evening lunch Auxiliary same time and place. **Rep: Dan Kramer**

15 Dist 15 mtg in Columbus Post 3704 to host at 1:30 entertainment to follow. Auxiliary same time and place. **Rep: Jerry Chlopek**

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

22 Dist 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. **Rep: Joe Smith**

27-28 Grand MOC/MOCA Convention Grand Island



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](mailto:jodys@vfwne.org).

**Find us on the web at**  
**[vfwne.com](http://vfwne.com)**

Thank you to everyone who participated in Legislative Day and Midwinter conference. Representation at these events helps to make The VFW and veterans voices heard.

**Running for Office? Call Department Headquarters to get your ad together for the newsletter and website.**

**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



## Nebraska Membership as of February 21st

State	Post	Dst	Life	New	Reinst	Cont	Total	Adjusted Prior Year	Percent
District Totals		1	422	12	5	117	556	636	87.42%
District Totals		3	1038	3	7	204	1252	1324	94.56%
District Totals		4	798	5	3	164	970	1058	91.68%
District Totals		6	895	9	11	225	1140	1172	97.26%
District Totals		7	770	13	4	219	1006	1077	93.40%
District Totals		9	1398	26	10	313	1747	1885	92.67%
District Totals		10	3283	105	83	673	4144	4311	96.12%
District Totals		11	812	13	13	186	1024	1055	97.06%
District Totals		13	886	8	2	154	1050	1119	93.83%
District Totals		15	685	7	1	124	817	838	97.49%
District Totals		99	640	32	5	154	831	1025	81.07%
State Totals			11627	233	144	2533	14537	15500	93.78%