

**American Legion Auxiliary**  
**Department of Nebraska    SEPTEMBER 2009 Newsletter**

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Department President Carol Ulrich ~ ~ Department Secretary Jacki O'Neill

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**DEPARTMENT PRESIDENT, Carol Ulrich**

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Hello from Department President Carol Ulrich,

I am sitting here and enjoying a nice cold glass of dark soda and wondering what should I talk about for this newsletter.

Nebraska American Legion has a new Post in Santee, and soon District 2 will have a new Unit for extra membership for their District.

National President Desi Stoy was in Nebraska on August 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup>. She was escorted through the Eastern Nebraska Home in Bellevue; what a wonderful place to visit, Omaha Air Force Base, and Ralston Post Home for a very fine meal. On August 2<sup>nd</sup>, we visited Wilbur for Czech Days and rode in the parade.

Let's start thinking on what you want to do January 8-10, 2010, do you want to stay home and watch the weather or TV, or do you want to visit Norfolk? They will be hosting the Mid-Year Conference at Norfolk Lodge and Suites. So make plans to visit Norfolk.

I attended the 8 and 40 Convention in Grand Island in July; thank you to Shari Luther for doing a fine job. These fine groups of ladies do wonderful things for children with cystic fibrosis.

I attended the Otoe County Veterans Parade in Syracuse, on August 10. Wonderful parade and lots of Veterans from surrounding areas attended.

Fall roundups are approaching fast and you can gather a lot of information from any chairmen who visit these meetings. So make plans to go to your scheduled District Fall roundups and take home much needed information to help you become aware of the projects. Take action for the Auxiliary and gather the awards, when you submit your report to your Department Chairman. Thank you! **AWARENESS – ACTION – AUXILIARY – AWARDS**

**Commander Leon Deunk's Homecoming** (Following the Leadership training school)  
Cortland Post 253 invites you to the Commander's Homecoming in Beatrice  
**Saturday, September 19, 2009**

**Social Hour at 6:00 p.m. - dinner and program at 6:30 p.m.**

\$12.00 per plate must RSVP by September 11, 2009

State Commander, PO Box 16, Cortland, NE 68331 or e-mail: [lpdeunk@windstream.net](mailto:lpdeunk@windstream.net)

The Nebraska Legion is holding a Leadership School at the Cortland Community Center on September 19<sup>th</sup>.

Registration 9:00 a.m.    General Session 10:00 a.m.    Groups 10:15 – 11:45 a.m.    Lunch noon \$5.00 "RSVP please"

Session 1 – Post meetings & Procedures

Session 2 – Membership & Public Relations "Committee members leading discussion"

Session 3 – Americanism "Committee members leading discussion"

Session 4 Rehabilitation and Children & Youth "Committee members leading discussion"

3:00 p.m. Review and evaluation

3:30 Homestead Monument Tour

Ladies, if you are planning to attend the Legion School, the Auxiliary will have a non- structured meeting at the same time. There will be a group session where you can discuss points of interest, or you can attend any Legion session that may be of interest to you.

District 12 is holding their Fall Roundup that day so many ladies may be coming after lunch.

The Homestead Monument Tour sounds interesting, so does the Commander's Homecoming!

Hope to see you September 19<sup>th</sup>. See insert for my Homecoming on October 3<sup>rd</sup>.

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### CHAPLAINS CORNER, Cheryl Vap

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Never pray for an easier life - pray to be a stronger person! Some people always avoid things that are costly, or things that require self-sacrifice. Yet it is hard work and difficulties that lead us to great success.

**Let Us Pray:** Heavenly father, we thank you for the gift of life and for blessing us with love and joy. Thank you for our service men and women and keep them safe until they return home again. We ask this in God's name. **Amen**

Scripture: **Psalms 27:1** The Lord is my light and my salvation. Whom shall I fear? The Lord is the strength of my life, of whom shall I be afraid.

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### NATIONAL PRESIDENT'S VISIT, Marva Kasl, Past Department President

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Yes, National President, Desi Stoy finally made it to Nebraska. As they say – Better late than never!

I just want to say a big thank you to all of you that helped make her visit special.

Thanks Gayla Schmid for picking her up at the airport, and many thanks to Louise Nichols and Loretta McKibben for helping her visit to the Eastern Nebraska Veterans home interesting. Also thanks to Mr. and Mrs. Lou Zuccarello who gave us a great tour of the Air Force Base. Thanks to the Ralston Post and Unit for hosting the special dinner in Desi's honor. The food was delicious and the decorations great. Thanks to JoAn Pace for all your extra efforts and to all attending making this night special for Desi.

Gertrude Johansen we appreciated you being Master of Ceremonies and Jacki O'Neill for all the help with plans and the program. Also thanks to Carol Ulrich and Charleen Walters for your part in the program.

The lunch at the Wilber Hotel with those of you attending made it a special time for Desi. Thank you for those of you who rode the float and did the supper too, Carol Ulrich, Beverly Neel, Lisa Moore, Cheryl Vap, Jessica Hansen also Deb Albers, Maxine Hurt, Corrine Tyser, Clarissa Bors and Carly Rains.

Desi's ride through the parade in the convertible touched many people and hopefully spread the word of the Auxiliary. She enjoyed visiting with you all and taking part in the special events. She was interested in our state and the communities and easy to talk with. In fact, when she returns home she plans to paint the Czechs heart and flower designs on her porch poles.

Yes, HOPE, "Honor our Promise Everyday" is what we hopefully did helping Desi spread the word of Veterans and our Legion Family. Thank you for helping add our last piece to our year for Veterans. Let's all keep working to make it a special year for Carol "and start working on National Security for me"!

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### DEPARTMENT HISTORIAN, JoAnn Ward

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Every yesterday is history and today is the day after yesterday. Did you keep notes? What is your personal military history? Your units? Your communities? How do they tie together? Please consider doing something a bit different in your unit. Have each member list all the veterans in their families. Go back generations; do not limit yourself to the veteran through whom you owe your membership. Veterans are not only the history of our Auxiliary, but of our nation. Make your veterans come alive in your history.

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### DEPARTMENT UNIT DEVELOPMENT & REVITALIZATION, Mary Ann Otte

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With a new American Legion Auxiliary year starting it's time to get organized with our membership. Contact those members who have not paid dues, or don't participate in activities. Ask them to come to a meeting. Make them feel welcome and help with an upcoming project. Ask for their opinions. Invite new members to join either by letter, phone, or personal contact. Provide Unit orientation for new members and mentors for new members. Explain all of our programs to the new members so they have an understanding of what we do. The Auxiliary Unit belongs to all members and as members we make our Auxiliary Units complete.

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### GIRLS STATE, Charlotte Zieg

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Girls State is tentatively set for June 6 - 12, 2010; we need your help and support. We are looking for volunteers or any one interested in helping with young ladies. If interested please call the Department Office or me Charlotte Zieg (402-532-5170) with your name. This is the time to get involved and make a difference in someone's life. You are never too old or young to learn. Thank you all!

### **All Aboard!!!**

That's right, get your tickets!! No free rides, just one heck of a ride.

Your ticket not only buys you a ride, there are lots of benefits included, discount on eyeglasses, travel, and insurance, to name just a few. Take a look; be amazed, the Auxiliary has much to offer. Not sure about what you are hearing? Don't be afraid to ask, you can contact me at 1-800-933-7223 ext 8377.

The Auxiliary not only benefits you, but loved ones as well. We have scholarships for members and members' children. We benefit our Veterans every day, by making tray favors, and goodie boxes for the troops.

Know a Veteran that needs to be uplifted, needs a ride somewhere, or needs a smile to brighten a day? That is what we do. Sounds simple? It is, but we need help. Every member can do something. Just find a program that interests you and start helping. Ask your Unit President or call the Department Office to find out how you can help.

Not sure how you want to help? That's okay too. Sit back, enjoy the ride. Go to monthly meetings, something is sure to catch your attention. Don't be shy; if you need some information ask!

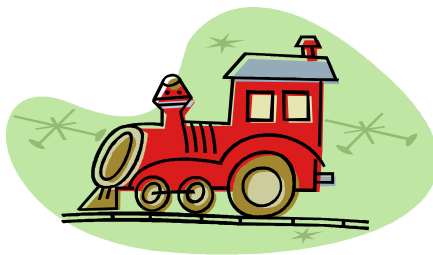
Ladies, if you have a new member get her to attend a monthly meeting, ask her to help with a project, don't overwhelm them, just include them. Remember - You only get one shot at a first impression. Make it count. Don't let a first time attendee sit alone, be the one to initiate conversation. You might make a new friend (You can NEVER have too many of those) plus you will keep that new member coming back.

Don't forget, sign up three new Junior or Senior Members and get a shot at winning money at Mid-year (No you don't need to be there to win, but think of the fun if you were, not only that but with 3 you will be eligible for Nationals Recruit 3 award also) you can be entered into the drawing as many times as you want, so don't stop with 3, keep going, after 25 senior members you are eligible for the Silver Brigade Award from National.

You say new members are hard to find. I don't believe you. Does everyone you know (work, church, civic organizations) all know that you are an Auxiliary member? I'll bet someone doesn't. Do you know if everyone you know that is eligible for the Auxiliary is a member? If you don't you need to ask. Carry around forms. You don't even have to ask them to join just let them know what you are doing with the Auxiliary. Tell them about going to convention, District or Department. Let them know you have a meeting. It is as simple as having a conversation about what the Kids or Grandkids are doing. You don't even have to ask them to join in the first couple of conversations; just let them know what is going on in your life. After a while people are curious about what the Auxiliary is and why it is doing things. Then you ask if they are interested. If they are, be prepared with membership forms. If you don't have any, they can be emailed to you or sent by the USPS, but you must ask. All the District Presidents have copies as well.

Don't worry if they can't join your Unit, let them join wherever they wish. A member is a member is a member. And if they want to be active in a different Unit that's okay, at least they are active some place.

**Your Conductor, Lisa D. Moore**



**UNIT MEMBERSHIP CHAIRMEN:** You are to send your Permanent (LIFE) member stubs A & B to the Department Office. Your Unit will not receive credit for Permanent (LIFE) members until the cards are sent to National for processing.  
**DO NOT SEND PAYMENT WITH PERMANENT (LIFE) CARDS; THESE ARE PRE-PAID FOR LIFE.**

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## CHILDREN & YOUTH, Shari Luther

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School bells are ringing, school kids are riding the school bus, riding their bikes to school, walking or being driven.

Have you talked to your schoolage children about safety? Darting in front of cars or worse yet, behind cars after they unload is real scary – and it does happen.

The Auxiliary will be working more closely with The American Legion Child Welfare Foundation award year. Each Post, Unit, Squadron or Salon is being asked to donate at least \$1 per member and you will receive a beautiful streamer. This banner/streamer is suitable for display in your meeting room or attach it to your colors.

I plan to attend the National Children & Youth Conference, September 18-20 in Indianapolis. I am anxious to tour the "new" National Headquarters and meet other Department C&Y Chairmen for ideas to improve our program.

Stay safe and donate!

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## DEPARTMENT VETERANS AFFAIRS & REHABILITATION, Betty Snyder

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Enclosed with this newsletter is the schedule for the Veterans Dollar Days distribution, Gift Shop opening and Gifts for Yank Who Gave events along with the Poppy order form and other Unit donation forms.

If you would like to volunteer at the Gift Shops please give me a call @402-264-4835.

At the July, 2009 VA&R Committee meeting a motion was passed to raise the Gifts for Yanks donation amounts to the Units, Posts and Squadrons with a combined total over 250 members. This money is used to give every hospitalized veteran in Nebraska VA Medical Centers, Veterans Homes and Regional Centers \$20.00 and their spouses each \$15.00. This fund also helps sponsor parties at the VA Medical Centers in Hot Springs, South Dakota and Cheyenne, Wyoming.

You will notice a couple changes on the poppy order form. 1. Due to the increase in supplies from the National supplier of the small poppy kits and to a \$5 per thousand raise to the makers of the small poppies, the cost of finished small poppies to the units did increase \$2 per hundred. 2. Last year we experienced too many late orders so we have included a deadline for poppy orders to Department Headquarters by November 1<sup>st</sup>. If we have poppies on hand we will fill late orders but they will be shipped C.O.D. to the Units. It is preferred that the Unit orders can be filled and delivered for pick up at the District Conventions to save the shipping charges.

National has asked that each Department raise \$5000 for the Creative Arts Festival this year. The National Fund is short \$50,000 for this year's Festival. My special project this year will be to raise awareness and funds for the Creative Arts Festival. **Please join me in my endeavor in supporting this special Veteran's event**

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## DEPARTMENT SECRETARY - TREASURER, Jacki O'Neill

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**2009 – 2010 Unit Officer Forms not received for this year**, (ignore if you have not held election of officers)

If your Unit is listed below please contact the Department office immediately to verify our information on file is correct: Alexandria, Allen, Alvo, Ansley, Arlington, Arthur, Bancroft, Bassett, Beaver City, Belden, Benkelman, Big Springs, Brewster, Bridgeport, Bristow, Broken Bow, Bruning, Burwell, Butte, Callaway, Carleton, Cedar Rapids, Chambers, Cody, Colon, Comstock, Cortland, Crawford, Creston, Dakota City, Dalton, Danbury, Dix, Dodge, Dubois, Eddyville, Elgin, Elwood, Fairfield, Falls City, Farnam, Firth, Franklin, Fremont, Fullerton, Geneva, Grand Island, Greeley, Greenwood, Guide Rock, Hardy, Hartington, Hebron, Holdrege, Holstein, Homer, Jansen, Johnson, Juniata, Kennard, Kimball, Lewellen, Lindsay, Lisco, Madison, Maxwell, McCook, McCool Junction, Millard, Monroe, Nehawka, Neligh, Nelson, Oconto, Ogallala, Omaha 30, O'Neill, Orchard, Ord, Orleans, Oshkosh, Overton, Oxford, Pender, Prague, Primrose, Republican City, Riverton, Sargent, Schuyler, Scotia, Silver Creek, South Omaha, Spencer, Stamford, Stanton, Sterling, Stratton, Superior, Talmage, Tecumseh, Tekamah, Tilden, Tobias, Trenton, Valentine, Venango, Wahoo, Walthill, Western, Wilber, Wilcox, Winnebago, York.

SEPTEMBER 2009 NEWSLETTER INSERTS;

Department President Carol's Informational meeting and Homecoming

Americanism Chairman "You and Me"; NEW 2010 Membership Target Dates

2009 Schedule for Dollar Days, Gift Shops and Gifts for Yanks Who Gave Events

2009-2010 Unit, Post and Squadron Donation sheet for Gifts for Yanks Who Gave.

2009-2010 Unit General Fund Donation sheet; 2009-2010 Unit Donation sheet for Veterans Affairs & Rehabilitation

2009-2010 POPPY Order Form – (note deadline); 2009-2010 Community Service reporting sheet

\*REVISED Suggested Unit Constitution and Bylaws