

American Legion Auxiliary
Department of Nebraska JANUARY 2010 Newsletter

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

DEPARTMENT PRESIDENT, Carol Ulrich

The American Legion Auxiliary members and friends around the state of Nebraska I want to congratulate all of the Units who have made 75% or better for their membership. You reached out and gathered those memberships to help Nebraska to be in 3rd place with 78%. Thank you.

The Gifts for Yanks Who Gave program is under way for the Nebraska Veteran Homes across the state. I have seen many happy smiles and heard ever so many grateful comments of appreciation by the Veterans in these homes and hospitals. I earnestly encourage you to continue to keep this project as a high priority in the future.

Mid-Year Conference is scheduled for January 8-10, 2010 at The Lodge, Norfolk, NE.

This is a most informative occasion of our many fine programs. During this conference, National President Rita Navarrete will be our special guest. Also during this conference, the State Oratorical Contest will be on Saturday, January 9, starting at 8 am. Please come and learn all about our fine programs, in which you can take extra action with them, and with all the information you gathered you can go back to your Unit, write up a report and send it in to the program chairman, and have your report sent on for further judging and win.

If you missed it, a **BIG THANK YOU** to Donna Gana, who was on the Nebraska Education TV with information about The Gift Shop Opening in Grand Island.

Remember that the District Spring Conventions are fast approaching and do you have these items ready for judging; history, publicity, prayer, poppy corsage, poppy centerpieces, etc.?

May God Bless each and every one of you as you continue your dedicated work for the Veterans.

CHAPLAIN

God wins His greatest victories through apparent defeats. Very often the enemy seems to triumph for a season, and God allows it. But then He comes in and upsets the work of the enemy, overthrows the apparent victory, and as the Bible says, "frustrates the ways of the wicked" (Psalm 146:9). Consequently, He gives us a much greater victory than we would have known had He not allowed the enemy seemingly to triumph in the first place.

Defeat may serve as well as victory
To Shake the soul and let the glory out
When the great oak is straining in the wind,
The limbs drink in new beauty, and the trunk
Sends down a deeper root on the windward side,
Only the soul that know the might grief
Can know the mighty rapture, Sorrows come
To stretch out spaces in the heart for joy.

Let us pray: Our Father in Heaven, we thank you for America, our government leaders, and our veterans who gave so much. Thank you for the members of The American Legion Family. Help us to always remember we are here to serve God and Country. Thank you for our men and women serving in the military and please keep them in your care. Guide us in all we do and let all we do praise your name. Amen

Scripture: 2 Corinthians 2:14 ~ Thanks be to God, who always leads us in triumphal procession in Christ.

It is time to start thinking about a prayer or poem for the Department President Prayer Book. You can email them to me at Cheryl.vap@ars.usda.gov or send them to 1189 Road CD, Red Cloud, NE 68970

Cheryl Vap, Department Chaplain

AUXILIARY EMERGENCY FUND (A.E.F.)

The National Organization plans to recognize one **individual** member from each division who contributes the largest contribution to Auxiliary Emergency Fund. The winner will receive a certificate and special recognition at National Convention in Milwaukee, Wisconsin. Just fill out the enclosed contribution form and return to Department with your donation before June 1, 2010. *Department will forward the form to National for you.*

Gertrude Johansen, AEF Chairman

AMERICANISM – NEBRASKA STYLE

Anyone in the Great State of Nebraska knows that we Nebraskans do things up right. Americanism is no exception. A personal **Thank You** to four the Units that submitted entries for the Americanism Youth Conference to be held at Freedoms Foundation, Valley Forge PA, March 4-7, 2010. Nebraska has talent and all four applications to this educational conference have been forwarded to National. As learned by this Chairman, National makes every attempt to fill the vacancies in this conference, so why not, give all four of Nebraska's applicants a chance to get an education. So no matter the outcome of the selection process Nebraska will have one entry at this conference in March, if not more.

The Girls Scout Achievement Award applications are next on the docket in the Americanism program to get submitted. Deadline is in March 2010.

The Americanism Essay Contest is something you need to visit with your teachers about to see if their classroom can participate for extra credit. What better way to encourage our kids than pondering just really what is their reasoning on "My patriotic duty as an American citizen"? Are you able to answer that question? If not perhaps hold an "adult" essay contest among your peers to see what your thoughts are. I know the school kids always have interesting thoughts on America, but do we?

In speaking with our local school counselor she suggested that the beginning of each school year is hectic for teachers; however, they also have workdays before the start of school. She suggested that the Legion Family visit the teachers on their workdays with sufficient handouts on our programs, what we have to offer our youth, and how the school is really our liaison between the students and our programs. She mentioned if we could teamwork this process so we could briefly highlight what we have to offer, how we need teachers to assist, and what the students have the opportunity to accomplish, we may be able to better educate everyone. So if anyone has any suggestions for this type of approach, please let me know. Better yet, write your suggestions down and bring them to Mid-Year and drop them off at the suggestion box. Suggestions are welcomed on all programs. You do not need to identify yourself if that is what would hold you back from sharing your ideas.

God Bless! Please, please keep our military and their families in thought and prayer, lend a helping hand as you can and do not forget our own members.

Beverly A. Neel, Americanism Chairman 2010

COUNTY GOVERNMENT

County Government Day has come and gone in many counties by now I know, but I would like to hear from you with a report on what took place that day. This is a wonderful day for our youth of today as they can learn about county government first hand by visiting in the officials' office and learn about the importance of voting, and the correct way to fill out a ballot. I will be in Norfolk for MidWinter, so you can bring your write-ups and give them to me there.

Wilma Halvorsen, County Government Chairman

HOME SERVICE

Ladies there are still several openings for the 2010 year for table favors and/or centerpieces. New Years Day for G I Med. Center and Norfolk Home are still open and Valentines Day centerpieces for Eastern NE Home. I mention these as they are just around the corner and it would be wonderful if some unit could possibly fill these. There are more openings for the rest of the year, I would appreciate a call 308-285-3861 or 308-883-1145 or e-mail at jfm@gpcom.net. Please keep our Veteran's in mind for the holidays.

Helen Miller, Home Service Chairman

SCHOOL OF VETERANS, COMMUNITY & YOUTH
aka **EDUCATION**

Education (**clap**) Get to it (**clap**) Auxiliary (**clap**) Let's do it! (**clap**)

Happy New Year! Wow! 2010 has arrived and it brings us probably the most busiest of times for the Auxiliary family. Mid-Year in Norfolk, upcoming deadlines, and revisiting the ABC Book to see that your Unit has completed at least ONE of the activities for Education. Most importantly is to follow up with your local education institutions (local and home schools) to promote our excellent scholarship opportunities. Your Education chairman should make sure the following is properly handled:

- Notify your schools (remember the home schools) to inform them who is to receive the completed applications in your Unit.
- To simplify the process, the deadline for ALL scholarships (National and Department) has been set for **MARCH 1, 2010**. You should have them by that date.
- It is YOUR responsibility to ensure that ALL information requested is enclosed with the application.
- Students may apply for more than one scholarship at the Unit level; but when submitting to Department, only ONE from National and ONE from Department per student. Your UNIT must ensure that the scholarships being submitted follow this rule.
- It is YOUR responsibility to ensure that the application being submitted to Headquarters is postmarked by **March 15, 2010**.

As we begin our downslide of the "School of Veterans, Community & Youth" school year, continue to promote Education in some fashion. Have you held a book fair to share books among others? Or has a member volunteered to read at a local library? How about the "Give 10 to Education?" Participated in the "90-something" donation to the National President's Scholarship Endowment Fund? Students (Auxiliary ladies) there is still half a school year left to keep promotion our Education programs. Remember--education--get to it--Auxiliary--let's do it!

Vicki Ozenbaugh, Education Chairman

GIRLS STATE 2010

Is your Unit ready to help with the coming year for Girls State 2010? The session will be June 6 - 12, 2010. The planning has been underway and we are excited and so are you, RIGHT? Information to the schools and Units will be sent out on or around the first week of January 2010. It is very important that the Units open the packet and make sure that it is passed on to your Girls State chairman. Please pay close attention to the deadlines that are stated.

Also are you interested in helping young ladies grow in knowledge and also yourself grow in knowledge. Volunteer and see the excitement you will learn. We need you as a Volunteer to be a Senior Counselor. Just think you won't need to cook, clean, dust, or even make your bed if you choose while you are at Girls State. You will need to bring the much needed comfortable shoes though. Yes, you will need to walk with the young ladies and be there for guidance. You will, I am sure, laugh at times, joke at times, and be a Mother at times. But this is a very rewarding week for all of us. We all will learn something every day and that is a great way to learn. Senior Counselors should be an American Legion Auxiliary member or Alumnae of the Girls State Program.

If you or someone you know would be interested in volunteering, please contact Gwen Reynolds, Director of Counselors at 402-614-3909 or myself. The Girls State Staff look forward to hearing from you. Be A Volunteer! Call: 402-532-5170 or email: Charlotte.e.zieg@usps.gov charlottezieg@hotmail.com

Charlotte Zieg, Girls State Chairman

LEGISLATURE

I am starting to compile my notes and reports from the units that have sent me reports. There is still time to send me reports if unit members have written their Representatives regarding veteran issues. My address is Kathleen Obermiller, 257 North 7th Street, Loup City, Nebraska 68853. I will complete my report right after the first of the year for Mid Winter.

Continue to contact elected officials the rest of the year. Write letters, send e-mails, faxes, and make phone calls. Know the Issues. Keep abreast on issues that effect veterans. You can use information in the newspapers, "The Dispatch", and information found on the Legion Auxiliary and the Legion web sites.

On the American Legion web site you can find the addresses of your Representatives. You can find information on pending bills. You can even compose and e-mail a letter to your Representative from this site.

Keep up the good work.

Kathleen Obermiller, Legislative Chairman

MUSIC: Singing of the Heart

It seems a little soon to think about Valentine's Day, but all good projects take planning, so please consider this project as a fund-raiser for your group: Singing Valentines! It is my experience that delivering Singing Valentines can be a fun and profitable way to bring good will to a community.

First, you gather a handful of "cupids" who can carry a tune. If you can drag some men in, even better! A guitar is nice, but hardly necessary. Singing in parts is nice, but also, not necessary.

Second, you pick out the songs. Old standards with some of your own words thrown in are very effective. Here's a fun example, set to the tune of "Don't Fence Me In:"

Oh, give me love, lots of love, with a love that's oh, so true;
My Valentine!
With a love, yes a love that will last my whole life through;
My Valentine!
I will love you- yes I'll love you just as much as any can;
Next time you get the urge to hit me with a frying pan,
Just remember that I love you more than any other man...
My Valentine!

Other popular songs are "Let Me Call You Sweetheart," "Can't Help Falling in Love", and "Love Me Tender." It's a good idea to plan on tunes appropriate for grandmothers as well as girlfriends/ boyfriends and spouses.

Lastly, set your price. About \$15 per Valentine is a start; \$5 for telephone Valentines, which are also popular (a speakerphone works best). Your local radio station would likely let you come on their comment show and sing a tune for free advertising. It's a wonderful way to spread music and good will throughout your town. Keep warm, everyone!

February:	Hymn	Love Lifted Me
	Patriotic	Marine's Hymn
	Fellowship	Billy Boy
March:	Hymn	Just As I Am
	Patriotic	Columbia, the Gem of the Ocean
	Fellowship	Swing Low, Sweet Chariot

Jean Vackiner, Department Music Chairman

FIELD SERVICE

The field service chairman has enclosed a Field Service help sheet.

Renee Van Winkle, Field Service Chairman

MEMBERSHIP ~ KEEP ON CHUGGIN'!!!

Ladies, you are all working so hard on membership, you make my job easy and fun. Whatever you are doing, keep it up. We hit our 55%, 65% and 75% Depots ahead of schedule and are headed for 95%. I am so very proud of the state of Nebraska.

The following is a list of Engines that are at the Final Depot.

At Depot 100%:

District 2:		
	Tilden	100.00%
	Albion	100.00%
	Petersburg	100.00%
	Page	103.70%
	Bloomfield	100.00%
	Osmond	102.56%
District 3:		
	Beemer	100.00%
District 4:		
	Dix	100.00%
	Bayard	105.26%
District 6:		
	Oconto	105.36%
District 7:		
	Dodge	101.79%
	Monroe	100.00%
	Wahoo	100.66%
District 9:		
	Cambridge	100.00%
	Indianola	104.17%
District 10:		
	Franklin	102.78%
District 11:		
	Exeter	100.00%
	Ohiowa	100.00%
	McCool Junction	103.23%
	Virginia	100.00%

The following engines are having problems getting on the tracks. If you have memberships please send them to Department. If you don't, let me know and I will help you make phone calls to your members. Let's get everyone to that final Depot.

District 2:		District 5:	
	Butte		Overton
District 3:		District 6:	
	Tekamah		Central City
	Hartington	District 7:	
District 4:			Creston
	Big Springs	District 9:	
	Lewellen		Trenton
	Kimball		

Now for some fun...

At Mid-Year Convention, I get to give away CASH!! Yes, the green stuff. How do you get to be in the drawing, you ask? Just recruit members. Three (3) new junior or senior members gets you a chance at cold, hard, cash. For every three (3) new members, you get one chance at the cash. I will draw the winners during my report at Mid-Year. You don't have to be there but, wouldn't it be great if you were, then you can get the money from me, no waiting for the mailman to bring it.

Also, if Nebraska keeps hitting the Depot Dates, we keep earning cash. When we hit the 95% Depot, we will earn another monetary award, the same thing for the 100% Depots, in April and July. If we hit these, I will give money directly to the Units. How? All you have to do is get another new member after January 1st. For every new member in a Unit, I will give that Unit an opportunity at winning CASH.

We may be sitting in 3rd place nationally but, we are 1000 people behind in our numbers compared to where we were last year. If you need help renewing members let me know, I am not above making phone calls. Let's get the renewals before March 1, 2010.

For those who are not yet aware National is updating our membership software in Indianapolis. As of March 1, Department will not be able to update to National until May. So let's get as much of our membership turned in before National does their conversion. It also means that we will hit the 95% ahead of schedule. (BONUS)

So let's not derail or jump the tracks. Let's keep on chuggin'. Let's show the rest of the Departments what the Cornhuskers are made of.

Lisa Moore, Membership Chairman

Insert from the NORTHWESTERN DIVISION MEMBERSHIP

The Northwestern Division membership chairman has enclosed a sample letter that could be used to entice late paying members or dropped members to continue supporting this great organization and our veterans by continuing to pay their membership dues.

Roxanne Hiatt, Northwestern Division Membership Chairman

UNIT DEVELOPMENT & REVITALIZATION (U.D.&R.)

"HAPPY NEW YEAR" to all of you. With the New Year upon us, let's get our Units energized and encourage mentor programs to insure growth. Encourage communication with new members.

The objective is to stop the decline in membership and the decrease in charter cancellations. We need to charter new Units and develop new mentor programs. Consider "toning" up your Units. We don't need to try to do everything but we need to accomplish our goals that are to be set.

And very important; **publicize to the community what we do.** Public Service Announcements, radio ads and newspaper ads are an excellent way to advertise our programs, also to revitalize struggling Units and organize new Units.

If I can be of any help, please contact me: Mary Ann Otte, 2785 County Road Z, Morse Bluff, NE 68648. Phone number—402-666-5277. E-mail rmotte2785@nntc.net.

Mary Ann Otte, Unit Development and Revitalization Chairman

SCHEDULED DATE CHANGES

DISTRICT NINE has changed their CONVENTION date to March 6, 2010 in Eustis.

Changes / corrections to the ABC Book Directory

Page 18 – Verna Feeser doesn't live in Holstein her address is 410 "O" St., Gering, NE 69341

Page 21 – Lisa Moore's area code is 402 not 308.

Inserts

Unit Data Form – Unit membership chairman information with dues amounts for 2011.

Field Service Volunteer help sheet, County Government report sheet, AEF Contribution sheet, rules for District contests, sample letter for membership renewals, flyers for "BUS" program and Hospice Wing.