



“For God and Country”

January 2026 Post 3 Newsletter



January Meeting Schedule

Organization	Location	Time	Date
Legion Post 3	Elks Lodge, 5910 S 58 th St	7:00 PM	01/13/26
Auxiliary Unit 3	Elks Lodge, 5910 S 58 th St	7:00 PM	None
SAL Squadron 3	Post 3 Office, 123 S 84 th St	7:00 PM	01/08/26
ALR Chapter 3	Denton Legion Club	6:00 PM	01/15/26
40 & 8 Voiture 103	Elks Lodge, 5910 S 58 th St	6:30 PM	01/20/26
8 & 40 Salon 832	Elks Lodge, 5910 s 58 th St	6:30 PM	01/20/26
8 & 40 Salon 92	VFW 3606, 3340 West A St	1:00 PM	None
Buddy Check	Enclosed Shelter, 1650 Antelope Park	6:00 PM	01/22/26
CoffeeHaus	Auld Pavilion, Antelope Park	10:00 AM	01/16/26

Commander's Call



Fellow Legionnaires,

Hopefully you and your families enjoyed a wonderful Christmas!

You can be proud of the good cheer and giving done by your Legion family this Christmas season. At our December Post 3 meeting we teamed with Unit 3 of the Auxiliary collecting nonperishable food for the Veterans Clinic. Post 3 members, Auxiliary Ladies and Legion Riders rang Bells for the Salvation

Army. Our Sons of the American Legion did their annual give away of cash at a local grocery store. Great work by all in giving back to the Lincoln community!

On 3 December 2025 a document was filed in the Lancaster District Court "American Legion Post 1919 vs The American Legion Department of Nebraska." Listed Plaintiffs were two members of Post 1919 and one member of Post 3.

Listed Defendants were 13 American Legion members including 8 from Post 3 and 21 individuals associated with the Lincoln Baseball Association. As this is a pending case no more information will be given at this time. As Commander of Post 3 I will be the contact for any questions or announcements and will keep you informed. The case number of this document at Lancaster District Court should you want details is D02C12500042333.

This month we are transitioning our Post 3 Adjutant duties from Ed Schnabel to Steve Fowles. Ed has been both our Post Adjutant and Finance Officer for approximately eight years. Additionally, Ed served as Post 3 Commander, VA Clinic volunteer, Honor Guard member, and many others. His contributions to the veteran community have been outstanding and we thank him as he is about to celebrate his 80th birthday. Thank you, Ed!

Taking over as our new Adjutant, Steve Fowles brings great experience from the Massachusetts American Legion. A Navy veteran, Steve has extensive service as a Post, SAL, Veterans Council and County Adjutant as well as commander of a Post, SAL and Council Commander. Welcome Steve!

Looking into the new year the Nebraska American Legion Department Mid-Year Convention will be January 16-18 in Norfolk. The Norfolk Lodge and Suites (402-379-3833) will be hosting the Convention this year. A full schedule is attached in this newsletter. A condensed schedule will be published in December in the Nebraska Legionnaire and we can discuss it at our January monthly meeting. If you have not attended one of the Department Conventions this is a great opportunity to see your Legion Leadership in action and experience the comradeship of fellow veterans. Best wishes for a safe happy New Year!

For God and Country,

Ron Hindmand

Post 3 Commander

Notes from the Adjutant's Desk



Legion office will be open again beginning the 6th of January 2026.

2026 Renewals: We are running ahead of last year as we start the New Year. As of this date, we have 779 paid members. Department Life Members currently are down to 44 members. Current membership breakdown, WWII – 11; ROK – 113; Vietnam – 485; the remainder is made up of current war eras. These are estimates as some members do not have a war era listed.

Membership: We need to talk with our younger members that have served since the Gulf War. They will become the backbone of our VSOs in a few years. Without these younger veterans we will no longer have a strong voice in Congress. Without a strong voice in Congress, we will keep losing funding for the Department of Veterans Affairs and the VA Health Care System.

If you are a member of this group of veterans or know a veteran from these conflicts, please ask them if they are a member of a VSO (veteran service organization) and if not, ask them to please join. They may not be using VA service now, and may wish to in the future, may find that VA services have been cut back due to a lack of a strong voice in Congress.

Legion Insurance: It is easy to sign up, just go to their website and enroll. Legion Insurance covers you while you are traveling to and from a Legion Activity. Remember, if you have not paid your 2025 dues, you are now listed as expired. This means that your insurance lapsed on the 31st of December. Same for Legion Magazine.

Military Service: We still are trying to update our membership roster as to branch of service and the war era that you served. National has been printing on back of renewal slips the data that is in the Legion database. Please check and add as needed so we can correct our database. Thanks, it makes it so much easier to reach out to you if needed.

VSO Web Sites to visit: Nebraska's Department of Veterans Affairs, VFW, DAV, AMVETS web sites are a great places to find current and helpful information on what Congress is currently working on and how it could affect you as a veteran. The VA website has many tips on filing claims and links to other VA services to which you are entitled. These agencies do an excellent job of keeping track of Congressional activities that can or will affect veterans.

VA News: (veteransaffairs@messages.va.gov). The Nebraska Department of Veterans Affairs and your local County Service Office are here to serve you. They can pull up your records of military service and help track your claims you may have filed. If you have not visited with your service officer, now would be a great time to stop and visit with him/her. The 2025 Nebraska Legislature may have passed legislation that may have affected you and your benefits.

2026 Auto Renewals: A new law is in effect. As you renew your auto for 2026, you should be able to get a discount on 2026 auto taxes for one car. Check it out.

This will be my last report, as I plan to retire as Adjutant for Post 3. It has been a pleasure to serve you as your Adjutant for the last 8 plus years.

Happy New year,

Ed Schnabel
Adjutant

Lincoln CBOC/VA News



Your local Community Clinic and VA Hospital should be back to normal operations on January 5th, 2026.

The Lincoln Clinic is now closing at 5:00 pm. Be sure you double check appointment times, if you have one that shows a time after 5:00 pm.

Flu shots are now being given through walk-ins, or urgent care. When you have an appointment, you will be asked if you wish a flu shot, or to update any other vaccines that show up as overdue on your VA Health records. Covid shots are being given by appointment only. If you wish a Covid shot, call your clinic and request an appointment.

Remember that most community clinics do not have a Finance Office. The Lincoln CBOC does not have a finance office on site. If you have a billing question, you need to call the number that is listed on the Copay notice you might have received. You should find a finance office in most of the VA Hospitals, but they may have limited hours. This is true for the Omaha VA hospital.

Currently there are no mask requirements at VA clinics and hospitals. Masks are available for those who wish to wear them at the front doors of the clinics.

Express Care Walk-in service is for those who wish to have a nurse check out minor items. Times might be different at your local clinic, so give them a call and see if they offer Express Care Walk-in service. This care is available to those who might wish to see a VA nurse without an appointment during normal hours. The Lincoln Clinic treats 300 a month as walk-ins.

With the signing of the PAC act, more veterans have become eligible for services, not only for those who served “boots on the ground”, but anyone who has served since the Gulf War.

If you have any questions, call your local service officer, VSO, county, or state. It only takes a few minutes to see if you might qualify for an increase, or a new VA disability rating. The Veteran Affairs web site is a great place to visit. You can find out the latest information affecting Veterans. You can track claim status, file for travel pay, view your VA account, payments received, or Co-pay owed. You can make the Co-pay payments online.

The Lincoln Clinic does not have an Advocate on site. If you need to talk to an Advocate, you will need to contact their office by phone. The numbers to call are posted on the door of the Advocate Office in the Lincoln Clinic based on your questions.

(CBOC/VA News – Continued)

There are many ways to serve your fellow veterans. The VA systems has the need for volunteers. The local clinics or hospitals can always use volunteers for greeters or escorts. Hours given by the volunteers are credited with saving the VA Health System at Omaha, Lincoln, and GI are the equivalent of 25 full-time staff employees. This is based on an hour of service being credited at the rate of \$31.50 dollars per hour.

Food drive to collect food items for our homeless veterans in the Lincoln area is still ongoing. Items requested are shelf ready, power bars, easy to open items (pull tabs), etc. Please do not bring in food items that are past their expiration date, they just must be thrown away. A can opener would be nice. Other items that our Homeless Veterans could use are hygiene care items. They should be the small size that would fit easily into a backpack.

As the weather has changed from fall to winter, our homeless veterans could use warm clothing, hats, gloves, underwear, etc. Volunteer Services has a list of the most requested items. In Lincoln, they can be reached by calling 402-486-7938 or texting Ty.Andrews@va. Gov

The VA can use more volunteers at your local clinic or hospital. You can volunteer to help veterans in local clinic or hospital, or a veteran home. They can always use a monetary donation, or you can donate activities bags for younger kids to have when they come to the clinic or hospital with a parent for their appointments. There is always a need for the younger kids who come with parents, or grandparents, when too young to be left at home alone.

Clinics and hospitals can always use books or magazines for patients. You would need to check with your local hospital, clinic or veteran's home volunteer office to see what items they need or allow. This would be a great project for your church, school, or youth group.

The only animals that should be brought into a VA Health clinic or hospital are trained service animals that qualify under DAV requirements. Other pets or comfort dogs do not qualify and should be left at home.

Thanks for your service to your fellow Veterans and thanks for your service to this great country.

**Ed Schnabel
American Legion Rep
For the Lincoln CBOC**

ALR Riders, Chapter 3 Director's Remarks



Greetings, Fellow Riders and Legion Family all,

2025 is now in the rear-view mirror. I am so grateful for all the members of your American Legion Riders, Lincoln Chapter 3, and everything they accomplished over this past year.

Your Riders accumulated over 2,500 cumulative hours of service to our Veterans and traveled over 10,000 miles. We participated in over 30 events and raised nearly \$8,000 through our poker run and gun raffle fundraising events. Those funds were used to support Veterans locally, across Nebraska, and nationally. We were proud supporters of the Veterans Mission of Mercy dental program (which provided dental care to over 400 Nebraska Veterans and their spouses), the Wheels For Warriors program (which provides motorcycles to Veterans), and The American Legion's Veterans & Children Foundation (which provides financial assistance to military and veteran parents who face unexpected financial hardships that threaten the stability of their homes).

We already have some great activities on our calendar for 2026, including a number of parades, our annual poker run, another gun raffle (see the flyer included in this newsletter), and... we recently received a generous donation of a motorcycle which will likely be either sold or raffled off, with those funds used to continue our mission of supporting Veterans and their families. Stay tuned for more information.

The election of officers for 2026 was conducted at our December meeting. Leading your Chapter in 2026 are:

Rider Director: Bruce Gubser

Assistant Director: Mike Streeter

Secretary: Erik Miksch

Treasurer: Lori Gubser

Ride Captain: John Humphrey

Sergeant-At-Arms: Bill Beede

After the election at our December meeting, with about 30 members and guests present, we held our usual gift exchange. This year, instead of the gift-stealing White Elephant exchange, we played Christmas Gift Bingo. Everyone had a great time and went home with some new treasures. Our thanks, also, to the Denton American Legion Post #355 for hosting, and providing excellent food for, our ALR meetings.

Here's looking forward to a great 2026!!

Until next time, Ride (and Drive) Safe!

Bruce Gubser

Rider Director

Lincoln American Legion Riders, Chapter 3



Lincoln Chapter 3
American Legion Riders

RAFFLE



Smith & Wesson M&P 15-22 Sport
.22 LR Rifle with Red-Green Dot Optic



TICKETS ARE \$5 EACH OR 5 FOR \$20

The drawing will be held in August at our poker run.

YOU DO NOT NEED TO BE PRESENT TO WIN

YOU MUST BE OLDER THAN 18 YEARS OF AGE TO PURCHASE A TICKET

PRIZE WILL BE TRANSFERED TO THE WINNER THROUGH A FEDERALLY LICENSED FIREARM DEALER and

ALL FEDERAL, STATE AND LOCAL FIREARM PURCHASE LAWS, RULES AND REGULATIONS APPLY

Post 3 Honor Guard



December was a slow month for the Honor Guard. During the month, the Honor Guard assisted the Military Honors teams at only 2 funerals. The Honor Guard civic involvement in December included participation in only 3 events:

Some of the Honor Guard, along with other Post 3 family members, rang bells for 3 days for the Salvation Army.

We attended and supplied a Color Guard for the Governor's Proclamation of Wreaths Across America.

We attended and helped with the Wreaths Across America at Wyuka cemetery's Old Soldiers' Circle.

The effort the Honor Guard makes to honor our deceased veterans is greatly appreciated. I want to thank everyone involved for their continued support.

In the Calendar year 2025, the Honor Guard assisted the Military Honors Teams at 83 funerals and made appearances at 46 civic functions.

Post 3 TAPS – November 2025



ARMY



MARINE CORPS



NAVY



AIR FORCE



SPACE FORCE



COAST GUARD

LEGIONNAIRE	WAR ERA	BRANCH	YEARS
Wallace L. Brown	WW II	Unknown	50
Albin Dolezal	Korea	Navy	62
Leroy D. Nelsen	Korea	Air Force	36
Paul E. Nordstrom	Korea	Army	33
Terry Ostgaard	Vietnam	Army	12
Chandler A. Tyrrell	WW II	Navy	71

The Chaplain's Remarks



JOY OF NEW DAY January 2026—A short time ago, you, your family, veterans, coworkers, and others celebrated when Jesus would bring joy in the morning by His very birth, which had been foretold over two millennia ago (Isaiah 7:14). But...how have things changed since you found out about God and His gift to you?

You may well want to start at your beginning, when you first heard of the “miracle of miracles” actually happened. But why then, you may ponder? It was such a horrid of history in ancient times, when God competed with an overwhelming preponderance. Satan seemed to rule the Earth with a vengeance. How could God reach His people-to-be under such circumstances (Romans 10:13; 1st Timothy 2:4)?

What does this bode for you, living in an enlightened era—self-styled and firmly rooted—in disobedience, or sin, against your would-be Saviour, Jesus (Ephesians 2:8,9)? It means, especially during the world's Merry Christmas season, that He has never forgotten you since He Incarnated, i.e. seed of God through Mary's egg to produce, as God planned it, that loving manger scene from so long ago (Micah 5:2; Matthew 1;22 – 23).

Your path through life has always has been yours to profit or forfeit. ‘Yes, that's affirmative, Soldier! Take your marching orders from God and do His will for your continued good living with grace and peace!’

You're one of His spiritual warfare leaders (Exodus 15:3; Ephesians 6:10 – 18). You've gotten your marching orders from the Lord of Hosts (Isaiah 8:13; Malachi 3:1). So...Company! DisMiSSED!

**Rev. Dr. William Jackson
Chaplain, Lincoln ALP 3**

SAL Adjutant's Comments



The sole purpose of the Sons of the American Legion is to support the ideals and programs of the American Legion. On November 13th and December 19th, we made up some cards to wish some families a happy holiday and a nominal cash donation.

By doing this we were able to help twenty families at Thanksgiving and twenty families at Christmas time. Our total donation was \$2,000.00.

There were many hugs and sometimes tears as a thank you from the folks that received these cards. We even had folks ask the grocery checker if this was a scam and they grinned and said "No, this is a real deal".

There were even several that said to give it to someone that needs it more than I do. It gave the Sons members a warm feeling that we were doing something good and this is a most rewarding project.

Submitted by

Fred Craigie,

Adjutant

Lincoln Squadron #3 Sons of the American Legion

Regular Meeting of American Legion Post 3

December 9, 2025 - Lincoln Elks Lodge #80

Commander Ron Hindmand opened the December 9, 2025, meeting of American Legion Post 3 at 7:00 PM at the Lincoln Elks Lodge 80 with 24 Legionnaires present.

Introduced were unexpected visitors at tonight's meeting --- Department Commander, Judy Walters, and National Executive Committeeman, Jim Costello.

Also introduced was a recent transfer into Post 3 --- Lynn Anderson. He did a brief self-introduction.

Veterans of the various war eras were asked to stand and be recognized.

The minutes of the November 11, 2025, meeting were read and approved.

In the absence of the Finance Officer, Commander Hindmand gave an abbreviated financial report for November.

Ed Schnabel reported that 2026 membership tonight stood at 723 --- 77% of goal. Commander Hindmand reported on recent efforts to encourage Post 500 members to "transfer" or "renew and transfer" into Post 3. He encouraged all present to do what they could to retain and recruit members.

Commander Hindmand reported on the recently concluded Post 3 participation in Salvation Army Bellringing. Several bellringers were present and were asked to stand and be recognized.

Commander Hindmand reported that the Area C Oratorical Contest was held on December 7th in Seward. Contestants were present from four districts in Area C, and our contestant finished in 4th place. Ron pointed out that the winner of the Area C contest (from Waverly) was very good --- and that the department finals will be held at the Mid-Year Conference in Norfolk in January.

Gerry Wolf reported for the Honor Guard and indicated that they had participated in the Wreaths Across America ceremony at the State Capitol.

Brendan Moore reported for the Sons of the American Legion. Squadron 3 membership stands at 131, and they need only 3 more members to attain their membership goal. He also reported on their Thanksgiving charitable giving project.

Brendan also reported on the Big 10 Blood Drive. Wisconsin won out this year.

(Meeting Minutes – Continued)

It was announced that the 40/8 would hold its Christmas Party next Tuesday.

Commander Hindmand read a statement pertaining to a document filed last week in the district court to the effect that ---

Last week on 3 December 2025 a document was filed in the Lancaster District Court “American Legion Post 1919 vs The American Legion Department of Nebraska.”

Listed Plaintiffs were two members of Post 1919 and one member of Post 3.

Listed Defendants were 13 American Legion members including 8 from Post 3 and 21 individuals associated with the Lincoln Baseball Association.

As this is a pending case, we will not discuss it further. As Commander of Post 3, I will be the contact for any questions or announcements.

The case number of this document should you want details is: D02C12500042333.

Commander Hindmand announced some modified office hours over the holidays.

Bartos read TAPS, and the meeting was closed in proper form at 7:30 PM.

**Steve Bartos
Recorder**

Salvation Army Bell Ringing



Another year and another successful contribution by the Post 3 family to the Lincoln area Salvation Army. Post 3 members Gerry Wolf, Wade Graft, John Ottoson, Rev Dr Jackson, Wendy Gumb, Ray Swanson, Dean Dumler and Ron Hindmand along with Legion Auxiliary Unit 3 members Kathryn Wild and Barbara Michael Rang bells at the Williamsburg Hy-Vee on two of the coldest days of the year on 3 & 4 December.

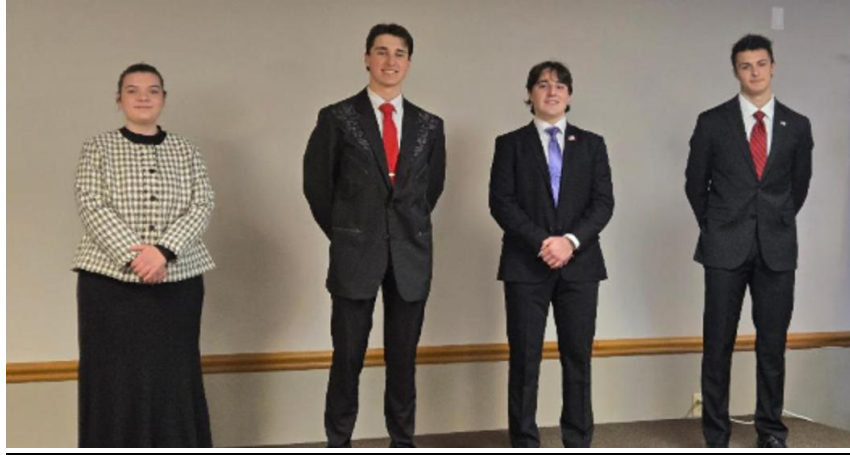
Our Legion Riders rang bells on a much more pleasant day on 5 December at Hobby Lobby. Ringing for the Riders were Bill Beede, Rick Simmons, Neil Larson, Steve Stamm and Eric Miksch.

In all we combined for eleven hours of ringing. It truly is a wonderful time of year to collect money for the Salvation Army as they support people in need. From home-cooked dinners to a good night's sleep, and Christmas gifts for children's donations to the Salvation Army help.

We truly did ring with joy in our hearts in the hope of making Christmas much brighter for some of our less fortunate neighbors in Lincoln.

**Ron Hindmand
Bell Ringing Chairman**

Area C Oratorical Contest



(L to R) Tera Thoms, Reed Novotny, Frank Kovaks and T.J Mueller

The American Legion Area C Oratorical contest was held on 7 December in the Seward Civic Center. For the first time since COVID, four districts in the area had a contestant. Post 3 was represented by our District 15 winner Tera Thoms. We had three members of Post 3 along with two of their wives that were in the audience encouraging these citizens of our United States.

As at the District level, contestants had to prepare and present an eight-to-ten-minute oration on some aspect of the US Constitution with emphasis on a citizen's duties and obligations. Then they prepared and presented a three-to-five-minute oration on an assigned topic drawn from preselected four topics related to some aspect of the US Constitution. T.J Mueller from District 12 was the 1st place winner. Frank Kovaks from District 10 placed 2nd, and Reed Novotny from District 11 placed 3rd. Our District 15 winner, Tera Thoms, finished 4th. Additionally, Tera was given \$100 by Post 3 for her participation in the Area Contest and another \$100 from the Nebraska American Legion Department. Tera will also receive a \$400 scholarship from Post 3 after high school graduation and upon registration in advanced education.

Tera is a high school junior being homeschooled. Her prepared oration was "Ratification of the 27th Amendment". She plans to attend the University of Nebraska and major in biochemistry upon high school graduation with aspirations of becoming a medical doctor.

The Department Contest will be held on 17 January as part of the Mid-Year Convention. We are sending out the agenda for this year's Mid-Year in Norfolk with this month's Newsletter. It would be a great opportunity to hear four young people representing the four Areas in the Department if you can attend. It is great to hear these future leaders speak on the United States Constitution giving us great hope for the future.

Ron Hindmand
Oratorical Chairman

Wreaths Across America



The tradition of laying wreaths on veterans' graves began in 1992, when the Morrill Worchester Wreath Company from Harrington, Maine, donated 5,000 wreaths to be placed on the headstones of an older section of Arlington National Cemetery. This act of generosity sparked a movement that has grown significantly over the years.

Each December, on National Wreaths Across America Day, the graves of deceased soldiers are decorated with fresh evergreen wreaths, each adorned with a traditional red hand tied bow. These wreaths are respectfully placed on headstones as a gesture of remembrance and honor.

Today, this tradition is observed at over 5,200 locations across all 50 states, 24 countries, and 7 seas. Lincoln has participated as a location for Wreaths Across America since 2010. As part of the program, Wreaths Across America sends a large ceremonial wreath to each state capitol, symbolizing the collective remembrance and gratitude for veterans.

The Nebraska Capitol Wreath ceremony took place on Monday, December 8, 2025, in the State Capitol Rotunda. Members of the Post 3 Honor Guard posted the Colors, and the Lincoln Lutheran High School Choir performed the National Anthem along with several other songs. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited, and Governor Jim Pillen read his Proclamation of Wreaths Across America.

Greg Osborn, Chairman of the Wreaths Across America Planning Committee, presented the Capitol Wreath to Governor Pillen. This wreath remained on display at the Capitol until the beginning of the new year.

The actual wreath-laying ceremony was held at Wyuka Cemetery on a cold December 13, 2025. The public was invited to attend a short program. The VFW Honor Guard posted the Colors, the National Anthem was sung, and the Pledge of Allegiance was recited. Chief Master Sergeant (retired), Teri Clark, of the Nebraska Air National Guard, served as the keynote speaker. Wreaths were presented in honor of veterans from the six military service branches and the Merchant Marines.

Following the opening ceremony, volunteers placed over 2,000 wreaths on veterans' graves in the three soldiers' circles of the Nebraska State cemetery. The event was made possible thanks to the dedicated individuals who contributed their time and effort to pay tribute to our veterans.

U.S. Army Cpl. Thomas William Neiswinger Identified



On Sept. 25, 2025, the Defense POW/MIA Accounting Agency identified the remains of U.S. Army Cpl. Thomas William Neiswinger, missing from the Korean War.

Neiswinger entered the U.S. Army from Indiana and served with F Company, 2nd Battalion, 38th Infantry Regiment, 2nd Infantry Division. On Sept. 6 and 7, 1950, elements of Neiswinger's 2nd Battalion launched attacks on a prominence called Hill 209 along the Naktong River in South Korea.

After failing to secure the hill due to strong enemy resistance and in torrential rain, the U.S. troops pulled back, but not without suffering casualties. Neiswinger was among those reported missing in action on Sept. 6, 1950. Renewed efforts later brought the area under American control, but by that time, the heavy rains had been continuing for days, and the floodwaters from the Naktong River were sufficient to cover up any recent graves in the area, impeding efforts to recover the remains of fallen soldiers.

In Sept. 1951, during post-war search and recovery efforts, members from the 565th Quartermaster Graves Registration Company recovered three sets of remains from a group burial near the village of An-Dong, South Korea. One of the sets of remains could not be associated with any unresolved casualty from the Korean War and was declared unidentifiable, and in 1956 was interred as a Korean War Unknown in the National Memorial Cemetery of the Pacific in Hawaii.

In May 2021, as part of Phase 3 of the Korean War disinterment project, DPAA personnel accessioned this Unknown to the DPAA laboratory for analysis. There, based on the laboratory analysis and total circumstantial evidence, the remains were identified as those of Neiswinger.

Today, he is memorialized on the Courts of the Missing at the National Memorial Cemetery of the Pacific. His name is also inscribed on the Korean War Veterans Memorial Wall in Washington, DC, which was updated in 2022 to include the names of the fallen.

Army Corporal awarded the Medal of Honor



Corporal Joe R. Baldonado distinguished himself by acts of gallantry and intrepidity above and beyond the call of duty while serving as an acting machine gunner in 3d Squad, 2d Platoon, Company B, 187th Airborne Infantry Regiment during combat operations against an armed enemy in Kangdong, Korea on November 25, 1950.

On that morning, the enemy launched a strong attack in an effort to seize the hill occupied by Corporal Baldonado and his company. The platoon had expended most of its ammunition in repelling the enemy attack and the platoon leader decided to commit his 3d Squad, with its supply of ammunition, in the defensive action.

Since there was no time to dig in because of the proximity of the enemy, who had advanced to within twenty-five yards of the platoon position, Corporal Baldonado emplaced his weapon in an exposed position and delivered a withering stream of fire on the advancing enemy, causing them to fall back in disorder.

The enemy then concentrated all their fire on Corporal Baldonado's gun and attempted to knock it out by rushing the position in small groups and hurling hand grenades. Several times, grenades exploded extremely close to Corporal Baldonado but failed to interrupt his continuous firing.

The hostile troops made repeated attempts to storm his position and were driven back each time with appalling casualties. The enemy finally withdrew after making a final assault on Corporal Baldonado's position during which a grenade landed near his gun, killing him instantly.

Baldonado's extraordinary heroism and selflessness at the cost of his own life, above and beyond the call of duty, are in keeping with the highest traditions of military service and reflect great credit upon himself, his unit and the United States Army.

Corporal Baldonado's remains were never recovered, but on March 18, 2014, President Barack Obama presented the Medal of Honor to Corporal Baldonado's brother, Charles.

Friday, January 16th, 10:00-12:00 A.M.



Lincoln VAG eAlert

A Message from Your Veterans Advisory Group!

VAG Lincoln Coffeehaus!



**JOIN US ON
FRIDAY!**

A CoffeeHaus Event has been scheduled for the third Friday each month from 10:00 AM to Noon, at Auld Pavilion in Antelope Park

In addition, Quilts of Valor Ladies will be awarding quilts to Veterans touched by war, and the presentation begins at Noon.

CoffeeHaus is a monthly gathering to honor our Veterans, with **FREE** Coffee, Beverages, Snacks, Fellowship, and Entertainment.

Join us - reach out and bring a guest too!

OUR SPONSOR

The Sponsor for
CoffeeHaus is the Elks
Lodge #80.



MORE INFORMATION!

For a Calendar of Upcoming VAG Events, visit our Website, at www.VAGLincoln.org!

Thursday, January 22nd, 6:00-8:00 P.M.



BUDDY CHECK

Working together to end veteran suicide.

MONTHLY ON THE 22ND

6:00 PM - 8:00 PM

Antelope Park Enclosed Shelter

1650 Memorial Dr., Lincoln, NE 68508

Next to The Veterans Memorial Garden

OPEN TO ALL VETERANS

Coffee, refreshments, and snacks are provided.



THE AMERICAN LEGION

For God and Country

DEPARTMENT OF NEBRASKA

150 NW 40th Street Unit A
LINCOLN, NE 68528

Office: 402-464-6338 -- Fax: 402-464-6330

Web: www.nebraskalegion.net

December 3, 2025

To: Distribution

RE: 2026 NEBRASKA MID-YEAR CONFERENCE INFORMATION

Encl: (1) Conference Agenda (Draft)
(2) DEC Agenda (Draft)
(3) Conference and Committee Meeting Room Assignments (Draft)

1. **All Legionnaires**: The Department will host its Mid-Year Conference on January 16 – 18, 2026, at the Norfolk Lodge located at 4200 W. Norfolk Ave in Norfolk, Nebraska. Legion room rate per night is \$110.00. Phone: 402-379-3833 then press 2 for reservations.

A draft Conference Agenda for Saturday, January 17, from 8:00 AM – 6:00 PM and Sunday, January 18 from 8:00 AM – 12:00 PM has been included.

2. **Department Executive Committee**: Department Commander Judy Walters is calling a meeting of the Department Executive Committee (DEC) to be held at the Norfolk Lodge on Friday, January 16 at 10:00 AM. Enclosed is a draft copy of the DEC Agenda.

Those Committee Chairs and Liaisons listed on the agenda under "Committee Reports" will provide a verbal report to the DEC at the time designated. Attached is an advance copy of those times for scheduling purposes.

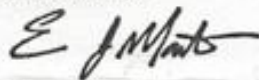
District Vice Commanders are invited and encouraged to attend the DEC meeting, but they will have no vote or voice nor receive any reimbursement unless they represent an absent District Commander.

3. **Department Committees**: The Committee Chairpersons for Publications and Public Relations, Convention, Children & Youth, Rehabilitation & Employment, Americanism, Membership, and Athletic are calling a meeting of their respective committee to be held at the Norfolk Lodge on Friday, January 16. The meetings will start promptly at the time and place designated in Enclosure (3). The usual business of the committee will be conducted, and a written report will be provided to the Department Adjutant by each of the Chairs as a matter of record. If committee personnel are unable to attend their meeting or the conference, they will contact their respective Chairperson.

A special meeting has been scheduled for Friday, January 16 at 4:30 p.m. in the lobby, followed by a walk-through, for the Department Oratorical committee persons. The actual Oratorical contest will be held during the evening on Saturday, January 17.

4. Department Expense Vouchers: The Department will only reimburse DEC members, Chairmen, and Liaisons listed in paragraph 2 and 3 up to two (2) night's stay (not to exceed \$75.00 per night) plus mileage. Committee members listed in paragraph 3 will only be reimbursed one (1) night plus mileage.

Respectfully,



Eric J. Martin
Department Adjutant

Distribution:

Department Executive Committee: Department Commander, three Past Department Commanders, Department Senior Vice, Area Vice Commanders, District Commanders, National Executive Committee, Alternate National Executive Committee

Department Officers: Chaplain, Judge Advocate, Finance, Historian, Sergeant-at-Arms, Assistant Sergeant-at-Arms, Service Officer

Department Committees: Americanism, Athletic, Boys State, Children and Youth, Constitution and Bylaws, Convention, Finance, Membership, Publications and Public Relations, Rehabilitation and Employment, Scholarship, Legislative, Nebraska Veterans Home Board, POW/MIA Liaison, Sons of The American Legion Liaison, Junior Shooting Sports Liaison, Homeless Veterans Task Force Liaison, American Legion Riders Liaison

Department Headquarters Staff: Department Adjutant, Department Assistant Adjutant, Department Executive Assistant, Department Media Specialist

District Vice Commanders: All Districts

The American Legion Auxiliary: Auxiliary President, Auxiliary Secretary

The Sons of The American Legion: Detachment Commander, Detachment Adjutant

**The American Legion
Department of Nebraska
Agenda
Department Executive Committee Meeting
Norfolk Suites – Norfolk, Nebraska
Friday, January 16, 2026 – 10:00 a.m.**

Reminder to turn off cellphones or Sgt-at-Arms will collect \$5.00

APPROVAL OF PREVIOUS MINUTES: Previous Convention and Special DEC minutes distributed via email and enclosed in your packets.

DISTRICT DUES CHECKS: The Constitution allows a .50 cent per member distribution to each District.

CONSOLIDATED POST REPORTS: Nebraska's goal for CPR remains 100% reporting.

DISTRICT CONVENTIONS: The 2026 District Convention schedule was proposed at the June meeting of this body and must be adopted at this meeting. A list of officer assignments is provided for advance planning.

If you wish to invite Department committeemen to appear at your convention, you extend the invitation through the Chairman, and to only those committees that would prove beneficial to your program. Please provide the Department a district convention program complete with date, time and location (physical address) of your district convention.

DEPARTMENT CONVENTION: The 2026 Department Convention will be held in Columbus on June 25 – 28, 2026, at the Quality Inn located at 3536 23rd Street. Reservations can be made at 402-564-1492. \$109.95 per night.

WASHINGTON CONFERENCE: Washington Conference is February 28 – March 4, 2026. Washington Hilton at 1919 Connecticut Ave. Reservations 202-483-3000 \$267 nightly plus tax). Deadline is January 23, 2026. Must have ticket to attend Commander's testimony. Agenda and Legislative Priorities to be distributed when received from National. Must have names by January 23 of who plans to attend.

NATIONAL AFFAIRS: NEC Jim Costello to report on American Legion affairs at the National level as well as any legislation that may be of interest to Nebraska Legionnaires.

NATIONAL CONVENTION: The 2026 National Convention will be in Louisville, KY, August 28 – September 3, 2026. Adjutant Martin will discuss housing/meeting arrangements.

MEMBERSHIP CERTIFICATION: Department Adjutant must certify all Department Officers to National. Adjutant Salak will not certify without official documents showing Legionnaire's eligibility.

AMERICAN LEGION COLLEGE REPORT: The 2025 American Legion College session was held November 16 – 21, 2025, in Indianapolis. Jason Baker from Nebraska attended.

ADJUTANT REPORT: Update on fundraising efforts and building and grounds report.

NEBRASKA LEGISLATURE: The Nebraska Veterans Council meets in January 2026, to determine a course of action for the 2026 legislature. Legislative Day at the Capitol will be January 30, 2026.

LINCOLN POST 1919 DISCUSSION: Hearing of Lincoln Post 1919.

POST & SQUADRON CANCELLATIONS: Posts Closing: Hildreth 378 and Wilsonville 152.
Discussion: Posts under 10 members. Squadrons Closing: O'Neill 93, Kenesaw 268, Adams 221, Bloomfield 249, and Ewing 214.

DEPARTMENT APPOINTMENTS:

<u>COMMITTEE</u>	<u>APPOINTMENT</u>	<u>TERM</u>
Americanism	Vacant (Area C)	4 years
Athletic	Vacant (Area D)	1 year
Children & Youth	Vacant (Area A)	1 year
Membership	Vacant (Area A)	4 years
Pub & PR	Vacant (Area D)	4 years
	Vacant (Area C)	3 years
	Vacant (Area B)	2 years
	Vacant (Area A)	1 year
Rehab & Employment	Vacant (Area B)	2 years
Department Historian	Vacant	

COMMITTEE REPORTS: Unless excused, each Department Standing Committee is required to report to this meeting of the Department Executive Committee.

<u>COMMITTEE</u>	<u>TIME</u>	<u>CHAIRMAN</u>
Convention.....	1:20.....	Rod Rose
Americanism.....	1:25.....	Mike Hatfield
Junior Shooting Sports Liaison.....	1:30.....	Doug Frahm
Boys State.....	1:35.....	Adam Schweitzer
Children & Youth.....	1:40.....	Donald Nelsen
Membership.....	1:50.....	Steve Bartos
Finance.....	2:05.....	Daniel Stramel
Finance Officer (Audit).....	2:05.....	Mark Novak
Publications & Public Relations.....	2:30.....	Vacant
Rehabilitation & Employment.....	2:40.....	Michael Simmonds
Scholarship.....	2:45.....	Carroll Mohlman
POW/MIA Liaison.....	2:50.....	Boyd Yochum
Sons of The American Legion.....	2:55.....	Robert Neel
Athletic.....	3:00.....	Jody Moeller
Homeless Veterans Liaison.....	3:05.....	Bruce Husted
Department Historian.....	3:10.....	Vacant
Legion Riders.....	3:25.....	Danny Willets
Department Service Officer.....	3:35.....	Levi Bennett

FOR THE GOOD OF THE LEGION: Anything else to come before the DEC?

CANDIDATE ANNOUNCEMENTS: Those running for office.

CLOSING & ADJOURNMENT

**Mid-Year Conference Agenda
January 16 – 18, 2026**

Friday, January 16	
12:00 pm – 4:30 pm	Registration
10:00 am	DEC Meeting (see separate agenda)
Saturday, January 17	
7:30 am – 4:30 pm	Registration
8:00 am	Joint Session Judy Walters, Department Commander Welcome The Honorable Shane Clausen, City Mayor Greetings Kent VonKampen, Host Post Commander Greetings LaRee Kubes, Host Unit President Greetings
8:20 am	Legion Guest Speakers Judy Walters, Department Commander Department Introductions Jim Costello, National Executive Committee National Introduction Jerry Landkamer (NE), National Vice Commander (Midwest Region)
8:50 am	Auxiliary Guest Speakers Ruth Hietbrink, Department President Department Introductions Vicki Ozenbaugh, National Executive Committee National Introduction Shareen Johnson (WY), National Northwestern Division Vice President
9:15 am	Sons Guest Speakers Todd Kabella, Detachment Commander Detachment Introductions
9:35 am	Riders Guest Speakers Danny Willets, Department ALR Liaison
9:40 am	Americanism Awards Michael Hatfield, Americanism Chair - Baseball All Academic: Tyler Olson - Boys State Governor: Lucas Noll - Junior Law Cadet (Boys): Jacob Zalesky - Junior Law Cadet (Girls): Madison Reilly
10:15 am	Recess Joint Session
10:30 am	Membership Awards , Steve Bartos, Membership Chair
11:00 am	Lunch
1:00 pm	Leadership Training Jeff Condad, Commander Post 211
1:30 pm	New Website Orientation Headquarters Staff
2:00 pm	Teammates Mentorship Program TBD
2:30 pm	Open Training Block
4:00 pm	Recess
5:00 pm	Catholic Mass (many Churches in Norfolk to choose from)
6:00 pm	Oratorical Contest , Mike Landkamer, Oratorical Chair - During judges' deliberation, Commander's Time -
TBD	Hospitality Rooms (open at conclusion of oratorical contest)
Sunday, January 18	
7:30 am – 10:00 am	Registration
8:00 am	Joint Religious Service , Chaplain Steve Witmer
9:00 am	Keynote Addresses: Donald Nelsen, Children & Youth Chair
9:10 am	- Guest Speaker:
9:40 am	- Julie Schnitzler, Auxiliary Children & Youth Chair
9:50 am	Mike Simmonds, Veteran's Rehabilitation and Employment
10:00 am	- Guest Speaker: (Veteran Service Officer), Vehicle Registration Process
10:40 am	- Amanda Washburn, Auxiliary Veteran's Rehabilitation and Employment Chair
10:50 am	Awards Ceremony & Lottery Drawing
TBD	Point(s) of Personal Privilege Candidate Announcements
11:30 am	Closing Ceremony

enclosure (1)

American Legion Auxiliary Unit 3 is partnering with Don & Millie's (at both locations, 56th & Nebraska Parkway and 81st and O Street), with an ongoing fundraiser. Every 3rd Sunday, from 11am-9pm. Just tell the cashier that you are supporting Legion Auxiliary Unit 3 when you dine in or drive through. Don & Millie's will donate 20% of your order to the Auxiliary. You eat there anyway (you know you do, admit it), so why not support a worthy cause while you're at it!



American Legion Auxiliary Lincoln #3

Caring & Sharing

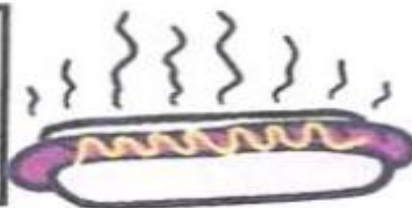
EARN
20%
DRIVE THRU
OR
DINE-IN

EVERY THIRD
SUNDAY
11 am – 9 pm

Grab your family and friends and join us at Don & Millie's! Twenty percent (20%) of every dollar spent on great food and drink will go right back to our organization...See you there!

Please tell the cashier

56th & Hwy 2
and 81st &
"O"



VETERANS & FAMILY FUNDRAISER

**Featuring Joseph Hall, ELVIS Tribute
Artist**

SPONSORED BY: AMERICAN LEGION AUXILIARY, LINCOLN UNIT #3



FRIDAY, APRIL 10, 2026 at 7:00 pm

PLA-MOR BALLROOM

6600 WEST 'O' STREET; LINCOLN, NEBRASKA

TICKETS AVAILABLE JANUARY 1ST

See ALA website: nebraskalegionaux.net/calendar for further details

HELP UNFURL & RAISE THE WORLD'S

CELEBRATE
AMERICA
250!



RONAN TYNAN
WORLD-RENOWNED
IRISH TENOR
OMAHA EVENT

LARGEST AMERICAN FLAG

DRONE SHOW FROM FANTASY DRONE AT BOTH EVENTS!

The feeling you get when you see hundreds of people working together...when you see that first set of stars unveiled...the feeling in your heart and throat as you remember all of those who have suffered, bled and died to keep her flying.

Requires 650 people to unfurl & raise this 250' x 505' flag.

Groups of all ages welcome! Sign up on our website below.

Sponsorships Still Available.

TWO
EVENING
EVENTS



FRI, MAY 22, 2026
MEMORIAL PARK
OMAHA



SUN, MAY 24, 2026
SANDHILLS GLOBAL
EVENT CENTER, LINCOLN



402-612-0210



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Sons Of The American Legion Application



To be eligible for membership in the Sons of the American Legion, you must be a male descendant (son, grandson, stepson, or adopted son) of:

A member of The American Legion, or

A veteran who died in service during World War I or since December 7, 1941, or

A veteran who died after their honorable discharge from such service, and

Return the application below along with \$35.00 to:

Sons of The American Legion ATTN:

Brendan Moore

123 South 84th Street, Suite L

Lincoln, Ne 68510

Sons of The American Legion Membership Application					
Detachment of _____		Squadron No. _____		Birth Date _____ Date _____	
Name _____		Recruited by _____			
(First)	(Initial)	(Last)	(Initial)	(Last)	
Address _____					
(Street)		(City)	(State)	(Zip)	
E-mail Address _____			Telephone _____		
Veteran through whom eligibility is established _____					
(a) Above is a member in good standing of Post No _____, Dept. of _____					
OR (b) Above is a deceased veteran who served honorably from _____ to _____					
(c) Relationship of Applicant to Veteran _____					
I hereby subscribe to the Constitution of the Sons of The American Legion, apply for membership, and transmit \$ _____ as annual membership dues.					
Signed _____			(By Applicant or Parent)		
Eligibility certified by _____					
(Post Adjutant)					
00-001 (2014)					

RECEIPT	
Date _____	Received of _____
\$ _____ in payment of dues for 20 _____ in _____	
Detachment of _____	
Squadron _____	
By _____	
For God and Country	

Become a Member of The American Legion

Do you want to help your community and fellow Veterans by becoming a member of the American Legion? Would you want to help recruit a new member? If you can certify you, or do you know someone, who served at least one day of active military duty since December 7, 1941, and was honorably discharged or are currently serving honorably? Then they are eligible. Complete the application below and send it with a check in the amount of \$56.00 to:

American Legion Post 3

123 South 84th Street, Suite L

Lincoln, Ne 68510

The American Legion Membership Application

(Name) _____ (Date of Birth) _____

(Mailing Address) _____ (Phone Number) _____

(City) _____ (State) _____ (Zip) _____ (Post #) _____

(E-mail) _____ ☐ Male ☐ Female (Gender) _____ (Dues) _____

☐ I certify that I served at least one day of active military duty since December 7, 1941 and was honorably discharged or am still serving honorably.

Please check appropriate service era and branch of service below

<input type="checkbox"/> Global War on Terror	<input type="checkbox"/> U.S. Army
<input type="checkbox"/> Gulf War	<input type="checkbox"/> U.S. Navy
<input type="checkbox"/> Panama	<input type="checkbox"/> U.S. Air Force
<input type="checkbox"/> Lebanon/Grenada	<input type="checkbox"/> U.S. Marines
<input type="checkbox"/> Vietnam	<input type="checkbox"/> U.S. Coast Guard
<input type="checkbox"/> Korea	<input type="checkbox"/> Merchant Marines (WWII only)
<input type="checkbox"/> WWII	
<input type="checkbox"/> Other Conflicts	

30-009 _____ Signature of applicant _____ Date _____ Name of recruiter _____



To renew or transfer to Post 3, you only need to sign below and mail this application and a check for \$56.00 made out to "American Legion Post 3" to the address listed above. If you have already renewed for 2025, and want to transfer to Post 3, only sign below and return the bottom portion to us.

YES! Please transfer my membership to Lincoln American Legion Post 3

_____ **Signature**

_____ **Membership Number**

_____ **Email address**



**American Legion Post 3
123 South 84th St. Suite L
Lincoln, NE 68510
(402) 466-3958**

Email: Post3legionlincoln@gmail.com

[Web Site: lincolnpost3.org](http://lincolnpost3.org)

2025 - 2026 Post 3 Officers

Commander – Ron Hindmand – Cell: 254-291-1514

First Vice Commander – Rich Lemmerman – Cell: 402-694-9834

Second Vice Commander – John Ottoson – Cell: 402-314-8707

Adjutant & Post Service Officer – Ed Schnabel – Cell: 402-480-8542

Chaplain – William Jackson – Cell: 402-613-9774

Please submit any announcements or items for the monthly newsletter to the editor for approval, (Gerrywolf@aol.com or 402-417-8230). All requests must be received one week before the 1st of the month.

