



Lincoln Legionnaire



VOLUME 70 NUMBER 4
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Oct/Nov/Dec 2023

Current Membership	898	As of Nov 2023
2024 Goal	1107	81.1%

The voice of American Legion Post 3 and its family of veterans affiliated organizations in Lincoln, Nebraska.

ADJUTANT: Ed Schnabel 402-480-8542 • Edschnabelasa@gmail.com
COMMANDER: Bruce Gubser 402-470-1700 • bruce.gubser@gmail.com
POST 3 OFFICE: 402-466-3958

American Legion Post 3 · 123 S. 84th St., Suite L · Lincoln, NE 68510

Justice Freedom Democracy Loyalty

"Pledged to serve the disabled, the distressed, the widowed, and the orphaned. Devoted to the cause of service to the community, state and nation."

COMING EVENTS

December 2023

- 7 Pearl Harbor Day
- 9 Salon 832 Meeting (Stauffer's)
- 12 Post 3 / Unit 3 Meetings
- 14 SAL Meeting
- 19 Voiture 103 Meeting
- 21 Legion Riders Meeting
- 21 First Day of Winter
- 25 Christmas



January 2024

- 1 New Years Day
- 9 Post 3 Meeting
- 11 SAL Meeting
- 15 Martin Luther King Day
- 16 Voiture 103 / Salon 832 Meetings
- 18 Legion Riders Meeting
- 19-21 Mid-Year Conference, Kearney

February 2024

- 8 SAL Meeting
- 13 Post 3 / District 15 / Unit 3 Meetings
- 14 Valentine's Day
- 15 Salon 92 Meeting
- 15 Legion Riders Meeting
- 19 Presidents Day
- 20 Voiture 103 / Salon 832 Meetings



LETTER FROM THE COMMANDER

Fellow Legionnaires,

Post 3 is losing members at the rate of 8% to 10% per year. A vast majority of those losses are members who are passing on to Post Everlasting. We started out this year with around 75 members who passed away after paying their 2023 dues. They remained on our membership numbers for 2023, but will not be paying their dues for 2024. So far this year, we have had around 50 members who have passed away. That's about 125 members who were on our rolls last year and will not be available to pay their dues next year. There is not much we can do about that.

Historically, we have had a number of members, maybe 50 to 60, who drop their membership each year for various reasons. Perhaps they are reaching the age where the American Legion is not as important anymore, or perhaps they no longer live in Lincoln but want to remain in the American Legion and transfer to a new post. Or, perhaps they've just lost interest in the American Legion. It is that last group of Legionnaires that I'd like to address.

I wonder if they just don't understand how important it is to keep their membership in the Legion so that we can continue to support American Legion programs such as Veterans in the Classroom, Cornhusker Boys State, The American Legion Oratorical Contest, the Junior Law Cadet Program, and so many others. I wonder if they know that Post 3 also is proud to have an Honor Guard that provides military honors at 125-150 funerals each year. I also wonder if they know that their membership dollars support programs at the national level that result in a positive impact on the veteran community at large.

Post 3 annual dues for 2024 are \$46. That sum is about the cost of a dinner for two at an inexpensive restaurant (with no alcohol). That sum supports programs at the local Lincoln level, the Nebraska state level, AND the national level --- all of which support our youth (the future of our country) and all veterans.

I would also ask you to consider a Paid-Up-For-Life (PUFL) membership in The American Legion. National will be raising dues by \$5 for the 2025 membership year. It is yet undecided if Nebraska will also raise dues (but it appears that it is extremely likely that there will be a state increase). PUFL may make sense for you. You can make monthly payments over the next twelve months and be done with Legion dues for the rest of your life. Why not lock in the current rate and never have to worry about a dues increase again? Find out more at <https://www.legion.org/join/pufl>

The Post 3 Leadership team has done everything they know to add new members and has added some --- but not enough. I am asking you to help us out. If you know someone who has served at least one day of active military duty since December 7, 1941 --- and was honorably discharged or is currently serving honorably --- ask that individual to join The American Legion. When I took over as Post Commander, I issued a challenge for every member to bring at least one non-member to a meeting. I even said that I'd buy that non-member a dinner just



Commander Post #3
Bruce Gubser

... Continued on Page 2

for being there. That offer still stands.

You have a right to be proud of what Post 3 is doing, and you should share that pride with prospective new members. We are doing everything we can to make Post 3 more important to the Lincoln area veterans and always look for your input.

Membership Matters! And your membership is very important to the national organization, your post, and to veterans everywhere! We thank you for --- and appreciate --- your service to our country. And we thank you for belonging to American Legion Post 3 and helping to support the various American Legion programs in which we participate and/or sponsor.

When we joined this great organization that serves veterans, youth, and the community, we obligated ourselves by pledging support through our mutual helpfulness. Let us take pride in who we are as an organization. Members, I encourage you to be more active --- serve on committees, enroll in training classes, and take a real interest in what it is to be a member of the Post 3 family. And, most importantly, pay your dues and recruit new members.

There is a job for everyone. The operation of a post is not and cannot be run by one, two, or just a few members. We all must work together for the good of our post. Please continue to volunteer, donate, and support your post. Together, we can be more --- and better than we are.

As always, keep our veterans and our active-duty service men and women in your thoughts and prayers, particularly those who may be in need or in harm's way.

For God and Country,

Bruce Gubser
Post 3 Commander

SONS OF THE AMERICAN LEGION



Season's Greeting from the Sons of the American Legion.

Again this year, we already have and will be helping out local residents with their grocery bills. We will vary dates and times so that we aren't predictable and taken advantage of.

A few days before Thanksgiving, we handed out cash to people who showed some sign of need. Particularly for veterans; but others, too. We plan to do the same thing for Christmas. Our past experiences have been rather humbling

and heartwarming for those who have participated.

We have had a little uptick in the number of attendees at our meetings. I don't know if it is because of the local pizza that I have provided. Nonetheless, it has led to some brainstorming while stuffing our faces. Good socializing, too.

One item that was brought up was to have our squadron purchase memberships for some possible new members --- and then make a point to get them to renew the following year. This would help build our immediate numbers. The goal would be to acquire a few new members in this manner each year. It is something to try, anyway.

Our December meeting will be held in conjunction with our Christmas event on helping people at the grocery store.

I would also like to encourage members to help out the Salvation Army by ringing bells. You can volunteer and ask the Salvation Army to credit your service to the Sons of the American Legion. Thank you for your consideration.

May you all have a happy and prosperous New Year.

Brendan Moore
SAL Squadron 3 Commander

AMERICAN LEGION AUXILIARY



Dear Members ---

It is hard to believe that Thanksgiving has passed and Christmas is just around the corner. In a way, am I ready for the Holidays! I do so love being with my family.



For Veterans Day, we sent Veterans Day cards to veterans in care homes in Lincoln. We had cookies for Veterans Day at the Lincoln VA Clinic.

We gave gift cards for groceries to veterans in need during Thanksgiving and will do so again for Christmas. Always remember a veteran who is having trouble making ends meet. You may know someone; give them a helping hand.

Our Education Chairman was able to contact a fifth-grade teacher, and we were able to donate items for her class. We were able to visit the school and meet with the students. We talked about what is a veteran and the special things we do for our veterans.

It is time to think about student scholarships for high school seniors and students attending Nebraska colleges and community colleges. Please check the American Legion Post 3 webpage for information on the Unit Scholarship and Department of Nebraska Scholarships. For any questions, please contact Shirley Horstman at 402-467-1575.

In January, we will not have a regular meeting. So, please come in February for the next meeting.

During the week-end of January 19-21, the Department of Nebraska will be holding its Mid Year Conference at the Holiday Inn in Kearney. Information will be in your Auxiliary Star. I hope you can attend this leadership meeting.

Membership is moving along with 163 members having renewed their dues by mid-November. That's about 55% of our goal. If you haven't already done so, please pay your dues today. We need your help so we can help our veterans.

I hope you had a very Happy Thanksgiving and would like to wish you a Happy Hanukkah and a Merry Christmas.

For God and Country,

Barbara Skillman
President, Lincoln Unit 3

LEGION RIDERS

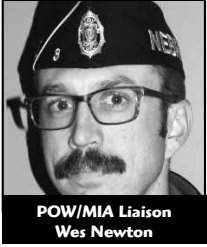
On September 9, ALR Chapter 3 held its annual Poker Run. We raised \$3000, which we divided equally and presented to Patriotic Productions and the JAVELAN First Responders Foundation. Also in September, we had a dinner run to Seward.

On October 8, some of us participated in the Frontier Harley-Davidson Dealership's poker run. On the 24th, several members participated in a cemetery service at Wyuka Cemetery for an Air Force veteran.

On November 12, we participated in the Lincoln Veteran's Day Parade. On December 1, we gathered at Hobby Lobby for our annual event of ringing bells for the Salvation Army.

Neil Larson
ALR Director

PRISONERS OF WAR AND MISSING IN ACTION



Christmas Behind Barbed Wire

During World War II, thousands of American soldiers found themselves in the terrible grip of enemy forces, enduring the hardships of captivity. While the conditions varied across different POW camps, the spirit of resilience and hope among these prisoners remained unbroken, even during the festive season.

In the bleak winter of 1944, American POWs in German prison camps faced the challenge of celebrating Christmas far from home. Behind barbed wire fences, they improvised ways to bring a touch of holiday cheer to their confined existence. Limited resources forced them to get creative. Makeshift ornaments hung all around their barracks, and small gifts crafted from meager supplies were exchanged among comrades.



One common practice among these prisoners was the creation of "Christmas packages." Despite the scarcity of materials, ingenuity thrived. Men fashioned ornaments from whatever scraps they could find, turning discarded items into symbols of Christmas joy. A shared sense of camaraderie emerged as soldiers worked together to bring a semblance of normalcy to their confined world.

Despite the grim circumstances, some prisoners managed to receive Red Cross packages during the holiday season. These packages, containing essentials and occasional treats, were a lifeline connecting the POWs to the outside world. The arrival of a Red Cross box was a cause for celebration, and the contents were often shared among the group, reinforcing the bonds of brotherhood that sustained them through difficult times.

Christmas carols, sung softly to avoid detection by guards, echoed through the confined spaces of the POW camps. The familiar tunes brought solace and a brief escape from the harsh realities of war. The melodies served as a reminder of the homes and loved ones they longed to return to, inspiring resilience and fostering a sense of unity.

For many prisoners, the Christmas of 1944 became a testament to their unbeatable human spirit. Despite the confines of captivity, these men found ways to uplift each other, fostering hope and solidarity. The makeshift celebrations behind barbed wire fences were a testament to the resilience of the human spirit, demonstrating that even in the darkest hours, the light of the holiday season could not be extinguished.

I encourage each one of you to be a beacon of Christmas joy to everyone you encounter this year. A positive attitude is often contagious and can go a

long way when encountering those who may need some encouragement during this time of year.

Have a Blessed Christmas!

Wesley Newton
POW/MIA Liaison

One common practice among these prisoners was the creation of "Christmas packages." Despite the scarcity of materials, ingenuity thrived. Men fashioned ornaments from whatever scraps they could find, turning discarded

A MEMBER'S OPINION

I have noticed recently that at more than one event or ceremony that I attended (the most recent being the ground-breaking for the State Veterans Cemetery at Grand Island), the master of ceremonies instructed that attendees stand with hats removed and their right hands over their hearts for the playing of patriotic songs other than the Star Bangled Banner --- our one and only national anthem.

The "Star Spangled Banner" is our national anthem. And, as such, it is my opinion that the tradition of a military salute or placing one's hand over the heart should not be universally applied to other beautiful and well-loved patriotic songs such as "God Bless America," "America the Beautiful," "God Bless the USA," etc. These popular songs are important in our history, but they do not warrant the same honor of a salute or other showing of reverence as does the national anthem. Doing so is likely to dilute the significance of the honor and respect we pay to the flag.

Some may not appreciate the "bombs bursting in air," etc. from the Star Spangled Banner, but you have to understand what was occurring when it was written --- and why the flag should be revered by all Americans. The Star Spangled Banner was written in defiance of the British who were shelling Ft. McHenry and demanding that the flag be taken down to indicate an American surrender. None of the artillery or bombs or rockets were able to destroy the American flag --- or bring to its knees the country it represented.

Brendan Moore

Past Post 3 Commander



At the November meeting, Post 3 Legionnaire Bob Ruyle, a member of the National Association of Atomic Veterans, gave a very interesting presentation on the development and deployment of nuclear weapons at the end of World War II. He also discussed the testing of such weapons before and after the end of WWII and the impact that testing had on the health of veterans, such as himself, assigned to work with and monitor the testing.

LETTER FROM THE CHAPLAIN



AMERICA...”HOME OF THE FREE” --- How does the refrain go? ”...land of the free...home of the brave???” Does it have the same effect as when this nation got started? How about after Francis Scott Key penned new lyrics to an old English drinking song while witnessing the brave defense of Baltimore, Maryland from Fort McHenry aboard an English three-decker man-of-war warship in the heat of bombardment?



The Lord has fortified those who believe in Him, and His accomplishments, through Ephesians 6:13-17, about the “...full armor of God...” to fight the spiritual battle between Heaven and Hell on Earth.

Are we still maintaining that soldiery stance today, especially in the light of our changed sociocultural and socioeconomic outlooks that have promoted disastrous follow-throughs?

For example, low achievement scores for grade-schoolers, attacks on Christian churches and synagogues, imprisoning pastors for peaceably protesting against abortion across the street from those clinics, Christian universities posturing antisemitism, wanton riots in major metropolitan areas here, and a decided decrease in American Armed Forces preparedness.

So, if we profess (Romans 10:9-10) to be Christians, Hebrews, or Moslems, with the common heritage of our father Abraham, why don't we DO something to return our beloved America back to the “...purple mountains majesty...” or “...my country 'tis of Thee...” Why is that, America? Are we being double-minded, not trusting God (Psalm 119:113-115)?

As we're Legionnaires, we devoted our lives to not only serving the defense of America, but now as community activists, too.

Rev. Dr. William Jackson
Chaplain, American Legion Post 3



Lincoln held, and Lincoln's American Legion Post 3 participated in, the annual Veterans Parade on Sunday, November 12th.



Lincoln Post 3 (District 15) held the District 15 Oratorical Contest on November 3rd. Jack Watermolen, a senior at Lincoln Southwest High School, advanced to the Area C contest to be held in Seward. Jack is pictured receiving the first-place medal from District 15 Commander Bruce Gubser.

Honor Guard Rifles

During the past year, Post 3 requested and received the replacement of its ceremonial rifles. The refurbished M1 rifles were issued with new pine stocks that had only received a light coat of spray paint.

As he had done once before, Post 3 Legionnaire Rick McLaughlin has been working with the replacement rifles to provide the stocks with a more proper and protective finish. They arrived looking quite drab, but are now showing their true wood grain and finished to be both more attractive and weather-resistant.

In recognition of the work Rick has been doing, Rick was presented with a plaque at the November Post 3 meeting to recognize him for his distinguished service to Post 3. The plaque was presented by Commander Gubser and Memorial Squad leader Gerry Wolf.



DO WE HAVE YOUR EMAIL ADDRESS?

Post 3 currently has a roster of about 1050 members who are either renewed for the 2024 membership year or paid for 2023 but not yet renewed. Of that number, we have email addresses for about 560 ---- or about 53%.

We would certainly like to collect email addresses from a much higher percentage. Past Commander Gerry Wolf puts out a very nice and very informative email newsletter each month, and we'd like more of our members to receive it. We occasionally send out reminders about events or other American Legion activities, and we'd like more members to receive those, also.

If you know we don't have your email address, or if you have a new email address, or if you just aren't sure if we have your current email address ---please send us an email to post3legionlincoln@gmail.com. ***Sending us an email is the surest and easiest way for us to get your email address and get it correct.*** We will be glad to receive it and will update our American Legion database accordingly.

There's some other information we also like to have on file ---- your Date of Birth, the War Era in which you served, and the Branch of Service in which you served. We find that we have 100% of the War Era data, but only 76% of the Dates of Birth and 81% of the Branches of Service. That's certainly better than the percentage of email addresses, but we'd like to have the information if you're willing to share the information with us.

So, please do us a favor and send us an email --- perhaps just to say "hello," but you can help us make our membership files more complete.

Thank you for your continuing support of American Legion Post 3 --- and we hope to hear from you soon!!!

DUES INCREASE(S) FOR THE 2025 MEMBERSHIP YEAR

It's never pleasant to talk about, but an increase in American Legion dues is coming.

Post 3 currently has annual dues of \$46. Of that, the national per capita is \$18.50, and the department per capita is \$16.50. The remaining \$11.00 is Post 3's share of your current annual dues.

At the recently concluded national convention of the American Legion held in Charlotte, North Carolina, the convention adopted a \$5.00 increase in the national per capita. That increase will take effect on July 1, 2024, with the start of the 2025 membership year, and will be reflected in the first dues notices for the new year that come out next summer. The Department of Nebraska is also likely to increase its per capita for the 2025 membership year.

The Department Finance Committee will meet in December and probably make a recommendation to the Department Executive Committee Meeting held in conjunction with the Mid-Year Conference at Kearney in January. It is rumored that the Department of Nebraska may propose a \$5.00 dues increase, also. The subject of a dues increase was brought up at the Department Convention in June, but no action was taken other than to put everyone on notice

that declining membership and continuing programs may well result in the need for a dues increase.

Post 3 has yet to discuss a dues increase, but will have to do so in the near future.

Complicating the issue is the fact that an increase in department dues can only be accomplished at a department convention (held in June), but the national organization needs to know what increase we might have before that so that the proper dues can be printed on the dues notices mailed out of Indianapolis about July 1st. Some states may hold an emergency convention this Spring. The national organization may delay the mailing of the first dues notices for departments like Nebraska that hold their conventions in June and choose not to hold an emergency convention.

I guess we'll just have to wait and see how it plays out. Regardless of how it plays out, this may be a good time for Legionnaires to consider purchasing a Paid-Up-For-Life (PUFL) membership.

PUFL memberships are not inexpensive --- and may not be right for everyone ---- but they do merit a look. Based in some fashion on age and current post dues, it is very likely that the cost of a PUFL membership will increase significantly after the dues increase (or increases) take effect next July. I'm guessing that Post 3 dues will go up in total \$10-12 per year, and the corresponding increase in PUFL rates may be such that the savings generated by purchasing a PUFL prior to the dues increase would justify the purchase.

I suggest that you go to the National American Legion website and investigate for yourself what the cost --- and potential savings --- might be for you. I believe you can request an online quote or call a number for some personal assistance. This web address should take you to the page you need:

<https://www.legion.org/join/pufl>

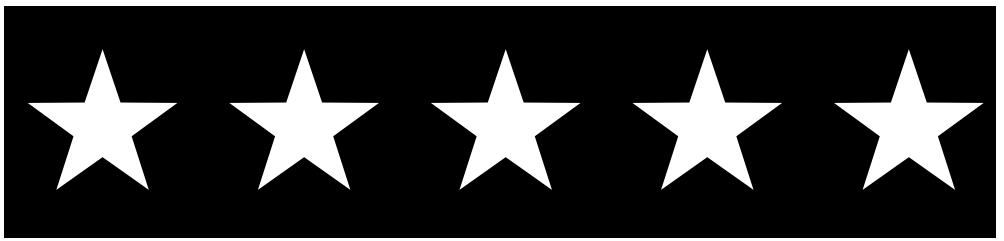
Dues increases in any organization are inevitable. I think that we all understand that. I just hope everyone keeps in mind that an American Legion membership is still a bargain compared to the annual dues of many service organizations. We need to consider it's not the price you pay to belong ---- it's the price you paid to be eligible to belong.

As I indicated earlier, it's not pleasant to talk about a dues increase, But, we can keep it in perspective. A \$10 total dues increase is cheaper than a cold beer at the Pinnacle Bank Arena. I think we all feel that our membership in the American Legion is the priority and wouldn't forsake it over a dues increase.

We shall try to keep everyone informed as the matter of a dues increase sorts itself out. Thank you for your support of the American Legion and Lincoln Post 3.

Steve Bartos

Past Post 3 Commander
Department Membership Chairman

**EDITOR'S NOTE:**

Please send articles and pictures for the next issue of the *Lincoln Legionnaire* to Steve Bartos, Editor. 7441 San Mateo Lane, Lincoln, NE 68516 or email them to LB32906@windstream.net. Electronic submittals are preferred and should include reference to "*Lincoln Legionnaire*" in the subject line of your email. Materials for the next issue need to be submitted by **February 5, 2024**.

Notes From the Adjutant's Office

Holidays office hours: The Post 3 business office will be closed beginning on Wednesday, December 20 and continuing through Wednesday, January 3.

2024 Renewals. Currently, we have 898 members paid for 2023 and stand at 81% of our goal for the year. During November, we had 84 renewals come in by mail, 26 online, and 1 transfer. Let's keep those renewals coming in during December.

Nebraska Life members account for 53 members, and PUFL (Paid-up-for-Life) members account for 121. PUFL members --- if you have not received your 2024 card, let me know. They were mailed out by the National Headquarters during July of this year.

Thanks to those 157 of you who have made use of the MyLegion website to renew their membership online. It is quick and easy, saves you postage, and you can even print your own 2024 membership card. We can check daily to identify those who have renewed online the day before and get their 2024 membership cards in the mail the next day or so.

Once you get your 2024 card, please check the years of service to be sure it is correct. We've had some that were incorrect for 2023. If they are incorrect, please let the office know so we can get it corrected for you. This includes misspelled names, change of address, etc.

One reason your number of years might be off is that you may have renewed for 2023 after national had printed the 2024 membership card. Another reason is that you might have forgotten to renew for 2023. I try to catch those who did not renew last year and drop them a note letting them know they lost their contentious years by not renewing.

For those who might be interested, you can set up auto renewal by using the MyLegion website. Just a thought to those who want an easy way to remember to pay their yearly dues.

The American Legion national leadership is currently working on implementing a \$ 5.00 dues increase adopted at the national convention. It will take effect with the 2025 membership year and be included on the first dues notices that go out from Indianapolis next summer.

We would like to make a request. We have many members who do not have a phone number or an email address on file. For some, we also are missing their branch of service. National has been printing on the back of the renewal slips the data that is in the Legion database. Please check and correct or provide missing information when mailing in your renewals. Thanks

Memorial Services: The Honor Guard has been busy this fall with memorial services and flag details. This would be a great time to review your memorial plans with the family. Locate your DD214 or other discharge papers. You have earned the right to burial in a VA cemetery or request a VA headstone for a private cemetery. You can do all this now by going to the VA website and filling out the forms. If you need assistance, see your local service officer, or give me a call.

Again, Thanks for your Service and Thanks for being a member of Post 3. Remember to thank your fellow veterans for their service and thank you for your service.

The Officers of Post 3 wish you all a Merry Christmas!.

Ed Schnabel

Post 3 Adjutant



Arnold School

Members of the American Legion Auxiliary Lincoln Unit 3 were busy in September and October shopping for items for a Lincoln fifth-grade classroom at Arnold School that Unit 3 is supporting this year. A few of the unit members visited the classroom to deliver the supplies and visit with the class and their teacher, Karla Ortiz.

Unit 3 President Barbara Skillman explained to the class what the American Legion Auxiliary does to support the American Legion, how the Auxiliary helps veterans, and what the students can do in the community. In addition, small flags, poppies, and copies of the poem, "In Flanders Field," were distributed to class members.

The children were excited to tell stories about their family members who had been in the military. Mostly, they recalled hearing about grandpa or uncles.

These stories helped them to understand why we were there.



Pictured (L-R): Carol Nelson, Lori Gubser, Marilyn Johnson, Luana Merriman, and Jeanie Harris. Not pictured: Barbara Skillman and Shirley Horstman.



Unit 3 President Barbara Skillman



Karla Ortiz



American Legion Post 3

LEGIONNAIRE.....	SERVICE ERA.....	DATE
Gordon H. Bjerke.....	WW II.....	6/17/23
James R. Burkhalter.....	Vietnam.....	10/22/23
Rue D, Chambers.....	Korea.....	9/12/23
John E. Cripe.....	Vietnam.....	10/20/23
Robert J. Florell.....	WW II.....	10/12/23
Charles W. Langloss.....	Korea.....	9/7/23
Glen F. Lau.....	Korea.....	8/25/23
Robert S. MacLauchllan.....	WW II.....	9/30/23
Philip A. Miller.....	Vietnam.....	8/9/23
Richard G. Miller.....	WW II.....	8/23/23
Lawrence Pientka.....	Korea.....	9/29/23
Walter A. Pohlman.....	Korea.....	10/14/23
Ronald W. Ruff.....	Vietnam.....	7/20/23
Richard R. Stauffer.....	WW II.....	10/6/23

Notes from the VA Hospital Representative

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!

Most VA clinics and hospitals will have limited appointments or walk in traffic beginning Monday, December 18, and continuing through Wednesday, January 3, due to staffing.

The Lincoln Clinic has a Gifting Tree, where you may come and take a tag to go shopping for a fellow veteran. If you wish to go shopping for a veteran, please pick up a tag and return the unwrapped package to Volunteer Services by Monday, December 18 so the gifts can be processed and given to the veterans. Thanks for all who wish to provide a gift for a veteran.

Flu shots are currently given at most VA clinics or hospitals. Covid shots are currently being given by appointment only. You need to call your local clinic to schedule an appointment.

VA clinics and hospitals no longer require the wearing of masks to enter clinics. Masks are available for those who still wish to wear them.

Express Care, a walk-in service, is available for for those who wish to have a nurse check out minor items. Express Care hours run from 3:00 PM to 7:00 PM at the Lincoln clinic. Times might be different at your local clinic, so give them a call to 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 PACT ACT. Have you checked it out? You need to make the effort; the VA is not going to call you.

On August 10, 2022, President Biden signed the PACT Act into law, extending VA health eligibility to many veterans --- and expanding benefits to eligible veterans. The PACT Act expanded benefits for exposures to toxic substances. This PACT Act now PRESUMES that exposure to toxic substances caused many health problems for those who served in these theaters. If you have filed a claim for Agent Orange, etc., or other toxins and it was denied, you need to file a claim update and get a new review. One of the major benefits for Vietnam

veterans is that it now covers services for those who served in Cambodia, Laos, and Thailand. It allows you to file new claims for many of your health problems without needing to prove your service there caused them. This is a major change. The VA now PRESUMES that service there is a direct cause for many health problems.

Advance Directives.

One of the forms that the VA would like to have on file for all veterans who use its hospitals and clinics is an Advance Directive Durable Power of Attorney for Health Care and Living Will. Form VA 10-0137 can be picked up at your local clinic or hospital. This form allows you to inform the VA who you wish to make health care decisions if you become disabled and thus unable to do so. It is not required, but it might be something that you may want to think about.

Want to serve your fellow Veterans?

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

Clinics / hospitals can always use books, magazines, etc. for patients. You would need to check with your local hospital / clinic / 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.

During Christmas, they all could use donations for gifts for those veterans who have no family to visit them.

Many clinics have an outreach program to reach homeless veterans. They always need extra donations for these veterans. Many of these veterans do not ask for items for themselves but for their kids / families.

Another way to serve your fellow Veterans! Donate to a local VSO (Veteran Service Organization). They also receive many requests for services during the holidays. From cash for purchasing food for a special meal, car repairs, etc. Most local VSOs would welcome a donation so they could give more to those who have given so much. The holidays are upon us.

Thanks for your service to your fellow veterans and thanks for your service to this great country. God Bless

Ed Schnabel

American Legion Rep. to Lincoln CBOC



RECRUIT A MEMBER FOR POST 3 NEW MEMBER APPLICATION

Yes! I want to help my community and my fellow veterans by becoming a member of the American Legion. I certify that I have at least one day of active military duty during one of the periods identified below and was honorably discharged --- or am still serving honorably. Enclosed is my check made out to

“American Legion Post 3” in the amount of \$46.

Please fill out the information requested below and submit your application and payment to:

**American Legion Post 3
123 South 84th Street Suite “L”
Lincoln, NE 68510**

Eligibility Periods (Check One)

- April 6, 1917 thru November 11, 2018
 December 7, 1941 thru the present
 Merchant Marine: December 7, 1941 thru December 31, 1946

FOR DEMOGRAPHIC PURPOSES

BRANCH OF SERVICE

- US ARMY
 US NAVY
 US AIR FORCE
 US MARINES
 US COAST GUARD
 SPACE FORCE

DATES OF SERVICE

- April 6, 1917 – November 11, 2018
 December 7, 1941 – December 31, 1946
 June 25, 1950 – January 31, 1955
 February 28, 1961 – May 7, 1975
 August 24, 1982 – July 31, 1984
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 August 2, 1990 – Present
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