

End of Year Program Reports



2025-2026

AMERICANISM 2025-2026

Our auxiliaries have had a very busy year. They continue to Honor our Veterans and each other by showing an unfailing love of our country. Loyalty to its institutions and ideals and an ongoing allegiance to the Flag. They provided education on the flag and demonstrated Americanism and patriotic spirit.

- 51** - Total number of Auxiliaries reporting. 86.4%
- 46** - Auxiliaries promoted, participated in and / or recognized patriotic days and or branch of service birthdays. 77.9% participation.
- 1,340** - The number of American Flags and / or POW/MIA flags distributed by 23 auxiliaries.
- 71** - The number of Patriotic Appreciation Citations, Certificates of Appreciation or Respect for the Flag Citations presented to citizens and / or businesses in recognition of their displaying the American Flag, POW/MIA flag and / or other displays of American pride by 13 auxiliaries.
- 22** - Auxiliaries promoted the coloring contest. 535 entries and \$206 in prizes.
- 2** - Auxiliaries participated in the Special Contest (Honor a Hero)

The following coloring entries won a Certificate and cash award at Department level:

Kindergarten-1st	Easton Dorcey Randolph #5545	District # 3
Second-Third	Sawyer Sutton Palisade #7028	District # 4
Fourth-Fifth	Atley Bruntz Beatrice #1077	District # 6

Auxiliaries receiving the President's special certificate and an award are:

First Report & Most Reports	#759 Kearney	District #13
Most Certificates	21 #5547 Syracuse	District #6
Most Flags distributed	360 #8221 Tecumseh	District #6
Nominated to National	#4755 Seward	District #9
Special Contest (Honor A Hero)	#131 Lincoln	District #9

5 -Auxiliaries did not report	#2243 Kimball	District #1
	#5287 Neligh	District #3
	#5379 Oshkosh	District #4
	#6159 Taylor	District #11
	#890 Cozad	District #13

“Year's end is neither an end nor a beginning but a goin on, with all the wisdom that experience can instill in us.”

Hal Borland

Thank you to all the auxiliary members, for all you do to help our veterans and promote Americanism. It was an honor to serve as Liz's Americanism Chairman for the past year.

Katrena Anton

AUXILIARY OUTREACH 2025-2026

For the 2025–2026 program season, 38 Auxiliaries submitted Auxiliary Outreach reports. Together, they contributed nearly 11,000 volunteer hours to 84 organizations.

President Special Certificates will be awarded to the three Auxiliaries with the most volunteer hours:

Auxiliary 2543 (2,961 hours), Auxiliary 1151 (2,000 hours), and Auxiliary 5641 (1,460 hours).

Thank you to all Auxiliaries and members who volunteered with other organizations this year.

Jason Gertt
2025-2026 Auxiliary Outreach Chairman

DEPARTMENT SCHOLARSHIP 2025-2026

This last year has been a tough one but thanks to EACH AND EVERYONE OF YOU WE GOT THE JOB DONE

I am so grateful to be a part of such a wonderful organization where if someone needs a helpful hand there is always someone there to help. Our veterans and their family members got our continued support to be able to further the quest for higher education because you all pitched in and got the word out that we have these resources for them to use.

I must start by apologizing to President Liz for not doing as good a job as I would have liked but again I had such a GREAT support system the job got done.

A big SHOUT OUT to all the Auxiliaries (44) and District Presidents (6) and individuals who helped to add to our scholarship funds by purchasing my 50\50 raffle tickets and I don't want to leave out those who made donations to the Department Scholarship fund. Without this monetary giving we would not be able to continue giving out scholarships. It is always fun to go through your reports and see the hard work you do to make sure our membership knows we have this program to help them. Also I am amazed at all the Auxiliaries who have local scholarships to offer.

I am happy to announce that through the 50\50 raffle our fund will grow by \$\$470.00 and another LUCKY winner will take home that amount -- WOO-HOO!!!

If my memory is anywhere close I think our # of scholarships is 21 and they are valued at approximately \$21,000.00. AGAIN I can't thank you enough for all of your hard work and support.

My Presidents Special Certificates go to
Auxiliary #1681 --- gave out most applications --- 4
Auxiliary #8334 1st to return raffle tickets
District #6 100% Auxiliaries returning raffle tickets

I won't be scholarship chairman next year but I know you will all continue to support the program.

THANKS AGAIN for all you do for VETERANS!!!

Iva Carlson
Department Scholarship

GOLD STAR 2025-2026

The VFW Auxiliary Gold Star Program for the Department of Nebraska continues to honor and support the families of our nation's fallen service members. During this reporting year, the Department maintained 33 Gold Star members. We respectfully acknowledge that one Gold Star member passed away in September 2025, and we were honored to welcome one new member in 2026.

Throughout the year, Nebraska Auxiliaries remained committed to recognizing and remembering our Gold Star members through meaningful outreach. Cards were sent for holidays and special occasions, and small gifts and gift cards were provided as expressions of care and gratitude. In addition, life memberships were purchased for eligible Gold Star members, reinforcing our long-term commitment to honoring their sacrifice and maintaining lasting connections.

Memorial services were held to honor Gold Star families and fallen service members, offering opportunities for reflection and remembrance. Auxiliaries also paid tribute to Gold Star members who passed away in previous years by decorating their graves and, when applicable, the graves of their fallen soldiers. These acts of remembrance were especially significant during patriotic observances.

The Department of Nebraska remains dedicated to the mission of the Gold Star Program. Through continued outreach, recognition, and memorial efforts, our Auxiliaries ensure that the sacrifices of Gold Star families are never forgotten.

Margie Burkholder

HISTORIAN AND MEDIA RELATIONS 2025-2026

I want to thank Liz for the opportunity to serve as your Historian & Media Relations Chairperson this year. It has been a privilege to receive event photos from our Auxiliaries, as our

Veterans are the Heart of America, and our heroes and their families are a vital part of our media coverage.

Everyone has done an outstanding job ensuring our Veterans have received well-deserved attention.

I am so happy to report that Historian & Media Relations Program reached 100% in reporting,

All 55 Auxiliaries reported by making some phone calls and text.

Thank you for your reports and keep up the great work.

Best regards,

Vicki Luebbe

President's Special Certificate's

First to Report _____

Most Reports & Pictures _____

Sent in the Award NO 1 Reel & paperwork for National _____

First District to make 100% in reporting _____

Second District to make 100% in reporting _____

The Auxiliary who sent in the biggest report and pictures at the End _____

HOSPITAL 2025-2026

We are proudly to announce there were 55 VFW Auxiliaries that participated in the Hospital Program for 2025 – 2026.

There were 407 members that volunteered at a VA and/or non-VA medical facility.

There were 7,454 hours that VFW members Volunteered at a VA and / or non-VA medical facility.

There was a total of 78 hours of Sponsored Volunteers and / or students volunteered under the VFW Auxiliary sponsorship and supervision at VA and/ or non- VA medical facility.

There were 26 VFW Auxiliaries that promoted, participated in or co-hosted any activity with their VFW Post.

There were \$13,654.07 spent on all Hospital Program – related items and or projects.

President Special Certificates go to: _____, _____, _____, _____, _____, _____, and _____

Thank you for everyone that was able to participate as a volunteer at a VA and /non – VA medical facility.

Loyally,

Linda Vogel

2025 -2026 NE Hospital Chairman

LEGISLATIVE 2025-2026

Well done, auxiliary members!

Our auxiliary members have been active this year; 48 out of 55 auxiliaries sent in legislative reports.

Most of our auxiliaries promoted the VFW priority goals. There were 119 auxiliary members who contacted people in local, state, and national legislature about veteran concerns and 98 members attended events to interact with legislative members. This is how we make a difference in the lives of our veterans.

Stanton from District 3 sent frequent letters to elected officials regarding veteran affairs, thanking those officials for their support of veterans.

Some auxiliary members were able to attend Legislative Day at the State Capital and found it very informative.

Fremont from District 7 was very active. They contacted Sally Gaham, a city councilwoman, who spoke to the auxiliary about her support for veterans. Her husband, Dave Heinemann, was a former governor and served in the military. They also wrote a letter to State Senator David Wordekemper to support tax exemptions for disabled veterans. The senator also attended an auxiliary meeting to answer questions about veterans' needs. Great job, Fremont.

We had 5 districts reporting 100%.

Thank you to everyone for your work on this program.

LaVonne Catron

NATIONAL SCHOLARSHIPS 2025-2026

Thanks to everyone for making this a good year for the VFW Auxiliary .

Twenty-two auxiliaries promoted the Education Scholarship Contest .

Twenty Auxiliaries promoted the Young American Creative Art Contest..

Forty-three students submitted art entries to the VFW Auxiliaries for judging. Five art entries were submitted to the department for judging. This is the **FIRST YEAR** we had a 3D Art entry. I was so surprised and pleased. Twenty auxiliaries promoted the 3D Art program .

Thirty-nine auxiliaries assisted their posts in promoting or conducting the VFW National Patriot's Pen Essay Contest. Thirty-eight auxiliaries assisted their posts in promoting or conducting the Voice of Democracy Audio Essay Contest..

Thirty- three Auxiliaries hosted an awards ceremony to recognize the winners and participants in these contests.

The total amount of money presented by Auxiliaries,, Districts and Department in these contests was \$7,338.00.

Thanks to all auxiliaries that made these programs and awards possible. .

Elizabeth Jane Petersen
National Scholarship Chairman

VETERANS AND FAMILY SUPPORT 2025-2026

1. Number of Auxiliaries that participated _____55_____
2. Number of Auxiliaries that promoted, participated, hosted/co-hosted with their VFW Post activities for any VFW- Based Program. (Disaster Relief, Military Assistance Program (MAP), National Veterans Service (NVS), UnMet Needs, Veterans & Military Suicide Prevention and Mental Health awareness.)_____24_____
3. Number of Auxiliaries that provided direct aid to veterans, service members and/or families___53_____
4. Approximate number of veterans, service members and/or their families assisted_____6750_____
5. Total monetary donations and/or value of donations and goods/services provided to veterans, service members and/or their families___\$55,000_____

Bonnie Gertt

YOUTH ACTIVITIES 2025-2026

This year has been filled with incredible heart and dedication from Auxiliaries across Nebraska. Together, you helped young people learn patriotism, honor our veterans, and discover the joy of serving their communities.

Through your efforts, we partnered with **72 youth groups** and reached **4,756 children**. Because of your leadership, **37 groups** earned the Youth Groups Supporting Our Veterans Citation—proof of the example you set and the inspiration you provide.

Auxiliaries donated books, read with children, and supported literacy in ways that will stay with these young readers for years. You also encouraged young artists who shared beautiful patriotic artwork through the Illustrating America contest, showcasing both talent and love of country.

Every success this year is a reflection of *you*—your time, your compassion, and your unwavering commitment to veterans and youth. Thank you for lifting up Nebraska's young people and helping shape a generation that understands service and gratitude.

Cherie Averill