

Commander: Lloyd Coates
Sr. Vice Commander: Bob Burns
Jr. Vice Commander: Chris Leighter
Quartermaster/Adjutant: Dr. Steven Youngberg
Chaplain: Tom Bizzarri
Service officer: Bob Burns
Surgeon: Dr. Greg O'Leary
Judge Advocate: Dean Mathisen
Three year trustee: John Hilgert
Two year trustee: Open
One year trustee: John Liebsack



Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States

Post 1581, Omaha, Nebraska

Newsletter

February 2011

Next regular meeting: The next regular meeting will be **March 2, 2011 - 7 PM**, at Phoenix Food and spirits-12015 Blondo, Omaha NE (120th and Blondo), private meeting room.

Future meetings: **First Wednesday of every month. 7 PM**, at Phoenix Food and Spirits-12015 Blondo, Omaha NE (120th and Blondo) private room. Mark your calendars, "plan to attend".

Future Events

We have plans for future events for 2010/2011 FY and next year 2011/2012 FY. If you can help with these upcoming projects/committees contact the person associated with each or call our commander Lloyd Coates 402- 498-0837.

- We will have nominations of VFW post 1581 officers at our post 1581 meeting March 2, 2011 - 7 PM. All members are welcome to nominate next fiscal year's officers (2011/2012)
- Boy Scout of the year and VFW Post 1581/Boys Scout Troop 408 partnerships: call John Hilgert at 402-326-9125. Deadline for Boy Scout of the year nominations March 1, 2011.
- Membership: Your current annual VFW post 1581 membership ended December 31, 2010 (this does not apply to life members). Please send in your membership for the next fiscal year 2011/2012 today. Approximately one half of our post members are life members. Why not consider turning your annual membership into a life membership so that you do not need to renew your membership every year. As a life member, your membership continues on. Life membership has a one-time pay or a monthly payment plan. We have a program of legacy life membership (Gold, Silver or Bronze) which is a step above a life member. Contact Don Williams 402-933-6976

- We will be actively pursuing new Post 1581 ladies auxiliary members soon. The post 1581 ladies auxiliary will be calling Post 1581 members soon to explain the benefits and activities of joining our ladies auxiliary. If you have a spouse or friend that would be interested, please call Mary Fields 402-397-7906 or John Liebsack 402-210-5198.
- Post 1581 ladies auxiliary is serving donuts at the Eastern Nebraska Veterans Home every 1st and 3rd Sunday between 9:30 AM and 11:00 AM. For further information or if you know of someone that would like to join our Ladies Auxiliary call Mary Fields 402-397-7906.

Past Events

- January 28-29, 2011 VFW Mid-Winter Conference, Holiday Inn, 141 N 9th Street Lincoln NE 68508. There was a very good attendance at this event and at the state capitol event. We discussed veteran's (NE) state bills that are to be voted on and what (NE) state bills are of interest to the VFW. We met with several state senators and built relationships. We had a very rewarding event at the Voice of Democracy and Patriots Pen student awards event. The students were very insightful creating their theme entries. The students had lunch at the governor's mansion, toured the capitol at met the governor. Awards and cash were presented to VFW state Voice of Democracy and Patriots Pen winners.
- ***Voice of Democracy (VOD)*** theme for 2010/2011 year **“Does My Generation Have a Role in America’s Future”**. The first place winner at the state mid-winter conference in Lincoln, NE was \$3,000.00, Hannah Bauer, Post 3113, Fairbury, NE. Our Post 1581 Voice of Democracy winner was Elizabeth A. Johnson from Millard North High School. Elizabeth was presented an award and \$50.00 check by VFW Post 1581.



Voice of Democracy winner Elizabeth A. Johnson (above left) and Post 1581 Commander Lloyd Coates (above right) John Hilgert, Director of Veterans Affairs for Nebraska, Post 1581 member and as master of ceremonies for this event (above far right).



Voice of Democracy winner Elizabeth A. Johnson reads her winning entry (above)

Patriots Pen theme for 2010/2011 year 2010/2011 year “**Does Patriotism Still Matter**”. The first place winner at the state mid-winter conference in Lincoln, NE was \$1,000.00, Natalie Dvorak, Post 2543; Plattsmouth NE. Our post submitted five post 1581 winners to VFW district 10. Theresa G. Bracht was Post 1581 Patriots Pen 1st place winner and placed fifth at District 10. At the Post 1581 awards event we presented award certificates and \$50.00 checks to our five Patriots Pen winners (below).



Left to right – front row are Johnna Lowe, Brenna Morris, Claire Pelan, Ella Wentte and Theresa Bracht. Joan Ertz, teacher at Saint Wenceslaus School (Patriots Pen school sponsors) in the back left.

Along with the presentation of awards and checks to the winners, each winner read their winning entry to the group in attendance below.



Brenna Morris (above)



Claire Pelan (above)



Johnna Lowe (above)



Julie Wentte (above)



Theresa Bracht (above)



Larry Gerlt-VFW District 10 Commander

Larry Gerlt VFW District 10 Commander was a speaker at this event (above right).

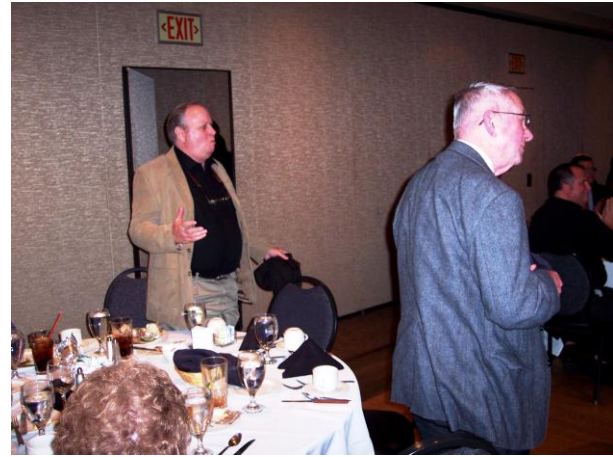


Steven Maji VOD judge (commander on right)



Joan Ertz and 1581 Commander (above)

Above left; Steven Maji was a Voice of Democracy (VOD) judge (outside judge) as well as several other internal VFW member judges and outside judges. VFW Judges included Commander Lloyd Coates, Membership Chairman Don Williams and Adjutant/Quartermaster Dr. Steven Youngberg. Above right; Joan Ertz is one of the teachers at Saint Wenceslaus School (Patriots Pen school sponsors) with VFW Post 1581 Commander Lloyd Coates (on the right).



Above left picture, Hy-Vee store manager's which each received an award of appreciation for their cooperation for our Buddy Poppy events at their store locations. Store managers are on the right side of the picture above (red jacket and dark suits to the right)

Above right picture, Don Williams (to the left) Post 1581 Membership Chairman and Bob Burns Post 1581 Senior Vice Commander (to the right) participated in this event.



Opening and closing prayers by Ann Thieman, Post 1581 member (above center). Post 1581 Commander Lloyd Coates (above right). John Hilgert, Director of Veterans Affairs for Nebraska, post 1581 member and as master of ceremonies for this event (above left).

Our current members have signed up several new VFW members to our post. If you have a potential VFW candidate, please contact – Don Williams at 402-933-6976 for further steps in the process.

Ordering VFW items

If you need a VFW military style hat use this link: <http://www.vfwstore.org/detail.aspx?ID=25525>

The general VFW online catalog, use this link: <http://www.vfwstore.org/>

You can call the VFW Store at 1-800-821-2606 (you can order a catalog)

We need your ideas and participation, please plan to attend upcoming monthly meetings.

If you are able to participate in VFW post 1581 events or projects contact Lloyd Coates, Commander 402-498-0837 or email vfwpost1581@cox.net. See our VFW Post 1581 web site <http://members.cox.net/vfwpost1581>

Bill Montoya Post 1581

Lloyd Coates Commander