

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: Ann Thieman
Two year trustee: John Hilgert
One year trustee: John Liebsack



Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States

Post 1581, Omaha, Nebraska

Newsletter

February 2012

Next regular meeting: The next regular meeting will be March 7, 2012 - 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 2011/2012 FY. **If you can assist with upcoming projects or committees** contact commander Lloyd Coates 402-498-0837.

- Committees:
 - Membership, Boys Town, Awards Banquet, Buddy Poppy events, Boy Scouts, Partnership with military unit, Law Enforcement of the year, Emergency Medical Technician of the year, Firefighter of the year, Voice of Democracy, Patriots Pen, Women's Veterans Fair and other projects.
- **It's time to renew your annual membership for the 2011-2012 year. Please renew your VFW membership as soon as possible.** If you have renewed your membership, thanks for supporting our Post 1581.
- **Membership:** 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 over 12 months.** We have a program of legacy life membership (Gold, Silver or Bronze) which is a step above a life member. If you or someone you know wishes to continue their VFW membership but are having a difficult time financially, Post 1581 has a program to help financially with the membership. Contact John Liebsack 402-210-5198.
- The VFW Post 1581 monthly meeting March 7, 2012 will have nominations for VFW Post 1581 officers for the new 2012/2013 FY, starting July 1, 2012. The April 2012 monthly meeting, we will vote for the nominees for officers in the new 2012/2013 FY. The May 2012 monthly meeting, we will install the elected officers.
- VFW Post 1581 will attend and sponsor refreshments for the "She Serves" Women's Veterans Fair, is currently scheduled for March 24, 2012 at the Strategic Air and Space Museum 28210 West Park Highway Ashland,

Nebraska 68003. This location is on I-80 from Omaha towards Lincoln about half way, at Ashland. This event will start at 9:00 AM and end approximately 1:00 PM. VFW Post 1581 will provide and donate Refreshments at this event. If you know of a female veteran, please invite them. This event is open to men to provide support to our female veterans, see you there. This event is in the planning stage, so dates could change, stay tuned. Any questions call: Ann Thieman 402-639-5075.

- We are working on the 2012 / 2013, Voice and Democracy and Patriots Pen programs with students. The themes for this next year are: Voice of Democracy – Is Our Constitution Still Relevant? And Patriot's Pen - What I Would Tell America's Founding Fathers. All entries need to be into VFW Post 1581 by November 1, 2012. If you would like to help with these programs, working with students, contact Ann Thieman 402-639-5075.

Past Events

- We had our District 10 meeting on January 15, 2012 at VFW post 3421, 3434 McKinley St Omaha NE 68112.

District 10 Awards Banquet: The District 10 had an awards banquet for the District 10 winners of Patriots Pen and Voice of Democracy (VOD). Voice of Democracy 1st place: Zachary T. Muschall, VOD 2nd place: Sierra Hansen (post 1581 winner), VOD 3rd place: Tory T. Tiller, Patriots Pen 1st place: Nicole B. Weberg, Patriots Pen 2nd place: Ryan P. O'Connell, Patriots Pen 3rd place: Irving Delgado-Arellanes.

Picture below: left to right: Sharon Cooper-youth award chairperson, Voice of Democracy 1st place: Zachary T. Muschall, District 10 Ladies Auxiliary president, Larry Gerlt-District 10 Commander.



Picture below: left to right: Sharon Cooper-youth award chairperson, Patriots Pen 1st place: Nicole B. Weberg, District 10 Ladies Auxiliary president, Larry Gerlt-District 10 Commander.



Picture below: left to right: Sharon Cooper-youth award chairperson, Patriots Pen 2nd place: Ryan P. O'Connell (also winner at Post 1581), District 10 Ladies Auxiliary President and Larry Gerlt-District 10 Commander.



- **VFW mid-winter conference:** We had the VFW mid-winter conference January 27-28, 2012 at Holiday Inn, 141 N. 9th street, Lincoln NE. There was a legislative day 1-27-2012 at the state capitol at 9:00 AM which we talked to state senators regarding veteran's issues and needs. The VFW state presented awards for Voice of Democracy (VOD) and Patriots Pen. There were VFW meetings held 1-28-2012.

Picture below: Nebraska Governor Heineman spoke to the veterans group at the capitol 1-27-12



Picture below: VFW Post 1581 presents donation of \$500.00 to the winner Voice of Democracy 6th place. The subject was "Is there pride in serving in our military". Pictured below left to right: Ann Thieman-chairperson Voice of Democracy and Patriots Pen Post 1581, Dr. Steven Youngberg-Adjutant/Quartermaster Post 1581, 6th place VOD award winner, Eric Williams-NE State Commander, Linda Hansen- NE state auxiliary president.



Miss Nebraska sang the national anthem and spoke at the VOD and Patriots Pen banquet 1-27-2012 below.



- **VFW post 1581 awards banquet:** We had our VFW post 1581 awards banquet February 1, 2012 at Anthony's steak house, 7220 F Street, Omaha NE. The event honored our VFW Post 1581 Voice of Democracy and Patriots Pen school winners, Hy-Vee stores, Boy Scouts, Boys Town, Schools and other support we receive during the year. The Patriots Pen School for all entries was from Saint Wenceslaus School. Sierra Hansen was the winner of the Voice of Democracy from Westside School.

Patriots Pen Winners: The picture below, left to right, William Huben-principal, students – Katrina A. Roth, Sara G. Mangiameli, MacKenzie E. Modde, Luke J. Miller, Aaron P. Masek, Ryan P. O'Connell, Tommy A. Hermanek and Teacher- Joan Ertz



The picture below, left to right, Larry Gerlt-VFW district 10 Commander, speaker and John Hilgert-Nebraska Director of Veterans Affairs and VFW Post 1581 member and master of ceremonies for this event.



The picture below is the VFW awards banquet event room



The picture below left is an award of appreciation to William Huben Principal of Saint Wenceslaus School (left) and VFW Post 1581 Commander Lloyd Coates (right).

The picture below right is an award of appreciation to Joan Ertz-teacher at Saint Wenceslaus (left) and VFW Post 1581 Commander Lloyd Coates (right).



The picture below left is an award of appreciation to Scott Dutchuk – Hy-Vee (left) and VFW Post 1581 Commander Lloyd Coates (right).

The picture below right is an award of appreciation to Mike Terrell – Boy Scout Troop 408 Leader (left) and VFW Post 1581 Commander Lloyd Coates (right).



If you need to contact VFW Post 1581 by email use vwfpost1581@cox.net.

Our current members have signed up several new VFW members to our post. If you have a potential VFW candidate, please contact – John Liebsack 402-210-5198 for further steps in the process.

We are working on a new web site for Post 1581 – stay tuned for further information

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 vwfpost1581@cox.net.

VFW Bill Montoya Post 1581

Lloyd Coates Commander