

A stylized graphic of the American flag, featuring a blue field with white stars in the upper left and red and white stripes in the lower right, all set against a white background.

# Historian Training

# Today we are going to talk about...

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- Why history is important
- What makes a good history
- Getting started
- Elements of a good history
- Resources for historians
- Post history showcase
- Additional history initiatives



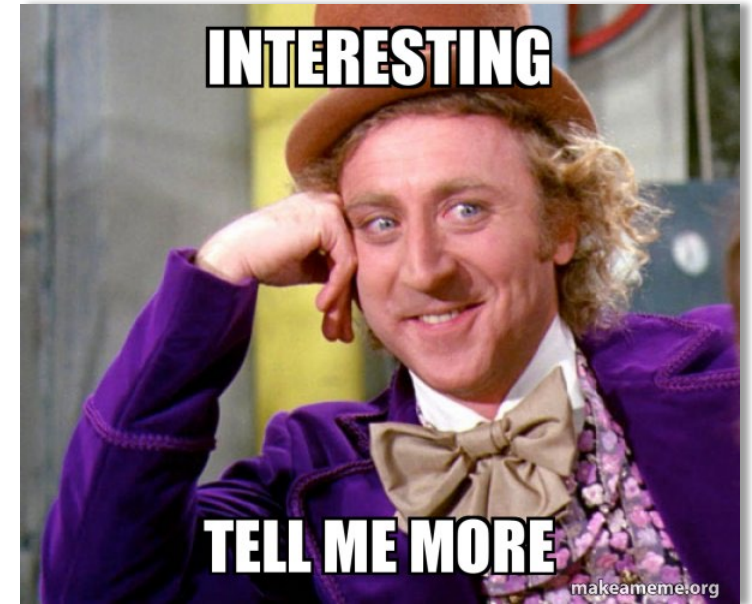
# Why is history important?

- Shows us where we have been
- Can be used as a membership tool to help tell your story
- Serves as an important record for future generations




# What makes a good history?

- Comprehensive
- Accurate
- Easy to read and follow
- Interesting



# Getting Started

- Consolidated post reports
- Meeting minutes
- Photos
- Social media
- Event flyers/programs
- Newspaper clippings



**Nebraska American Legion**  
1.3K likes • 1.4K followers

Posts About Photos Videos


**Intro**  
Worlds Largest Veterans Service Organization

- Page · Community Organization
- 150 NW 40th Street, Lincoln, NE, United States, Nebraska
- (402) 464-6338
- dsalak@nebraskalegion.net
- nebraskalegion.net
- Closed now
- Price Range · \$\$
- Not yet rated (3 Reviews)

**Photos** See all photos

**Nebraska American Legion**  
December 20 at 8:02 AM

We are so excited that all of the digging and concrete work for the flag poles has been finished! A huge thank you to A1 Flags for all of their work. Hopefully in the next month the poles will be installed. Thank you to everyone who donated and made this project possible!



# Elements of a Good History

- Format
- Cover
- Page Numbering
- Title Page
- Introduction
- Table of Contents
- Preamble
- Chapters
- Appendices
- Index



# - Format -

- **Margins**
  - 1-inch
- **Page formatting**
  - Double-spaced (text)
  - single-spaced (photo captions)
- **Photographs**
  - Identify event, place, people, photographer
  - Clear

2023-2024 YEARBOOK

DEPARTMENT OF NEBRASKA

Permanent officers were elected: Earl M. Cline from Nebraska City (Commander); Frank A. Warner from Norfolk (Vice Commander); Frank O'Connell from Lincoln (Adjutant), Frank S. Perkins from Fremont (Treasurer); and Edward P. McDermott from Kearney (National Executive Committeeman). Several resolutions were passed at this first department convention including those dealing with law and order, teaching the English language, undocumented immigrants, and separation from partisan politics.

Shortly after the first state convention, with the purchase of a second-hand desk and a borrowed typewriter, the first executive offices of The American Legion Department of Nebraska were opened in Lincoln. Over one hundred years later, the American Legion Department of Nebraska, located at 150 NW 40th Street in Lincoln, is over 20,000 members strong.



The American Legion Department of Nebraska Headquarters located at 150 NW 40th Street in Lincoln, Nebraska. (Photo source: Google, 2023.)

# - Cover -

- **Emblem**
  - centered
- **Organization Name**
  - Post Name/Number
  - County
  - District
  - Area


Department of Nebraska  
2023-2024



# - Page Numbering -

- **Consistent**
  - Top or bottom
  - Arabic
    - 1, 2, 3, 4...
  - Roman
    - i, ii, iii, iv...
- **Start with title page and go in consecutive order**

History of Department of Nebraska  
The American Legion  
Lincoln, Nebraska  
For 2023-2024  
By Jennifer Laux



DEPARTMENT OF NEBRASKA

ON

o served in the American Expeditionary Forces (AEF) in France

th founding The American Legion. AEF Headquarters asked the

to improve troop morale. One officer, Lieutenant Colonel

an organization of veterans. In February 1919, the group

and selected several hundred officers who had the confidence


enlisted men attended the Paris Caucus in March 1919. They

n and the name The American Legion. The group also elected

lete the organization's work. It considered each soldier of the

egion. The executive committee named a subcommittee to

United States.



The Paris Caucus in March 1919. (Photo credit – The American Legion National Headquarters.)

In May 1919, The American Legion held a second organizing caucus in St. Louis, Missouri. The constitution was completed, and plans were made for a permanent organization.

[1]

[2]

# - Title Page -

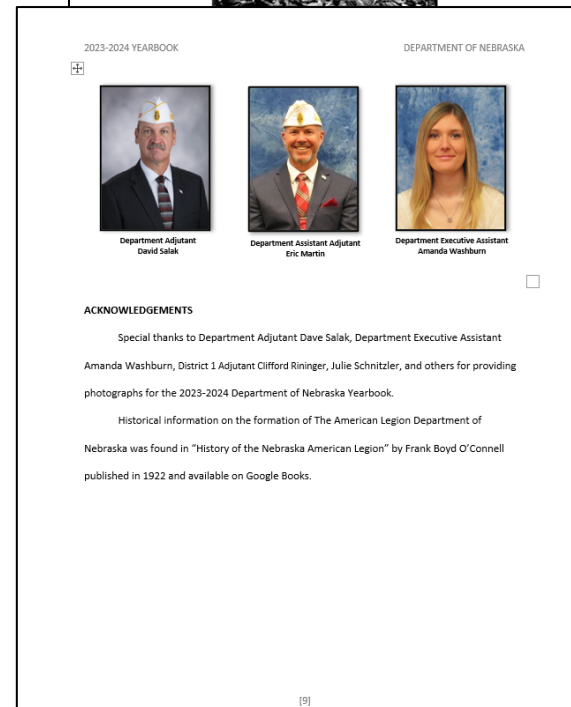
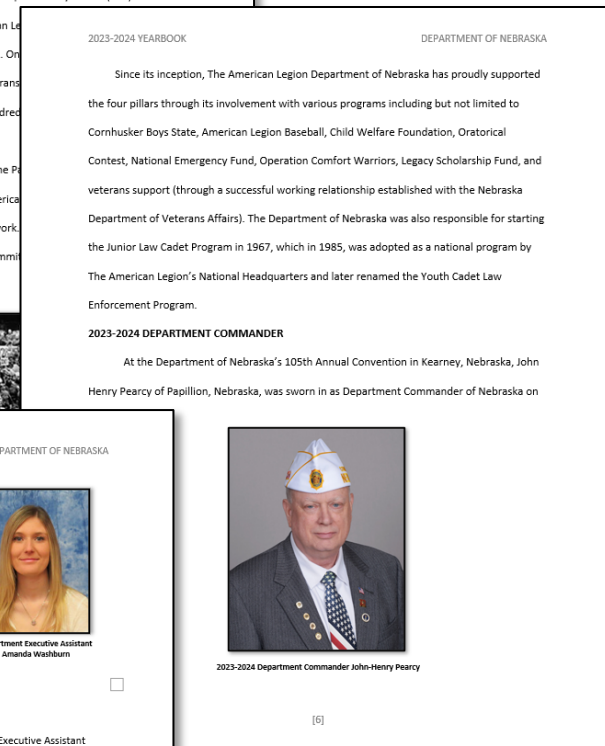
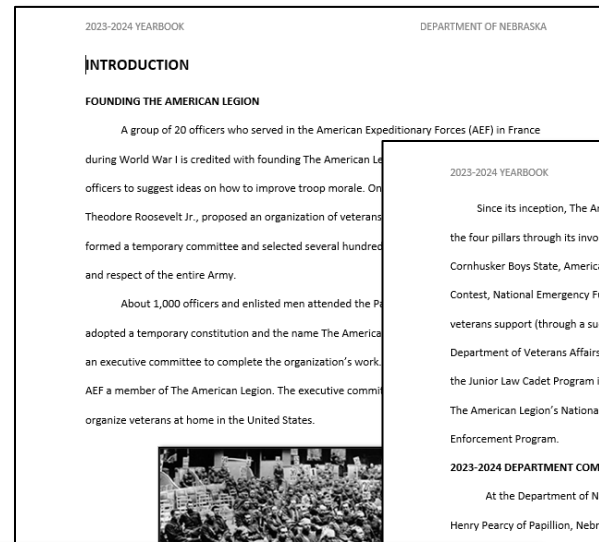
- **Double-spaced**
- **Centered**
- **Organization Name**
  - Post Name/Number
  - County
  - District
  - Area
- **City/State**
- **Year**
- **Name of Compiler**

History of Department of Nebraska  
The American Legion  
Lincoln, Nebraska  
For 2023-2024  
By Jennifer Laux



# - Introduction -

- Brief mention of national & department history
- Namesake information
- Photographs
  - Building
  - Cmdr., Adjutant, Staff
- Acknowledgement of assistance



# - Table of Contents -

- List all pages
  - Chapters
  - Appendices
  - Index
- Located after the introduction

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# - Preamble -

- Centered
- Use the current Preamble  
([www.legion.org/about/organization/preamble](http://www.legion.org/about/organization/preamble))

2023-2024 YEARBOOK

DEPARTMENT OF NEBRASKA

## PREAMBLE TO THE CONSTITUTION

FOR GOD AND COUNTRY WE ASSOCIATE OURSELVES TOGETHER  
FOR THE FOLLOWING PURPOSES:

To uphold and defend the Constitution of the United States of America;

To maintain law and order;

To foster and perpetuate a one hundred percent Americanism;

To preserve the memories and incidents of our associations in all wars;

To inculcate a sense of individual obligation to the community, state and nation;

To combat the autocracy of both the classes and the masses;

To make right the master of might;

To promote peace and goodwill on earth;

To safeguard and transmit to posterity the principles of justice, freedom and democracy;

To consecrate and sanctify our comradeship by our devotion to mutual helpfulness.












# - Chapters -

- Chapter 1
  - Roster of Officers
  - Include photographs
- Chapter 2
  - Roster of Chairs
  - Include photographs
- Chapter 3
  - One-year history in chronological order
  - Installation to installation
  - Photographs or narrative
- Other Chapters
  - Special activities, committees, etc.

# - Chapters -

2023-2024 YEARBOOK DEPARTMENT OF NEBRASKA










### CHAPTER 1 – ROSTER OF DEPARTMENT OFFICERS

 Department Commander John-Henry Pearcy Papillion Post 32	 Senior Vice Commander Boyd Yochum Ashland Post 129	 National Executive Committeeman Fred Craigie Lincoln Post 3
 National Executive Committeeman (Alt) Jim Costello Bellevue Post 339	 Chaplain Father Alexander Borzych	 Judge Advocate William Harris, Jr. Omaha Post 1
 Finance Officer Mark Novak Lincoln Post 3	 Historian Jennifer Laux Millard Post 374	 Sergeant-At-Arms Dave Guy Gretna Post 216

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2023-2024 YEARBOOK DEPARTMENT OF NEBRASKA

### CHAPTER 2 – ROSTER OF DEPARTMENT CHAIRS


 Americanism Chair Michael Hatfield Lexington Post 111	 Athletic Chair Jody Moeller Shelton Post 297	 Boys State Chair Doug Bolitt Callaway Post 59
 Children & Youth Chair Don Nelsen Valentine Post 90	 Constitution & Bylaws Chair William Harris, Jr. Omaha Post 1	 Convention Chair Ken Schmid Bellwood Post 327
 Finance Chair Daniel Stramel McCook Post 203	 Membership Chair Steve Bartos Lincoln Post 3	 Publications & Public Relations Chair VACANT

[15]


2023-2024 YEARBOOK DEPARTMENT OF NEBRASKA

### CHAPTER 3 – ONE-YEAR DEPARTMENT HISTORY

105<sup>TH</sup> ANNUAL DEPARTMENT CONVENTION  
JUNE 23-25, 2023 – YOUNES CONFERENCE CENTER, KEARNEY, NEBRASKA



Newly elected officers being sworn in at the 105th Annual Department Convention. Pictured [l-r]: Adam Schweitzer (District 7 Commander), Brian Rapp (District 6 Vice Commander), Burdette Chappell (District 6 Commander), Nick Tramp (District 3 Commander), Gary Sones (District 1 Commander), Judy Walters (Area D Vice Commander), Scott Bell (District 5 Commander), Bud Neel (Area A Vice Commander), and Boyd Yochum (Department Senior Vice Commander). (Photo taken June 25, 2023 by Department Executive Assistant Amanda Washburn.)



Past Department Commander Ron Corbett (left) prepares to place the Department Commander pin on newly elected Department Commander John-Henry Pearcy (center). Overseeing the pinning is Past Department Commander Don Suchy (right). (Photo taken June 25, 2023 by Department Executive Assistant Amanda Washburn.)

[17]

# - Post Everlasting -

- Consider including a Post Everlasting at the end of your history

2022-2023 YEARBOOK

DEPARTMENT OF NEBRASKA

Post Everlasting



Gene Twiford  
Past Department Commander  
August 4, 2022



Leon Deunk  
Past Department Commander  
August 11, 2022



Virgil Hagel  
Past Department Commander  
June 10, 2023

[85]



# - Index -

- Include every person and activity
  - Cross reference people and their titles (e.g., include Yochum, Boyd under "Y" and Department Commander under "D")
- Place at the end of your history following the appendices

2023-2024 YEARBOOK

DEPARTMENT OF NEBRASKA

## 2023-2024 DEPARTMENT OF NEBRASKA YEARBOOK INDEX

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# Resources for Historians

- Resolution #20 - Authorization for Conducting Department History Contest and Post History Showcase (<https://archive.legion.org/node/15154>)
- History Guidelines (<https://legionhistoryshowcase.omeka.net/exhibits/show/2026entries/2026-contest-and-showcase-info>)
- Post Showcase Website (<https://legionhistoryshowcase.omeka.net>)



# Post History Showcase

- Department can select one hard copy and one digital post history for the national showcase.
- Contact your department for Post History submission information.
- Departments will submit selections to the National Historian.
- <https://legionhistoryshowcase.omeka.net/exhibits/show/2026entries/digital-post-history-showcase->



# Additional History Initiatives

- **Veterans History Project**
- **Legiontown USA**
- **Memorial and Monuments**



# Veterans History Project

- Created by Library of Congress
- Collect, preserve and make accessible the personal accounts of U.S. military veterans and Gold Star Families
- Download a field kit
- [www.loc.gov/programs/veterans-history-project/how-to-participate/vhp-field-kit/](http://www.loc.gov/programs/veterans-history-project/how-to-participate/vhp-field-kit/)





# Legiontown USA

- Designed to showcase veterans, posts, activities, and communities
- [www.legiontown.org](http://www.legiontown.org)



12/22/24, 6:15 PM  
**Yakoski family military service**  
Tunkhannock, PA  
March 13, 2015  
Yakoski family military service | Legiontown U.S.A.

The original family name was YAKOWSKI, but my father dropped the "W" during his time in the Army. My branch of the family uses the shortened version of our last name. That being said, my father, Joseph Yakoski, served in the Army during World War II as a truck mechanic. He served in Germany and France during hostilities there. My uncle Henry Yakowski served in the Navy as a seaman. My uncle Francis Yakowski served in the Marines and was in Korea during its hostilities. I, Joseph Yakoski Jr., served in the Navy as an aircraft electrician, becoming an AE-1. I served four years in the regular Navy and four years in the Naval Reserve. I traveled the world on an aircraft carrier and have Vietnam service to my credit. My duty stations were NAF Andrews, Washington D.C., Attack Squadron 85 (VA-85) from Virginia Beach, Va., and the West Coast ship USS Constellation CVA-64. My reserve duty allowed me to serve with Patrol Squadron 64 (VP-64) Willow Grove, Pa., which flew the P-3 Orion Submarine Hunter aircraft.

My son John Yakoski served in the Army National Guard. My daughter Jennifer Salak served in the Navy as a CT. Jennifer is currently employed by the US Army Corps of Engineers.

Our family is proud to have served in the United States military forces here and abroad.

**Submitted by:**  
Joseph Yakoski Jr.

[← Previous story \(/riders/1833/share-your-experience-american-legion-riders\)](#)

[Next story → \(/legacy/1831/swcpemalott-family\)](#)



# Memorials and Monuments

- [www.legion.org/Member-Services/Resources/Find-Memorials-Monuments](http://www.legion.org/Member-Services/Resources/Find-Memorials-Monuments)

## MEMORIALS & MONUMENTS

Across the country and around the world, U.S. war, military and veterans memorials stand to honor those who served in uniform and the battles they fought to protect our nation's freedoms. The American Legion is now establishing a database to identify the locations, document histories and share photographs of our nation's monuments and memorials to those who have served.

To upload text or photos, simply click on "Add a Memorial" and follow the instructions.

[ADD A MEMORIAL](#)

Key points for each submission include:

- A photo or photos (required), easily taken with a smart phone (no persons shall be in the photos)
- Location of the memorial, mapped if possible
- Purpose of the memorial, such as who it honors and why, in just a sentence or two
- Date of the memorial's installation and who originally installed it
- A brief assessment of its condition today

### Search Memorials & Monuments

Search By Keyword

Order By:

A-Z

Filter By State:

Nebraska

Filter By country:

All Countries

[VIEW LOCATIONS](#)

Displaying 1 - 20 of 25



### Adams County Veterans Monument

Parkview Cemetery 1224 N Elm Street Hastings Nebraska 68901  
Nebraska, United States



### Among the Valiant Medal of Honor Plaque

1819 Farnam Street, Omaha NE 68183  
Nebraska, United States



### Bellwood Veterans Memorial

Corner of Park Street and Esplanade, Bellwood, NE 68624  
Nebraska, United States



### Bennington Veterans Memorial

Bennington City Park  
Nebraska, United States



### Coleridge Area Memorial Plaza

103 Broadway Coleridge, NE 68727  
Nebraska, United States



### Elmwood Grand Army of the Republic (GAR) Cenotaph

Elmwood Cemetery Elmwood, Nebraska 68349  
Nebraska, United States



### Fred McLeod Memorial

Colfax County Courthouse, 411 E 11th St, Schuyler, NE  
Nebraska, United States



### GAR - In Memory of Our Fallen Heroes

Riverview Cemetery, W. B St. and W. 12th St., McCook, NE 69001  
Nebraska, United States



### Jackson-Hubbard Veterans Memorial

City Park Jackson, Ne 68743 Small town of 300 population  
Nebraska, United States

