



NEWSLETTER

THE AMERICAN LEGION
DEPARTMENT OF NEBRASKA
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“2019 and Beyond”

DEPARTMENT COMMANDER
GARY D. WOOTEN

DECEMBER 2019

DEPARTMENT ADJUTANT
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MID-YEAR CONFERENCE This year's Mid-Year Conference will remain focused on educational training. Saturday afternoon breakout sessions will be focused on technology, leadership, and round table discussion. This event is being held January 10-12, 2020, at the Ramada Inn in Kearney. The Department Executive Committee will meet on Friday, January 10, starting at 10:00 a.m. The Joint Session on Saturday morning will begin at 8:00 a.m. and the Oratorical Contest will be held Saturday evening at 6:00 p.m. A patriotic non-denominational service will be Sunday morning at 8:00 a.m. and Joint Session will follow at 9:00 a.m.

Watch for the condensed agenda schedule in your December issue of The Nebraska Legionnaire. For reservations please call the Ramada Inn (308-237-3141) located at 301 2nd Ave, Kearney, Nebraska. Conference Registration fee is \$10.00.

FUNDRAISER **DEPARTMENT FUND RAISER** The Department Executive Committee has authorized a fund raiser for the Department of Nebraska's annual lottery with a top prize of \$2,500 cash and six other cash prizes. Remember if you are present for the drawing and your ticket is drawn you will receive a bonus of \$200. Drawing will be held on Sunday morning, January 12, 2020, at our Mid-Year Conference in Kearney. Proceeds go to support the various programs supported by The American Legion. Additional tickets can be purchased from Headquarters.

AMERICAN LEGION COIN SET RAFFLE The Nebraska American Legion is raffling off a set of three American Legion 100th Anniversary commemorative coins. There are only 500 tickets available and they are \$10.00 a piece. Contact your District or Area Commander for tickets. Headquarters has 20 tickets available for sale on a first come first serve basis. The drawing will take place January 12. Any American Legion Family member can purchase tickets.

NATIONAL MEMBERSHIP TARGET The next target date is "Pearl Harbor Day." Membership cards must reach Department Headquarters on or before 9:00 am, December 9th to meet that goal. This is also a cutoff date for renewal notices.

WASHINGTON CONFERENCE The Washington Conference is scheduled for March 8-11, 2020 and is open to any Legionnaires wishing to attend. Housing can be made with the Washington Hilton, 1919 Connecticut Ave, NW Washington D.C. by calling 202-483-3000.

VETERAN'S LEGISLATIVE DAY The official date for the Veterans' Legislative Day at the State Capitol will be January 31, 2020. Expect more information in January.

AFFILIATED BANK ACCOUNTS Department would encourage all Posts with a Sons Squadron and/or Riders Chapter to have a designated Post signer (finance officer, commander, or adjutant) on all checks and accounts. This is a way to protect the Posts programs.

DISTRICT CONVENTIONS (Post Everlasting Names) Posts are requested to send the names of Legionnaires that entered Post Everlasting since the last District Convention to District Adjutants so that those names may be read and recorded during the Post Everlasting ceremony at upcoming District Conventions.

DIRECT RENEWAL RESPONSE Results from the last dues notice have been arriving at a steady pace, but your help is certainly needed to reach the goal for 2020. Commander Wooten has established a very realistic goal and is counting on every officer to ask every eligible veteran in your community to join THE AMERICAN LEGION.

CONSOLIDATED POST REPORT FORM Now is a good time to start recording the various activities in which your Post is involved and keeping track of donations and other expenses. You will then have the information available when you file the Consolidated Post Report form. The CPR form will be sent to Adjutants next spring. Commander Wooten expects 100% participation from all the Posts. The CPR can be submitted electronically by using MyLegion.

CONTINUOUS MEMBERSHIP RECOGNITION National Headquarters prepares certificates of recognition early each year for members credited on the data records with 50, 60, 70, 75, 80 and 85 years of continuous membership as of January 1, 2020. National sends the certificates directly to Post Commanders for distribution to honored members, often times at the Post Birthday event in March. Certificates will be mailed in February per National. Please notify Department Headquarters if you have problems in receiving certificates for your Post.

HOLIDAY BLOOD DONOR DRIVE December is The American Legion's observance of a special effort to promote blood donor participation. Please encourage your members to donate when the Bloodmobile is scheduled in your area. Ask donors to let you know the amount they donated for use in the CPR.

TOURNAMENT HOSTS SOUGHT Bids are currently being accepted to host one of the 2020 Area or State Baseball Tournaments and the 2020 State Golf Tournament. The Department Athletic Committee will meet at the Mid-Year Conference to select tournament sites. The official bid forms must be received at Department Headquarters no later than January 3rd. Bid forms on line at www.nelegionbaseball.net

BASEBALL UMPIRE CLINICS The Athletic Committee is in the process of setting up Umpire Clinics around the state. Contact Brent Hagel-Pitt if your Post is interested in arranging or hosting an Umpire Clinic for umpires in the area.

2020 RENEWAL MEMBERSHIP CARDS The Department has ordered the 2020 renewal membership post cards. If your Post desires these post cards to send to Legionnaires that have not yet renewed – contact Amanda Washburn at 402-464-6338.

PUBLIC RELATIONS COMMITTEE The Public Relations Committee is looking to recognize members who are the editor for their Post newsletter/newspaper or the administrator for their Post social media page to be recognized for their outstanding work. A form is enclosed for the Post Commander to nominate these members. All nominations must be received at Department Headquarters by December 31.

MERRY CHRISTMAS Department Commander Gary Wooten, Department Officers, and the Headquarters staff join in extending to you best wishes for a joyous holiday season! *Merry Christmas* to all.

Enclosure:

- 1) Public Relations Recognition Form