



NEWSLETTER

THE AMERICAN LEGION
DEPARTMENT OF NEBRASKA
P.O. BOX 5205
LINCOLN, NEBRASKA 68505-0205
(402) 464-6338

“2019 and Beyond”

DEPARTMENT COMMANDER
GARY D. WOOTEN

APRIL 2020

DEPARTMENT ADJUTANT
DAVID W. SALAK

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DISTRICT CONVENTIONS District Conventions for District 1, 2, 5, 9, and 10 have been rescheduled. District 1 – Saturday, May 2 at 8:00 a.m. in Valentine; District 2 – Sunday, April 19 at 12:00 p.m. in Crofton, District 5 – Sunday, April 19 at 12:00 p.m. in Hershey, District 9 – Saturday, April 25 at 9:00 a.m. in Curtis, and District 10 – Saturday, May 2 at 10:00 a.m. in Alma. Your District Commander has more information.

CORNHUSKER BOYS' STATE CANCELLED After serious consideration with Officers and members of the Cornhusker Boys' State Board of Directors, it was agreed that the 2020 Boys State session would be cancelled due to the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic. Very sad indeed considering the only other time this program had been cancelled was during WWII. All Boys State & Girls State orientation programs are cancelled. Refunds forthcoming.

JUNIOR LAW CADET INTERVIEWS Junior Law Cadet program status remains unknown. HQ's is working with Nebraska State Troopers and when that decision is made, we will get it to you. In the meantime, Districts may have to consider postponing their interview for the immediate future. Be on the lookout for information from your District Commander for the date, time, and location of the programs in your District, and make sure your candidates are provided with the information in a timely manner.

2020 BASEBALL SEASON IS SET American Legion Baseball's highest priority is the health, well-being and safety of all our participants, families, volunteers and fans. The Nebraska Legion Athletic Committee meets every two weeks to discuss the ongoing COVID-19 threat. The next meeting is April 2nd. The intent will be to have a season, even if it turns out to be a short one.

Continue to register your team, list your manager and maybe one other coach. Have the Manager and that one other coach do the background check. DO NOT pay registration fees and insurance at this time. DO “submit” the team. Once we know that you should be paying your registration fees and getting your insurance, we will announce it. Now is also the time you should be requesting the birth ID cards for players who do not have one, emailing form 2's and birth ID card requests, Emblem usage requests to screen print the patch and whatever else that can be done by email.

We realize this pandemic results in all of us taking concerted steps and making important decisions regarding the 2020 baseball season. For now, we ask you to review the guidelines, restrictions and regulations established by local, state and federal governments to ensure doing whatever is required for the safety and well-being of everyone involved. The more prepared we are moving into this 2020 program season, the better we are in the face of all possible contingencies.

At this point, based on known school districts, local, state and federal restrictions and regulations, the Athletic Committee strongly encourages and recommends that Posts and teams suspend all baseball activities (team meetings, tryouts, practices, etc.) until all restrictions have been lifted.

IRS 990-N REMINDER Deadline for filing Form 990-N for all Nebraska American Legion Posts is May 15. The Form 990-N must be filed every year, or the post could lose its tax-exempt status.

DEPARTMENT CONVENTION PLANS It is time to begin planning for attendance at Department Convention in Kearney at the Ramada Inn. DEC will meet on June 25 and the Convention will meet June 26 - 28. Business sessions of the American Legion, Auxiliary, SAL and ALR will all be held in the Ramada Inn. Phone 308-237-3141 for reservations. Rooms are \$82.00. Convention Registration fee is \$10.00.

DELAYED MEMBERSHIP TRANSMITTALS Memberships not transmitted in a timely manner can prove costly. If a Legionnaire is not current in their membership and tragedy strikes – it is possible they would not be entitled to the benefits and programs of The American Legion since you must be a member in good standing to apply for National Emergency Funds and collect on the Legionnaire Insurance Trust (just to name a couple). Don't put the Post, the Legionnaire, or the family into that predicament. Make it a point to turn in memberships every two weeks.

CONSOLIDATED POST REPORT Enclosed (Adjutant only) is the Consolidated Post Report (CPR) form for the 2019-2020 American Legion year. Please complete this form and return it to Department Headquarters ABSOLUTELY NO LATER THAN JUNE 1, 2020. The CPR can now be found on our website and MyLegion.

PROPOSED DEPARTMENT CONSTITUTION & BYLAWS CHANGES There has been one C&BL's resolution passed at a District Convention for consideration thus far. We still have six conventions to go so others may be coming. See attached.

MEMBERSHIP TRANSFERS Before any membership transfer occurs, there must be a Member Data Form (30-001) provided to Department Headquarters, signed by a member or certified by a post commander or adjutant where a member has given oral permission to be transferred.

TEACHER OF THE YEAR Please remember the Department "Teacher of the Year Award" has an entry deadline of May 1. This award will honor an educator whose accomplishments and activities in the field of education are in excess of what is normally expected and who also promotes American Legion youth programs in their school. Contact Program Director Brent Hagel-Pitt for complete information.

PREPRINTED 2021 MEMBERSHIP CARDS The deadline for receipt of 2020 membership cards at Department Headquarters for the purpose of receiving preprinted 2021 membership cards is Wednesday, April 8. This is also a transmittal date, so cards must be received at Headquarters by 9:00 a.m.

2021 DIRECT BILLING DATA FORM Post Adjutants have received the 2021 direct billing information from Department Headquarters. You are urged to read the information carefully before completing the form. Please double check to ensure the mailing address is correct to which the membership returns are to be mailed – which includes the three-line address and correct ZIP code. Above all, make sure the dues amount is correct. Remember it is necessary to transmit \$35.00 per card when making a membership transmittal to Headquarters. Due date at Department Headquarters is April 15.

RECRUITER / GOLD & SILVER BRIGADE Post Adjutants are asked to review their Adjutant's Manual for the Recruiter, Gold & Silver Brigade and other membership awards available to post members. Most forms must be received at Department Headquarters by May 10.

APRIL IS CHILDREN & YOUTH MONTH "Children...Our Most Precious Natural Resource" is the national theme for Children & Youth month. Use this theme in the promotion of all our Children & Youth programs.

DEPARTMENT CONVENTION PROGRAM The Department is offering the opportunity for individuals and businesses to advertise in the 2020 Department Convention program. See the attached flyer for more information.

Enclosures

** Consolidated Post Report form (Adjutant Only)

** Constitution and Bylaws Resolution

** Department Convention program ads