



# NEWSLETTER

THE AMERICAN LEGION  
DEPARTMENT OF NEBRASKA  
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*“2019 and Beyond”*

DEPARTMENT COMMANDER  
GARY D. WOOTEN

MARCH 2020

DEPARTMENT ADJUTANT  
DAVID W. SALAK

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**DISTRICT CONVENTIONS** Several Districts are holding their convention this month and a representative from each Post within the District should be in attendance to allow the District to have a quorum to complete the business at hand. Show your support!

**RESOLUTIONS** The means by which changes are instituted within The American Legion start in the form of a resolution. Be sure to get your proposed resolutions approved through your Post and Squadron. Resolutions should be forwarded to your District Convention for endorsement/approval. Contact Adjutant Salak for a copy of the resolution template should you need one.

**MEMBERSHIP** We still have 3,332 members to renew and sign up to reach our goal of 28,236. Let's get all renewals collected and transmitted NOW! Next target date is March 11, so cards must be in Department by 9:00 am, Monday, March 9. A reminder to Post Adjutants to remit **\$35.00** per membership card.

**MEMBERSHIP AWARDS** There are still a few membership awards that Posts and individuals are eligible to receive this year. A Stoldorf new member recruiting form is enclosed. Send the completed form to Headquarters by June 1, 2020 to be counted towards the individual awards. Contact Amanda at Headquarters with questions.

**DEPARTMENT COMMITTEE VACANCY** Area D is still lacking a committee member on the Publications & PR Committee. If interested please contact Commander Wooten.

**DEPARTMENT CONVENTION** Legionnaires are encouraged to make reservations for the 2020 Department Convention June 25-28 in Kearney at the Ramada Inn (308-237-3141). Rooms are \$82.00 a night. We have a limited number of rooms so book early.

**CORNHUSKER BOYS' STATE** The deadline for receiving Cornhusker Boys' State applications is March 16. If you have not selected your Boys' State representative(s), we would suggest that you do so very soon and get the application and \$375 fee in the mail. Download applications at <http://nebraskalegion.net/Programs/BState.html>. Remember: Posts are to refrain from informing any boy of his selection until official notification has been received from Department Headquarters. Confirmations will be mailed to the sponsor no later than March 25.

Legionnaires who wish to volunteer as a staff member for the entire week of Cornhusker Boys' State (May 31- June 6) should contact Adjutant Salak by March 15. He will make selections by April 1 and notify those selected. DO NOT complete your background check until you have been notified of your selection. A background check is mandatory for those 18 years of age and older but does not include those volunteers who only hand out t-shirts on Sunday.

**VETERANS CRISIS LINE** There are far too many veterans in crisis; be it chronic pain, anxiety, depression, homelessness, etc. The Veterans Crisis Line is a tool that someone in crisis can use if/when life starts to feel overwhelming. See Nebraska Legion homepage for more information.

**LET'S PLAY BASEBALL!** Legion Baseball season has begun. Coaches and staff must complete a background check before the team's registration can be approved. Deadline changes – Registration, Fees and Insurance NLT May 15; Transfer forms sent to Department NLT May 31; Rosters by June 15. As always teams are encouraged to retain Insurance and Form 2s for 5 years. Class A Sr & Jr Area – July 17-21; Class A Sr & Jr State – July 25-29; Class A Sr Division Playoffs – July 31 – August 1; Class A Regional – August 5; Class B & C Jr Area – July 10-14; Class B & C Jr State – July 18-22; Class B & C Sr Area – July 24-28; Class B & C Sr State – August 1-5.

**EAGLE SCOUT-OF-THE-YEAR** Post Commanders are reminded that all applications received for Scout-of-the-Year must be signed by the Unit Leader and forwarded directly to Programs Director Brent Hagel-Pitt at Department by March 1. All eligible applicants will be considered for state-level cash scholarships awards. The state winner will represent Nebraska in the national contest for additional scholarships valued up to \$10,000.

**JUNIOR LAW CADET** Training of 30 boys and 30 girls will be held the week of June 22-25. The graduation ceremony is at 7:00 p.m. on Thursday, June 25. The entry deadline for Posts submitting their Junior Law Cadet applications to Department is March 15. Department will forward the applications to the District Selection Committee for the interview process. Please note that a commitment to a law enforcement career is **NOT** required. Two boys and girls will be selected from each of the 14 districts. District 8 and 15 will be able to send their 1st alternate boy and girl. Contact Brent Hagel-Pitt for more information. The cost per cadet remains \$175.

**OPERATION SCHOOL TALK** Our Americanism Committee sponsors "OPERATION SCHOOL TALK" to educate and inform the youth on the principles and programs of The American Legion and our proud military service. Those that have gone to a school and talked to the students are encouraged to fill out the enclosed form and return it to the Department by May 1. The awards will be presented at Department Convention in Kearney.

**NATIONAL COMMANDER'S PIN** National Commander James "Bill" Oxford will award his National Commander pin to any American Legion Family member who obtains three new members into The American Legion. Please see the enclosed form for details.

**TEACHER OF THE YEAR** The Americanism Committee sponsors a "Teacher of the Year Award" for elementary, middle and/or high school teachers. This award honors an educator whose accomplishments in the field of education are in excess of what is normally expected, and also promotes American Legion youth programs in their school. Download the nomination at <http://www.nebraskalegion.net/Programs/Teacher.html>. Forward completed forms to Programs Director Brent Hagel-Pitt by May 1.

**50-60-70-75-80-85 YEAR 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. National sends the certificates directly to Post Commanders for distribution to honored members. Please notify Department Headquarters if you have problems in receiving certificates for your Post.

**AMERICAN LEGION NIGHT W/ THE SALTDogs** The American Legion Night at the Salt Dogs will be August 8, 2020. The game starts at 7:05 pm, and more information will be sent as the date gets closer. There will be \$2 on select tallboy beers and discounted hot dogs. More information will be sent as the date gets closer. If you are interested in being one of the Color Guards for that game, contact Brent Hagel-Pitt.

**NATIONAL EMERGENCY FUND** The National Emergency Fund was established to assist Legionnaires who were displaced from their home due to a natural disaster. These funds cover costs associated with food, clothing and shelter out-of-pocket expenses that were incurred due to the disaster. All posts are encouraged to send a generous donation.

Enclosed:  
Operation School Talk Application  
National Commander Oxford's membership incentive pin /incentive certificate form  
Membership award information