



NEWSLETTER

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

“We are the Backbone of The American Legion”

DEPARTMENT COMMANDER
JAMES A. COSTELLO

AUGUST 2017

DEPARTMENT ADJUTANT
DAVID W. SALAK

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2018 MEMBERSHIP CARDS MAILED The 2018 membership cards and Post Adjutant Guides were mailed in June to the Post Adjutants. The permanent membership cards (with computer printout) were also mailed to all Post Adjutants in July. Post Adjutants should have received all three mailings by the time you receive this newsletter. Post Adjutant names and addresses used were those on file at Department Headquarters, so new Adjutants who have not received these materials should check with their predecessor before contacting the Department. REMINDER: The 2018 membership cards and checks will not be processed until after August 10.

ATTENTION: DUES INCREASE At the 2017 Nebraska American Legion State Convention in Columbus, a \$5.25 increase in the Department per capita was approved effective for all membership dues received at Department Headquarters on and after January 1, 2018. What this means to the Posts in Nebraska is that after December 31, 2017, Posts will need to remit \$35.00 per membership card sent to Department Headquarters instead of the current \$29.75.

If your Post will be increasing Post dues, an authorized Post officer should fill out the special Membership Dues Increase Report (enclosed) and return it to Department Headquarters by December 1, 2017. The January renewal notices will reflect any dues increase request received by that date.

Posts who are under the \$35.00 mark are; 10, 14, 18, 21, 25, 26, 29, 31, 39, 44, 45, 51, 55, 60, 64, 69, 74, 76, 78, 80, 81, 85, 88, 89, 92, 96, 97, 99, 101, 107, 113, 114, 121, 123, 131, 134, 145, 149, 150, 153, 156, 157, 166, 175, 176, 179, 189, 191, 194, 198, 199, 200, 202, 204, 205, 210, 214, 218, 222, 223, 224, 225, 228, 236, 238, 239, 255, 261, 265, 266, 268, 271, 273, 275, 278, 281, 282, 284, 285, 286, 288, 289, 285, 287 304, 305, 309, 311, 312, 313, 318, 320, 321, 322, 326, 330, 334, 336, 343, 346, 347, 351, 352, 354, 356, 357, 359, 363, 365, 366, 367, 372, and 378.

MEMBERSHIP AWARDS & TARGET The first National Membership Target for 2018 is September 13, which calls for 50% of goal and the Department's Early Bird Post Citation awarded to Posts achieving 50% of their Post goal by August 18. Adjutants please refer to pages 7 - 9 of the 2018 Post Adjutant Guide for target dates and membership awards. REMINDER: Several incentives were carried over from last year, please look at the 2018 Post Adjutant Guide for all of these.

POST GOALS As approved by Department convention action, your Post membership goal for 2018 is one more member than you have recorded at Department Headquarters on July 31, 2017. To avoid any misunderstanding at a later date, your new membership goal and four-year average will be published in the Nebraska Legionnaire and will be posted on our Department website. Post Commanders and Adjutants may phone HQ's to obtain a copy via other means.

ON-LINE RENEWAL INFORMATION The 2018 Adjutant Guide was sent to all adjutants. Page 11 in that guide provides information on the process of those members that renew on-line.

2018 DUES NOTICES The first dues notice from National Headquarters was received by individual Legionnaires about July 3. Additional notices will be sent October 10; November 17; January 5; February 28, and April 27. Complete your membership work early to avoid delinquent notices. Review the enclosed bulletin on the membership target and renewal dates. Cutoff date for October renewal notice is September 13.

DISTRICT FALL CONFERENCE The District meeting schedules are posted on our Department website at <http://www.nebraskalegion.net/Meetings/Meetings.html>. Any questions should be directed first to the District Commander and then to HQ's.

GIFTS FOR YANKS WHO GAVE Enclosed is a bulletin concerning the 2017 Gifts for Yanks program. We ask for the support of your Post, Unit, Squadron, and Chapter again this year in order to provide a gift to those veterans confined to the VA Medical Centers and those residing in Nebraska's Veterans Homes during the holiday season. Your early response will assist in planning for this large activity by our volunteer representatives. Please participate and thanks!

AMERICAN LEGION BASEBALL TOURNAMENTS: Your State Champions are: Class B Jr – Waverly, Class C Jr – David City. Class A Jr, Class B and C Sr State tournaments and the play off between Class A National Div. and American Div. were ongoing at the time of this mailing. Please check the Nebraska American Legion website for results, <http://www.nelegionbaseball.net>. Both the Champion and Runner up for Class A will advance to Dickinson, North Dakota, August 2 - 6. You can watch live at www.legion.org/baseball/tournaments/centralplains

MILITARY APPRECIATION DAY AT THE STATE FAIR Military Appreciation Day at the Nebraska State Fair in Grand Island on Monday, September 4. Special events will be held throughout the day in the Heartland Event Center. Veterans receive FREE ADMISSION all day with proper identification. Schedule of speakers and events start at 1:30 p.m. and parade at 4:00 p.m. Full events can be found at <http://www.statefair.org>

ANNUAL VIETNAM VETERANS REUNION Nebraska's 33rd Annual Vietnam Veterans Reunion will be held this summer in Lincoln. The event will be at the Cornhusker Hotel August 10 - 13. For information contact Nebraska Vietnam Veterans, Jamie Obrecht 402-435-0454 and go to www.vetsreunion.com.

NATIONAL EMERGENCY FUND Natural disasters continue to plague the Midwest and other parts of the country. The NEF is a worthwhile fund. Can your post donate a \$1 per member? Please send in all donations regardless of the program, to the Department so we can keep track of what the Department has donated. Department will forward all donations to National and give full credit to the donor.

POST 500 There are still Post Commanders and Post Adjutants that are unfamiliar with Headquarters Post 500 membership. Legionnaires that join the American Legion at National under the Direct Member Solicitation (DMS) will remain members at National for two-years. After the Legionnaire has paid the dues for their second membership year, National will then release the names of those members over to the Department (Post 500). These new Post-500 members are then available for transfer to a local Post. Posts can use MyLegion to find Post-500 members in their area or they can call Department HQ's who will gladly provide a listing. This is another membership tool available to all Posts.

MIDYEAR CONFERENCE Midyear Conference will be held January 12-14, 2018 in North Platte at the Sandhill Convention Center. Double and King rooms are \$85.00 and suites are \$110.00 a night. There are a limited number of regular rooms, so call early and make your reservation. Their number is 308-532-9090.

Enclosed:

- 1) Dues Increase Report Form (adjutants only)
- 2) Membership Target Dates and Membership Renewal Dates bulletin
- 3) Gifts for Yanks Who Gave donation sheet

2017-18 MEMBERSHIP TARGET DATES

Nebraska American Legion

	<i>Received at Department [Monday]</i>	<i>To Be Rec'd at National [Wednesday]</i>	<i>Percent of Goal</i>
EARLY BIRD/NEF KICKOFF	SEP 11, 2017	SEP 13, 2017	50%
FALL MEETINGS	OCT 10, 2017	OCT 12, 2017	55%
VETERANS DAY	NOV 13, 2017	NOV 15, 2017	65%
PEARL HARBOR DAY	DEC 11, 2017	DEC 13, 2017	75%
MID-WINTER	JAN 16, 2018	JAN 18, 2018	80%
PRESIDENT'S DAY	FEB 12, 2018	FEB 14, 2018	85%
LEGION BIRTHDAY	MAR 12, 2018	MAR 14, 2018	90%
CHILDREN & YOUTH	APR 9, 2018	APR 11, 2018	95%
ARMED FORCES DAY	MAY 7, 2018	MAY 9, 2018	100%
DELEGATE STRENGTH		30 DAYS PRIOR TO NATIONAL CONVENTION	

CUTOFF DATES FOR RENEWAL NOTICES:

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- (1) September 11, 2017
- (2) October 10, 2017
- (3) December 11, 2017
- (4) February 12, 2018
- (5) April 9, 2018

RENEWAL NOTICES MAILED OUT

October 10, 2017
November 17, 2017
January 5, 2018
February 28, 2018
April 27, 2018

Membership cards need to be at Dept. Headquarters by this cutoff for members not to receive the next renewal notice.

“GIFTS FOR YANKS WHO GAVE”

This year The American Legion Family are asked to sponsor the “Gift for Yanks Who Gave” program. Your contribution will make it possible for every veteran confined to a VA Medical Center or residing in a Veterans Home in Nebraska to be remembered at Christmas.

A monetary contribution has been recommended according to the membership of your Post, Unit, Squadron, and Chapter. Please give what you think you can, but for the veteran’s sake, please give something.

PLEASE CARRY OUT THE FOLLOWING SUGGESTIONS:

1. Contact your Auxiliary, Sons, and Riders to support this important program.
2. Make a donation based on the total membership of your Post, Unit, Squadron, and Chapter as follows:

Up to 100 combined membership	—	\$20.00
100 to 199 combined membership	—	\$35.00
200 to 299 combined membership	—	\$50.00
300 to 399 combined membership	—	\$65.00
400 to 499 combined membership	—	\$100.00
500 to 749 combined membership	—	\$150.00
Over 750 combined membership	—	\$200.00

3. Please make checks payable to “Gifts For Yanks Who Gave” and send your donation before December 1, 2017 to:

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PO BOX 5205
LINCOLN, NE 68505-0205

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2018 Membership Dues Increase Report

Use this form to update the Post dues amount if your Post's membership dues are increasing as a result of the Department dues increase effective January 1, 2018.

POST # _____ DATE: _____

Current Annual Post Dues Are: \$. _____

2018 Dues Will Increase To: \$. _____

Effective Date _____

SUBMIT THIS FORM TO DEPARTMENT HEADQUARTERS AS SOON AS POSSIBLE.

This form will need to be submitted by December 1, 2017, in order to have the correct dues information on the January 2018 renewal notices.

This form may be returned by email to adminastlegion@windstream.net, or by fax to 402-464-6330, or by mail to Nebraska American Legion, P. O. Box 5205, Lincoln, NE 68505-0205.

If you have any questions regarding this, please contact Sandy Steinkamp at the above email address or by phone @ 402-464-6338.

Authorized Post Officer's Signature

Date