



# NEWSLETTER

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

*“Don’t Give Up – We’ve Got This”*

DEPARTMENT COMMANDER  
BETH L. LINN

DECEMBER 2016

DEPARTMENT ADJUTANT  
DAVID W. SALAK

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**MID-YEAR CONFERENCE** This year’s Mid-Year Conference will remain focused on education training. A National facilitator will instruct The American Legion Extension Institute course. The annual event is being held January 13-15, 2017, at the Hotel Grand in Grand Island. The Department Executive Committee will meet on Friday, January 13, starting at 10:00 a.m. in the Royal Room of the Hotel Grand. 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 begin activities Sunday morning at 8:00 a.m. and Joint Session will follow at 9:00 a.m.

Watch for the complete program schedule in your January issue of The Nebraska Legionnaire. For reservations please call the Hotel Grand (308-384-1330) located at 2503 S Locust St, Grand Island, NE 68801. Conference Registration fee is \$10.00.

**MIDWEST REGION NATIONAL VICE COMMANDER HOMECOMING** National Vice Commander Doug Boldt is holding his official homecoming banquet on Friday, January 13, 2017. The banquet will be at Boarders Inn & Suites in Grand Island and the social hour will start at 5:00 p.m. with dinner at 6:00 p.m. More information is included on the enclosed RSVP form. All checks and reservations need to be at Department by December 15. No exceptions.

**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 15, 2017, at our Mid-Year Conference in Grand Island. Proceeds go to support the various programs supported by The American Legion and other membership funds. Additional tickets available upon request.

**FUNDRAISER**

**GIFTS FOR YANKS WHO GAVE** The generosity of American Legion Posts, Auxiliary Units, Sons of The American Legion Squadrons, Legion Riders, and individual donors, will again allow veterans in the VA Medical Centers and Veterans Homes to be remembered during the holidays this year. Donations for this program are still being accepted, so if your post has not already made a donation there is still time to do so. Send your contributions to Department Headquarters, earmarked, “Gifts for Yanks.” Please see attached schedule for dates and times.

**AMERICAN LEGION ADDRESS LABELS** Response from The American Legion return address label program has been good and we anticipate donations will continue to arrive for some time. If you did not receive labels and would like to have some, please call Sandy Rickerts at 402-464-6338 with your request.

**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 2017. Commander Linn 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.

**NATIONAL MEMBERSHIP TARGET** The next target date is “Pearl Harbor Day.” Membership cards must reach Department Headquarters on or before 9:00 am, December 12 to meet that goal.

**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 Consolidated Post Report.



**NATIONAL COMMANDER'S CAP PIN** During the 2016-2017 membership year, National Commander Charlie Schmidt will award his National Commander pin to any American Legion Family member who joins three new members into The American Legion. A new member is defined as any eligible person joining for the 2017 membership year who was not a member of The American Legion during the 2016 membership year.

The form for this program may be submitted at any time. Upon receipt, national membership staff will confirm the names and mail the pin directly to the person who earned it. Commander Schmidt's incentive program will end June 30, 2017, or when supplies are out. Additional information and forms can be found at [www.legion.org/commander/pin](http://www.legion.org/commander/pin)

**DEPARTMENT COMMANDERS APPRECIATION AWARD** The Department Commander will issue a special citation to each Post achieving 90% or more of their assigned 2017 goal. Presentations will be made at the Mid-Year Conference. Postmark date December 16, 2016.

**TOURNAMENT HOSTS SOUGHT** Bids are currently being accepted to host one of the 2017 Area or State Baseball Tournaments and the 2017 State Golf Tournament. The Department Athletic Committee will meet at the Mid-Year Conference in Grand Island to select tournament sites. The official bid forms must be received at Department Headquarters no later than January 6. Bid forms on line at [www.nelegionbaseball.net](http://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.

**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 Linn expects 100% participation from all the Posts. The "CPR" can be submitted electronically by using MyLegion.

**WASHINGTON CONFERENCE** The Washington Conference is scheduled for February 26– March 1, 2017, and is open to any Legionnaires wishing to attend. If you or someone you know is interested in attending, contact Adjutant Dave Salak. Housing reservation can be made at the Washington Hilton, 1919 Connecticut Ave, NW Washington D.C. at 202-483-3000.

**NEBRASKA VETERANS COUNCIL** The official date for the Veterans' Legislative Day at the State Capital will be February 3, 2017. Expect more information in January.

**2017 RENEWAL MEMBERSHIP CARDS** The Department has ordered the 2017 renewal membership post cards. If your Post desires these post cards to send to Legionnaires that have not yet renewed – contact Sandy Steinkamp at 402-464-6338.

**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.

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

Enclosed:

Midwest Region Vice Commander Douglas Boldt Homecoming RSVP form  
Nebraska Department of Veterans' Affairs benefits sheet  
2016 VA&R Activities Schedule – Gifts for Yanks  
Information from Department Membership Chairman – George Cyboron



# *Homecoming Banquet*

*National Vice Commander Midwest Region*

*Douglas Boldt*

*Boarders Inn & Suites, Grand Island, Nebraska*

*Friday, January 13, 2017*

*5:00 p.m. Social – 6:00 p.m. Dinner*

*Rose/Orchid/Royal/Prestige*

*Dinner Menu:*

*Pork Loin*

*Garden Salad*

*Garlic Mashed Potatoes*

*Green Beans Amandine*

*Dinner Roll*

*Dessert*

*Coffee and Ice Tea*

*Return this form by December 15 as confirmation, with \$23.00 payment,  
to:*

*Nebraska American Legion*

*P.O. Box 5205*

*Lincoln, NE 68505*

*Make checks out to “Department of Nebraska – Vice Commander Dinner”*

*Number of tickets: \_\_\_\_\_*

*Names of those attending \_\_\_\_\_*

*Reminder: There will be a cash bar for all to enjoy during dinner  
NO Refunds. NO Ticket Sales at the Door.*

*Shuttle available from Hotel Grand to Boarders Inn & Suites*

*Boarders Inn & Suites is 4 blocks south of Hotel Grand*

*A block of rooms is being held at Boarders Inn & Suites*

*Dress is Business Casual*



# NEBRASKA DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS' AFFAIRS

## Benefits Sheet

**Nebraska Department of Veterans' Affairs**  
 Phone: (402) 471-2458  
 Email: [ndva@nebraska.gov](mailto:ndva@nebraska.gov)

**Nebraska Veterans Service Office**  
 Phone: (402) 420-4021  
 Email: [ndva.vbalm@va.gov](mailto:ndva.vbalm@va.gov)

**Nebraska Veterans Cemetery at Alliance**  
 Phone: (308) 763-2958  
 Toll Free: 877-420-7990

★  
**Nebraska Department of Revenue**  
 Phone: (402) 471-6185  
 Toll Free: 888-475-5101

★  
**Nebraska Game & Parks**  
 Phone: (402) 471-0641

★  
**Nebraska Department of Motor Vehicles**  
 License Phone: (402) 471-3861  
 Plates Phone: (402) 471-3918

★  
**Nebraska Department of Labor**  
 Phone: (402) 471-9000

### Nebraska Department of Veterans' Affairs

**Benefit**

State Veterans Service Office  
 Nebraska Veterans Cemetery at Alliance  
 Nebraska Veterans Homes Applications  
 Nebraska Veterans Aid (NVA) Fund  
 DD-214 Repository  
 Military & Veteran's Registry  
 Waiver of Tuition  
 Reservist Tuition Credit

**Who's Eligible**

Veteran, Spouse, & Dependents  
 Veteran & Spouse  
 Veteran, Spouse, Gold Star Parents  
 Veteran, Spouse, & Dependents  
 Veteran & Next of Kin  
 Veteran & Active Duty Military Personnel  
 Spouse & Dependents  
 Active Selected Reserve Members

### Nebraska Department of Revenue

**Benefit**

Homestead Exemption  
 Military Retirement Exemption

**Who's Eligible**

Veteran, Surviving Spouse  
 Veteran

### Nebraska Game & Parks

**Benefit**

Veteran's Annual Small Game Hunt/Fish Permit  
 Annual Small Game Hunt/Fish Permit for Deployed Military  
 Disabled Veteran's Lifetime Annual Small Game Hunt/Fish Permit

**Who's Eligible**

Veteran (age 64+)  
 Deployed Personnel (upon their return to Nebraska)  
 Disabled Veteran

### Nebraska Department of Motor Vehicles

**Benefit**

Veteran Designator on Nebraska Driver License or State ID  
 Disabled Veteran Motor Vehicle Tax Exemption

**Who's Eligible**

Veteran  
 Disabled or Blind Veteran

**License Plates:**

Disabled American Veteran  
 Ex-Prisoner of War  
 Pearl Harbor Survivor  
 Purple Heart  
 Military Honor  
 Gold Star Family

**Who's Eligible**

Disabled Veteran  
 Ex-POW  
 Pearl Harbor Veteran  
 Purple Heart Award Recipient  
 Veterans & Active Duty Military Personnel  
 Families of persons who died on Active Duty

### Nebraska Department of Labor

**Benefit**

Priority of Service  
 Employment and Training Services

**Who's Eligible**

Veteran & Spouse  
 Veteran & Spouse

**This sheet does not guarantee the granting of benefits. For specific eligibility requirements, contact the agency that oversees the benefit.**

*Please Note: This sheet is provided as a reference only; it is not inclusive of all information and may change without notice.*

**SAVE THE DATES – Support Our Veterans**

**Nebraska American Legion Family VA&R 2016 Schedule**

**DOLLAR DAYS, GIFT SHOP AND GIFTS FOR YANKS EVENTS**

**Please plan to arrive at all events one-half hour before the event time.**

**VETERANS DAY DOLLAR DISTRIBUTIONS**

Tuesday, November 1, 2016	10:00 a.m. 2:00 p.m.	Grand Island VA Medical Center Grand Island Veterans Home
Friday, November 4, 2016	2:00 p.m.	Norfolk Veterans Home
Monday, November 7, 2016	10:00 a.m. 2:00 p.m.	Omaha VA Medical Center Eastern Nebraska Veterans Home, Bellevue
Wednesday, November 9, 2016	10:00 a.m.	Lincoln Regional Center
Sunday, November 13, 2016	2:00 p.m.	Western Nebr. Veterans Home, Scottsbluff

**VETERANS MEDICAL CENTER GIFT SHOPS**

Opening on Monday, December 5, 2016	10:00 a.m.	Omaha VA Medical Center
<i>Gift Shop dates: December 5<sup>th</sup>, 6<sup>th</sup>, 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup></i>		
Opening on Tuesday, December 6, 2016	10:00 a.m.	G.I. VA Medical Center
<i>Gift Shop date: December 6<sup>th</sup></i>		

**GIFTS FOR YANKS WHO GAVE**

Saturday, December 3, 2016	1:30 p.m.	Hot Springs, SD, VA Medical Center
Sunday, December 4, 2016	2:00 p.m.	Western Nebraska VA Home, Scottsbluff
Tuesday, December 13, 2016	10:00 a.m. 2:00 p.m.	Grand Island VA Medical Center Grand Island Veterans Home
Wednesday, December 14, 2016	10:00 a.m.	Lincoln Regional Center
Thursday, December 15, 2016	10:00 a.m. 2:00 p.m.	Omaha VA Medical Center Eastern Nebr Veterans Home, Bellevue
Friday, December 16, 2016	10:00 a.m. 2:00 p.m.	Norfolk Regional Center Norfolk Veterans Home

**REVISED SCHEDULE – 1<sup>st</sup> copy did not list Norfolk Veterans Home Gifts for Yanks**

**Legionnaires,**

**I want to say THANK YOU to our members who have paid your membership at this time. Just think, when you pay your membership what your membership does for you and our organization. For \$.10 a day you have made an investment in National Security, Veterans Affairs and Rehabilitation, Americanism and Children and Youth.**

**With paying your membership you are eligible for \$1,000.00 Accidental Life Insurance and if you are on Legion business you are eligible for \$5,000.00. An easy way to do this is to carry applications for the Legion Family and you can say you are on Legion business.**

**A lot of good comes out of paying your membership. When your membership is current, you are eligible for the National Emergency Fund. Your membership is helping YOUR Post to help support American Legion Baseball, Boys State/Boys Nation, Junior Shooting Sports and Oratorical Competition. Some of the other great programs that your membership helps YOUR Post is with Operation Comfort Warriors, Family Support Network and the Child Welfare Foundation. Does your Post sponsors the Blood Donor Program or a Boys Scouts Troop? Just think if you are, then this is done by with just paying your membership. A big Legion support is helping YOUR Post Family start a Legion Riders Chapter, which this group helps support the Post 9/11 Children of our Military with Legacy Scholarship.**

**Again, THANK YOU for investing in your future and ours!**

**Membership Chairman**

**George Cyboron**