



NEWSLETTER

THE AMERICAN LEGION
DEPARTMENT OF NEBRASKA
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“Don’t Give Up – We’ve Got This”

DEPARTMENT COMMANDER
BETH L. LINN

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DEPARTMENT ADJUTANT
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MEMBERSHIP ACTION ENCOURAGING The Department of Nebraska is still in the running for several awards and is keying on the next challenge of the President’s Day goal on Wednesday, February 8. Please renew your delinquent members and transmit every possible card by February 6 so they can be included in the overnight transmittal to National. February 16 is the cut-off date for the March renewal notices.

DISTRICT CONVENTIONS SCHEDULED Enclosed you will find the District Convention Call, along with the number of delegates each Post is entitled to seat at the convention, for voting purposes. The Convention Call should be read at your next meeting or made available to your members as soon as possible. District Conventions are for all Legionnaires - not just those selected as voting delegates. District Convention dates enclosed as well.

MEMBERSHIP AWARDS Due to their efforts thus far in the 2017 membership campaign, many Posts will be receiving awards at District Conventions. Some awards to be presented will be for the membership contributions to the organization during 2016. We encourage someone from your Post to be at the convention to accept them.

CITIZENSHIP AWARDS If your Post has not already done so, there still may be time to submit a nomination on behalf of one of your Post members for the District Citizenship Citation. The forms were sent to all Posts last month. **Please mail the nomination form to your District Commander.** Make sure the completed application is sent well in advance of your District Convention.

MEMBERSHIP TRANSFER Before a membership transfer occurs there must be a Member Data Form 30-001 provided to Department Headquarters. The form should be signed by a member unless the member provided verbal consent for the Post Commander/Post Adjutant to sign the transfer form.

BOYS’ STATE PROGRAM Applications for the 2017 session of American Legion Cornhusker Boys’ State have been mailed by first class mail to all POST ADJUTANTS and are available online at the Department website under the Boys State program tab. The deadline for returning applications is March 15 postmark. All high school principals were also sent a letter explaining the Boys’ State program and requesting their assistance in making recommendations of qualified candidates. Schools are NOT provided the application. It is the Posts responsibility to return applications to Department Headquarters. Please select a boy who will agree to participate in the program for the entire seven days.

Posts may now send as many young men as they wish to nominate. Space is available in the housing unit used by Cornhusker Boys State to accept about 40 more participants than we hosted last year. Additional applications are available from this office. If your Post feels it cannot financially afford to sponsor a boy to Boys’ State, the Post may accept outside financial assistance and cosponsorship. The fee will be \$350.00 per boy for 2017. Please send any alternates into Department Headquarters so we can try and find them a sponsor.

DISTRICT CONVENTION AGENDA A reminder to all District Commanders to provide HQs with your convention agenda at least 10 working days in advance of your respective convention date.

JUNIOR LAW CADET PROGRAM Applications for the 2017 session of American Legion Junior Law Cadet Program have been mailed to the schools and are available online at the Department website under the Junior Law Cadet tab. The dates for the women's session are June 12-16, 2017 and Men's session is June 19-23, 2017. The deadline for return of the completed application is March 15 postmark. Graduation for each session will be Friday's at 2:00 p.m. Please note that a commitment to a law enforcement career is NOT required of applicants. Three boys and three girls will be selected from each of the 14 districts. Additionally, the following districts will be able to send their 1st alternate boys: 15, 1, and 2, and their 1st alternate girls: 15, 1 and 2.

SERVICE OFFICER AWARDS Department Service Officer Steve Burger wishes to remind Posts that they may nominate a Post Service Officer or other member who is doing outstanding work in veterans rehabilitation work for a national citation. Please send your nomination letter to Mr. Burger, 4516 Hallcliffe Rd, Lincoln, NE 68516 no later than March 31. Your letter should include a resume of work this person has accomplished for our organization. There are also three national awards being made available from the Veterans Affairs and Rehabilitation Commission to be presented at the Department Convention in Columbus.

SCOUT-OF-THE-YEAR NOMINATIONS Post Commanders and local Scout leaders are reminded that completed nomination forms for the Eagle Scout-of-the-Year scholarship program are due at Department Headquarters no later than March 1. Additional information and forms are online at www.nebraskalegion.net and are available from the Activities Director at this office. Remember, there are three scholarship awards (\$500, \$300, \$200) at the state level and the state winner is entered in the national scholarship competition.

UMPIRE CLINICS SCHEDULED Umpire Clinics for the 2017 American Legion Baseball season are being planned and are available at www.nelegionbaseball.net. Every umpire is encouraged to attend. All tournament umpires (Area and State) are required to attend a NALB-sanctioned Umpire Clinic annually. Contact Activities Director Brent Hagel-Pitt for information if your Post is interested in hosting such a clinic.

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 as of January 1, 2017. 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 February 1 per National. Please notify Department Headquarters if you have problems in receiving certificates for your Post.

LEGION POSTS MUST FILE FORM 990-N Tax-exempt organizations must file a yearly return with the IRS. If your post does not file a required annual return in three consecutive years, the law provided that your post automatically loses its tax-exempt status. Please go the following web site at <http://epostcard.form990.org> to complete the form, deadline to file is May 15, 2017. If you have questions, please call 1-877-829-5500.

FLAG RETIREMENT If your post is planning a Flag Retirement Ceremony in the near future please contact Adjutant Salak at 402-464-6338. The Department has numerous tattered flags that are in need of retirement.

NATIONAL EMERGENCY FUND If your Post has not yet contributed to a National Program (NEF, OCW, TFA, etc.) please consider doing so. Department Commander Linn has challenged each post to contribute \$.75 per member. Please send your donation to Headquarters before May 2, 2017 so results can be tallied up prior to Department Convention.

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.

SAVE THE DATE The Omaha Storm Chasers are holding a Military Appreciation night on Sunday August 6.

Enclosed:

District Convention Call/ District Convention Delegates
Approved District Convention Schedule
Storm Chasers Flyer