



# NEWSLETTER

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

*“Working Together To Make A Difference”*

DEPARTMENT COMMANDER  
LYLE D. BARTELS

**MARCH 2019**

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 6,636 members to renew and sign up to reach our goal of 29,566. Let's get all renewals collected and transmitted NOW! Next target date is March 13, so cards must be in Department by 9:00 am, Monday, March 11. A reminder to Post Adjutants to remit **\$35.00** per membership card.

**DEPARTMENT COMMITTEE VACANCIES** We have several vacancies on Department Committees that need to be filled. If you are from the designated area and interested in the position – contact Department Adjutant Salak.

AMERICANISM COMMITTEE: Area C and Area D  
CHILDREN & YOUTH: Area C  
PUBLICATIONS & PR: Area D  
SCHOLARSHIP: Area A

**DEPARTMENT CONVENTION** Legionnaires are encouraged to make reservations for the 2019 Department Convention June 20-23 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 15. 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 [www.nebraskalegion.net/Programs](http://www.nebraskalegion.net/Programs). 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 (June 2 – 8) 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 19-23; Class A Sr & Jr State – July 27-31; Class A Sr Division Playoffs – August 2-3; Class A Regional – August 7; Class B & C Jr Area – July 12-16; Class B & C Jr State – July 20-24; Class B & C Sr Area – July 19-23; Class B & C Sr State – July 27-31.

**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 10-13. The graduation ceremony is at 7:00 p.m. on Thursday, June 13. 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 Brett Reistad will award his National Commander pin to any American Legion Family member who obtains three new members or renews six 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 10, 2019. The game starts at 7:05 pm, and more information will be sent as the date gets closer. There will be fireworks after the game. 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.

**VETERANS HISTORY PROJECT** The Library of Congress has created the Veterans History Project to collect, preserve, and make accessible the personal accounts of American war veterans. This collection can be found at [www.loc.gov/vets](http://www.loc.gov/vets) and it includes voice recordings and pictures of service members. See the enclosed brochure.

Enclosed:

Operation School Talk Application

National Commander Reistad's membership incentive pin /incentive certificate form

American Legion Commemorative Coin information

Membership award information

Veterans History Project brochure

# OPERATION SCHOOL TALK PROGRAM

## Legionnaire Information

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Post: \_\_\_\_\_

Name of School: \_\_\_\_\_ Town: \_\_\_\_\_

Nebraska County: \_\_\_\_\_ Class attended: \_\_\_\_\_

Teacher's name: \_\_\_\_\_ Hours spent in class: \_\_\_\_\_

Topics discussed: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Other Legionnaires present: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

## Teacher or School Staff Member Verification

Teacher Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Teacher Comments: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Teacher Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_



**NATIONAL COMMANDER BRETT P. REISTAD  
2019 MEMBERSHIP INCENTIVE PIN**



**Certification Form**

**(3) New Members or (6) Renewals**

**Please make sure that the address, phone number and email address provided is for the recruiter and not the post.**

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Recruiter's Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Membership ID Number: \_\_\_\_\_

Street Address or PO Box: \_\_\_\_\_

City, State, Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Email Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Daytime Phone Number: \_\_\_\_\_

Mail to Recruiter

Mail to Post

**TO QUALIFY YOU NEED TO RECRUIT (3) NEW MEMBERS INTO THE AMERICAN LEGION OR RENEW (6) MEMBERS. (A NEW MEMBER IS DEFINED AS ANY ELIGIBLE PERSON JOINING FOR THE 2019 MEMBERSHIP YEAR WHO WAS NOT A MEMBER OF THE AMERICAN LEGION DURING THE 2018 MEMBERSHIP YEAR). PLEASE FORWARD THE NAMES OF NEW SAL MEMBERS OR AUXILIARY MEMBERS TO YOUR SQUADRON OR UNIT FOR USE IN THEIR RESPECTIVE INCENTIVE PROGRAMS.**

**PLEASE MAKE SURE THAT THE MEMBERS HAVE BEEN PROCESSED BEFORE SUBMISSION. PINS WILL NOT BE MAILED UNTIL THEY ARE VERIFIED ON THE NATIONAL DATABASE.**

**(3) NEW MEMBERS:**

**(Include full name, department, post)**

1. \_\_\_\_\_
2. \_\_\_\_\_
3. \_\_\_\_\_

**(6) RENEWALS: (renewals received prior to 1/14/2019 do not count towards this incentive.)**

**(Include ID number, full name, post)**

1. \_\_\_\_\_
2. \_\_\_\_\_
3. \_\_\_\_\_
4. \_\_\_\_\_
5. \_\_\_\_\_
6. \_\_\_\_\_

**Return completed forms to:  
The American Legion  
National Internal Affairs & Membership Division  
PO Box 1055  
Indianapolis, IN 46206**

**Fax: 317-630-1413  
Email: [ksingleton@legion.org](mailto:ksingleton@legion.org)**



The American Legion commemorative coins are set to go on sale March 14, coinciding with The American Legion's 100th birthday. The silver dollar pays tribute to the organization's Paris founding. The coin's heads side, or obverse, is designed by Paul Balan and features the American Legion emblem surrounded by oak leaves and a lily. The reverse side is designed by Patricia Lucas-Morris and has crossed U.S. and American Legion flags under a fleur-de-lis, with the dates 1919-2019 and the inscription 100 YEARS OF SERVICE.

In addition to the American Legion silver dollar, the Mint will sell a \$5 gold piece and a clad half-dollar. The gold coin's obverse is designed by Chris Costello and features the Eiffel Tower and a V for Victory in World War I, with LIBERTY and 1919-2019 encircled by the outer ring of the Legion's emblem. The reverse side, designed by Paul Balan, has a soaring bald eagle and the American Legion emblem.

The clad coin is designed by Richard Masters; the heads side depicts two children, one wearing her father's American Legion cap, reciting the Pledge of Allegiance, while the reverse shows a billowing U.S. flag and American Legion emblem above the words ... OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA.

Passed by Congress on Oct. 6, 2017, Public Law 115-65 allows the Mint to strike and issue 50,000 of the gold coins, 400,000 of the silver dollars and 750,000 of the half-dollars.

The American Legion 100th Anniversary Commemorative Coin Act had broad support on Capitol Hill. The House version of the bill had 385 cosponsors -- more than any other coin bill authorized in the past decade.

To be added to the mailing list for updates, go to [legion.org/coin](http://legion.org/coin). For prices and other ordering information, go to [usmint.gov](http://usmint.gov).

American Legion posts and departments worldwide can collect financial rewards for returning members to their rosters, ramping up renewal rates and hitting their targets for 2019.

Any American Legion department that exceeds 100 percent of its 2019 membership target by May 8 will receive a \$2,500 reward. Departments that take the goal five percentage points further before the end of the membership year (June 30, 2019) will receive an additional \$5,000. Checks for achieving the 100 percent goal will be presented to departments at the Spring National Executive Committee meeting of The American Legion. Departments that achieve 105 percent or greater will receive checks and recognition at the 101st American Legion National Convention in Indianapolis.

American Legion posts will receive \$5 for every expired 2014, 2015 and 2016 member that renews for 2019.

**The expired members can be found by following these four steps:**

1. Sign into [www.mylegion.org](http://www.mylegion.org)
2. Click on "Reports/Labels" located on the left side of the page
3. Click on "Post Reports" folder
4. Open the "Revitalization" folder. Inside this folder you will find three reports where you can select expired members for letters, labels and rosters ("Unrenewed\_Letters," "Unrenewed\_Labels" and "Unrenewed\_Roster").

If your post does not have access to MyLegion.org, visit [www.mylegion.org](http://www.mylegion.org) and click on "Authorization Form" at the bottom of the page and complete the registration process. If you need assistance please call 800-433-3318 or send an email to [mylegion@legion.org](mailto:mylegion@legion.org).

To receive credit for renewing a 2014, 2015 or 2016 Legionnaire, they must renew in your post and you have to use their current membership ID number. The ID number will be on the expired listing downloaded through MyLegion or provided by your department. If the expired Legionnaire was not a member of your post, please transfer them into your post and then process their dues payment.



## What Veterans Say About the Veterans History Project

*"I am profoundly proud and honored that my story will be permanently archived in the Veterans History Project with the stories of tens of thousands of fellow American veterans who, as a matter of honor and duty, served their country in time of war."*

—Warren Tsunelshi, WWII Veteran

*"I felt it was my duty to share my personal oral history with the Veterans History Project so that it could be added to the growing research collection at the Library of Congress and made available to current and future generations."*

—Wendy Taines, Persian Gulf War Veteran

*"I would encourage every veteran to participate in the Veterans History Project. I know personally that I'd never discussed my experiences with my wife and children. They were very surprised when they viewed my video, and it led us to communicate more."*

—Jacob Younginer, Vietnam War Veteran

*"It's important to get every veteran's story, so future generations can learn about military life from firsthand accounts. Our individual experiences may have been different, but when compiled they form a powerful snapshot of history."*

—Teresa Fazio, Operation Iraqi Freedom Veteran

To learn more about these veterans and others, go to [www.loc.gov/vets](http://www.loc.gov/vets).

Cover photographs courtesy of Library of Congress: Veterans History Project, Prints & Photographs Division, and Michaela McNichol.

Inside photograph 1 courtesy of Prints & Photographs Division, Library of Congress.  
Inside photographs 2, 3, 4, and 5 courtesy of the Library of Congress Veterans History Project.

## What Happens to Interviews and Other Donated Items?

Donated items are housed in a preservation environment within the permanent collections of the Library of Congress. Within a six-month processing period, all donated materials are available to researchers, scholars, students, Congress, authors, filmmakers, and anyone else visiting the Library.

### Search and View Collections Online

The Veterans History Project (VHP) website, [www.loc.gov/vets](http://www.loc.gov/vets), contains an **individual Web page for each veteran** who contributes. This page includes service history and other information about each veteran. Click on *Search the Veterans Collections* to access the database. Currently, about ten percent of VHP's collections are digitized so that anyone with Internet access may view them online. Additional collections will be digitized and made accessible as resources allow.

### Visit VHP in Person

The **general public** may visit the VHP Information Center at the Library of Congress between 10:00 a.m. and 3:00 p.m. Monday-Friday. No appointment is necessary.

To view a collection, **users** must call or email **one week** prior to a visit and are required to have a Reader Identification Card issued by the Library's Reader Registration Station free of charge. For details, visit [www.loc.gov/vets](http://www.loc.gov/vets) (click on *For Researchers*).

All VHP collections are served in the American Folklife Center (AFC) Reading Room in the Library's Jefferson Building. To make an appointment to view VHP collections, call 202-707-5510.

Library of Congress, 101 Independence Ave., SE,  
Washington, DC 20540

**VHP Information Center**- James Madison Building, Room LM-109  
**Reader Registration Station**- James Madison Building, Room LM-140  
**American Folklife Center Reading Room**- Thomas Jefferson Building, Room LJ-G53

**Disclaimer:** Veterans History Project collections are not intended as a substitute for an official record of the federal government nor of military service. These histories are the personal recollections and perspectives of participating individuals, as they were voluntarily submitted to the Project. The Library of Congress does not verify the accuracy of the accounts.

VETERANS  
HISTORY  
PROJECT

A PROJECT OF THE AMERICAN FOLKLIFF CENTER OF THE LIBRARY OF CONGRESS



## The Veterans History Project at the Library of Congress

The United States Congress created the Veterans History Project (VHP) in 2000 as part of the American Folklife Center at the Library of Congress.

VHP's mission is to collect, preserve, and make accessible the personal accounts of American war veterans so that future generations may hear directly from veterans and better understand the realities of war.

### Participate

**Share your story**, if you're a veteran. Simply sit down with a friend or loved one and **record** a conversation about your military experiences for 30 minutes or longer. **Interview a veteran** in your family or community. **Collect** a veteran's historical documents.

**Collaborate** with your local high schools and universities, retirement communities, veteran service organizations, churches, area businesses, and other community groups. All you need is the VHP Field Kit, an interviewer, and an interviewee. Once the interview is recorded, keep a copy for yourself and submit the original along with the required forms to VHP.

### Add To Our Collection

You can contribute:

A video or audio-recorded interview of a veteran of 30 minutes or longer.

10 or more original:

- Photographs
- Two-dimensional artwork
- Letters
- Official military documents

20 pages or more of original:

- Unpublished memoirs
- Diaries or journals

**Please note that we only accept original materials; we cannot accept scans, photocopies, or reproductions of any kind.**

### Deceased veterans

Next of kin may donate photographs, letters, diaries and memoirs of a deceased veteran. The biographical data form and a release form on behalf of the deceased veteran must be completed and accompany submitted materials. VHP cannot accept proxy interviews recorded for a deceased veteran.

### Learn more

Visit us online at [www.loc.gov/vets](http://www.loc.gov/vets) and click on our *Frequently Asked Questions*.



## Preserve History

**Participate** with the Veterans History Project (VHP), and **contribute** to the permanent collections of the Library of Congress, one of the world's most **respected research and cultural institutions**.

### Participation Is Simple:

Visit [www.loc.gov/vets](http://www.loc.gov/vets).

Watch the 15-minute Field Kit Companion Video.

Click on *How to Participate*.

- Download the online Field Kit—a “how-to record a story” booklet.
- Complete the required and appropriate forms from the Field Kit.
- Follow the *30-20-10 Rule*:
  - \_30 minutes or more for interviews
  - \_20 pages or more for memoirs, diaries, or journals
  - \_10 or more photographs or letters
- Only send original materials to VHP. Keep copies for yourself and the veteran.
- All submissions become property of the Library of Congress and cannot be duplicated for you.
- VHP will return materials that do not adhere to the standards outlined in the Field Kit.

### Send:

**All materials must be delivered via commercial carrier (e.g., FedEx, UPS, DHL, etc.). Expedited service is not necessary.**

**To: Veterans History Project**

The Library of Congress  
101 Independence Ave., SE  
Washington, DC 20540-4615

### Or hand deliver:

Stop by the address above, Room LM-109, between 10:00 a.m. and 3:00 p.m. Monday-Friday, and a VHP representative will assist you.

## Request a Field Kit

Field Kits may be downloaded and printed from the VHP Web site, [www.loc.gov/vets](http://www.loc.gov/vets). If you do not have Internet access, complete and submit this tear-off card or call the toll-free information line at 888-371-5848 to request a printed version of the Field Kit.

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_

Please send \_\_\_\_\_ Field Kit(s).  
(Supplies are limited.)

Send this completed form to the Veterans History Project. **You may expedite your request by faxing it to 202-252-2046.** No cover sheet is necessary.

### Commercial Carrier:

Veterans History Project  
The Library of Congress  
101 Independence Ave., SE  
Washington, DC 20540-4615

2/2012

