MEMBERSHIP AWARDS

There are various membership awards that are available through National and Department. May 10 is the receipt date in this office for the Silver Brigade, Gold Brigade, and Recruiter of the Year awards. Certification forms are available from HQ. You are encouraged to review awards that are available for 2024 membership efforts. The Post Membership Achievement Award is based on the Post membership as of May 31, 2024, compared to the membership of July 31, 2023.

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 education are more than what is normally expected and promotes American Legion youth programs in the school. Download the nomination at

www.nebraskalegion.net/Programs/Teac her.html. Forward completed forms to Eric Martin by May 1.

DEPARTMENT CONVENTION PROGRAM

The Department is offering the opportunity for individuals and businesses to advertise in the 2024 Department Convention program. Contact Amanda Washburn at Headquarters for more information.

VETERAN'S MUSIC FESTIVAL

Saturday, June 1 at the Antelope Bandshell located in Antelope Park in Lincoln. The festival starts at 11:00 a.m. In addition to music, this is an Information Fair with VA health care and other informational booths. Visit www.vfmf.net for more information.

VIETNAM VETERANS' REUNION

Nebraska's 39th Annual Vietnam Veterans Reunion will be held August 8-11 in Lincoln. Now is the time to inform interested members of your post to make plans to attend. The event will be headquartered at the Marriott Cornhusker Hotel (333 S 13th Street). Visit vetsreunion.com for more information.

VETERN'S APPRECIATION DAY

Veteran's Appreciation Day at the State Fair will be Monday, September 2 at 1:00 p.m. More information, including the parade, and color guard registration can be found at www.statefair.org/celebration-parade/ Call 308-382-1620 for more information.

Enclosures:

- Convention Call
- Program Advertising Information
- Resolutions
- Why-Donate-Lifeserve



The American Legion Department of Nebraska 150 NW 40th Street, Unit A Lincoln, NE 68528 402-464-6338

NEWSLETTER

May 2024 Published in January, March, May, July, September & November

Department Commander John-Henry Pearcy Department Adjutant Dave Salak

"LEAD BY MENTORING"

2024 MEMBERSHIP GOAL: 23,418 APRIL 15TH TOTAL: 21,689 - 92.62%

District 1— 101.87% District 7— 93.45% District 6— 90.75% District 4— 87.58%

 DISTRICT 8 – 95.41%
 DISTRICT 15

 DISTRICT 12 – 92.09%
 DISTRICT 2 –

 DISTRICT 13 – 89.95%
 DISTRICT 11

 DISTRICT 9 – 84.87%
 DISTRICT 14

- 95.30%	DISTRICT 5 - 94.84%
91.80%	DISTRICT 3-91.64%
- 89.66%	DISTRICT 10-88.56%



DEPARTMENT CONVENTION

The 2024 Department Convention will now be held at the Holiday Inn June 20 - 23, in Kearney. For reservations, call the Holiday Inn (308-237-5971) located at 110 2nd Avenue - Kearney. Rooms are \$149.95 plus tax, per night. Conference Registration fee is \$10.00.

The condensed agenda schedule will be on the Nebraska American Legion Website. Information can be found at www.nebraskalegion.net/meetings.

CODY KERR AWARD

This prestigious award is the highest award given by the Nebraska American Legion and will be presented at the Department Convention in Kearney. Applications are being accepted until June 15 by PDC's Gary Wooten, Dan Benes and Don Suchy. Send your nomination to HQ. This award is based on service to the community, state, and nation, not just Legion involvement. Please use a written narrative style of nomination on your Post letterhead.

<u>PREPRINTED 2025 MEMBERSHIP</u> <u>CARDS</u>

In order for new members to have a preprinted 2025 membership card and be listed on the Post Roster, their 2024 dues must be received at Department by April 15, 2024. Additionally, any current member not paid by April 15, 2024, will not have their continuous years pre-printed on their 2025 membership card. Membership cards and officer guides will be mailed out after Department Convention. Contact Amanda if you wish to pick them up before they are mailed.

<u>MEMBERSHIP CAMPAIGN</u>

A review of the membership analysis indicates many posts need single numbers to equal or exceed last year's total and to meet their assigned goal. Please review your delinquent list and make personal contact where necessary. There are eligible veterans who have never been invited into membership. Let's get all renewals collected and transmitted NOW! Next target date is May 15, so cards must be to Department by Monday, May 13. A reminder to Post Adjutants to remit **\$35.00** per membership card.

<u>CONVENTION CALL/DELEGATE</u> <u>STRENGTH</u>

The official Department Convention Call is included in this newsletter. The delegate/alternate cards will be mailed to Post Adjutants on May 10. County Commanders will also be sent the list of delegates strength by county and voting instructions on May 10. Please remind your delegates and alternates to bring the signed card with them to the convention. The card will be needed to register as an official representative of your Post.

2025 ANNUAL POST DATA REPORT

Post Adjutants received the 2025 Annual Post Data Report in February. Read the information carefully before completing the form. Double check the mailing address to which the membership returns are to be mailed – including the three-line address and correct ZIP code. Above all, make sure the dues amount is correct. These were due to Department Headquarters by April 15.

2024 BASEBALL ENTRY DEADLINE

The entry deadline for Posts participating in the 2024 American Legion Baseball program is May 15. Teams registering after May 15 may be imposed a \$200 late fee. The deadline for submitting and getting your Team Roster approved is on June 15. A team that is NOT going to participate in the Area or State tournaments must submit a declination letter to the HQ or there will be a \$300 penalty included in the next season's registration. The Tournament Director's meeting will be held virtually on June 8. More information will be sent to host programs.

ELECTION OF POST OFFICERS

The 2024 - 25 Post Officer report was mailed to Post Adjutant's in March. The Department Constitution and Bylaws call for the election of officers at the Post meeting prior to Convention and the installation following the convention. We request the names of the 2024 - 25 officers be sent to us immediately following their election. This allows HQ to maintain a current list of post officers so that official correspondence gets to the right person. Even if your officers did not change, send in this form!

RESOLUTIONS

There were fifteen resolutions that were forwarded to Department Headquarters following the District Conventions. They are enclosed. Please contact the Department Adjutant with any questions. If you want your voice heard – be at convention.

CONSOLIDATED POST REPORTS

HQ reminds you of the importance of submitting the Consolidated Post Report. It is not only used for the purpose of determining various awards, but the information gathered from it is used by the National Organization to prove to Congress that we were worthy of being granted a Congressional Charter. Each Post is required to complete the CPR so that it reaches Headquarters by June 1. These are available on MyLegion.org or can be found on our website at Complete the form online and email it to dsalak@nebraskalegion.net.

<u>AMERICAN LEGION BASIC</u> <u>TRAINING</u>

Now is a great time for Legionnaires to take the American Legion Basic Training Course. Our own Constitution directs Department and District officers to have completed this course within the last five years prior to assuming office. This isn't meant to be a barrier to high office but rather to ensure our officers are current on Legion activities and programs. The course can be found at www.legion.org/alei

MEDIA SPECIALIST VACANCY

Effective April 19, 2024, the Department's Media Specialist position is again vacant. The Department Staff is sad to see Carol moving on, but she was given a very good opportunity and needs to pursue her personal goals. As a result of her departure, the Nebraska Legionnaire newspaper is hereby suspended until further notice. If anyone is interested in this paid position at the Department, please contact Adjutant Salak.

2024 Department Convention Call

ONE HUNDRED AND SIXTH ANNUAL CONVENTION THE AMERICAN LEGION

Department of Nebraska

May 1, 2024

In conformity with the instructions of the 2023 Annual Convention of The American Legion, Department of Nebraska, the 2024 Annual Convention of The American Legion, Department of Nebraska, is hereby called and will be held at Kearney, Nebraska, June 20 - 23, 2024.

PURPOSE

The Convention is called for the purpose of electing Department officers for the ensuing year, and for the transaction of such business as may be brought before it in conformity with the provisions of the Department Constitution.

REPRESENTATION

Representation in the Convention shall be by Posts. Each Post shall be entitled to two delegates and then one additional delegate for each one hundred (100) members or major fraction thereof, whose current dues have been received at department headquarters not later than May 8, 2024. Each Post shall also be entitled to one alternate for each delegate, who shall act as delegate in his/her absence. Each alternate shall also have all other rights and privileges of delegates except that of voting. Delegates and alternates shall be chosen by the various Posts in such manner as each Post shall determine.

The vote of the convention shall be polled by counties. When a roll call vote is ordered, each County Commander or County Chairman of a delegation or the Delegation Chairman of District 15 shall announce the vote of his/her county when called on by the Convention Secretary. County Commanders or County Chairmen, or the Delegation Chairman of District 15, must cast the correct vote when called upon. Counties cannot pass and then vote at the end of the voting. All County Commanders or County Chairmen, or the Delegation Chairman of District 15, will receive two ballots for each elective office; one to be signed and given to the Convention Secretary when giving the voice vote, and the other to be retained by the county. Ballots will be issued to the District 15. All unused ballots will be returned to the Convention Secretary at the close of the elections.

Posts need not cast their votes as a unit nor need the county vote be cast as a unit, but the total number of votes cast for and against any proposition shall be announced by the County Commander or County Chairman or the Delegation Chairman of District 15. Each delegate shall be entitled to one vote. In the absence of regular delegates from any Post, the delegation from such Post may seat a corresponding number of duly elected alternates, and in the event the Post has no regular delegates present, the duly elected alternates shall automatically become the delegates. Alternates shall have no vote except as prescribed above.

The vote of absentee qualified delegates may be cast by a majority of the delegation present from the Post, and in the absence of both an accredited delegate or alternate from a Post, then the vote or votes of said absentees may be cast by a majority of the delegates present from said county. In the event of a tie vote in any county, the vote of any Post not represented by a delegate or alternate shall be disregarded.

All Past Department Commanders and Past Department Adjutants, while in good standing in their respective Posts in this Department and who attend and register as such; and all incumbent Department officers who attend and register as such, shall be delegates to the Department Convention with voice and vote to be exercised with their respective Posts.

ALTERNATES

Each Post is entitled to send and to seat in the convention a number of alternates equal to the number of delegates to which a Post is entitled. Alternates will have the power to vote only in the absence of regular delegates.

GUESTS

Each delegation may have as its guests such members of The American Legion or friends of the organization as it may see fit to invite. All sessions of the Convention will be open to the public.

REGISTRATION

Registration of delegates, alternates, and guests will take place at Registration Headquarters starting Thursday, June 20. All delegates, alternates, and guests must register. A registration fee of \$10.00 will be charged. REGISTRATION WILL CLOSE AT 10:00 A.M., SUNDAY, JUNE 23.

<u>All delegates must present their delegate card</u>, signed by the Post Commander and the Post Adjutant, to the registration desk, pay the correct registration fees, and then they will receive a badge allowing them to be seated on the floor with all delegate privileges.

<u>All alternates must present their alternate delegate card</u>, signed by the Post Commander and the Post Adjutant, to the registration desk, pay the correct registration fees, and then they will receive a badge allowing them to be seated on the floor with all alternate privileges.

Legionnaires not having cards signed by the Post Commander and the Post Adjutant designating them as delegate or alternate and upon presenting a current American Legion card to the registration desk, and paying the correct registration fees, will receive a badge allowing them admittance into the Convention with seating privileges only in the guest section.

County Commanders will be eligible to vote provided they attend and register as such and pay the correct registration fee and are properly recorded with the Department by their respective District Commander at the Department Executive Committee meeting immediately preceding the Convention. Recorded County Commanders will receive the same badge as delegates with all delegate privileges.

HOUSING

All delegates and visitors to the Convention will be expected to arrange their own housing. Please write or call the hotel of your choice for accommodations. Department Headquarters will not make reservations for anyone.

CREDENTIALS

A bulletin giving the number of delegates and alternates to which your Post is entitled is enclosed [*ADJUTANTS*]. Credential cards for delegates and alternates are enclosed [*ADJUTANTS*] for distribution to each individual delegate and alternate. These cards are to be retained by such delegates and alternates and must be presented at the time of registration at the Convention. They should not be sent back to Department Headquarters.

EXPENSES

All expenses of delegates and alternates must be paid by the Post (if the Post authorizes such expenses), or by the delegates and alternates themselves. The department will pay no part of such expense.

CONVENTION SESSIONS

All business sessions of the Convention, including the joint opening session with the Auxiliary and the Sons of the American Legion, starting Friday afternoon, June 21, through Sunday, June 23, will be held at the Holiday Inn, Kearney, Nebraska.

MISCELLANEOUS

Instructions covering program, order of business, entertainment, etc., will be issued later. <u>All Post Adjutants are</u> requested to read this call at the earliest possible meeting of their Post. Post Commanders should call a special meeting if necessary.

ATTEST:

John-Henry Pearcy Department Commander David W. Salak Department Adjutant

WHY DONATE WITH **LIFESERVE BLOOD CENTER?**

The strength of our community blood supply is dependent on local donors, businesses, and organizations that donate and sponsor blood drives with LifeServe Blood Center.

UR HOSPI

YOUR

BLOOD.



YOUR NEIGHBORS.

LifeServe Blood Center is a non-profit community-based blood center.

100% of the blood products needed by LifeServe hospitals will come from communities like yours and donors like you

Only blood collected by LifeServe Blood Center is provided to **OUR local** hospital partners.

What Sets LifeServe Apart?

44 My momma received blood today thank you from the bottom of my heart! You are a wonderful human. \$\$

Local hospital patients are now able to thank our blood donors for their generous blood donation!

Learn more at lifeserve.info/ttd

66 Thank you, your donation will help my father bounce back from chemotherapy which sucks the life out of him. You have breathed new life and energy. Thank you 🦻





Automatically mailed to donors after first donation!

Milestone

- Tote Bag
- Donor Card
- Welcome Letter



Life

High School and Student Recognition Opportunities

hank the

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Donor

Students who host their own blood drive OR schools that host two drives a year are eligible for our scholarship program!

To ensure blood donors in the community continue to support their local hospital, LifeServe will honor any blood donors current donation and gallon level milestones. Blood donors also earn online store reward points after donation.

ENTER



LifeServe is not affiliated with the American Red Cross, Vitalant, or for-profit plasma centers.



A non-invasive, painless way to check hemoglobin levels for blood donors during the donation process. YOUR BLOOD. YOUR HOSPITAL. YOUR NEIGHBORS.

WHO IS LIFESERVE BLOOD CENTER?

LifeServe Blood Center is your non-profit, community-based blood center that has served the needs of local hospitals and

patients in our regions since 1947. As one of the 15 largest blood centers in the country, LifeServe Blood Center is the SOLE provider of blood and blood products to more than 158 hospitals primarily located in Iowa, Nebraska and South Dakota.

SOUTH DAKOTA HOSPITALS

Avera DeSmet Memorial Hospital | DeSmet

Avera Gregory Healthcare Center | Gregory

Avera Hand County Memorial | Miller

Avera McKennan Sioux Falls

Avera Missouri River Health Center | Gettysburg

Avera Queen of Peace Hospital Mitchell

Avera Sacred Heart Hospital | Yankton

Avera St Luke's Hospital Aberdeen

Avera St Mary's Hospital Pierre

Avera St. Benedict Health Center | Parkston

Avera Weskota Memorial Medical Center Wessington Springs

Bowdle Healthcare Bowdle

Burke Community Memorial Hospital | Burke

Douglas County Memorial Hospital Armour

NEBRASKA HOSPITALS

Avera Creighton Hospital Creiahton

Avera St. Anthony's Hospital O'Neill

CHI Health CUMC Bergan Mercy | Omaha

CHI Health Good Samaritan Hospital | Kearney

CHI Health Immanuel Medical Center | Omaha

CHI Health Lakeside Omaha

CHI Health Midlands Hospital Papillion

Dunes Medical Laboratories Sanford Health Dakota Dunes

Dunes Surgical Hospital Dakota Dunes

Eureka Community Health Services | Eureka

Faulkton Area Medical Center | Faulkton

Freeman Regional Health Services | Freeman

Huron Regional Medical Center | Huron

Landmann Jungman **Memorial Hospital** Scotland

Marshall County Healthcare Center | Britton

Milbank Area Hospital Avera Health | Milbank

Monument Health **Rapid City Hospital** Rapid City

Platte Health Center/ Avera Health | Platte

Redfield Community Memorial Hospital Redfield

Sanford Aberdeen Medical Center | Aberdeen

Sioux Falls Sanford Madison Regional Health | Madison

Sanford Medical Center Canton-Inwood | Canton

Sanford Medical Center Chamberlain | Chamberlain

Sanford Medical Center Clear Lake | Clear Lake

Sanford Pioneer Memorial Hospital & Health Services Vibora

Prairie Lakes Healthcare System | Watertown

Sanford Vermillion Medical Center | Vermillion

Sanford Webster Medical

Wagner Community

Health | Winner

WHY IS LIFESERVE THE NEW SOLE PROVIDER **OF BLOOD & BLOOD PRODUCTS?**

Hospitals choose which blood collection organization they want to receive blood products from. They base that decision on service, guality, reputation, and accessibility of products. Hospitals in your area chose LifeServe Blood Center to be their sole provider of blood and blood products to ensure the best possible patient care and a safe and stable community blood supply.

WHY IS IT IMPORTANT TO DONATE **BLOOD WITH LIFESERVE?**

LifeServe Blood Center provides blood and blood products to 158 hospitals primarily in Iowa, Nebraska, and South Dakota. As a community blood center, we count on area residents to donate blood with LifeServe so that we can maintain a safe and stable community blood supply for your local hospital.

WHAT IS LIFESERVE'S FOOTPRINT?

LifeServe has 340 team members across three states with 16 locations, 13 donor centers, seven blood distribution locations from which blood is provided to hospitals, four different laboratory locations and multiple mobile blood drive units and buses. LifeServe's newest donor center in Aberdeen allows for blood collection, storage, and distribution for north central South Dakota.

HOW CAN THE COMMUNITY SUPPORT THEIR LOCAL BLOOD SUPPLY?

The strength of our community blood supply is dependent on local donors, businesses, and organizations that donate and sponsor blood drives with LifeServe Blood Center. We need community partners to host blood drives and recruit blood donors to directly support their community blood supply. LifeServe

partners with schools, civic organizations, and more. If you and/or an organization are interested in hosting blood drives, please contact Kim Jensen Dietrich at 712.212.5016 or kim.jensendietrich@lifeservebloodcenter.org.



JENSEN DIETRICH

Territory Representative Cell: 712.212.5016 kim.jensendietrich@lifeservebloodcenter.org









Center | Webster St. Michael's Hospital Avera Health | Tyndall

Memorial Hospital / Avera Health | Wagner

Winner Regional

CHI Health Nebraska Heart Institute and Heart Hospital

CHI Health Plainview

Hospital | Plainview

Nebraska City

CHI Health Schuyler

Lincoln

Pender Community Hospital Pender

Providence Medical Center Wayne

Winnebago Comprehensive **Healthcare System**

West Holt Medical Services Atkinson

CHI Health Saint Elizabeth

CHI Health Saint Francis Medical Center Grand Island Winnebago **CHI Health Saint Mary's Community Hospital**



⁴³⁷ East Locust | Des Moines, Iowa 50309 | 800.287.4903 | lifeservebloodcenter.org

It's time to start putting together our Department Convention Program and the Nebraska American Legion is selling space in the program for individuals or businesses to advertise. Please distribute around your community businesses to garner support. All ads and payment must be received before June 7, 2024. Program is 8.5 x 5.5 in size. Contact Amanda at 402-464-6338 for more information.

\$10.00 Page split into eight sections \$20.00 Page split into four sections \$30.00 Page split into two sections \$60.00 Full page



Example of what a page might look like

RESOLUTION

Resolution No. 1 - 24	Subject: Department Dues Increase
Submitted by: Department	Referred to: (1) DEC (2) Finance CMTE (3) Membership CMTE (4) Constitution & Bylaws CMTE

WHEREAS, National proposed a dues per capita increase of five dollars at the 2023 National Convention from \$18.50 to \$23.50 to take effect July 1, 2024, which was subsequently adopted on the floor of the convention; and

WHEREAS, The last Department per capita dues increase took place in 2017 when department per capita increased to \$16.50 per member; and

WHEREAS, The department membership number has been in steady decline for decades meaning the Department income is steadily decreasing while costs of operations and programs continue to rise due to inflation; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, By The American Legion, Department of Nebraska, in regular convention assembled in Kearney, Nebraska, on June 20, 21, 22, 23, 2024, That the Department amend, Article XII, Section 2, of the Department Constitution so it reads "The annual Department dues shall be \$21.50 per member, with thirty-five cents per member being returned to each District as District dues."; and, be it finally

RESOLVED, That this change take effect on July 1, 2024.

Resolution 1

Constitution of The American Legion Department of Nebraska

ARTICLE XII FINANCES

Section 1. The revenue of The American Legion, Department of Nebraska, shall be derived from annual membership dues and from such other sources as may be approved by the Department Executive Committee.

Section 2. The annual Department dues shall be twenty-one sixteen-dollars and fifty cents per member, with thirty-five cents per member being returned to each District as District dues effective January 1, 2018."

RESOLUTION

Resolution No.: 2 - 24

Submitted by: Department

Subject: Post 500 Dues Increase

Referred to: (1) DEC

(2) Finance CMTE

(3) Membership CMTE

WHEREAS, The American Legion, Department of Nebraska, Constitution states in Article XII, Section 2, "The annual Department dues shall be sixteen dollars and fifty cents per member, with thirty-five cents per member being returned to each District as District dues effective January 1, 2018."; and

WHEREAS, Post 500 dues are currently fifty dollars; and

WHEREAS, Nebraska Post 500 has a membership of approximately 378 Legionnaires as of December 1, 2023; and

WHEREAS, Post 500 have traditionally been higher than any local post so that local posts were able to use the cost difference as an incentive to transfer Post 500 members to the local post; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, By The American Legion, Department of Nebraska, in regular convention assembled in Kearney, Nebraska, on June 20, 21, 22, 23, 2024, That the Department dues for Post 500 will be raised automatically, and effective July 1, 2024, so that its dues are always \$15.00 more than that of the combined amount of National and Department per capita dues so that there remains an incentive for Post 500 members to transfer to a local Post.

RESOLUTION

Resolution No. 3 - 24	Subject: District Dues Increase
Submitted by: District 8	Referred to: (1) DEC (2) Finance CMTE (3) Membership CMTE (4) Constitution & Bylaws CMTE

WHEREAS, There are 14 Districts in The American Legion Department of Nebraska; and the current reimbursement is only 35 cents per member; and

WHEREAS, The Districts membership is in decline and Districts are responsible for the expenses incurred by the District Officers and for District Convention and possible meetings; and

WHEREAS, The costs of conventions and meetings continue to increase and the number of paid registration fees by attendees is decreasing; and

WHEREAS, Districts are responsible for assisting Posts with membership and an increase to 50 cents per member is needed; and

WHEREAS, The past National and Department dues increases did not include any increase of the reimbursement to Districts; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, By The American Legion, Department of Nebraska, in regular convention assembled in Kearney, Nebraska, on June 20, 21, 22, 23, 2024, That the Department amend, Article XII, Section 2, of the Department Constitution raising the District per capita amount from .35 to .50 cents; and, be it finally

RESOLVED, That this change take effect August 1, 2024.

How Constitution will read: Article XII

Section 2. The annual Department dues shall be sixteen dollars and fifty cents per member, with thirty-five fifty cents per member being returned to each District as District dues effective August 1, 2024.

RESOLUTION

Resolution No. 4 - 24	Subject: Washington Conference Stipend
Submitted by: D1	Referred to: (1) DEC (2) Finance CMTE (3) Membership CMTE (4) Constitution & Bylaws CMTE

WHEREAS, Department provides a \$400 stipend to delegates who do not have a call-in to help offset the excessive personal costs for delegates attending National Convention; and

WHEREAS, The costs for attending Washington DC Conference is just as large, if not more, than that of National Convention; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, By The American Legion, Department of Nebraska, in regular convention assembled in Kearney, Nebraska, on June 20, 21, 22, 23, 2024, That the Department amend the Department Bylaws and insert ARTICLE VII titled DELEGATES TO WASHINGTON DC CONFERENCE and stating "Delegates to the Washington DC Conference shall receive \$400 each as reimbursement for expenses of attending the Washington DC Conference, except for those delegates receiving reimbursement to the Washington DC Conference from National Headquarters."; and, be it further

RESOLVED, That the current ARTICLES VII, VIII, IX, X, XI, and XII, be changed to be sequentially adequate; and, be it finally

RESOLVED, That this change take effect on January 1, 2025.

How Bylaws will read:

ARTICLE VII

DELEGATES TO WASHINGTON DC CONFERENCE

Delegates to the Washington DC Conference shall receive \$400 each as reimbursement for expenses of attending the Washington DC Conference, except for those delegates receiving reimbursement to the Washington DC Conference from National Headquarters.

RESOLUTION

Resolution No.: 5 - 24

Submitted by: District 2

Subject: JSSP Monetary Award

Referred to:

(1) DEC

(2) Finance CMTE

(3) Americanism CMTE

WHEREAS, The Department of Nebraska American Legion provides monetary awards to other Americanism Program competitor's for excellence achieved; and

WHEREAS, The Junior Shooting Sports Program is a program of the Department of Nebraska American Legion; and

WHEREAS, State Champions in both Classes (Sporter & Precision) will be determined by the highest scores posted in the 1st Round Annual National Postal Match Competition; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, By The American Legion, Department of Nebraska, in regular convention assembled in Kearney, Nebraska, on June 20, 21, 22, 23, 2024, That the Department of Nebraska provide a monetary award of \$500.00 to each Individual State Champion (Sporter & Precision).

RESOLUTION

Resolution No.: 6 - 24

Subject: Area A Commander Rotation

Submitted by: District 3

Referred to: (1) DEC (2) Constitution & Bylaws CMTE

WHEREAS, The election of Area "A" Vice Commander has not followed a rotating election pattern; and

WHEREAS, The Area "A" consists of two Districts; namely, District 3 and District 8; and

WHEREAS, The Area "A" election return to a rotation schedule; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, By The American Legion, Department of Nebraska, in regular convention assembled in Kearney, Nebraska, on June 20, 21, 22, 23, 2024, That this resolution shall define election rotation in Department Bylaws, Article VII, District Organization and Administration, Section 1; and, be it further

RESOLVED, That Department Bylaws, Article VII, District Organization and Administration, Section 1, be amended to read:

Section 1. The Area Vice Commanders shall act as representatives of the Department Commander on all matters referred to them by him, and shall, on his request, preside over the meetings of the Department convention or Department Executive Committee, and perform such other duties as are usually incident to the office.

Areas shall be composed of the following Districts of the Department.

Area A – Districts 3 and 8*

Area B – Districts 2, 6 and 7

Area C – Districts 10, 11, 12, 13 and 15

Area D – Districts 1, 4, 5 and 9

*Area "A" Vice Commander shall be elected based on an even-numbered year or odd-numbered year, within an even-numbered, odd-numbered District, respectively.; and, be it finally

RESOLVED, That amending Bylaws, Article VII, District Organization and Administration, Section 1, shall provide a rotating election cycle for the Area "A" Vice Commander position.

RESOLUTION

Resolution No.: 8 - 24

Submitted by: District 7

Subject: Boys State Registration Fee

Referred to: (1) DEC

(2) Finance CMTE

(3) Americanism CMTE

WHEREAS, The American Legion was founded on the Four Pillars of Service, which are Americanism, Child Welfare, Veterans Affairs and Rehabilitation and National Security; and

WHEREAS, These Four Pillars have led to a program educating our youth on how our government works known as American Legion Boys State; and

WHEREAS, The Nebraska American Legion's Boys State program is known as Cornhusker Boys State is normally held during the first week of June; and

WHEREAS, Until recently the fees to attend Cornhusker Boys State were paid entirely by the Post of the Nebraska American Legion sending the young men attending Cornhusker Boys State; and

WHEREAS, The young men attending Cornhusker Boys State are now being required to pay a \$25.00 registration fee to attend; and

WHEREAS, Members of the Nebraska American Legion, feel that our youth should not have to pay to attend programs of The American Legion; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, By The American Legion, Department of Nebraska, in regular convention assembled in Kearney, Nebraska, on June 20, 21, 22, 23, 2024, That goes on record that this registration fee shall be removed.

RESOLUTION

Resolution No.: 7 - 24

Submitted by: District 3

Subject: Change to District Elections

Referred to: (1) DEC (2) Constitution& Bylaws CMTE

WHEREAS, At the request of Commander John Henry Pearcy, The American Legion, Department of Nebraska; and

WHEREAS, Clarification rendered on the election cycle of District Officers as it pertains to even-numbered and odd-numbered Districts; and

WHEREAS, Election of District Officers shall be based on even-numbered Districts in even-numbered years and odd-numbered Districts in odd-numbered years; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, By The American Legion, Department of Nebraska, in regular convention assembled in Kearney, Nebraska, on June 20, 21, 22, 23, 2024, That this resolution shall remove paragraph one of Department Bylaws, Article VIII, District Organization and Administration, Section 2, as it currently stands; and, be it further

RESOLVED, That Department Bylaws, Article VIII, District Organization and Administration, Section 2, be amended to read:

Section 2. When the Department Convention is held in an even-numbered year, the even-numbered Districts shall elect District Officers; namely District Commanders and District Vice Commanders, in the Spring of the same evennumbered year prior to the ensuing Department Convention.

When the Department Convention is held in an odd-numbered year, the oddnumbered Districts shall elect Districts Officers; namely, District Commanders and District Vice Commanders, in the Spring of the same odd-numbered year prior to the ensuing Department Convention.

The term of office of the District Commander and Vice Commander shall commence upon the adjournment of the annual Department Convention of The American Legion immediately following the District Convention at which they were elected and shall be for a term of two years. The District Commander and Vice Commander shall be installed in office immediately preceding the adjournment of the annual Department Convention in the year in which they were elected.

Whenever a new district shall be created, the Department Commander shall appoint a District Commander to serve until the District Convention; and, be it finally

RESOLVED, That amending Bylaws, Article VIII, District Organization and Administration, Section 2, shall provide a simplified understanding of the election cycle of District Officers.

RESOLUTION

Resolution No.: 9 - 24

Submitted by: District 7

Subject: Department Legion College

Referred to: (1) DEC (2) Finance CMTE

(3) Americanism CMTE

WHEREAS, The National American Legion College enhances knowledge and appreciation of The American Legion by teaching core values, developing new ideas, and considering the future of the American Legion; and

WHEREAS, The National American Legion College helps prepare Legionnaires for leadership positions in Posts, Districts, Counties, Departments and National appointments through education, development and motivation; and

WHEREAS, The American Legion College teaches the Legion's core values, develop new ideas and considers the future of the American Legion and its organization; and

WHEREAS, The American Legion College places an emphasis on programs, management techniques and leadership skills necessary to increase visibility of programs, growth in membership, and public awareness of The American Legion and it's organization; and

WHEREAS, Most Legionnaires do not know the history, core values, and programs of The American Legion taught by the National American Legion College; and

WHEREAS, The Department of Nebraska has 250 American Legion Posts and over 24,000 members, from which only up to 2 members are chosen for The National American Legion College each year; and

WHEREAS, The American Legion Department of Nebraska and its members will benefit from development of a Nebraska American Legion College; and

WHEREAS, Several American Legion College alumni belong to the Department of Nebraska and could facilitate and provide said training; and

WHEREAS, Funds can be made available to pay for costs of trainees and trainers from several accounts, including the Stoldorf Funds; and

WHEREAS, The future of The American Legion, Department of Nebraska and its members would benefit from establishment of a Nebraska American Legion College; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, By the American Legion, Department of Nebraska, in convention assembled in Kearney, Nebraska, on June 20, 21, 22, 23, 2024, That the Nebraska American Legion College be immediately established with the first class to be held no later than December 31, 2024; and, be it further

RESOLVED, That up to 20 members of The American Legion, Department of Nebraska can be selected to attend the Nebraska American Legion College each session; and, be it finally

RESOLVED, That the Department of Nebraska reimburse costs for travel and hotel for attendees and trainers equivalent to reimbursement for other official travel contained in the Department of Nebraska Constitution and By-laws.

RESOLUTION

Resolution No.: 10 - 24	Subject: Expenses of Department Officers
Submitted by: District 11	Referred to: (1) DEC (2) Finance CMTE (3) Constitution & Bylaws CMTE

WHEREAS, Department provides a reimbursement of authorized expenditure as contained in the Bylaws of The American Legion, Department of Nebraska (revised 6/27/2022), Article I, Section 16, and

WHEREAS, the current authorized expenditures are at the rate of thirty (30) cents per mile when private conveyance is used, and hotel room at \$75.00 flat rate, and

WHEREAS, these reimbursement rates have not been changed for some time to reflect the increased costs of private conveyance nor hotel rooms, now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, By The American Legion, Department of Nebraska, in regular convention assembled in Kearney, Nebraska, on June 20, 21, 22, 23, 2024, That the Department amend the Department Bylaws by editing Article I, Section 16, paragraph 2, Sentence 1 to state "Authorized expenditures shall include mileage at the rate of forty (40) cents per mile when private conveyance is used, standard railroad, airplane, or bus fare when required; and hotel room at \$100.00 flat rate, payable only with copy of paid receipt."; and, be it further

RESOLVED, That this change take effect July 1, 2024.

RESOLUTION

Resolution No. 11 – 24

Submitted by: District 12

Subject: Financial Impact Statement

Referred to: (1) Constitution and Bylaws CMTE (2) Finance CMTE

(3) DEC

WHEREAS, Whereas the American Legion Department of Nebraska has been organized for one hundred and five (105) years; and

WHEREAS, The source of Department Finances has been largely member dues, fundraising from Department members, and other financial donations; and

WHEREAS, Increasing dues at the Department level has a detrimental effect on the overall membership levels in the Department; and

WHEREAS, Fundraising from Department members doesn't provide the needed income to sustain Department expenditures as it has done in the past; and

WHEREAS, The Department needs to reorient its financial priorities by controlling Department expenditures and build Capital assets to offset the need for any future dues increase; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, By The American Legion, Department of Nebraska, in regular convention assembled in Kearney, Nebraska, on June 20, 21, 22, 23, 2024, That the Department amend, Article XVII by adding to it, Section 2 of the Department Constitution to read "Any proposed amendments to the Constitution and Bylaws of the American Legion, Department of Nebraska shall include a financial impact statement that includes the costs of such and effect on the annual budget of the Department"; and, be it further

RESOLVED, That this this change take effect for the 2025 Fiscal year and each Fiscal year thereafter.

RESOLUTION 11-24

CONSTITUTION AND BY-LAWS OF THE AMERICAN LEGION DEPARTMENT OF NEBRASKA

ARTICLE XVII

AMENDMENTS

Section 1. This Constitution may be amended at any Department Convention by vote of two-thirds of the delegates in attendance, provided that any proposed change is brough to the attention of all of the Posts of the Department for their consideration and study at least 30 days prior to the first day of the annual state convention of The American Legion, and provided further that the proposed amendment shall have been read at such convention at least twenty-four hours before the vote thereon, and provided further that said amendment has been presented to the Constitution and Bylaws Standing Committee on or before April 15, preceding the Department Convention.

Section 2. Proposed amendments to this Constitution and Bylaws shall include a Financial Impact Statement that outlines the costs associated with the proposed amendment and effect on the annual budget of the Department.

RESOLUTION

Resolution No. 12 - 24

Submitted by: District 12

Subject: Annual Savings

Referred to: (1) Constitution and Bylaws CMTE (2) Finance CMTE (3) DEC

WHEREAS, Whereas the American Legion Department of Nebraska has been organized for one hundred and five (105) years; and

WHEREAS, The source of Department Finances has been largely member dues, fundraising from Department members, and other financial donations; and

WHEREAS, Increasing dues at the Department level has a detrimental effect on the overall membership levels in the Department; and

WHEREAS, Fundraising from Department members doesn't provide the needed income to sustain Department expenditures as it has done in the past; and

WHEREAS, The Department needs to reorient its financial priorities by controlling Department expenditures and build Capital assets to offset the need for any future dues increase; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, By The American Legion, Department of Nebraska, in regular convention assembled in Kearney, Nebraska, on June 20, 21, 22, 23, 2024, That the Department amend, Article XI by adding to it, Section 3 of the Department Constitution to read "The annual budget submitted by the Finance Committee and approved by the DEC in accordance with the By-Laws shall include an amount equal to ten percent (10%) of the budget requested to be deposited into the Permanent Investment Fund for the purpose of providing income to offset any future dues increases by the Department".; and, be it further

RESOLVED, That this this change take effect for the 2025 Fiscal year and each Fiscal year thereafter.

RESOLUTION 12-24

CONSTITUTION AND BY-LAWS OF THE AMERICAN LEGION DEPARTMENT OF NEBRASKA

ARTICLE XI

PERMANENT INVESTMENT FUND

Section 1. The Permanent Investment Fund of the Department shall consist of all investments and securities of the Department for which no other use or disposition is required by law or the provisions of the Constitution, together with all increments thereof arising from interest, dividends or otherwise, and all additions thereto as by this article provided.

Section 2. Said funds shall be kept and maintained in the custody of the Department Finance Officer, under the supervision and control of the Department Finance Committee. All authorized investments shall be made, renewed, extended, surrendered and reinvested as the Finance Committee shall direct.

Section 3. Surplus funds in the treasury may be transferred to the said fund and withdrawals or disbursements may be made there from, only upon the unanimous recommendation of the Department Finance Committee, when approved by the Department Convention.

Section 4. An amount equal to ten percent (10%) of the annual budget submitted by the Finance Committee and approved by the DEC in accordance with the By-Laws shall be deposited into the Permanent Investment Fund for the purpose of providing income to offset any future dues increases by the Department. This amount shall be in addition to any other savings amounts directed in the Constitution and Bylaws.

RESOLUTION

Resolution No. 13 - 24

Subject: Dues Grace

Submitted by: District 12

Referred to: (1) Constitution and Bylaws CMTE (2) Finance CMTE (3) DEC

WHEREAS, Whereas the American Legion Department of Nebraska has been organized for one hundred and five (105) years; and

WHEREAS, The source of Department Finances has been largely member dues, fundraising from Department members, and other financial donations; and

WHEREAS, Increasing dues at the Department level has a detrimental effect on the overall membership levels in the Department; and

WHEREAS, The National Headquarters requires posts to and departments to submit dues rates and schedules prior to the American Legion Department of Nebraska convention; and

WHEREAS, This requirement places posts in the Department in jeopardy of fulfilling any dues shortfalls if they are approved during the convention unless they account for potential increases which have not been passed in due form; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, By The American Legion, Department of Nebraska, in regular convention assembled in Kearney, Nebraska, on June 20, 21, 22, 23, 2024, That the Department amend, Article XII by adding to it, Section 3 of the Department Constitution to read "Any dues increase adopted during the annual convention will not take effect until twelve (12) months after which it was approved; and, be it further

RESOLVED, That this this change take effect for the 2025 Fiscal year and each Fiscal year thereafter.

RESOLUTION 13-24

CONSTITUTION AND BY-LAWS OF THE AMERICAN LEGION DEPARTMENT OF NEBRASKA

ARTICLE XII

FINANCES

Section 1. The revenue of The American Legion, Department of Nebraska shall be derived from annual membership dues and from such other sources as may be approved by the Department Executive Committee.

Section 2. The annual Department dues shall be sixteen dollars and fifty cents per member, with thirty-five cents per member being returned to each district as District dues effective January 1, 2018.

Section 3. Dues increases adopted and approved during the annual Department Convention shall not take effect until twelve (12) months after which it was approved.

RESOLUTION

Resolution No. 14 - 24

Subject: Dues Savings

Submitted by: District 12

Referred to: (1) Constitution and Bylaws CMTE (2) Finance CMTE (3) DEC

WHEREAS, Whereas the American Legion Department of Nebraska has been organized for one hundred and five (105) years; and

WHEREAS, The source of Department Finances has been largely member dues, fundraising from Department members, and other financial donations; and

WHEREAS, Increasing dues at the Department level has a detrimental effect on the overall membership levels in the Department; and

WHEREAS, Fundraising from Department members doesn't provide the needed income to sustain Department expenditures as it has done in the past; and

WHEREAS, The Department needs to reorient its financial priorities by controlling Department expenditures and build Capital assets to offset the need for any future dues increase; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, By The American Legion, Department of Nebraska, in regular convention assembled in Kearney, Nebraska, on June 20, 21, 22, 23, 2024, That the Department amend Article XII by adding to it, Section 4 of the Department Constitution to read "Twenty percent (20%) of any approved dues increase will be placed annually into the Permanent Investment Fund for the purpose of providing income to offset any future dues increases by the Department. This amount shall be cumulative with any other dues increases approved during annual Department Conventions beginning in June 2024 and shall be in addition to any other savings amounts directed in the Constitution and Bylaws."; and, be it further

RESOLVED, That this this change take effect for the 2025 Fiscal year and each Fiscal year thereafter.

RESOLUTION 14-24

CONSTITUTION AND BY-LAWS OF THE AMERICAN LEGION DEPARTMENT OF NEBRASKA

ARTICLE XII

FINANCES

Section 1. The revenue of The American Legion, Department of Nebraska shall be derived from annual membership dues and from such other sources as may be approved by the Department Executive Committee.

Section 2. The annual Department dues shall be sixteen dollars and fifty cents per member, with thirty-five cents per member being returned to each district as District dues effective January 1, 2018.

(proposed by another resolution) Section 3. Dues increases adopted and approved during the annual Department Convention shall not take effect until twelve (12) months after which it was approved.

Section 4. Twenty percent (20%) of any approved dues increase will be placed annually into the Permanent Investment Fund for the purpose of providing income to offset any future dues increases by the Department. This amount shall be cumulative with any other dues increases approved during annual Department Conventions beginning in June 2024 and shall be in addition to any other savings amounts directed in the Constitution and Bylaws.

RESOLUTION

Resolution No. 15 - 24

Subject: Department Cars

Submitted by: District 12

Referred to:

- (1) Constitution and Bylaws CMTE
- (2) Finance CMTE
- (3) DEC

WHEREAS, Whereas the American Legion Department of Nebraska has been organized for one hundred and five (105) years; and

WHEREAS, The source of Department Finances has been largely member dues, fundraising from Department members, and other financial donations; and

WHEREAS, Increasing dues at the Department level has a detrimental effect on the overall membership levels in the Department; and

WHEREAS, Fundraising from Department members doesn't provide the needed income to sustain Department expenditures as it has done in the past; and

WHEREAS, The Department needs to reorient its financial priorities by controlling Department expenditures and build Capital assets to offset the need for any future dues increase; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, By The American Legion, Department of Nebraska, in regular convention assembled in Kearney, Nebraska, on June 20, 21, 22, 23, 2024, That the Department amend the Bylaws of the American Legion Department of Nebraska, Article I Section 16. Expenses of Department Officers so it reads "The Department will maintain one vehicle to be used at the Department Commander's discretion and the maintenance and operating expenses for such vehicle shall be paid by the Department. Such vehicle shall be owned by the Department for a minimum of ten (10) years or until such time that the maintenance of such vehicle is impractical with the Department finances."; and, be it further

RESOLVED, That this this change take effect for the 2025 Fiscal year and each Fiscal year thereafter.

RESOLUTION 15-24

CONSTITUTION AND BY-LAWS OF THE AMERICAN LEGION DEPARTMENT OF NEBRASKA

ARTICLE XII

FINANCES

Section 16. EXPENSES OF DEPARTMENT OFFICERS. With the exception of the Department Commander, the elective and appointive Department, Area and District Officers, including the National Executive Committeeman and his Alternate, shall submit a statement of actual expenses incurred in attending authorized Department meetings or on official Department business upon vouchers provided for that purpose, so that they may be reimbursed by the Department.

Authorized expenditures shall include mileage at the rate of thirty (30) cents per mile when private conveyance is used, standard railroad, airplane, or bus fare when required; and hotel room at \$75.00 flat rate, payable only with copy of paid receipt. **The Department will maintain one official vehicle to be used at the Department Commander's discretion and the maintenance and operating expenses for such vehicle shall be paid by the Department. Such vehicle shall be owned by the Department for a minimum of ten (10) years or until such time that the maintenance of such vehicle is impractical with the Department finances.** The Department-Commander and the Department Headquarters shall each be furnished with an official vehicle, and the maintenance and operating expenses for such cars shall be paid by the Department. Should the Department Commander or other Department officers be required to attend meetings outside the state as representatives of this Department, their actual paid out expenses for attending such meetings shall be reimbursed by the Department.