



NEWSLETTER

THE AMERICAN LEGION
DEPARTMENT OF NEBRASKA
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“We are the Backbone of The American Legion”

DEPARTMENT COMMANDER
JAMES A. COSTELLO

NOVEMBER 2017

DEPARTMENT ADJUTANT
DAVID W. SALAK

Published Monthly, except July

Mailed: 10/27/2017

DEPARTMENT FUNDRAISER The Department Executive Committee has authorized a fundraiser for a lottery drawing on Sunday, January 14, 2018 at our Mid-Year Conference in North Platte. The top drawing prize will be \$2,500, 2nd prize \$1,000, 3rd prize \$500, 4th – 8th prize \$200 each and \$200 bonus if a winner is present at the drawing (all will be cash prizes). Nebraska Legionnaires will receive tickets in the mail after November 1. Ticket prices will be 1 ticket for \$5.00, 3 tickets for \$10.00 and 6 tickets for \$18.00. All proceeds go towards many of the important Americanism programs that are carried out throughout the year as well as other membership programs. Additional tickets can be purchased at the Mid-Year Conference.

VETERANS DAY Will be observed November 11, 2017 and we hope your Post and community have made plans for the observance. This is a terrific opportunity to meet with and provide an informative program for your school students. Department Headquarters will be closed on Friday, November 10. A Veterans Day speech was forwarded to all District Commanders.



MEMBERSHIP AWARDS This is a reminder of the various awards that our Department Membership Committee has authorized again this year. Please consult your 2018 Post Adjutant Guide.

EARLYBIRD AWARD Speaking of membership awards...Commander Jim drew the name of Doug Dankert Post 320, as the recipient of the Earlybird \$150.00 cash award.

ATTENTION: DUES INCREASE A reminder that at the 2017 Nebraska American Legion State Convention in Columbus, a \$5.25 increase in the Department per capita was approved effective for all membership dues received at Department Headquarters on and after January 1, 2018. What this means to the Posts in Nebraska is that after December 31, 2017, Posts will need to remit \$35.00 per membership card sent to Department Headquarters instead of the current \$29.75. Cards without the \$35.00 dues amount will not be processed.

AMERICAN LEGION LABEL PROGRAM Within the past few weeks, Nebraska Legionnaires received a set of American Legion return address labels with the request for a donation to the Department to help with the costs of the many programs and projects we sponsor. Any donation, large or small, will be appreciated.

MID-YEAR CONFERENCE Will be held January 12–14, 2018 at the Sandhills Convention Center located at 2102 S Jeffers St. in North Platte. The Department Executive Committee will meet on January 12, 2018 as will many of the Department committees. Rooms are available at the Quality Inn for anyone wishing to attend the conference. Please note that the maximum number of nights to be reimbursed by Department to call-ins will be two nights (Friday and Saturday) @ \$75.00 per evening. Please call 308-384-1330 for room reservations before December 15. Room rates are single \$89.00 and suites \$110.00 with breakfast plus tax. Tell them you are with The American Legion when making your reservations. Information can be found at http://www.nebraskalegion.net/Meetings/Department_MidYear.html

2018 WASHINGTON CONFERENCE The annual Washington Conference is scheduled for February 25 – 28 and is open to any Legionnaire wishing to attend. Delegates will be required to stay at the Hilton Washington Hotel. Contact Adjutant Salak if interested in attending.

GIFTS FOR YANKS WHO GAVE In August, a bulletin explaining the Gifts for Yanks program was sent with the newsletter and although donations are being received on a regular basis, we certainly need many more Posts, Units, Squadrons, and Chapters to support this program. If your Post has not yet made a donation to this worthy cause, we sincerely request that you do so. Our veterans who are confined to the VA Medical Centers and who reside at the Veterans Homes will thank you for brightening their holiday season.

LIT ENROLLMENT Encourage your members to activate their no-cost \$1,000 accidental death and dismemberment policy by signing up on the website at www.theLIT.com. This is a FREE benefit and is now open to SAL and Auxiliary members!



STATE ORATORICAL CONTEST Area Oratorical Contests will be held as follows; Area A December 3rd at South Sioux City, Area B December 3rd at Albion, Area C December 2nd at Minden, and Area D December 9th at Rushville. Contact your Area Vice Commander for details. The four area winners will compete in the State Contest at Mid-Year Conference in Grand Island.

COUNTY GOVERNMENT UPDATE We are underway with County Government Day programs across the state. Many counties have utilized the support for funding of the noon meal by inviting an Army National Guard recruiter to come speak. The Army National Guard continues to offer this option, but still requires the use of a Credit Card in order to provide the financial support. Please take some time to explore options if your local Post cannot take a VISA. If you have not scheduled your County Government Day, please remember to get your request form in 4 weeks in advance of the event. The ARNG needs that time to process the request as the funding must be pre-approved by their finance department.

EAGLE SCOUT-OF-THE-YEAR SCHOLARSHIP CONTEST Nominations for the Scout-of-the-Year scholarship program for Eagle Scouts is available upon request from this office. All nomination packages are to be submitted directly to Department Headquarters no later than March 1. An Eagle Scout in your community may earn a \$2,500 or \$10,000 scholarship from National if selected from among all state winners. The top three finalists in Nebraska will receive a cash award of \$500, \$300 and \$200. Contact the Programs Director, Brent Hagel-Pitt, with questions.

BIDS ACCEPTED FOR BASEBALL & GOLF TOURNAMENTS The team registration fee for 2018 will be \$150. The Department Athletic Committee will be holding its meeting for selection of the tournament sites for the Area and State Baseball Tournaments during the Mid-Year Conference. Please check the website or call Headquarters for a form for your Post to apply to host a tournament. Be sure to read all the requirements before submitting the application. In order to be considered for a tournament, the bid form **MUST BE RECEIVED** by the Activities Director no later than January 5th. The Athletic Committee will participate in the Saturday program of Mid-Year Conference with a section on rules and requirements, to include the announcement of host sites.



Bids for the Host site of the State Golf Tournament will also be reviewed and selected at the Mid-Year meeting. Interested Posts should contact the Programs Director, Brent Hagel-Pitt, for details and bid form.

NATIONAL TARGET The Veterans Day national target (65%) is our next major membership goal. Let's continue to stay ahead of these target dates. Look at your rosters and start calling those members that have not yet renewed for 2018 and encourage them to do so now. Please consult your 2018 Post Adjutant Guide for the remaining target dates.