



# NEWSLETTER

THE AMERICAN LEGION  
DEPARTMENT OF NEBRASKA  
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*“2019 and Beyond”*

DEPARTMENT COMMANDER  
GARY D. WOOTEN

DEPARTMENT ADJUTANT  
DAVID W. SALAK

**NOVEMBER 2020**

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**DEPARTMENT FUNDRAISER** The Department Executive Committee has authorized a fundraiser for a lottery drawing on Sunday, January 17, 2021 at our Mid-Year Conference in Columbus. The prizes will be: 1<sup>st</sup> prize \$2,500; 2<sup>nd</sup> prize \$1,000; 3<sup>rd</sup> prize \$500; 4<sup>th</sup> – 8<sup>th</sup> 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 \$12.00 and 6 tickets for \$20.00. All proceeds go towards many of the important Americanism programs that are carried out throughout the year as well as other membership programs.

**VETERANS DAY** Will be observed November 11, 2020 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 Wednesday, November 11. A Veterans Day speech will be 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 2021 Post Adjutant Guide.

**EARLYBIRD AWARD** Speaking of membership awards...Commander Gary drew the name of Wayne Schacht, Post 136 in Orchard as the recipient of the Earlybird \$150.00 cash award.

**AMERICAN LEGION LABEL PROGRAM** Within the past month, 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.

**STATE ORATORICAL CONTEST** Area Oratorical Contests will be held as follows: Area A December 6<sup>th</sup> at South Sioux City Post 307; Area B December 5<sup>th</sup> at the Albion Court House; Area C December 6<sup>th</sup> at the Seward Civic Center; and Area D November 21<sup>st</sup> at Chadron Post 12. Contact your Area Vice Commander for details. The four area winners will compete in the State Contest at Mid-Year Conference.

**MID-YEAR CONFERENCE** Will be held January 15–17, 2021 at the Ramada Inn located at 265 33<sup>rd</sup> Avenue in Columbus. The Department Executive Committee will meet on January 15, 2021 as will many of the Department committees. Rooms are available at the Ramada Inn for anyone wishing to attend the conference. Please note 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 402-564-1492 for room reservations. Room rates are \$99.95 with breakfast plus tax. Tell them you are with The American Legion when making your reservations. Information can be found at [www.nebraskalegion.net/Meetings/Department\\_MidYear.html](http://www.nebraskalegion.net/Meetings/Department_MidYear.html)

**2021 WASHINGTON CONFERENCE** The annual Washington Conference is scheduled for February 28 – March 3 and is open to any Legionnaire wishing to attend. Contact Adjutant Salak if interested in attending.

**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](http://www.theLIT.com). This is a FREE benefit and is open to SAL and Auxiliary members!



**COUNTY GOVERNMENT UPDATE** There have been some cancelations and some postponements, but we are still underway with County Government Day programs across the state. Even though the Army National Guard does not have funding, should you still wish to have the NG speaker attend and speak during the lunch hour for your County Government Day, they will still make every attempt to provide a speaker. Requesting the speaker still requires a request 4 weeks before the event, the ARNG needs that time to make sure that the speaker is available.

**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 Activities Director, Brent Hagel-Pitt, with questions.

**BIDS ACCEPTED FOR BASEBALL & GOLF TOURNAMENTS** The Department Athletic Committee will be honoring the host sites selected for the 2020 season unless there is a vacancy caused by a Legion Baseball rule or the host turned it back in. Please check our website or call Headquarters for a form for your Post to apply to host a vacant 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 Programs Director no later than January 8<sup>th</sup>. 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. <https://www.nelegionbaseball.net/>



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 Activities Director, Brent Hagel-Pitt, for details and bid form.

**NATIONAL TARGET** The Veterans Day national target date, November 12 (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 2021 and encourage them to do so now. Please consult your 2021 Post Adjutant Guide for the remaining target dates.

**NEBRASKA AMERICAN LEGION PRESS ASSOCIATION (NE-ALPA)** The Nebraska American Legion Press Association will be holding a lunch meeting on Saturday, January 16 from 12:00 to 1:00 p.m. during the Mid-Year Conference in Columbus. If you are interested in joining NE-ALPA or finding out more about the group, contact Department Headquarters.

**EMPLOYMENT SERVICE AWARD** The National Veterans Employment & Education Commission annually presents several awards at The American Legion's national convention to honor employers who hire veterans, disabled veterans and older workers. Those who help veterans find employment are also recognized. Contact Activities Director, Brent Hagel-Pitt, for more information.