



NEWSLETTER

THE AMERICAN LEGION
DEPARTMENT OF NEBRASKA
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“2019 and Beyond”

DEPARTMENT COMMANDER
GARY D. WOOTEN

OCTOBER 2020

DEPARTMENT ADJUTANT
DAVID W. SALAK

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MEMBERSHIP NOTES As of September 24, there are twenty of our Posts that have not yet transmitted a single 2021 member. These Posts are Long Pine, Springview, Cedar Rapids, Lynch, Craig, Belden, Wisner, Walthill, Oshkosh, Big Springs, Maxwell, Belgrade, Bartlett, Brewster, Indianola, Glenvil, Hildreth, Guide Rock, Western, and Shickley. Do your part and transmit membership cards at least twice a month. The next National target date is October 15 and cards must be to the Department by October 13.

POST OFFICER LISTS 102 Posts have not submitted a list of Officers for 2020-2021. We ask that you submit the list even though Officers may be the same as last year. A list and report form have been enclosed.

NATIONAL COMMANDER OXFORD'S INCENTIVE PROGRAM During the 2020-21 membership year, National Commander Bill Oxford will award his National Commander's pin to any American Legion member who obtains three new American Legion members. A new member is defined as any eligible person joining for the 2021 membership year who was not a member of The American Legion during the 2020 membership year.



The certification form for this program may be submitted at any time. Upon receipt, national membership staff will confirm the names and mail the pin directly to the person who earned it. Commander Oxford's pin incentive program will end June 30, 2021, or when supplies are exhausted.

MID-YEAR CONFERENCE This is a reminder that the 2021 Mid-Year Conference will be held January 15-17 at the Ramada Inn in Columbus. Their phone number is 402-835-4350 and the room rates are \$99.95 for a king or queen room. Please give them a call and make your reservations.

LAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICER & FIREFIGHTER / EMS-OF-THE-YEAR Nominations are being sought for both the Nebraska Law Enforcement Officer & Firefighter / EMS-of-the-Year. Contact the Department for more information or visit <http://www.nebraskalegion.net/programs/>. An application can be downloaded from the website. Application deadline to Department Headquarters is December 1.

100% AMERICAN LEGION FAMILY RIBBON Any Post family who receives 100% membership by May 30, 2021 is eligible for the 100% ribbon. A family is the Post, Auxiliary (if they have one), and Squadron (if they have one). All groups must be at 100% to earn the ribbon.

CEREMONIAL RIFLES It is recommended that you do a serial number inventory of your TACOM issued military equipment at least once a year. There have been no changes to ordering ammunition or rifles or other military equipment. Both the American Legion Officers Guide and the Nebraska Adjutants Guide provide each Post with the information needed. Contact Activities Director Brent Hagel-Pitt.

YOUTH ACTIVITIES County Government Day programs are being scheduled in many counties. Please contact your County Commander for information and to volunteer your assistance.

Information on The American Legion's annual Oratorical Contest program was mailed to all Nebraska high schools on August 19. All information about the program and how to host a local contest if needed is at <https://www.legion.org/oratorical>. Please contact your school officials about the value of this program and plan a local contest with your school. Your District Commander can also provide you with information.

The District elimination contests are scheduled throughout November, followed by the four Area contests in December, and concluding with the State Contest on Saturday, January 16 during Mid-Year conference in Columbus. If your Post has not yet made plans for a local contest - there may still be time to have one, <http://www.nebraskalegion.net/Programs/Oratorical.html>.

The Junior Speech Contest (for middle school students in 6th through 8th grades) requires a 3 to 5 minute speech on the following topic: **Article III, Section 1**, The judicial Power of the United States shall be vested in one supreme Court, and in such inferior Courts as the Congress may from time to time ordain and establish. The Judges, both of the supreme and inferior Courts, shall hold their Offices during good Behaviour, and shall, at stated Times, receive for their Services a Compensation, which shall not be diminished during their Continuance in Office.

The Junior Speech Contest will be conducted on the same date as the District Oratorical Contest. Check with your District Oratorical Chairman or District Commander for details or visit www.nebraskalegion.net and www.legion.org/oratorical for more information.

UNSERVICEABLE U.S. FLAGS The department has numerous unserviceable flags that need to be retired. Any post planning a flag retirement in the near future should contact Activities Director Brent Hagel-Pitt.

Enclosed:

- 1) Posts that have not submitted an Officers list for 2020-21
- 2) 2020-21 Officer Report Form
- 3) National Commander's Incentive Program