



NEWSLETTER

THE AMERICAN LEGION
DEPARTMENT OF NEBRASKA
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“Don’t Give Up – We’ve Got This”

DEPARTMENT COMMANDER
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NATIONAL CONVENTION Dozens of Nebraska Legionnaires, Auxiliary, Sons, Riders, and guests were scheduled to arrive in Cincinnati, Ohio on Thursday, August 25 for the 97th Annual National Convention. You can expect to receive reports on the convention at many of the District Fall Round-ups and County Conventions. You can also catch up on events of the Convention at www.legion.org/legiontv



DEPARTMENT LEADERSHIP SCHOOL The 2016 edition of the Department Leadership School will be conducted at the Cobblestone Inn and Suites Convention Center in Broken Bow on Saturday, October 1. Preregistration is not mandatory but does help the Department staff in preparing sufficient packets. Email dwsalak@windstream.net to reserve your spot. Registration starts at 9:00 a.m. This year’s agenda will be: Class at 10:00 a.m., Lunch at 12:00 p.m., and Class again from 1:00 p.m. – 3:00 p.m. National staff will be present to conduct Resolutions and Post Operations and Membership LEAD training classes.

COMMANDER’S HOMECOMING Department Commander Beth Linn has scheduled her homecoming for Saturday, October 1, in Broken Bow at the Cobblestone Inn and Convention Center (2450 South 27th). Please see the enclosed flyer for more information. Reserve your spot by emailing her at hatchet0223@hotmail.com

MYLEGION FOR POST OFFICERS The American Legion National Headquarters has designed a secure internet site to assist Post Officers in the day-to-day membership processing duties. All post commanders or post adjutants are encouraged to complete the authorization form located on the National website to sign up for MyLegion access. Remember all of the online features to post officers are free. <https://www.mylegion.org/>

ONLINE RENEWALS Nebraska is once again participating in the online renewal program (see page 11 in the Post Adjutant guide). Checks for the post share of dues and a list of those members who have renewed on line will be mailed to the Post Adjutant on a monthly basis. Please issue the 2017 membership card to those members who paid online and destroy the state and national portion of the card. **DO NOT pay department for the members who have renewed online or mail their cards back to Department Headquarters.** You can view the members in your post who have paid their dues online on MyLegion.org. If you have any questions, please contact Sandy Steinkamp at Department Headquarters 402-464-6338 or adminastlegion@windstream.net

AMERICAN LEGION BASEBALL The Department Athletic Committee will meet on October 8 at Post 129 in Ashland to review the 2016 Baseball program. Changes for 2017 will be announced during the Athletic Committee presentation at the Mid-Year Conference in Grand Island in January. Applications to host the 2017 Area and State Baseball Tournaments will be sent with the November newsletter and must be returned to Department Headquarters by January 6, 2017.

MEMBERSHIP REMINDER The Department will be awarding an **EARLY BIRD AWARD** to a Legionnaire that pays their dues on an annual basis and has their dues at Department Headquarters by Wednesday, September 14 to be in a drawing for \$150.00.



2017 DEPARTMENT GOAL Based on the "one more member than last year" system, the Department membership goal is 32,603 and the National membership goal is 32,643. Commander Linn wants everyone to step up to the challenge.

FALL DISTRICT CONFERENCES In addition to the Department Leadership School in Broken Bow, several Districts are planning meetings within the next few months. Ask your District Commander for additional information.

REMINDER TO ADJUTANTS Please use only our post office box address for transmitting membership cards and make sure your envelope is sturdy and sealed. Too often we receive envelopes which have been broken open or torn. Please protect your cards and checks by mailing them in good quality envelopes.

DIRECT BILLING RENEWAL All members whose 2017 card has been received at National Headquarters by Wednesday, September 14 will be deleted from the second renewal notice to be sent about October 7. Getting those cards to Department Headquarters before 9:00 a.m. on Monday, September 12 is important.

COUNTY GOVERNMENT DAY Letters and program brochures concerning sponsorship of Cornhusker Boys & Girls County Government Day programs during the 2016 -17 school years are being sent to County Commanders, County Veterans Service Officers, and American Legion Auxiliary representatives. In addition to Post and Unit officers, schools and county courthouse officials should become involved in the planning. County Commanders or Chairmen should advise Department Headquarters (on the form provided in a separate mailing) of the date of your program. Supplies may be ordered on the same form.



ORATORICAL CONTEST REQUIRES SCHOOL CONTACT A high school student from your community could have up to \$18,000 provided for their college education by next April. How? By becoming a participant in the annual American Legion Oratorical Contest scholarship program. Information on the 2016 -17 programs was mailed to all schools and Post Commanders in August. Local contact is important if you plan to sponsor a contestant into the district and state contests. **DISTRICT** contests will be held during November. The four Department **AREA** contests will be held in December. The **STATE** contest in Nebraska is held on Saturday, January 14, 2017, during the annual Mid-Year Conference in Grand Island, where we will pick our representative to attend and compete at the National level in Indianapolis in the spring of 2017.

PATRIOT DAY PROGRAM The Strategic Air and Space Museum salutes America and honors the fallen victims of 9/11/2001 attacks and the heroes who have fought our nation's battles throughout the years. They will host an event on September 11, 2016. The lunch topic will cover changes in National Security and how the 9/11 attacks changed the mission for STRATCOM and National Security. The program and luncheon are free with paid admission to the Museum for non-military guests. Military and first responder guests will receive free admission to the Museum in addition to the program and lunch. Guests should arrive at 11:30 a.m.

VETERANS DAY The Strategic Air and Space Museum honors America's military veterans with a special program and lunch on Veteran's Day. Veterans will be granted free admission to the Museum as appreciation for their service. This program will feature the posting of the colors and the program will include a keynote speaker and a panel of subject matter experts who will speak about the theme or historical event. Veterans are encouraged to attend this event in uniform. Guests should arrive for the program, along with a free box-sandwich lunch, at 11:30 a.m.

Enclosure: Department Commander Leadership School and Homecoming flyer