



NEWSLETTER

THE AMERICAN LEGION
DEPARTMENT OF NEBRASKA
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“Working Together To Make A Difference”

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“YEAR OF THE AMERICAN LEGION” The 100th Anniversary of The American Legion is rapidly approaching and to honor those past and present veterans, the Governor will be signing a proclamation, submitted by The Nebraska American Legion, to declare September 16, 2018 to September 16, 2019 “The Year of The American Legion”. This will take place at 3:00 p.m. on Monday, September 17 at the Governor’s Office and we are asking as many American Legion Family members as possible to be in attendance for this historic day.

NATIONAL CONVENTION Dozens of Nebraska American Legion Family members attended the 100th Annual National Convention in Minneapolis, Minnesota the last week of August. 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

SPOTLIGHTING OUR VETERANS The Omaha World-Herald will be putting out a special section for Veteran’s Day 2018 and they are looking to spotlight the service of Nebraska’s living veterans. You can enter your information by going to omaha.com/veterans and filling out the form and submitting pictures online or by sending your name, address, phone number, information on your military service, branch of service, highest rank, and up to two photos to Omaha World-Herald – Attn. Dan – 1314 Douglas Street – Omaha, NE 68102. The photos will not be returned if mailed. If you have any questions, please call Dan at 402-444-1219. The deadline for submission is September 7, 2018.

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. 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. Donations for this program are still being accepted, so if your post has not already made a donation there is still time to do so. Send your contributions to Department Headquarters, earmarked, “Gifts for Yanks.” Please see attached schedule for dates and times.

ONLINE RENEWALS Nebraska is once again participating in the online renewal program (see the Post Adjutant guide). Checks for the post share of dues and a list of those members who have renewed online will be mailed to the Post Adjutant in January and July. Please issue the 2019 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

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 Monday, September 10. The winner receives \$150.00.



AMERICAN LEGION BASEBALL The Department Athletic Committee will meet on October 6th at Post 122 in Dodge to review the 2018 Baseball program. Changes for 2019 will be announced during the Athletic Committee presentation at the Mid-Year Conference in Norfolk in January. Applications to host the 2019 Area and State Baseball Tournaments must be returned to Department Headquarters by January 6, 2019.

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/>

2019 DEPARTMENT GOAL Based on the "one more member than last year" system, the Department membership goal is 29,368. Commander Bartels wants everyone to step up to the challenge. If you need help, please contact the Membership Committee and they will offer support.

DISTRICT CONFERENCES AND CONVENTIONS District Fall Round-ups are as follows; District 1 – October 14 @ Cody, District 2 – October 14 @ Norfolk, District 3 – none, District 4 – November 3 @ Gering, District 5 – October 27 @ Hershey, District 6 – October 7 @ Gibbon, District 7 – October 21 @ Dwight, District 8 – October 13 @ Gretna, District 9 – October 14 @ Lebanon, District 10 – September 29 @ Minden, District 11 – October 21 @ Ohioa, District 12 – none, District 13 – none, and District 15 – none.

District Convention dates are as follows; District 1 – March 30 @ Valentine, District 2 – March 10 @ Crofton, District 3 – March 16 @ Beemer, District 4 – March 2 @ Morrill, District 5 – March 10 @ Paxton, District 6 – March 3 @ Kearney, District 7 – March 9 @ Columbus, District 8 – February 9 @ South Omaha, District 9 – March 16 @ Eustis, District 10 – March 16 @ Nelson, District 11 – February 17 @ Tobias, District 12 – March 9 @ Talmage, District 13 – February 16 @ Shubert, and District 15 – February 12 @ Lincoln. 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 2019 card has been received at National Headquarters by Wednesday, September 12 will be deleted from the second renewal notice to be sent about October 9. Getting those cards to Department Headquarters before 9:00 a.m. on Monday, September 10 is important.

COUNTY GOVERNMENT DAY Letters and program brochures concerning sponsorship of Cornhusker Boys & Girls



County Government Day programs during the 2018-19 school years have been 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 2018-19 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 is held on Saturday, January 19, 2019, during the annual Mid-Year Conference in Norfolk. The winner of the State-level will compete at the National level in Indianapolis April 5-7, 2019.

Enclosed:

1. 2018 Gifts for Yanks Activities Schedule

Nebraska American Legion Family VA&R 2018 Schedule
DOLLAR DAYS, GIFT SHOP AND GIFTS FOR YANKS EVENTS

Please plan to arrive at all events one-half hour before the event time.

VETERANS DAY DOLLAR DISTRIBUTIONS

Monday, November 5, 2018	10:00 a.m.	Omaha VA Medical Center
	2:00 p.m.	Eastern Nebraska Veterans Home, Bellevue
Tuesday, November 6, 2018	10:00 a.m.	Grand Island VA Medical Center
	2:00 p.m.	Grand Island Veterans Home
Thursday, November 8, 2018	2:00 p.m.	Norfolk Veterans Home
Wednesday, November 8, 2018	10:00 a.m.	Lincoln Regional Center
Sunday, November 18, 2018	2:00 p.m.	Western Nebr. Veterans Home, Scottsbluff

VETERANS MEDICAL CENTER GIFT SHOPS

Opening on December 4, 2018	10 – 3	Omaha VA Medical Center
<i>Gift Shop dates: December 4th, 5th, 6th, 7th</i>		

Opening on December 11, 2018	10:00 a.m.	Grand Island VA Medical Center
<i>Gift Shop date: December 11th</i>		

GIFTS FOR YANKS WHO GAVE

Saturday, December 1, 2018	1:30 p.m.	Hot Springs, SD, VA Medical Center
Sunday, December 2, 2018	2:00 p.m.	Western Nebraska Veterans Home, Scottsbluff
Tuesday, December 4, 2018	10:00 a.m.	Grand Island VA Medical Center
	2:00 p.m.	Grand Island Veterans Home
Wednesday, December 5, 2018	10:00 a.m.	Lincoln Regional Center
Thursday, December 13, 2018	10:00 a.m.	Omaha VA Medical Center
	2:00 p.m.	Eastern Nebraska Veterans Home, Bellevue
Friday, December 7, 2018	2:00 p.m.	Norfolk Veterans Home
		Norfolk Regional Center
Hot Springs Christmas Party	December 1 st	
Cheyenne Christmas Party	December 16 th or 23 rd	

NOTE Dates and time for Grand Island Veterans Home depends on when they move to Kearney

Recorded by Department Secretary Lisa Moore