



# NEWSLETTER

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

DEPARTMENT COMMANDER  
GARY D. WOOTEN

SEPTEMBER 2020

DEPARTMENT ADJUTANT  
DAVID W. SALAK

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**VACANT LEADERSHIP POSITIONS** The Department continues its search for Legionnaires in District 2, 4, and 11 to step up and take on important roles within their Districts. District 2 and 11 are in need of a District Vice Commander. This individual serves a two-year term and is mentored by the current District Commander. District 4 is in need of a District Commander and District Vice Commander. Department Commander Wooten has reached out to several prominent Legionnaires in District 4 but has had no one willing to step forward. If you are interested in any of these positions please contact Commander Wooten at 402-450-0800.

**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.”

**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 2021 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 email Amanda at Department HQ's.

**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 10. The winner receives \$150.00.



**AMERICAN LEGION BASEBALL** The Department Athletic Committee will meet on October 10<sup>th</sup>, tentatively scheduled to be in Lincoln and also by Zoom, to review the 2020 Baseball season. Changes for 2021 will be announced during the Athletic Committee presentation at the Mid-Year Conference in Columbus in January. Sites Selected to host the 2020 Area and State Baseball Tournaments will be honored. Sites selected but unable to host will be re-selected based on current applicants, applications need to be returned to Department Headquarters by January 6, 2021.

**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/>

**2021 DEPARTMENT GOAL** The Department membership goal for 2021 is 26,978. Commander Wooten wants everyone to step up to the challenge. If you need help, please contact the Membership Committee and they will offer support. The most up to date report can be found on the Department website at [www.nebraskalegion.net](http://www.nebraskalegion.net)

**DISTRICT CONFERENCES AND CONVENTIONS** A spreadsheet of important District and Area events is enclosed with this newsletter. If you have any questions, please contact your District and Area Commander.

**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 2021 card has been received at National Headquarters by Wednesday, September 10 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 8 saves money!

**COUNTY GOVERNMENT DAY** Letters and program brochures concerning sponsorship of Cornhusker Boys & Girls County Government Day programs during the 2020-21 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 \$25,000 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 2020-21 program was mailed to all schools in August. All information for Post's to visit schools and run a local contest can be found at [www.legion.org/oratorical](http://www.legion.org/oratorical) with the local dates at [www.nebraskalegion.net/Programs/Programs.html](http://www.nebraskalegion.net/Programs/Programs.html). 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 16, 2021, during the annual Mid-Year Conference in Columbus. The winner of the State-level will compete at the National level in Indianapolis April 9-11, 2021.

Enclosed:

1. District/Area Important Dates
2. Oratorical Letter to Posts (Commander only)