

THE AMERICAN LEGION  
DEPARTMENT OF NEBRASKA

**M E M B E R S H I P   A W A R D S   F O R   2 0 2 6**

**Posts to be eligible for Department Awards must be chartered two years. In the event that a postmark day falls on a Sunday or holiday, it shall be the next business day. All Post awards will be in the following categories: Category I - 10 to 20; Category II - 21 to 40; Category III – 41-60; Category IV – 61-80; Category V – 81-100; Category VI – 101-180; Category VII – 181 and above. Category will be determined according to membership on July 31, 2025.**

**Your base membership goal for 2026 is one more member than your membership on July 31, 2026. Your base membership goal will then be adjusted (up, down, or remaining the same) so that the total Department Membership Goal will be identical to the goal established by the national organization.**

**RECRUITER OF THE YEAR AWARD (Nat'l Award)**

Each Post will have the opportunity to submit the name of a recruiter who has signed the highest number of **NEW** members for that Post for 2026 as the Department Recruiter of the Year. Certification must be submitted by May 13, 2026. The top recruiter will receive a framed certificate with his/her accomplishment inscribed thereon. Certification forms are available from Department Headquarters.

A National Recruiter of the Year will be determined by National from all Department winners. The award will include an expense paid trip to the 2026 National Convention.

**GOLD BRIGADE, SILVER BRIGADE, and BRONZE BRIGADE (Nat'l Awards)**

Legionnaires who recruit 50 or more **NEW** members by May 13, 2026 will qualify for enrollment in the elite **GOLD BRIGADE** of The American Legion. Gold Brigade members will receive a special cap pin, Gold Brigade Certificate, and a Gold jacket or polo shirt. Members of the Gold Brigade will be recognized by the National Commander during the National Convention. Certification forms are available from Department Headquarters.

Legionnaires who recruit 25 to 49 **NEW** members by May 13, 2026, will qualify for enrollment in the **SILVER BRIGADE** of The American Legion. Silver Brigade members will receive a silver pin and a Silver Brigade Certificate. Certification forms are available from Department Headquarters.

Legionnaires who recruit 15 to 24 **NEW** members by May 13, 2026, will qualify for enrollment in the **BRONZE BRIGADE** of The American Legion. Bronze Brigade members will receive a patch and a Bronze Brigade Certificate. Certification forms are available from Department Headquarters.

**100% DISTRICT & POST MEMBERSHIP AWARD (Cut off May 31, 2026)**

100% Award (pin designating them 100% in membership) to each Commander and Adjutant achieving their 2026 Goal by the cut off date. Posts and membership chairpersons achieving their goal shall receive a certificate. This award will be sent automatically from Department Headquarters.

**EARLY BIRD MEMBER AWARD (Cut off September 2, 2025)**

Any "**Regular**" member who has his or her dues paid and transmitted to Department Headquarters by the cut-off date (**the Tuesday following the close of the national convention**) shall be in a drawing for one of five \$200.00 prizes. Members who have utilized the 3-year renewal option and are current for the 2026 membership year are considered to be "regular" members.

**PERMANENT / PUFL MEMBER APPRECIATION AWARD (Cut-off January 1, 2026)**

Any Nebraska "**Permanent**" or "**PUFL**" member on the Department membership roster on January 1, 2026 shall be in a drawing for one \$150.00 prize

**POST REBATE PROGRAM (Cut-off November 14, 2025)**

A Post who signs up a new member who has never belonged to The American Legion before and has that membership transmitted to Department Headquarters by the cut-off date shall receive \$5.00 from Department Headquarters. Postmark date November 14, 2025.

**STAR AWARD (Cut-off March 31, 2026)**

**Star Award Pin**-Department award to each membership worker. **Bronze** for enrolling 5 to 9 new members, a **Silver** for enrolling 10-14 new members; **Gold** for enrolling 15-24 new members; **Gold Star with Wreath** will mean that the worker has signed 25 or more new members. A new member is one who did not belong to The American Legion the previous year. **The awards will be sent to the Post upon certification by the Post Adjutant.** Postmark deadline is March 31, 2026.

**BIRTHDAY CITATION (Cut-off March 31, 2026)**

**Incentive Goal Citation** – Department award to each Post enrolling or surpassing their 2026 Incentive Goal. Postmark deadline March 31, 2026.

**FLOYD RAYMOND MEMORIAL TROPHY (Cut-off May 31, 2026)**

A special Department award to the Post with the greatest percentage of increase in membership for 2026 over previously attained **ALL TIME HIGH** in each category. Postmark date May 31, 2026.

**POST MEMBERSHIP ACHIEVEMENT AWARD**

A plaque will be presented to the Post in each of seven categories that shows the greatest percentage increase in membership by May 31, 2026, over its membership as of July 31, 2025. Category will be determined according to membership on July 31, 2025.

<u>CATEGORY</u>	<u>POST SIZE</u>
I	10-20
II	21-40
III	41-60
IV	61-80
V	81-100
VI	101-180
VII	181 and above

**HONOR RIBBON (Nat’l Award)**

Any Post which by **December 31, 2025**, enrolls for 2026 as many or more members as it had for 2025, will be awarded the Honor Ribbon. This is a gold ribbon that may be attached to the staff of the Post Banner.

**CERTIFICATE OF MERITORIOUS SERVICE (Nat’l Award)**

A Certificate of Meritorious Service will go to all American Legion Posts which have a 2026 membership equaling or surpassing their previous All-Time High by **December 31, 2025**.

**DISTRICT COMMANDER AND VICE COMMANDER CONTEST**

A prize of \$20.00 will be presented to both the District Commander and Vice Commander whose District is in third place on the membership analysis prepared to coincide with National Target Date No. 9. (May 13, 2026)

A prize of \$25.00 will be presented to both the District Commander and Vice Commander whose District is in second place on the membership analysis prepared to coincide with National Target Date No. 9. (May 13, 2026)

A prize of \$30.00 will be presented to both the District Commander and Vice Commander whose District is in first place on the membership analysis prepared to coincide with National Target Date No. 9. (May 13, 2026)

**DISTRICT COMMANDER MEMBERSHIP ACHIEVEMENT AWARD**

A plaque will be presented to the District Commander whose district is in first place on the membership analysis prepared for the 2026 Department Convention.

**DISTRICT RACE TOWARD GOAL**

The first District to reach goal will win \$100.00.  
The second District to reach goal will win \$75.00.  
The third District to reach goal will win \$50.00.

June 18, 2025