

JUNIOR LAW CADET PROGRAM

Applications for the 2026 session of the Junior Law Cadet Program will be mailed to the schools in January. They are also available on our website under the Junior Law Cadet tab. The boy’s session will be June 22 – 23 and the girl’s session will be June 24 – 25 at the Nebraska State Patrol Training Center. The application deadline is March 1st, and the fee is \$100 per delegate. Contact Programs Director Eric Martin with questions.

DONATIONS

If your Post has not yet contributed to a National program (NEF, OCW, TFA, etc.) please consider doing so now. Commander Walters has challenged each Post to contribute to the different programs. Please send your donation to HQs before June 1st so the results can be tallied before Department Convention.

LEGION POST MUST FILE WITH THE IRS

Just because we are tax-exempt doesn’t mean we are exempt from filing taxes with the IRS each year. For most Posts, if you make less than \$50K, you can file a simple 990-n online. Other Posts earning in excess of \$50K will have to file necessary tax forms. If your Post does not file the required annual return at least once in three years, the law provides that your Post automatically loses its tax-exempt status. Deadline to file is May 15th.

50-60-70-75 YEAR RECOGNITION

National Headquarters prepares certificates of continuous membership each year for members with 50, 60, 70, and 75 years of membership as of January 1, 2026. National sends the certificates directly to Post Commanders for distribution at the Legion Birthday in March. Notify Headquarters if you did not receive them by February 15.

EAGLE SCOUT-OF-THE-YEAR

Nominations for the Eagle Scout-of-the-Year scholarship program are available on our website. All nomination packets are to be submitted directly to Department HQs by March 1. The winner of the National Competition will receive a \$10,000 scholarship and the three runners-up are each awarded \$2,500 scholarships. The top three finalist in Nebraska receive a cash award of \$500, \$300, and \$200. Contact Programs Director Eric Martin with questions.

Enclosures:

- District Convention Call
- District Convention Delegate Strength
- District Convention Dates
- Junior Law Cadet Information (Commander only)



The American Legion
Department of Nebraska
150 NW 40th Street, Unit A
Lincoln, NE 68528
402-464-6338

NEWSLETTER

January 2026

Published in January, March, May, July, September & November

Department Commander
Judy Walters

Department Adjutant
Eric Martin

“COMPASSION, CHARACTER, & COMPETENCE”
2026 MEMBERSHIP GOAL: 20,388 DECEMBER 15TH TOTAL: 15,972 – 78.34%

DISTRICT 2 – 82.21%	DISTRICT 7 – 81.42%	DISTRICT 11 – 80.68%	DISTRICT 15 – 78.78%
DISTRICT 8 – 78.55%	DISTRICT 10 – 78.43%	DISTRICT 6 – 78.42%	DISTRICT 1 – 77.45%
DISTRICT 12 – 75.90%	DISTRICT 3 – 74.96%	DISTRICT 13 – 74.90%	DISTRICT 4 – 74.81%
DISTRICT 5 – 74.73%	DISTRICT 9 – 73.33%		

MID-YEAR CONFERENCE

This year's Mid-Year Conference will remain focused on educational training. This event is being held January 16 – 18, 2026, at the Norfolk Lodge & Suites, 4200 W Norfolk Ave, in Norfolk. The Department Executive Committee and Department Committees will meet on Friday, January 16.

The Nebraska Department of Veterans Affairs will be hosting a table to help veterans register for the Motor Vehicle Tax Credit. Bring your DD-214 for registration.

MEMBERSHIP

Nebraska's membership is doing better this year and reached the 75% goal. Commander Walters is asking all Posts to phone those Legionnaires who have not yet paid their dues and ask them to do so quickly. The fourth National dues notices is scheduled to arrive in unpaid members mailboxes the week of January 3rd. Members whose dues were not received at Department Headquarters by December 10th will receive this fourth notice.

NOTICE TO ADJUTANTS

Please use our address for transmitting membership cards, and make sure your envelope is sturdy and sealed. A reminder that dues are \$45 per member.

Nebraska American Legion
150 NW 40th Street, Unit A
Lincoln, NE 68528

DISTRICT CONVENTIONS

The official District Convention Call and the number of delegates each post is entitled to seat at Convention is enclosed in this mailing. The Convention Call should be read at your next meeting or made available to your members as soon as possible. District Conventions are for all Legionnaires, not just those selected as delegates. District Convention dates are enclosed as well. A delegate from each post should be present so that a quorum is present to conduct business.

Any District, Post, or Area that wishes a Department Officer or Committee Chair, or Liaison to come and visit them, should send an invitation to the desired person at least one month in advance so that travel can be approved by Department HQs.

A reminder to all District Commanders to provide HQs with your Convention agenda at least ten working days in advance of your respective Convention date.

Many Posts will be receiving awards at this event, so it is important to have representation to accept these awards. Also, several Districts have issues getting a proper quorum at their District Convention. Now is the time for District Commanders to send a letter to all Posts in their jurisdiction asking them to attend so the quorum number on their Constitution and Bylaws can be changed. No business can be conducted without a quorum.

CORNHUSKER BOYS' STATE

The 2026 Cornhusker Boys' State program will be held at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln, May 31 – June 6, 2026. Applications and brochures will be sent to all Post Adjutants in January. The Boys' State sponsor fee will be \$450 this year. There will also be a \$25 registration fee due at the time of registration for each delegate. This is the time that your Post Executive Committee and members should pass a motion that will sponsor a certain number of boys to Boys' State. This will ensure that you have funding for the program and the Post isn't waiting until March to secure funding. Letters will also be sent to all high school principals requesting their assistance in making recommendations of qualified candidates. It is the Post's responsibility to return applications to HQs by the March 15th deadline. Please select a boy who agrees to participate for the entire week. Post's may send as many boys as they wish to nominate. Please send any alternates in as well, so we can try to find them a sponsor.

2026 WASHINGTON CONFERENCE

The Washington Conference is scheduled for March 1 – 4, 2026, and is open to any Legion family member wishing to attend. Housing arrangements can be made with the Washington Hilton located at 1919 Connecticut Ave NW by calling 202-483-3000. Contact Adjutant Martin for more information.

DISTRICT CITIZENSHIP AWARD

Contact your District Commander or look under the forms section on the website to find the District Citizenship nominee form. One Legionnaire will be selected by each District Commander and will be honored at Department Convention in June. Please mail the nomination form to your District Commander at least three weeks before your District Convention.

DEPARTMENT FUNDRAISER

The Department Executive Committee has authorized a fundraiser for a lottery drawing on Sunday, January 18, 2026, at our Mid-Year Conference in Norfolk. The prizes will be 1st prize, \$2,500; 2nd prize, \$1,000; 3rd prize, \$500; 4th - 8th prize, \$200 each. Nebraska Legionnaires should have received their tickets in the mail. Tickets will be 1 ticket for \$5 or 6 tickets for \$25.

RESOLUTIONS

The means by which changes are instituted within The American Legion start in the form of a resolution. Be sure to get your proposed resolution approved through your Post and Squadron. Resolutions should be forwarded to your District Convention for endorsement. Contact Adjutant Martin for a resolution template.

VETERANS LEGISLATIVE DAY

Legislative Day will be held Friday, January 30th, at 8:00 a.m. at the State Capitol. Governor Pillen and State Senators will speak about proposed veteran legislation.