



# Sons of The American Legion Detachment of Nebraska

150 NW 40th Street Unit A  
LINCOLN, NE 68528

Office: 402-464-6338 - - Fax: 402-464-6330

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Detachment Commander – Todd Kabella [todd@sal112benson.org](mailto:todd@sal112benson.org)

Senior Vice Commander – James W. Keys [jameskeys29@gmail.com](mailto:jameskeys29@gmail.com)

East Vice Commander – Larry Einspahr Jr. [jmgertsch@rocketmail.com](mailto:jmgertsch@rocketmail.com)

West Vice Commander – Robert Lawrence [robnjody2003@gmail.com](mailto:robnjody2003@gmail.com)

Detachment Adjutant – Chris Casey [aproudpatiot1776@gmail.com](mailto:aproudpatiot1776@gmail.com)

Detachment Liaison – Bud Neel [bagn1g2b@gmail.com](mailto:bagn1g2b@gmail.com)

Detachment Advisor – Eric Martin (402) 464-6338 or [emartin@nebraskalegion.net](mailto:emartin@nebraskalegion.net)

**DISTRICT CONVENTIONS SCHEDULED:** Come join the Legion family for your District Convention. If you are a SAL District or Detachment level officer and will be attending the District Convention, I would encourage you to let your District Commander know so that you can be invited and placed on the agenda and be recognized at the meeting.

District 1-March 28	District 5-Mar 21	District 9-Mar 21	District 13-Mar 7
District 2-March 15	District 6-Mar 7	District 10-Feb 21	District 15-Feb 10
District 3-March 14	District 7-Mar 14	District 11-Mar 21	
District 4-March 21	District 8-Feb 7	District 12-Mar 14	

For the Time and Place of all District events go to <http://www.nebraskalegion.net/Meetings/Meetings.html>

**WASHINGTON CONFERENCE:** The Washington Conference is scheduled for February 28 – March 4, 2026, and is open to any Legion family member wishing to attend. Housing can be made with the Washington Hilton located at 1919 Connecticut Ave NW by calling 202-483-3000. Contact Adjutant Martin for more information.

**PURPOSE OF THE MEMBER DATA FORM:** The American Legion Member Data Form (MDF) is a multipurpose form for tracking and providing accurate information on Squadron members. You can download the form online or on our website. With the exception of transferring members from one post to another, most MDF changes can be made through MyLegion.org. Note: Members can be transferred online through MyLegion.org if the member is paying their dues at the time of transfer. The MDF can be used to report deceased members, continuous years, name corrections, address changes, branch of service, war era, and others. On the MDF, always include the nine-digit member ID number, Squadron number, and Department name. The signature of the authorized Squadron officer is required at the bottom of the form. Be sure to mail part 1-3 to Department Headquarters and keep part 4 for your Squadron files. Membership transfer from one squadron to another is handled by completing the MDF. Always ask prospective members if they currently are or have been a member. If the member has a current or previous nine-digit ID number, it should be reported on the transfer. If a member signs up as a new member, a duplicate record can be created, and multiple renewal notices will be received by the member.

**CORNHUSKER BOYS' STATE PROGRAM:** The 2026 Cornhusker Boys' State program will be held at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln, May 31 – 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.

**JUNIOR LAW CADET PROGRAM:** Applications for the 2026 session of the Junior Law Cadet Program have been mailed to the Post and 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 15th, and the fee is \$100.00 per delegate. Contact Programs Director Eric Martin with questions at 402-464-6338.

**EAGLE SCOUT-OF-THE-YEAR NOMINATIONS:** 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 finalists in Nebraska receive a cash award of \$500, \$300, and \$200. Contact Programs Director Eric Martin with questions at 402-464-6338.

**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 or approval. Contact Adjutant Salak at 402-464-6338 for a resolution template.

**SONS OF THE AMERICAN LEGION SCHOLARSHIP:** Information on all of our scholarships have been emailed to all schools in Nebraska. The Sons of The American Legion Scholarship is due to Department Headquarters by March 1<sup>st</sup> and application is available online at <http://www.nebraskalegion.net/Programs/Scholarships.html>

**NATIONAL TARGET:** The next national target date is February 11, 2026 (75%) Let's continue to stay ahead of these target dates. Look at your rosters and start calling those members that did not renew for 2026 and encourage them to do so now. If you send membership to us here at Department, they must be received by February 10<sup>th</sup>.

**MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE, GEORGE SIVIC JR:** As a Detachment we are doing a great job on our membership. We are at 80.73% putting us at third in the Midwest and tenth Nationally. At one point we were first in the Midwest and sixth Nationally. If we keep up the good work, we can get back to first in the Midwest. Our end of the year winner on membership incentive program was Jeff Vackiner of Valentine Squadron #90. We have 22 Squadrons that are 100% and great job to them. Sadly, we have seventeen 0% Squadrons and 39 Squadrons with under 10 Members reported making them ineligible to vote at convention. Let's keep up the good work and get to 100% as a Detachment. For God and Country.

**EAST AREA VICE COMMANDER, LARRY EINSPAHR JR:** 2026 holds a bounty of opportunities for the good of the Sons, in service to our Veterans. Let's keep those boots on the ground, dig in and get to work!

- BUDDY CHECKS are so important. Stay in touch with your Veterans.

- GET ORGANIZED by checking the Nebraska American Legion website under the heading for Meetings & Events. Mark your calendars with the dates for the Spring Meetings & Junior Law Cadet event in your District.

- DETACHMENT CONVENTION is set for the last weekend in June in Columbus. Block off that weekend on your calendar now. This is also your meeting, and YOU can attend. Full speed ahead in 2026!

**WEST AREA VICE COMMANDER, ROBERT LAWRENCE:** Greetings from the West Area Vice-Commander of the Detachment of Nebraska. We need to continue working on our membership. While we have made good progress, there is still plenty of room for improvement. Some squadrons have already turned in their 100% paid memberships—great job! Let's encourage and support the remaining squadrons in reaching that goal as well. Let us remember why we joined in the first place. By helping one another and working together, we strengthen our organization because we are a FAMILY.

I had the privilege of participating in the Mid-Year Conference in Norfolk on January 16–18, 2026. It was a great time spent together as a family learning new things to help us better serve this great organization. We had a good turnout, but there is always room for more participation. These conferences are open to everyone and are a great way to stay engaged, informed, and enjoy the camaraderie throughout the weekend.

Looking ahead, the District 6 Convention will be held on Saturday, March 7, at 9:00 a.m. in Kearney at Post 52, located at 1223 Central Avenue. Let's show up, represent our squadrons, and take this opportunity to learn, grow, and get educated on what is happening within the district—along with enjoying great camaraderie.

**SENIOR VICE COMMANDER, JAMES W. KEYES:** Thank you for the opportunity to serve the Veterans and their families of the great State of Nebraska. It is truly an honor to serve alongside each of you as members of the Sons of The American Legion.

While attending this year's Mid-Winter Sessions—including the Joint Sessions, Sons of The American Legion DEC meetings, and training opportunities—I was reminded of the true impact of our mission. These gatherings reinforce the essence of leadership and highlight the profound difference we make in the lives of our state's and nation's Veterans, their families, and our youth.

Our strength as an organization lies in our commitment to core values and to the missions that reflect them. Programs such as the Five-Point Program are not just initiatives; they are the foundation of who we are and why we serve. It is through these programs that we renew our sense of purpose and reaffirm what it means to be a Son of The American Legion.

When we remain focused on that purpose, our responsibilities—such as membership renewal and recruitment—become more than tasks. They become honorable acts of service, driven by belief rather than obligation.

I encourage each of you to continue serving with pride, integrity, and enthusiasm. Have fun, serve with honor, and always remember that our mission is about something greater than ourselves.

**DETACHMENT COMMANDER, TODD KABELLA:** Membership renewals need to continue to be a priority. Our "Detachment Renewal Rewards" program continues to prove successful. As of the end of year membership report, Nebraska was over 70%, 1 in the Midwest region and #10 overall in the nation. Congratulations to our \$250 winner Jeff Vackiner of Valentine Squadron #90. We need everyone's help in the drive towards 100%

Veteran suicide continues to be an extremely important issue, so don't forget about the "Be The One" initiative. You can download the "Be The One" app if you have a smartphone. If you or someone you know needs help, remember that the crisis hotline number is 988 and if you are a veteran press 1.

Is your squadron planning any activities this spring? Keep the Four Pillars of The American Legion in mind when planning events: Veterans Affairs and Rehabilitation, National Security, Americanism, and

Children and Youth. You could plan an Easter egg hunt for the kids in your area. What is your post/squadron planning for Legion Family Day this spring?

I have chosen Moving Veterans Forward as my 2025–2026 Detachment Commander's Project. They are dedicated to helping veterans overcome homelessness by providing stable housing, support services, and a path toward independence. Their mission aligns perfectly with our commitment to serving those who have served our nation.

We encourage all Legion Family members to support this outstanding organization through awareness, volunteerism, and fundraising efforts. Together, we can make a meaningful difference in the lives of Nebraska veterans.

Donations can be presented at any squadron meeting or sent to:

Detachment of Nebraska

150 NW 40<sup>th</sup> Street, Unit A

Lincoln, NE 68528

(Please indicate Detachment Commander's Project in the memo line)