

MEMBERSHIP

We still have 990 members to renew and sign up to reach our goal of 20,388. Let's get all renewals collected and transmitted NOW! Next target date is March 11, so cards must be to Department by Monday, March 9. A reminder to Post Adjutants to remit **\$45.00** per membership card.

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.

OPERATION SCHOOL TALK

Our Americanism Committee sponsors "OPERATION SCHOOL TALK" to educate and inform the youth on the principles and programs of The American Legion and our proud military service. Those that have gone to a school and talked to the students are encouraged to fill out the form and return it to the Department by May 1. The awards will be presented a Department Convention in Columbus. Please contact Eric Martin at Headquarters for more information.

APRIL IS CHILDREN & YOUTH MONTH

"Children...Our Most Precious Natural Resource" is the national theme for Children & Youth month. Use this theme in the promotion of all our Children & Youth programs.

TEACHER-OF-THE-YEAR

The Americanism Committee sponsors a "Teacher-of-the-Year Award" for elementary, middle, and high school teachers. This award honors an educator whose accomplishments in education are more than what is normally expected and promotes American Legion youth programs in the school. Download the nomination at nebraskalegion.net/teacher-of-the-year/. Forward completed forms to Adjutant Martin by May 1.

FLAG RETIREMENT

If you're planning a Flag Retirement Ceremony in the future and need flags, please contact Department Headquarters, as we have many in need of proper retirement.

QUEEN OF HEARTS FUNDRAISING

Blair Post 154 and Senator Ben Hansen have teamed up in LB 1120 to allow Legion Posts and other veterans organizations to hold Queen of Hearts games at their facilities. An informational letter has been included.

Enclosures:

- NVC Landkamer Banquet Flyer
- Membership Incentive Forms
- Queen of Hearts Game Information



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

NEWSLETTER

March 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 FEBRUARY 15TH TOTAL: 18,271 – 89.62%

DISTRICT 7 – 92.07%	DISTRICT 15 – 91.58%	DISTRICT 1 – 91.17%	DISTRICT 5 – 90.90%
DISTRICT 6 – 90.72%	DISTRICT 8 – 90.20%	DISTRICT 2 – 90.12%	DISTRICT 12 – 89.50%
DISTRICT 4 – 89.21%	DISTRICT 10 – 88.44%	DISTRICT 9 – 88.03%	DISTRICT 11 – 87.60%
DISTRICT 3 – 85.11%	DISTRICT 13 – 84.94%		



DEPARTMENT CONVENTION

The 2026 Department Convention will be held June 25 - 28 at the Rivers Edge Hotel and Convention Center in Columbus. The DEC will meet at 1:00 p.m. on Thursday, June 25 and at 8:30 a.m. on Friday, June 26. The Joint Session will be held at 1:00 p.m. on Friday, June 26 and the Legion Convention will begin at 3:00 p.m. and go through Sunday, June 28.

Business sessions of The American Legion, Auxiliary, Sons, and Riders will all be held in there. Reach out to the respective organization for an agenda. The hotel is located at 265 33rd Avenue, Columbus. Rooms are \$112.95 a night plus tax. The last date to get reservations at the Legion rate is June 1 or when the reservation block is full. Call Parris at 402-910-6682 to make your reservation. The Convention Registration fee is \$10. For more information contact Adjutant Martin.

National Vice Commander Jerry Landkamer is holding a banquet during Convention. A flyer for the event has been included.

LET'S PLAY BASEBALL!

Coaches and staff must complete a background check before the team's registration can be approved.

Registration, Fees, and Insurance NLT May 15; Transfer forms sent to Department NLT May 31; Rosters by June 15. Teams are encouraged to retain Insurance and Form 2s for 5 years.

Class A Sr & Jr Area: July 17 – 21; Class A Sr & Jr State: July 25 – 29; Class A Sr Division Playoff: August 1; Class A Regional: August 5 – 9; Class B & C Jr Area: July 10 – 14; Class B & C Jr State: July 18 – 22; Class B & C Sr Area: July 24-28; Class B & C Sr State: August 1 – 5; Class B Sr Division Playoff: August 8.

DISTRICT CONVENTIONS

Several Districts are holding conventions this month. A representative from each Post within the District should be in attendance. This allows the Districts to have a quorum to complete the business at hand. Post leadership and members, support your District. Department officers and committee members who have already traveled to District Conventions, thank you for the hospitality.

RESOLUTIONS

Changes within the American Legion begin in the form of a resolution. Resolutions are approved through your Post/Squadron and then sent to District Convention for endorsement. All resolutions adopted at District Conventions will be sent to all Post Commanders/Adjutants in May. It is imperative these be read at your post meetings prior to Department Convention. Contact Adjutant Martin for a resolution template or with questions.

NOTICE TO ADJUTANTS

Use our new address for transmitting membership cards. Be sure your envelope is sturdy and sealed. Too often we receive envelopes that have been broken or torn. Nebraska American Legion
150 NW 40th Street, Unit A
Lincoln, NE 68528

DEPARTMENT CONVENTION PROGRAM

The Department is offering the opportunity for individuals and businesses to advertise in the 2026 Department Convention program. Contact Harlan Hiatt at Headquarters for more information.

2027 ANNUAL POST DATA REPORT

Post Adjutants will receive the 2027 Annual Post Data Report in March. Read the information carefully before completing the form. Double check the mailing address to which the membership returns are to be mailed – including the three-line address and correct ZIP code. Above all, **make sure dues are correct (\$45 per member to the Department).**

CONSOLIDATED POST REPORT

The Consolidated Post Report (CPR) form for the 2025 – 26 year was sent out in February. Please complete this form and return it to Department Headquarters ABSOLUTELY NO LATER THAN JUNE 1, 2026. The CPR is located on our website and MyLegion.org.

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 Post Birthday or other event. Notify Department Headquarters if you did not receive them by March 1.

PREPRINTED 2027 MEMBERSHIP CARDS

For new members to have a pre-printed 2027 membership card and be listed on the Post Roster, their 2026 dues must be received at Department by April 1, 2026. Additionally, any current member not paid by April 1, 2026, will not have their continuous years pre-printed on their 2027 membership card.

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 were 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 arrival for each delegate. 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.

NATIONAL COMMANDER'S INCENTIVE PROGRAMS

National Commander Dan Wiley will award an incentive pin to any Legionnaire who obtains two new American Legion members. He also is awarding a dog tag coin to any Post who achieves 103% membership for 2026. Forms and more information on these programs can be downloaded from National's website www.legion.org.

CAM RAHN BAY AIR FORCE BASE REUNION

The Cam Rahn Bay Air Force Base is holding a reunion for any member who was stationed there during 1962 to 1975. The reunion will be held September 10 - 13 in Colorado Springs, CO. Contact dicancook@gmail.com or Jimmy White at 218-631-3211 for more information.



*National Vice Commander
Jerry Landkamer's
Homecoming Banquet Menu
Columbus American Legion
2263 3rd Avenue, Columbus, NE 68601*

*Saturday, June 27, 2026
5:30 p.m. Social – 6:30 p.m. Dinner*

*Dinner Menu:
Salad
Prime Rib
Baked Potato
Green Beans
Cheesecake Dessert*

*Return this form by June 10, 2026
with \$25.00 payment, to:*

*Jerry Landkamer
804 N Birch Street
Norfolk, NE 68701*

Make checks out to "Jerry Landkamer"

Number of tickets: _____

Names of those attending and entrée preference

*Reminder: There will be a cash bar for all to enjoy during dinner.
NO Refunds. NO Ticket Sales at the door.*

Dress is Business Casual



**NATIONAL COMMANDER DAN K. WILEY'S
2026 MEMBERSHIP EXCELLENCE INCENTIVE PIN
CERTIFICATION FORM**



**Please make sure that the address, phone number and email address
provided is for the recruiter and not the post.**

Date: _____

Name: _____

Membership ID Number: _____

Street Address or PO Box: _____

City, State, Zip: _____

Email Address: _____

Phone Number: _____

MAIL TO RECRUITER **MAIL TO POST**

TO QUALIFY YOU NEED TO RECRUIT (2) NEW MEMBERS INTO THE AMERICAN LEGION.
(A NEW MEMBER IS DEFINED AS ANY ELIGIBLE VETERAN JOINING FOR THE 2026 MEMBERSHIP YEAR WHO WAS NOT A MEMBER OF THE AMERICAN LEGION DURING THE 2025 MEMBERSHIP YEAR). TRANSFERS DO NOT COUNT AS NEW MEMBERS.)
NEW AUXILIARY MEMBERS AND SAL MEMBERS DO NOT COUNT TOWARDS THIS INCENTIVE. PLEASE FORWARD THE NAMES OF NEW SAL MEMBERS OR AUXILIARY MEMBERS TO YOUR SQUADRON OR UNIT FOR USE IN THEIR RESPECTIVE INCENTIVE PROGRAMS. CONTACT YOUR STATE HEADQUARTERS FOR MORE INFORMATION.
PLEASE MAKE SURE THAT THE MEMBERS HAVE BEEN PROCESSED BEFORE SUBMISSION. COINS WILL NOT BE MAILED UNTIL THEY ARE VERIFIED ON THE NATIONAL DATABASE.
THE DEADLINE FOR THIS INCENTIVE IS JUNE 30, 2026, OR UNTIL SUPPLIES ARE EXHAUSTED.

(2) NEW MEMBERS:
(Include full name, ID number, department, post)

1. _____

2. _____

Return completed forms to:
The American Legion
Internal Affairs & Membership Division
PO Box 1055
Indianapolis, IN 46206

Fax: 317-630-1413
Email: kadams@legion.org

**NATIONAL COMMANDER DAN K. WILEY'S
103 PERCENT MEMBERSHIP GOAL
2026 MEMBERSHIP EXCELLENCE INCENTIVE PIN
(CERTIFICATION FORM)**

**This form must be sent to the department headquarters to be verified
by the department adjutant.**

Date: _____

Name: _____

Membership ID Number: _____

Street Address or PO Box: _____

City, State, Zip: _____

Email Address: _____

Phone Number: _____

A DOG TAG COIN WILL BE AWARDED TO ANY POST COMMANDER, DISTRICT COMMANDER, COUNTY COMMANDER, DIVISION COMMANDER, DEPARTMENT COMMANDER OR MEMBERSHIP CHAIRMAN WHO ACHIEVES 103 PERCENT OF THEIR ASSIGNED MEMBERSHIP GOAL FOR 2026. COINS WILL BE MAILED DIRECTLY TO THE RECIPIENT UNLESS OTHERWISE STATED.

MAIL TO RECIPIENT **MAIL TO DEPARTMENT**

THE DEADLINE FOR SUBMISSION IS JUNE 30, 2026, OR UNTIL SUPPLIES ARE EXHAUSTED.

I CERTIFY THAT THE INDIVIDUAL LISTED ABOVE HAS REACHED 103 PERCENT OF THEIR 2026 MEMBERSHIP GOAL.

Department Adjutant

Date

**For Department use only – return completed forms to:
The American Legion
Internal Affairs & Membership Division
PO Box 1055
Indianapolis, IN 46206**

Fax: 317-630-1413

Email: kadams@legion.org



Legislative Update: Support LB1120 — Queen of Hearts Fundraising for Veterans

From American Legion Post 154, Blair, Nebraska

American Legion Post 154 in Blair has been working alongside **State Senator Ben Hansen** to introduce legislation that would allow the popular **Queen of Hearts** game to be legally played within **Veterans Posts across Nebraska**.

What Is the Queen of Hearts?

The Queen of Hearts is a **simple, transparent, and engaging game of chance** that Posts can conduct locally to raise funds for:

- Veteran programs and assistance
- Post operations
- Local veterans and community needs

Many of our **surrounding states already allow** the Queen of Hearts game, where it has proven to be a **successful and accountable fundraising tool** for veteran and nonprofit organizations.

Why This Matters

Rising operational costs and increased demand for veteran support make sustainable fundraising more important than ever. **LB1120** would provide Nebraska Veterans Posts with an additional, proven option to generate funds while maintaining transparency and public trust.

Call to Action: Your Support Is Needed

We respectfully ask **all American Legion Posts across Nebraska** to help support the passage of **LB1120** during the **2026 Nebraska Legislative Session**.

- **Bill Number:** LB1120
- **Sponsor:** Senator Ben Hansen

A **sample letter** can be proved that Posts may use or modify to contact their **local State Senator** in support of this legislation.

Together, We Can Make a Difference

Your individual voice — combined with the **collective support of Veterans Posts statewide** — can make the difference in helping this important legislation become law and strengthening our ability to serve Nebraska's veterans.

For more information or questions please reach out to Russ Cook or Kelly Schany.

In Service,

Russ Cook

Commander, American Legion Post 154 – Blair

✉ rjcookb13@gmail.com

Kelly Schany

Commander, Sons of the American Legion Post 154

✉ krschany@gmail.com



**American Legion Post [####] / VFW Post
[####]**

Commander: _____
Phone: (123) 456-7890 Email: no_reply@example.com
1234 Main Street Anytown, NE [ZIP]

January 19, 2026

Senator [First Last Name]
Nebraska State Legislature
State Capitol
1445 K Street
Lincoln, NE 68508

Dear Senator [Last Name],

We would like to make you aware of **LB1120**, introduced by **Senator Hansen**, which would authorize **Queen of Hearts drawings** to be conducted within veterans 'organizations across Nebraska.

Allowing the **Queen of Hearts** to be played in veterans 'posts would give our local American Legion and VFW facilities the opportunity to **extend fundraising efforts that directly support veterans and their families** in our communities. These drawings have proven successful in other states, providing a responsible, transparent, and entertaining way for posts to raise funds for scholarships, community service, building maintenance, and veteran assistance programs.

Our members work hard to keep our posts active and self-sustaining. The ability to host this type of charitable game would help ensure that we can continue to provide a welcoming place for fellowship and community support.

We respectfully ask that you **support or cosponsor LB1120** when it comes before the **Legislature in 2026**. Your backing would make a meaningful difference to veterans 'posts and the communities we serve throughout Nebraska.

Sincerely,

American Legion Post [####], Nebraska

Commander _____
Sons of the American Legion Commander _____

VFW Post [####], Nebraska

Post Commander _____