



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

Senior Vice Commander – James W. Keyes jameskeyes29@gmail.com

East Vice Commander – Larry Einspahr Jr. jmgertsch@rocketmail.com

West Vice Commander – Robert Lawrence robnjody2003@gmail.com

Detachment Adjutant – Chris Casey aproudpatriot1776@gmail.com

Detachment Liaison – Bud Neel bagnlg2b@gmail.com

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

DETACHMENT CONVENTION: The 2026 Detachment Convention will be held at the Rivers Edge Hotel & Convention Center (which was previously the Quality Inn) June 27 - 28, 2026, located at 265 33rd Avenue, Columbus. For reservations, call Parris at 402-910-6682. Rooms are \$112.95 plus tax per night.

CONVENTION CALL / DELEGATE STRENGTH: The official Detachment Convention Call and the notification of the number of delegates each Squadron is entitled to seat at the convention were mailed to Squadron Adjutants in May.

RESOLUTIONS: There were nine resolutions forwarded to Department Headquarters following the District Conventions. They were mailed to Squadron Adjutants in May. If you feel the resolution should be referred to an additional committee(s) please contact the department office. If you want your voice heard – be at convention.

PREPRINTED 2027 MEMBERSHIP CARDS: Membership cards will be mailed to the Squadron Adjutant on record at Department Headquarters. Squadrons wishing to pick up membership cards and Squadron Adjutant Guides in person from Department Headquarters can do so after July 1st. All other membership cards and Squadron Adjutant Guides not picked up prior to July 5th will be placed in the mail the week of July 6-10.

NEW OFFICERS LIST: We request the names of the 2026-27 squadron officers be sent to us immediately following their election. This allows the department office to maintain a current list of squadron officers so that official correspondence gets to the right person. **Even if your officers did not change, send in this form!**

CONSOLIDATED SQUADRON REPORTS: You can access the form at legion.org/sons/publications, legion.org/publications, or the squadron adjutant can log into their mylegion.org account and fill it out as well. The form is a fillable PDF, or you can print it out if you prefer hard copies. The fillable pdf can be filled out, saved, and sent via email to anyone. The CSR was mailed to each Squadron Adjutant, if one was not received, please contact my office for a copy. **All paper copies must be sent to Department Headquarters ABSOLUTELY NO LATER THAN JUNE 1, 2026. Mail, fax, or email to emartin@nebraskalegion.net**

2026 MEMBERSHIPS: Squadrons have done a great job again this year, but there are still many eligible members in our communities to sign up. With your help we can still attain our goal of 100%. Commander Kabella thanks you for your efforts and would be very happy to hit 100% by the end of June. Please make one last effort this year to make your goal.

FREEDOM MUSIC FESTIVAL: Saturday, June 13th at the Antelope Bandshell located in Antelope Park in Lincoln starting at 10:00 a.m. In addition to music, there is an art show and food vendors accepting free will donations. Bring your lawn chairs!

VETERAN'S APPRECIATION DAY AT THE STATE FAIR: Veteran's Appreciation Day at the State Fair will be Monday, September 7th at 10:30 a.m. More information, including the parade, and color guard registration can be found at <https://www.statefair.org/veterans-day-returns-to-monday-at-state-fair/>. Call 308-382-1620 for more information.

NATIONAL VICE COMMANDER HOMECOMING BANQUET: There will be Homecoming Banquet for NVC Jerry Landkamer on June 27th at Columbus Post 84. Social hours are 5:30 - 6:30 p.m. and dinner begins at 6:30 p.m. The flyer was sent out in May, if interested please contact NVC Jerry Landkamer at bananaman1955@gmail.com

LEADING CANDIDATE DINNER: The Detachment is hosting a dinner for the Leading Candidate for National Commander on June 12th at 6:00 p.m. at Benson Post 112. The flyer was sent out in May.

OPEN HOUSE: We are planning to host an open house on June 20th at the state headquarters. The event will be from 1:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m. and a special presentation will be at 2:30 p.m. The flyer was sent out in May.

EASTERN NEBRASKA VETERANS HOME, GEORGE B. SEVICK JR./TODD KABELLA: The Eastern Nebraska Veterans Home is staying active. Benson Squadron 112 hosts "Birthday Bingo" on the 1st Thursday of each month. The Detachment continues to work through the needs list provided by the home and recently purchased 2 iPads, soil and plants for their raised bed planters, and passes for Gifford Farms, Fontenelle Forest and the Wildlife Safari. ENVH is always looking for volunteers to help out with various activities or with resident outings. If you are interested in volunteering, please reach out to Kimberly the Volunteer Coordinator via email at Kimberly.M.Smith@nebraska.gov or by phone 402-591-4954.

EAST AREA VICE COMMANDER, LARRY EINSPAHR, JR.: No dust settling on our boots this month – the Sons of the American Legion is always on the move!

· Let's get out there & support one another's Squadrons, Legion Posts & Auxiliary Units this summer! Already the social media is busy with notifications of car shows, bake sales and booths at community celebrations. You'll eat a meal someplace today... might as well enjoy food prepared by other members of our American Legion Family. These are terrific ways to help one another serve our Veterans.

· As severe weather season is bearing down on us again, remember that Sons of The American Legion members can be eligible to apply for help from NEF (National Emergency Fund). Check out www.legion.org for criteria & further explanation.

· PLEASE turn in Squadron Officer Reports to HQ in Lincoln. Even if you kept the same officers as last year, it's important to update telephone numbers and email addresses. Don't miss out on the latest information because we don't have current contact information to reach you.

· Mark your calendars for Saturday, June 20th, and plan to attend the Open House at HQ in Lincoln from 1:00p.m.-5:00p.m. A special presentation is scheduled for 2:30p.m.

· DETACHMENT CONVENTION: June 27-28, 2026, at Rivers Edge Hotel in Columbus (265 33rd Ave). RESERVATIONS: Call Parris at 402-910-6682 for the Convention rate. Don't wait! There are only a

few weeks left before Convention! New information, share ideas with other Squadrons, vote for Detachment Officers for 2026-2027. We need ALL of you to make our Detachment strong! Convention isn't just for Detachment Officers – YOU make the difference.

· Happy 250th Birthday America! Summer is such a busy time, and this year will be extra-special in celebration of America's Semiquincentennial. Do you remember how you spent the Bicentennial? What made it special and memorable for you? It's our turn to make this celebration special for younger generations. Will it take some effort? Likely. Will it make the events extra special for our youth and our communities? Let's make sure that it does. Have a great summer!

WEST AREA VICE COMMANDER, ROBERT LAWRENCE: Greetings from the West Area Vice-Commander of the Detachment of Nebraska. We have many Squadrons that are very close to reaching 100% membership. Let's finish strong and get all of our memberships paid. We will also be starting to collect 2027 memberships soon. We still have a fair number of members who have not yet renewed, so let's continue working together to get those memberships turned in.

Let's also not forget the 49th Annual Detachment Convention on June 27th–28th, 2026, in Columbus, Nebraska. Come enjoy a great time with the Legion Family, get educated, learn new things, and stay up to date on what is happening within the organization. Most importantly, there will be excellent training classes available for everyone.

Let's show up, represent our Squadrons, and enjoy the great camaraderie that makes our organization strong. Please also remember the Be The One mission—our life-saving mission to help reduce veteran suicide. Continue doing buddy checks and reaching out to your fellow veterans and members. Sometimes a simple phone call or conversation can make all the difference.

DETACHMENT COMMANDER, TODD KABELLA: Greetings!! As of the May 18th report, we are sitting at 98.79% of our 2026 membership goal. This is great news and thank you to everyone that helped get us to this point. We are ranked 13th in the nation and 2nd in the Midwest region behind our friends in South Dakota who are in 1st. Our renewal rate of 92.70% ranks us 4th in the nation, which means we are doing a great job at retaining members. I am extremely pleased with everyone's efforts thus far, but we need to continue to drive towards 100%. Remind your members that have not yet renewed that their membership expired and they are no longer considered members in good standing.

Everyone should make plans to attend the Detachment convention that will be held in Columbus, Nebraska June 27-28. Remember, if your squadron is not represented at the meetings, your voice is not being heard in the direction the Detachment moves.

We have the Leading Candidate for National Commander Thom Skelley scheduled to visit June 12-14. We have the agenda for his visit published on the Detachment Facebook page, along with the details surrounding the dinner being hosted at Benson Legion Post 112 on Friday June 12th.

Every year after your squadron holds elections, an officer report should be completed and sent to HQ - regardless of whether new officers were elected or not. It should also be completed if you have a change of squadron officers. When submitting the form, please make sure the contact information is complete to include email addresses and phone numbers. Contact info changes frequently and this is a barrier to detachment leadership assisting squadrons and disseminating information. We cannot reach out to help if we can't get in touch. When you complete the form, please mail it to HQ at 150 NW 40th St, Unit A, Lincoln NE 68528.

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

We still have openings on most of our committees. If anyone is interested in serving on a committee, please reach out to me at tkabella@gmail.com and we can find a place for you to help. Everyone has good ideas and can bring different perspectives to the table, so don't be afraid to step up.

