



# NEWSLETTER

THE AMERICAN LEGION  
DEPARTMENT OF NEBRASKA  
P.O. BOX 5205  
LINCOLN, NEBRASKA 68505-0205  
(402) 464-6338

*“2019 and Beyond”*

DEPARTMENT COMMANDER  
GARY D. WOOTEN

**F E B R U A R Y 2 0 2 1**

DEPARTMENT ADJUTANT  
DAVID W. SALAK

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Published Monthly, except July

**MEMBERSHIP ACTION ENCOURAGING** The Department of Nebraska is still in the running for several awards and is keying on the next challenge of the President’s Day goal on Wednesday, February 10. Please renew your delinquent members and transmit every possible card by February 8 so they can be included in the transmittal to National. February 10 is the cut-off date for the March renewal notices.

**DISTRICT CONVENTIONS SCHEDULED** Enclosed you will find the District Convention Call, along with the number of delegates each Post is entitled to seat at the convention, for voting purposes. 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 voting delegates. District Convention dates enclosed as well. A delegate from each Post should be present so that a quorum is present in order to conduct business.

**DISTRICT CONVENTION AGENDA** A reminder to all District Commanders to provide HQs with your convention agenda at least 10 working days in advance of your respective convention date.

**MEMBERSHIP AWARDS** Due to their efforts thus far in the 2021 membership campaign, many Posts will be receiving awards at District Conventions. Some awards to be presented will be for the membership contributions to the organization during 2020. We encourage someone from your Post to be at the convention to accept them.

**CITIZENSHIP AWARDS** If your Post has not already done so, there still may be time to submit a nomination on behalf of one of your Post members for the District Citizenship Citation. The forms were sent to all Posts last month. **Please mail the nomination form to your District Commander.** Make sure the completed application is sent well in advance of your District Convention.

**MEMBERSHIP TRANSFER** Before a membership transfer occurs there must be a Member Data Form 30-001 provided to Department Headquarters. The form should be signed by a member unless the member provided verbal consent for the Post Commander/Post Adjutant to sign the transfer form.

**BOYS’ STATE PROGRAM** Applications for the 2021 session of American Legion Cornhusker Boys’ State have been mailed to all Post Adjutants and are available online at the Department website under the Boys State program tab. The deadline for returning applications is March 15. All high school principals were also sent a letter explaining the Boys’ State program and requesting their assistance in making recommendations of qualified candidates. It is the Posts responsibility to return applications to Department Headquarters. Please select a boy who will agree to participate in the program for the entire week.

Posts may now send as many young men as they wish to nominate. The fee will be \$375.00 per boy for 2021. Please send any alternates to Department Headquarters so we can try and find them a sponsor.

**DONATIONS** If your Post has not yet contributed to a National Program (NEF, OCW, TFA, etc.) please consider doing so. Department Commander Wooten has challenged each post to contribute to the different programs. Please send your donation to Headquarters before May 4 so results can be tallied up prior to Department Convention.

**JUNIOR LAW CADET PROGRAM** Applications for the 2021 session of American Legion Junior Law Cadet Program have been mailed to the schools and are available online at the Department website under the Junior Law Cadet tab and have been included in this newsletter. The dates for the combined Boys and Girls session will be held June 21-24, 2021. The deadline for return of the completed application is March 15. Please note that a commitment to a law enforcement career is NOT required of applicants. Two boys and two girls will be selected from each of the 14 districts, the fee per student is \$275. Increase of cost is due to rising insurance costs.

**SCOUT-OF-THE-YEAR NOMINATIONS** Post Commanders and local Scout leaders are reminded that completed nomination forms for the Eagle Scout-of-the-Year scholarship program are due at Department Headquarters no later than March 1. Additional information and forms are online at [www.nebraskalegion.net](http://www.nebraskalegion.net) and are available from the Activities Director at this office. Remember, there are three scholarship awards (\$500, \$300, \$200) at the state level and the state winner is entered in the national scholarship competition.

**UMPIRE CLINICS SCHEDULED** Umpire Clinics for the 2021 American Legion Baseball season are being planned and are available at [www.nelegionbaseball.net](http://www.nelegionbaseball.net). Every umpire is encouraged to attend. All tournament umpires (Area and State) are required to attend a NALB-sanctioned Umpire Clinic annually. Contact Activities Director Brent Hagel-Pitt for information if your Post is interested in hosting such a clinic.

**50-60-70-75-80-85 YEAR RECOGNITION** National Headquarters prepares certificates of recognition early each year for members credited on the data records with 50, 60, 70, 75, 80 and 85 years of continuous membership as of January 1, 2021. National sends the certificates directly to Post Commanders for distribution to honored members, often times at the Post Birthday event in March. Certificates will be mailed February 1 per National. Please notify Department Headquarters if you have problems in receiving certificates for your Post.

**LEGION POSTS MUST FILE FORM 990-N** Tax-exempt organizations must file a yearly return with the IRS. If your post does not file a required annual return in three consecutive years, the law provides that your post automatically loses its tax-exempt status. Please go the following web site at [www.irs.gov/990n](http://www.irs.gov/990n) to complete the form, deadline to file is May 15, 2021. If you have questions, please call 1-877-829-5500.

**FLAG RETIREMENT** If your post is planning a Flag Retirement Ceremony in the near future and is in need of flags, please contact Department Headquarters, as we have many in need of proper disposal.

**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 resolutions approved through your Post and Squadron. Resolutions should be forwarded to your District Convention for endorsement/approval. Contact Adjutant Salak for a copy of the resolution template should you need one.

**Enclosed:**

District Convention Call/ District Convention Delegates  
Approved District Convention Schedule  
Junior Law Cadet Letter and Information

## FEBRUARY 2021 ADDENDUM

**DEPARTMENT HEADQUARTERS** The Department Staff had to quarantine for two weeks due to COVID at the end of January. They are back in the office working, but the Headquarters building will remain closed to anyone but employees. If you stop by, all business will be conducted in the parking lot. Contact Adjutant Salak with questions.

**MARCH LEGIONNAIRE NEWSPAPER** Please let your members know that there will be no March Legionnaire newspaper due to the Media Specialist resigning and the office staff being quarantined for COVID. The April/May Legionnaire newspaper will go out as planned at the end of March.

**JUNIOR LAW CADET** After the February newsletter was printed, the Nebraska State Patrol notified us that the 2021 Junior Law Cadet Program has been cancelled. Please disregard the paragraph in the newsletter regarding Junior Law. No information had been sent out to the schools.

**NATIONAL COMMANDER OXFORD'S INCENTIVE PROGRAM** During the 2020-21 membership year, National Commander Bill Oxford will award his National Commander's pin to any American Legion member who obtains three new American Legion members. A new member is defined as any eligible person joining for the 2021 membership year who was not a member of The American Legion during the 2020 membership year.



The certification form for this program can be found at <https://www.legion.org/commander/pin> and may be submitted at any time. Upon receipt, national membership staff will confirm the names and mail the pin directly to the person who earned it. Commander Oxford's pin incentive program will end June 30, 2021, or when supplies are exhausted.

**MEDIA SPECIALIST POSITION** The Media Specialist position at Headquarters is currently vacant. Contact Adjutant Salak if you are interested in the position.

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**2021 DISTRICT CONVENTION CALL**

*In conformity with the Department Constitution and Bylaws, the annual District Conventions for 2021 are hereby called and will be as follows:*

|                    |                              |                                  |
|--------------------|------------------------------|----------------------------------|
| <b>District 1</b>  | <b>Saturday, April 10</b>    | <b>Chadron Post 12 Home</b>      |
| <b>District 2</b>  | <b>Sunday, March 14</b>      | <b>Crofton Post 128 Home</b>     |
| <b>District 3</b>  | <b>Saturday, March 20</b>    | <b>Ponca Post 117 Home</b>       |
| <b>District 4</b>  | <b>Sunday, April 11</b>      | <b>Morrill Post 10 Home</b>      |
| <b>District 5</b>  | <b>Sunday, March 7</b>       | <b>Paxton Post 303 Home</b>      |
| <b>District 6</b>  | <b>Saturday, March 6</b>     | <b>Grand Island Post 53 Home</b> |
| <b>District 7</b>  | <b>Saturday, March 13</b>    | <b>Valparaiso Post 371 Home</b>  |
| <b>District 8</b>  | <b>Saturday, April 10</b>    | <b>Gretna Post 216 Home</b>      |
| <b>District 9</b>  | <b>Saturday, March 20</b>    | <b>Curtis Community Center</b>   |
| <b>District 10</b> | <b>Saturday, February 20</b> | <b>Alma Post 118 Home</b>        |
| <b>District 11</b> | <b>Saturday, March 27</b>    | <b>Western Post 255 Home</b>     |
| <b>District 12</b> | <b>Saturday, March 13</b>    | <b>Hickman Community Center</b>  |
| <b>District 13</b> | <b>Saturday, February 20</b> | <b>Pawnee City Post 168 Home</b> |
| <b>District 15</b> | <b>Tuesday, February 9</b>   | <b>Lincoln Elks Lodge</b>        |

**PURPOSE**

These conventions are called for the purpose of electing District Commanders and other District officers where there are vacancies, selecting the place of the next District Convention, and for the transaction of such other business as may be brought before this meeting. Election of District officers this year is scheduled for the 1st, 3rd, 4th, 6th, 7th, 8th, & 12th Districts.

Article VI, Section 3, of the Department Bylaws stipulates that Department delegates to National Convention shall be chosen at the District Convention or at a District Caucus to be held at the Department Convention. The election process, as adopted by the Department Executive Committee, is as follows: Any member seeking election as an accredited delegate of his or her District shall file for election as a delegate. The persons receiving the most votes will be elected delegates in descending order, as will the designated number of alternates.

**REPRESENTATION**

Representation in the Conventions shall be by Posts. Each Post shall be entitled to two delegates plus one delegate for each 100 members or major portion thereof based on the total previous year's (2020) membership of that Post, and in addition thereto, the Post Commander and Post Adjutant shall be delegates at large. Delegates shall be chosen by the various Posts in the same manner as they were chosen for the State Convention. Each delegate shall be entitled to one vote.

The vote of any delegate absent and not represented by an alternate shall be cast by a majority of the delegates present from the Post. No credential cards for delegates will be furnished from Department Headquarters. County Commanders do not have an automatic vote in District Conventions as they do in Department Conventions.

**ALTERNATES**

Each Post is entitled to send and to seat in the Convention a number of alternates equal to the number of delegates to which each Post is entitled. Alternates will have the power to vote only in the absence of regular delegates.

**GUESTS**

Each delegation may have as guests such members of The American Legion as they see fit to invite. All business sessions of all conventions are open to the public.

**REGISTRATION**

All delegates will be required to register at a place to be designated by the Post hosting the Convention.

By Authority of:

ATTEST:

Dave Salak  
Department Adjutant

Gary Wooten  
Department Commander

**MISCELLANEOUS**

Post Adjutants are requested to read this Call at the earliest possible meeting of their Post. Commanders shall call a special meeting if necessary. In the event a meeting cannot be arranged, Post officers should appoint delegates and alternates.

A list of the number of delegates to which each Post is entitled accompanies this Convention Call. All Posts are urged to send full delegations to the District Conventions and to urge as many additional Legion members to attend as possible. Inasmuch as all business sessions are open to the public, friends and nonmembers of The American Legion are urged and invited to attend the Convention in order that the programs and purposes of The American Legion may be better understood.

Publicity regarding the convention program, date and place should be provided to the local news media.