



# NEWSLETTER

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

*“We are the Backbone of The American Legion”*

DEPARTMENT COMMANDER  
JAMES A. COSTELLO

MARCH 2018

DEPARTMENT ADJUTANT  
DAVID W. SALAK

Published Monthly, except July

Mailed: 2/27/2018

**DISTRICT CONVENTIONS** There are several Districts holding their convention this month. A representative from each Post within the District should be in attendance. Show your support!

**CORNHUSKER BOYS' STATE** The deadline for receiving Cornhusker Boys' State applications is March 15. If you have not selected your Boys' State representative(s), we would suggest that you do so very soon and get the application in the mail. The fee is \$375.00 per boy and must accompany the application. All Post Adjutants were sent the applications in January. Should your Post wish to send more boys than usual, contact Department Headquarters for additional applications or download applications at <http://www.nebraskalegion.net/Programs>. Remember: Posts are to refrain from informing any boy of his selection until official notification has been received from Department Headquarters. Confirmations will be mailed to the sponsor no later than March 24.

**LET'S PLAY BASEBALL!** Legion Baseball season has begun. Coaches and staff must complete a background check before the team's registration can be approved. Deadline changes – Registration, Fees and Insurance NLT May 15; Transfer forms sent to Department NLT May 31; Rosters by June 15. As always teams are encouraged to retain Insurance and Form 2s for 5 years. Class A Sr & Jr Area – July 20-24; Class A Sr & Jr State – July 28-August 1; Class A Sr Championship – August 4; Class B & C Jr Area – July 6-10; Class B & C Jr State – July 14-18; Class B & C Sr Area – July 20-24; Class B & C Sr State – July 28–August 1.

**EAGLE SCOUT-OF-THE-YEAR** Post Commanders are reminded that all applications received for Scout-of-the-Year must be signed by the Unit Leader and forwarded directly to Programs Director Brent Hagel-Pitt at Department by March 1. All eligible applicants will be considered for state-level cash scholarships awards. The state winner will represent Nebraska in the national contest for additional scholarships valued up to \$10,000.

**JUNIOR LAW CADET APPLICATIONS** There has been a change to the Junior Law Cadet Program from what was previously sent out this year. District Commanders and Schools have been notified of the changes, please make sure that any applicant you have is also aware of the date changes. A combined training of 30 boys and 30 girls will be held the week of June 18-21. The graduation ceremony is at 7:00 p.m. on Thursday, June 21. The entry deadline for Posts submitting their Junior Law Cadet applications to Department is March 15. Please send in all qualified applicants for consideration. Department will forward the applications to the District Selection Committee for the interview process. Please note that a commitment to a law enforcement career is NOT required of applicants. Two boys and girls will be selected from each of the 14 districts. District 8 and 15 will be able to send their 1st alternate boy and girl. Contact Brent Hagel-Pitt for more information.

**MEMBERSHIP** We still have 3,150 members to renew and sign up to reach our goal of 31,000. Let's get all renewals collected and transmitted NOW! Next target date is March 14, so cards must be in Department by 9:00 am, Monday, March 12. A reminder to Post Adjutants to remit \$35.00 per membership card.

**BACKGROUND CHECKS** Legionnaires who wish to volunteer as a staff member for the entire week of Cornhusker Boys' State (June 3 – 9) should contact Adjutant Salak by March 15. He will make selections by April 1 and notify those selected. DO NOT complete your background check until you have been notified of your selection. A background check is mandatory for those 18 years of age and older but does not include those volunteers who only hand out t-shirts on Sunday.

**NATIONAL COMMANDER'S PIN** National Commander Denise Rohan will award her National Commander pin to any American Legion Family member who obtains three new members into The American Legion Family. A new member is defined as any eligible person joining for the 2018 membership year who was not a member of The American Legion Family during the 2017 membership year. A certificate will also be awarded to anyone who signs up one new member for the 2018 year. Forms can be submitted until June 30 and pins will be awarded until supplies are exhausted. Forms are attached – copy as needed.

**TEACHER OF THE YEAR** The Department Americanism Committee sponsors a "Teacher of the Year Award." This award honors an educator whose accomplishments and activities in the field of education are far in excess of what is normally expected, and who also promotes American Legion youth programs in their school. Nominees may be elementary, middle, or high school teachers. The nomination form can be downloaded from the Department website at <http://www.nebraskalegion.net/Programs/Teacher.html>. Forward completed forms to Programs Director Brent Hagel-Pitt by May 1.

**OPERATION SCHOOL TALK** The Department Americanism Committee sponsors "OPERATION SCHOOL TALK" to educate and inform the youth of our great state on the principles and programs of The American Legion and to share with our youth our proud military service. If a post member has made contact with their local school and has talked about their military experiences, please have them fill out the enclosed form and return it by May 1. All awards will be presented at Department Convention in Kearney.

**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. National sends the certificates directly to Post Commanders for distribution to honored members. Please notify Department Headquarters if you have problems in receiving certificates for your Post.

**AMERICAN LEGION NIGHT W/ THE SALTDogs** The American Legion Night at the Salt Dog's will be August 3, 2018. The game starts at 7:05 pm. More information will be sent as the date gets closer. There will be fireworks after the game. More information will be sent as the date gets closer. If you are interested in being one of the Color Guards for that game, contact Brent Hagel-Pitt.

**NATIONAL EMERGENCY FUND** The National Emergency Fund was established to assist Legionnaires who were displaced from their home due to a natural disaster. These funds cover costs associated with food, clothing and shelter out-of-pocket expenses that were incurred due to the disaster. All posts are encouraged to send a generous donation.

**DEPARTMENT CONVENTION** Legionnaires are encouraged to make reservations for 2018 Department Convention June 21-24 in Kearney at the Ramada Inn (308-237-3141) at your earliest convenience. Rooms are \$79.00 a night. We have a limited number of rooms so book early. Additional information will be posted to the Department website as occurring.

**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.

**VETERANS CRISIS LINE** There are far too many veterans in crisis; be it chronic pain, anxiety, depression, homelessness, etc. The Veterans Crisis Line is a tool that someone in crisis can use if/when life starts to feel overwhelming. See Nebraska Legion homepage for more information.

Enclosed:

- (1) Operation School Talk Application
- (2) National Commander Rohan's membership incentive pin /incentive certificate form
- (3) District events calendar

# OPERATION SCHOOL TALK PROGRAM

## Legionnaire Information

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Post: \_\_\_\_\_

Name of School: \_\_\_\_\_ Town: \_\_\_\_\_

Nebraska County: \_\_\_\_\_ Class attended: \_\_\_\_\_

Teacher's name: \_\_\_\_\_ Hours spent in class: \_\_\_\_\_

Topics discussed: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Other Legionnaires present: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

## Teacher or School Staff Member Verification

Teacher Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Teacher Comments: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Teacher Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

**NATIONAL COMMANDER DENISE H. ROHAN**  
**2018 MEMBERSHIP INCENTIVE PIN**  
**Certification Form**  
**(3) New Members**

**Please make sure that the address, phone number and email address provided is for the recruiter and not the post. One pin per recruiter, incentive goes through June 30, 2018 or until quantities are depleted.**

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Recruiter's Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Membership ID Number: \_\_\_\_\_

Street Address or PO Box: \_\_\_\_\_

City, State, Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Email Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Daytime Phone Number: \_\_\_\_\_

Send to Post

Send to Recruiter

**TO QUALIFY YOU NEED TO RECRUIT (3) NEW MEMBERS INTO THE AMERICAN LEGION. (A NEW MEMBER IS DEFINED AS ANY ELIGIBLE PERSON JOINING FOR THE 2018 MEMBERSHIP YEAR WHO WAS NOT A MEMBER OF THE AMERICAN LEGION DURING THE 2017 MEMBERSHIP YEAR).**

**PLEASE NOTE: EACH NEW MEMBER LISTED MUST BE ELIGIBLE FOR MEMBERSHIP IN THE AMERICAN LEGION. PLEASE FORWARD THE NAMES OF NEW SAL MEMBERS OR AUXILIARY MEMBERS TO YOUR SQUADRON OR UNIT FOR USE IN THEIR RESPECTIVE INCENTIVE PROGRAMS.**

**(3) NEW MEMBERS:**

**(Include full name, department, and post)**

1. \_\_\_\_\_

2. \_\_\_\_\_

3. \_\_\_\_\_

**All requested information is mandatory. Please ensure form is filled out completely before submission. Please allow up to 2 weeks for processing.**

**Return completed forms to:**  
**The American Legion**  
**National Membership Division**  
**PO Box 1055**  
**Indianapolis, IN 46206**

**Fax: 317-630-1413**

**Email: [ksingleton@legion.org](mailto:ksingleton@legion.org)**

