



NEWSLETTER

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

“Don’t Give Up – We’ve Got This”

DEPARTMENT COMMANDER
BETH L. LINN

MAY 2017

DEPARTMENT ADJUTANT
DAVID W. SALAK

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MEMBERSHIP CAMPAIGN NOT COMPLETE A review of the membership analysis indicates many posts need fewer than half a dozen to equal or exceed last year’s total and to meet their assigned goal. Time is short to complete our 2017 campaign. Please review your delinquent list and make personal contact where necessary. There are eligible veterans in every community who have never been invited into membership.

PLEASE INVITE THEM, NOW!

AMERICAN LEGION BASEBALL ENTRY DEADLINE The initial entry deadline for Post’s participating in the 2017 American Legion Baseball program is May 15. Teams registering after May 15 may be imposed a \$200.00 late fee. Submitting and getting your Team Roster approved is June 15. A team that is NOT going to participate in the Area or State tournaments must submit a declination letter to the Department or there will be a \$300.00 penalty included in next season’s registration.

BOYS’ STATE / JUNIOR LAW CADET PARTICIPANTS Please keep in touch with your candidates for Cornhusker Boys’ State and the Junior Law Cadet programs from your Post. Doing so will ensure their participation next month and put the post in a position to assist them with their transportation should the need arise. Direct questions on the Boys’ State bus schedule to your District Commander. Be sure to follow the daily activities at Cornhusker Boys’ State from June 4 – 10 on the University of Nebraska-Lincoln campus at www.cornhuskerboysstate.org

DIRECT DUES BILLING Information on the National direct billing program was sent to all Post Adjutants early in March. You are reminded the Post Data Form attached to the bulletin was to be returned to Department Headquarters by April 15 with appropriate changes, if necessary. If you have not yet returned your form, please do so immediately. If no changes are made, or should the form not be returned, direct dues responses will be sent to the same individual – at the same address – at the same dues rate as last year. Please be certain your dues amount is correct.

MEMBERSHIP AWARDS MAY STILL BE EARNED Please be reminded of the various membership awards that are available through National and Department. May 11 is the receipt date in this office for the Silver Brigade, Gold Brigade and Recruiter of the Year awards. Certification forms are available from Department HQs. You are encouraged to review the many awards that are available for 2017 membership efforts. The Post Membership Achievement Award is based on the post membership as of May 31, 2016 compared to the membership of July 31, 2017.



CONVENTION CALL / DELEGATE STRENGTH The official Department Convention Call and the notification of the number of delegates each Post is entitled to seat at the convention will be sent to Post Adjutants within the next few weeks. Included with the mailing will be an appropriate number of delegate and alternate cards. These cards must be taken to the convention and presented at the time of registration.

CODY KERR AWARD This prestigious award is the highest award given by the Nebraska American Legion and will be presented to a deserving individual at the Department Convention in Kearney. Applications are now being accepted by Past Department Commanders Dave Bruckner, Fred Craigie, and Mike Reimers. Send your nomination to Department Headquarters to be forwarded to the committee. This award is based on service to the community, state and nation; not just American Legion involvement. Please use a written narrative style of nomination on your Post letterhead. No specific form is provided.

POST PUBLICATIONS CONTEST The Nebraska American Legion Press Association has announced the acceptance of entries for the 2017 Post Publication Contest. The contest is open to any Legion, Auxiliary or SAL publication with a staff member who is a 2017 member of the Nebraska ALPA. An entry consists of three issues published between May 2016 and April 2017. Submit the issues to Department Headquarters prior to the deadline of May 31.



ELECTION OF POST OFFICERS Enclosed is the 2017-18 Post Officer report form (Adjutants only). The Department Constitution and Bylaws calls for the election of officers at the Post meeting prior to the Department Convention and the installation following the convention. We request the names of the 2017-18 officers be sent to us immediately following their election. This allows HQ's to maintain a current list post officers so that official correspondence get to the right person. See the enclosed form.

CONSOLIDATED POST REPORT The Consolidated Post Report (CPR) form for the 2016-17 American Legion year was mailed to the Post Adjutant with the April newsletter last month. Please complete the CPR and return it to Department Headquarters absolutely **no later than June 1**. The CPR can be found on our website at www.nebraskalegion.net. Complete the form online and email it to dwsalak@windstream.net. The CPR is also available on MyLegion.

VETERANS FREEDOM MUSIC FESTIVAL Saturday, June 24 at the Lincoln VA Campus located at 600 South 70th Street, Lincoln. Gates open 10:00 A.M. Opening Ceremony 10:30 A.M. and Closing Ceremony 5:00 P.M. In addition to music this is an Information Fair with VA health care and other informational booths. There are children's activities from 11:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. Visit www.nebraska.va.gov for more information.

MEMBERSHIP LETTER Membership Chairman George Cyboron has included a letter, "Do we need to save The American Legion?" Please give it a read and continue to promote membership in the organization.

LEGION INSURANCE TRUST Want to sign up for Free LIT AD&D coverage? That's a \$1,000.00 (or \$5,000.00 if death occurred while on official Legion business) that will go to your beneficiary to help with those final expenses. See the enclosed form.

Attachments:

Resolutions 1, 2, 3, 4, and 5
2017-18 Post Officer report form (Adjutants only)
Letter from Membership Chairman
LIT Membership form

**The American Legion
Department of Nebraska**

RESOLUTION

Resolution No. 1

Subject: Department Dues Increase

Submitted by: Finance CMTE

Referred to:

- (1) DEC
- (2) Membership CMTE
- (3) Constitution & Bylaws CMTE

WHEREAS, The American Legion, Department of Nebraska, Constitution state in Article XII, Section 2, "The annual Department dues shall be eleven dollars and twenty-five cents per member, with ten cents per member being returned to each district as District dues."; and

WHEREAS, The increase to eleven dollars and twenty-five cents occurred January 1, 2005 yet our membership number has declined every year since; and

WHEREAS, The membership in 2005 was 49,850 members and the membership in 2015 was 33,701, meaning a decrease of 16,149 members or a 32.4 percent of the Department membership without any additional increase of Department dues; and

WHEREAS, The increase to eleven dollars and twenty-five cents occurred January 1, 2005 and inflation has steadily increased approximately 3% per year in both our economy and our programs; and

WHEREAS, The membership at the District-level has decreased while inflation has also increased making the District Dues of ten cents obsolete; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, By The American Legion, Department of Nebraska, in regular convention assembled in Columbus, Nebraska, on June 23, 24, 25, 2017, That the Department amend, Article XII, Section 2, of the Department Constitution so it reads "The annual Department dues shall be sixteen dollars and fifty cents per member, with thirty-five cents per member being returned to each District as District dues."; and, be it finally

RESOLVED, That this change would take effect on January 1, 2018 thus allowing Posts the opportunity to raise their respective dues as needed.

PROPOSED CHANGES TO THE DEPARTMENT CONSTITUTION & BYLAWS
JUNE, 2017

Resolution 1

Constitution
of
The American Legion
Department of Nebraska

ARTICLE XII
FINANCES

Section 1. The revenue of The American Legion, Department of Nebraska, shall be derived from annual membership dues and from such other sources as may be approved by the Department Executive Committee.

Section 2. The annual Department dues shall be ~~sixteen~~ ~~eleven~~ dollars and ~~fifty~~ ~~twenty-~~ ~~five~~ cents per member, with ~~thirty-five~~ ~~ten~~ cents per member being returned to each District as District dues.”

**The American Legion
Department of Nebraska**

RESOLUTION

Resolution No. 2

Subject: Extend Area Vice CMDR Term

Submitted by: District 5

Referred to:

(1) DEC

(2) Constitution & Bylaws CMTE

WHEREAS, At present the term of service for an Area Vice Commander is only one year and does not generally give enough time for the area Commander to fully comprehend and achieve their responsibilities; and

WHEREAS, The areas of responsibility for each Vice Commander vary considerably in distance of travel and number of posits within their respective districts and the Area D Vice Commander has the greatest physical area to travel to visit distant posts for all official functions and it is getting harder to find a replacement Vice Commander for Area D; and

WHEREAS, The Area Vice Commander are all replaced each year at the Department convention and the Area Vice Commanders are selectively ranked by the Department for possibly assuming of duties of the Senior Vice Commander or even Department Commander if the need arises; and

WHEREAS, The continuity of command and senior guidance in each departmental area has to be re-established each year as a new area Vice Commander takes over and the period for this to happen is not feasible and often the connected are not made; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, by The American Legion, Department of Nebraska, in regular convention assembled in Columbus, Nebraska, on June 23, 24, 25, 2017, That the appointed term of service of all Area Vice Commanders be set at two years instead of the present 1 year, as defined by the Department of Nebraska Constitution ARTICLE VI, DEPARTMENT OFFICERS, Section 1.

PROPOSED CHANGES TO THE DEPARTMENT CONSTITUTION & BYLAWS
JUNE, 2016

Resolution 7

Constitution
of
The American Legion
Department of Nebraska

ARTICLE VI
DEPARTMENT OFFICERS

*Section 1. The Department Convention shall elect a Department Commander, one Department Senior Vice Commander, four Area Vice Commanders, and in each even numbered year and a National Committeeman and an Alternate National Committeeman, all of whom shall be members of Posts within the Department of Nebraska. **The term of service for each Area Vice Commander will be two years.** All Legionnaires on the ballot must be certified by the Department Adjutant prior to election using a valid document of proof. It is further provided that the Department Commander, Senior Department Vice Commander, National Committeeman, and the Alternate National Committeeman, shall be voted upon by all delegates accredited to the Department Convention, and further provided that the Area Vice Commanders shall be members of a Post within the Area which they represent and shall be nominated and voted upon only by delegates representing the Posts in the Area to be served by such Area Vice Commander.*

Said areas shall be comprised of the following Districts of the Department.

Area A - Districts 3 and 8

Area B - Districts 2, 6 and 7

Area C - Districts 10, 11, 12, 13 and 15

Area D - Districts 1, 4, 5 and 9

All of the aforesaid officers, excepting the National Committeeman and the Alternate National Committeeman, shall be installed either in person or by proxy, immediately prior to the adjournment of the convention.

Section 2. No person shall be eligible for reelection to the office of Department Commander or Department Senior Vice Commander. Persons shall be eligible for reelection to the office of Area Vice Commander, provided they are not serving a consecutive term in that office.

Section 3. The Department officers mentioned in Section 1 shall serve until the adjournment of the annual Department Convention succeeding their election, or approximately one year and until their successors are elected and qualified, except that the Department National Committeeman and Alternate National Committeeman shall serve until the second annual National Convention after their election or approximately two years, or until their successors are elected and qualified.

Section 4. The term of service for each Area Vice Commander will be two years to coincide with the term of service of each District Commander. The Area Vice Commander terms of service would be set as such; Area A and C Vice Commanders to be elected in even years (2016, 2018, 2020, etc.). The Area B and D Vice Commanders to be elected in odd years (2017, 2019, 2021, etc.).

Section 5 4. The Department Commander shall appoint, subject to approval of the Department Executive Committee, a Department Adjutant, Assistant Department Adjutant, Department Public Relations Officer, Department Chaplain, Department Judge Advocate, Department Historian, Department Sergeant-at-Arms, and Department Service Officer. The Department Service Officer may be one and the same persons as one of the Nebraska State Service Officers under the State Department of Veterans Affairs. The Department Commander may appoint, subject to the approval of the Department Executive Committee, an Assistant Sergeant-at-Arms.

The Department Chaplain, Department Judge Advocate, Department Sergeant-at-Arms, Assistant Department Sergeant-at-Arms, Department Public Relations Officer, Department Historian, and Department Service Officer shall hold office during the term of the Department Commander, and until their successors are appointed. The Department Adjutant and Assistant Department Adjutant shall, following appointment by the Department Commander and approval of the Department Executive Committee and after serving the period of probation determined by their employment agreement, have tenure of office and continue to serve in the office to which they were appointed until such time as they may retire or are removed from office for malfeasance or nonfeasance of duties. They may be removed from office by a two-thirds vote of the Department Executive Committee at any regular meeting or special meeting called for that purpose.

At the first meeting following the Department Convention, the Department Executive Committee shall designate the seniority of the Area Vice Commanders, and they shall in the order designated, in the event of the death, resignation or permanent incapacity of the Department Commander and the Department Senior Vice Commander, succeed to the office of Department Commander, or in the event of the temporary absence, incapacity or disability of the Department Commander and the Department Senior Vice Commander, the Area Vice Commanders, in the order designated shall assume and have the Department Commander's responsibilities, power and authority.

Section 6 5. Vacancies in all Department offices occurring between Department Conventions, shall be filled by the Department Commander, subject to the approval of the Department Executive Committee at its next meeting after such appointment

provided (a) the vacancy in the office of Department Commander shall be supplied first by the Department Senior Vice Commander; and secondly by the Area Vice Commanders in the order of their seniority; (b) when the office of the National Committeeman becomes vacant, the Alternate National Committeeman shall become the National Committeeman for the full unexpired term and the Department Commander, with the approval of the Department Executive Committee, shall appoint an Alternate National Committeeman; (c) when there is a vacancy in the office of any Department Executive Committeeman, the Vice Committeeman shall serve until the next district convention, when a successor shall be elected. When there is a vacancy in the office of any District Vice Commander, the position of Vice Commander shall be filled by the District Executive Committee and shall serve until the next District Convention when a successor shall be elected. Action is to be taken within 30 days of this vacancy. In case of a vacancy in the office of both District Commander and District Vice Commander in the same District, the Department Commander shall appoint such officers to serve until the next district convention.

Section 7.6. The Department Executive Committee shall, at its first meeting following the Department Convention, appoint a Department Finance Officer to serve for the term of one fiscal year of the Department and until his successor is appointed, and he shall be treasurer of the Department.

Section 8.7. The Department Executive Committee may, by a two-thirds vote, fix and pay a salary or other compensation to any Department officers, official, or member of a standing committee when in its judgment it is to the interest of the Department that same be paid.

**The American Legion
Department of Nebraska**

RESOLUTION

Resolution No. 3

Subject: American Legion Membership

Submitted by: District 11

Referred to:

- (1) Finance CMTE
- (2) Membership CMTE
- (3) Legislative CMTE
- (4) Constitution & Bylaws CMTE

WHEREAS, The American Legion is an patriotic organization chartered by Congress on September 19, 1919 in United States Code Annotated Title 36 Chapter 21701-21708; and

WHEREAS, The purposes of the organization are:

- (1) to uphold and defend the Constitution of the United States,
- (2) to promote peace and good will among the peoples of the United States and all the nations of the Earth,
- (3) to preserve the memories and incidents of the 2 World Wars and the other great hostilities fought to uphold democracy,
- (4) to cement the ties and comradeship born of service,
- (5) to consecrate the efforts of its members to mutual helpfulness and service to their country; and

WHEREAS, Currently not all veterans are eligible for membership in The American Legion, but only when service occurred within certain dates set by the United States Government; and

WHEREAS, Veterans have honorably served, sacrificed, and died for their Country in wars and conflicts (such as the Cold War) that occurred during times outside of current eligibility dates for membership in The American Legion; and

WHEREAS, These Veterans who served and were honorably discharged wish to become members of The American Legion; and

WHEREAS, These Veterans would be a great asset, allowing The American Legion to further it's purposes and goals, including carrying out the four pillars of The American Legion; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, By The American Legion, Department of Nebraska, in regular convention assembled in Columbus, Nebraska, on June 23, 24, 25, 2017, That The American Legion at all levels work with and through elected Congressional representatives and the President to amend the appropriate United States Code Annotated so that Chapter 21703. Membership read:

“An individual is eligible for membership in the organization only if the individual--(1) has served in the Armed Forces of--

(A) the United States under Federal Service for at least one day; or

(B) a government associated with the United States under the same conditions and was a citizen of the United States when the individual entered that service; and

(2) was honorably or generally under honorably conditions discharged or separated from that service or continues to serve honorably,”; and, be it finally

RESOLVED, That The American Legion amend its Constitution and By-laws to reflect the change in membership eligibility as soon as possible after Congressional approval of the appropriate United States Code Annotated parts.

**The American Legion
Department of Nebraska**

RESOLUTION

Resolution No. 4

Subject: Boys' State Fee

Submitted by: District 1

Referred to:

(1) Boys' State CMTE

(2) DEC

WHEREAS, the Cornhusker Boys' State Committee at their regular meeting this year has recommended that each boy going to boys state pay a registration fee of \$20.00; and

WHEREAS, each post usually sends in the annual fee for each boy attending boys state; and

WHEREAS, it be more feasible to add the \$20.00 on the annual fee and the monies would be turned in at one time and cause less time in collecting it when they sign in; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, by The American Legion, Department of Nebraska, in regular convention assembled in Columbus, Nebraska on June 23, 24, 25, 2017, That the \$20.00 registration fee be added to the Posts sponsor fee instead of being paid by the boys stater.

**The American Legion
Department of Nebraska**

RESOLUTION

Resolution No. 5

Subject: American Legion Directory

Submitted by: District 1

Referred to:

(1) Department Headquarters

(2) DEC

WHEREAS, The Department of Nebraska American Legion makes a directory each year and mails it out to the members of the DEC and the committee members; and

WHEREAS, it is a good tool to contact members of the DEC, committee members, and members of the Sons of The American Legion; and

WHEREAS, they are leaving out the Department Auxiliary officers and we have a lot of contact with them; and

WHEREAS, we are asking Department Headquarters if they could include the American Legion Auxiliary of Nebraska officers in the directory; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, by The American Legion, Department of Nebraska, in regular convention assembled in Columbus, Nebraska on June 23, 24, 25, 2017, That the Nebraska Department American Legion directory include the Nebraska American Legion Auxiliary Department Officers in it.

Hello all!

Do we need to save The American Legion?

The success of The American Legion is everyone's responsibility to work as hard as our WWI Veterans did to get the Legion started back in March 1919.

The need of the Legion today is still as important as when our organization started. The founders put the ideas of the **4 pillars** together and this is the base for our foundation that we still follow today. From these pillars we have put together several programs that benefit our Veterans, Community and our Children and Youth.

A few of these programs are Operation Comfort Warriors, National Emergency Fund, Boys State/Boys Nation, Junior Shooting, Oratorical, Child Welfare Foundation, Family Support Network, Legion Baseball and Legion Riders plus many more.

Remember, **BE** visible with the **brand** of The American Legion, when you are out in the town, wear your Legion Shirts, Hats and Jackets. Show everyone that you are **"Proud Member of The American Legion"**!

Through the **"My Legion"** website you are able to have access to several different items besides your membership total. There are several different reports that will assist each one of us. You are able to see the Post 500 members in your area and encourage those members to join your Post and another letter that is available is reminder letters to pay your dues. These letters work as I had some success for my home Post.

Send "Letter to Editors" articles to the local newspapers about upcoming events as this a reminder to people what we (The American Legion) is all about. Each local Radio Stations are required to provide so many hours of public service so go and talk to them and get a monthly scheduled set up. District 6 speaks on 4 different radio stations each month.

Get a Facebook page set up for your local Legion Family and promote things that are related to your town, county, district, department and National. Get people aware of what The American Legion can do for you!!!

Thank you, for all your work but we must KEEP working as all Districts NEEDS to be over 95% to keep THE AMERICAN LEGION STRONG!

Sincerely yours,

George Cyboron
Membership Chairman

Working together as a TEAM, we will accomplish our goals!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!

If You're a Member In Good Standing With Your Department of The American Legion...



Endorsed by
Your Department of
The American Legion

You are eligible for LegionCare; \$5,000.00 in Accidental Death Insurance at NO COST TO YOU if a covered accident occurs while traveling on official Legion business*, or \$1,000.00 at NO COST TO YOU for all other covered accidents. This has been arranged on

your behalf by Your Department of The American Legion.

As soon as your enrollment is received, LegionCare will take effect. Your acceptance is guaranteed, so mail your coupon today.

For immediate coverage, enroll online at www.TheLIT.com/No-Cost-LegionCare

Cut out this section and mail it in today to enroll in LegionCare.

NAME

ADDRESS

CITY

STATE

ZIP

DATE OF BIRTH

MEMBERSHIP CARD NO.

EMAIL

**MAKE SURE YOU INCLUDE
YOUR DATE OF BIRTH**

X
SIGNATURE

DATE

Cut it out

Have you filled out all the above information?

Please mail to: **Legionnaire Insurance Trust • P.O. Box 26720 • Phoenix, AZ 85068-6720**

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Complete details of the coverage are contained in accident only Master Policy MZ0933569H0000A/0001A underwritten by Transamerica Premier Life Insurance Company Cedar Rapids, IA. This plan is not available in all states.

*For Purposes of the Legionnaire Insurance Trust, a member of The Legion Family, with current year's dues paid, could be eligible for the \$5,000 Accidental Death benefit if he/she is traveling to, attending, or returning from an official function at which the Legionnaire represents his/her Post, District, Department, or National Organization in an official capacity.