



THE AMERICAN LEGION

DEPARTMENT OF NEBRASKA

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NATIONAL COMMANDER'S OFFICIAL VISIT TO NEBRASKA National Commander Fang Wong will pay his official visit to Nebraska October 31-November 3. See attached schedule for locations and stops and come meet your National Commander. This will be our only opportunity to have him as a guest in Nebraska this year.

MEMBERSHIP NOTES In reviewing the last membership analysis, we have 9 of our Posts that have not yet transmitted a single 2012 member! These Posts are Belden, Gurley, Broadwater, Chappell, Shelton, Uehling, Upland, Shubert, and Santee. We would like to remind you that transmitting cards on a regular basis is a good business practice. It can also avoid the cost and irritation of follow-up dues notices being sent to members who have already paid.

POST OFFICER LISTS Enclosed find a list of Posts that have not yet submitted a list of Officers for 2011-12. We ask that you submit the list even though Officers may be the same as last year.

BIG TWELVE COMPETITION Commander Cyboron will be in Indianapolis October 10-12 attending the National fall meetings, and during the conference will submit a membership pledge to National Commander Fang Wong in competition with eight other Departments. The highest percentage of goal on a given date wins the Big Twelve Award. Help Nebraska win by transmitting membership cards regularly. Next target date is October 19th, cards must be to the Department by **October 17th**.

"GIFTS FOR YANKS WHO GAVE" Enclosed is a bulletin concerning the **2011 Gifts for Yanks** program. The cost of the program equates to a donation of about fifteen cents for every American Legion, Auxiliary and S.A.L. member in Nebraska. We respectfully ask for the support of your Post, Auxiliary Unit and S.A.L. Squadron again this year in order to provide a gift to those veterans confined to the VA Medical Centers and those residing in Nebraska's Veterans Homes during the holiday season. Your early response will assist in planning for this large activity by our volunteer representatives. Please participate and thanks!

LAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICER OF THE YEAR Nominations are being sought for recognizing the Nebraska "Law Enforcement Officer of the Year." For an application and information on the award, visit <http://www.nebraskalegion.net/programs/lawoff/lawofficer.htm> or contact the Department for an application. Deadline for having applications into Department Headquarters is December 1.

FIREFIGHTER / EMS OF THE YEAR Nominations are being sought for recognizing the Nebraska "Firefighter/EMS of the Year." The eligibility criteria for this award will be the same as the "Law Enforcement Officer of the Year." For an application form and information visit <http://www.nebraskalegion.net/programs/fire-ems/FireEMS.htm> or contact the Department for an application.

YOUTH ACTIVITIES Information on The American Legion's annual **Oratorical** Contest program was mailed to all Nebraska high schools on September 5. Post Commanders were also provided bulletins and contest information. Please contact your school officials about the value of this program and plan a local contest with your school, and visit www.nebraskalegion.net for more information.

The Department Chairman of the Law & Order Subcommittee will be meeting with staff to finalize plans for the 2012 **Junior Law Cadet** program. The 2012 program has the girls' session *tentatively* scheduled for June 11-15, and the boys' session *tentatively* scheduled for June 18-22. Full information will be sent to Post Commanders about February 1.

The Department Athletic Committee will meet on October 22nd at the Department Headquarters in Lincoln to review the 2011 **Baseball** program. Changes for 2012 will be announced during the Athletic Committee presentation at the Mid-Year Conference in Norfolk on January 14. Applications to host the 2012 Area and State Baseball Tournaments will be sent with the November newsletter and must be returned to Department Headquarters by December 31.

County Government Day programs are being scheduled in many counties. Please contact your County Commander for information and to volunteer your assistance.

ORATORICAL CONTEST DATES ARE SET District elimination contests are scheduled throughout November, and with the four Area contests in December, concluding with the State Contest at Norfolk, on Saturday, January 14, during Mid-Year Conference. If your Post has not yet made plans for a local contest, there may still be time to have one, with your winner eligible to compete at the District contest. Check with your District Oratorical Chairman or District Commander for details.

JUNIOR SPEECH CONTEST The Department Americanism Committee has established a Junior Speech Contest for middle school students in 6th through 8th grades. The contest requires a 3-5 minute speech on the following topic:

Amendment 14, section 2: first sentence: *"Representatives shall be apportioned among the several states according to their respective numbers, counting the whole number of persons in each state, excluding Indians not taxed."* The student will be allowed to refer to his/her note cards. The Junior Speech Contest will be conducted on the same date as the District Oratorical Contest. For more information, contact Activities Director Brent Hagel-Pitt.

CEREMONIAL RIFLES It is recommended that you do a serial number inventory of your TACOM issued military equipment at least once a year. There have been no changes to Ordering Ammunition of turning in or ordering rifles or other military equipment. Both the American Legion Officers Guide and the Nebraska Adjutants Guide provide each Post with the information needed. Feel free to contact Brent Hagel-Pitt at 402-464-6338 for questions.

BIDS TO HOST MID-YEAR CONFERENCE & DEPARTMENT CONVENTION Any Post interested in bidding to host the 2014 Department Convention or 2013 Mid-Year Conference to contact Adjutant Burkhardt for an application.

NATIONAL COMMANDER WONG'S INCENTIVE PROGRAM During the 2011 - 2012 membership year, National Commander Fang Wong will award his National Commander pin "I Served with PRIDE! Pin to any Legion family member who obtains a combination from the following: sign up "New Members", transfer members from our department headquarters post or contact and renew current members. Must equal eight (8) members from the above list. See enclosed application.

Additional Bulletins enclosed

- ** National Commander Fang Wong visitation schedule
- ** List of Posts that have not submitted an Officers list for 2011-12.
- ** Schedule for "Gifts for Yanks Who Gave"
- ** National Commander Fang Wong incentive program