



THE AMERICAN LEGION

DEPARTMENT OF NEBRASKA

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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 Monday morning, February 8. Please renew your delinquent members and transmit every possible card so they can be included in the overnight transmittal to National. This is also a cut off date for the March renewal notices.

DISTRICT CONVENTIONS SCHEDULED Enclosed with this newsletter 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. Please remember that District Conventions are for all Legionnaires, not just those selected as voting delegates.

MEMBERSHIP AWARDS Due to their efforts thus far in the 2010 membership campaign, many Posts will be receiving awards at the District Conventions. Some of the awards to be presented will be for the membership contributions to the organization during 2009. 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 Department Headquarters or directly to your District Commander. Just make sure the completed application is sent well in advance of your District Convention.

VETERANS' LEGISLATIVE DAY AT THE CAPITOL Please read and post the enclosed flyer regarding this important event to be held Wednesday, February 10, beginning at 9:00 a.m. in the Warner Memorial Chamber (Old Senate Chamber) just off the Rotunda. Bring a car-load of veterans with you.

BOYS' STATE APPLICATIONS Applications for the 2010 session of American Legion Cornhusker Boys' State has been mailed by first class mail to all POST ADJUTANTS. The deadline for return of the completed application is March 15 postmark. All high school principals were also sent a bulletin explaining the Boys' State program and requesting their assistance in making recommendations of qualified candidates. **Schools are NOT provided the application.** It is the Post's responsibility to return applications to Department Headquarters. Please select a boy who will agree to participate in the program for the entire seven days.

Please check with your County Superintendent to learn of eligible young men in your area who are HOMESCHOOLED students. They, too, are eligible and should be included in your selection process.

Posts may now send as many young men as they wish to nominate. Space is available in the housing unit used by Cornhusker Boys State to accept about 40 more participants than we hosted last year. Additional applications are available from this office. If your Post feels it cannot financially afford to sponsor a boy to Boys' State, the Post may accept outside financial assistance and cosponsorship. The fee remains at **\$300.00** per boy for 2010. No application can be accepted unless the fee is included.

JUNIOR LAW CADET PROGRAM Applications for the 2010 session of American Legion Junior Law Cadet Program have been mailed to the schools. The dates for the women's session are **June 14-18, 2010** and Men's session is **June 21-25, 2010**. The deadline for return of the completed application is **March 15** postmark. Graduation for each session will be Friday's at 2:00 p.m.

SERVICE OFFICER AWARDS Department Service Officer Steve Burger wishes to remind Posts that they may nominate a Post Service Officer or other member who is doing outstanding work in veterans rehabilitation work for a national citation. Please send your nomination letter to Mr. Burger at: c/o VA Regional Office, 5631 S. 48th St., Lincoln, NE 68516, **no later than March 31**. Your letter should include a resume of work this person has accomplished for our organization. There are also three national awards being made available from the Veterans Affairs and Rehabilitation Commission to be presented at the Department Convention in Columbus.

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 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 2010 American Legion Baseball season are being planned and are available at www.nelegionbaseball.net. Every certified umpire is encouraged to attend. Umpires selected to work Area Tournaments are required to have attended an Umpire Clinic within the last three years. State Tournament umpires are required to attend these clinics annually. If your Post is interested in hosting such a clinic, contact Activities Director Brent Hagel-Pitt for information.

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, 2010. National sends the certificates directly to **Post Commanders** for distribution to honored members, often times at the Post Birthday event in March. We understand the certificates will be mailed early in February. 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 provided that your post automatically loses its tax-exempt status. Please go the following web site at <http://epostcard.form990.org> to complete the form, deadline to file is May 15, 2010.

FLAG RETIREMENT If your post is planning a Flag Retirement Ceremony in the near future please contact Department Adjutant Burkhardt at 402-464-6338. The Department has numerous tattered flag that are in need of retirement.