



# NEWSLETTER

THE AMERICAN LEGION  
DEPARTMENT OF NEBRASKA  
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*“We are the Backbone of The American Legion”*

DEPARTMENT COMMANDER  
JAMES A. COSTELLO

OCTOBER 2017

DEPARTMENT ADJUTANT  
DAVID W. SALAK

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**MEMBERSHIP NOTES** In reviewing the last membership analysis, we have 9 of our Posts that have not yet transmitted a single 2018 member. These Posts are Primrose, Belden, Bayard, Broadwater, Belgrade, Haigler, Imperial, Pleasanton, and Union.

**POST OFFICER LISTS** Enclosed find a list of Posts that have not yet submitted a list of Officers for 2017-18. We ask that you submit the list even though Officers may be the same as last year.

**BIG TWELVE COMPETITION** The Department Commander and Adjutant will be in Indianapolis attending the National fall meetings October 7 - 10. During the conference, they will submit a membership pledge in competition with eight other Departments. The Department who meets their pledge with the highest percentage of goal wins the Big Twelve Award. Do your part and transmit membership cards at least twice a month. The next National target date is October 12 and cards must be to the Department by October 10.

**LAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICER & FIREFIGHTER / EMS OF THE YEAR** Nominations are being sought for both the Nebraska Law Enforcement Officer & Firefighter / EMS of the Year. Contact the Department for more information or visit <http://www.nebraskalegion.net/programs/>. An application can be downloaded from the website. Application deadline to Department Headquarters is December 1.

**NATIONAL COMMANDER ROHAN INCENTIVE PROGRAM** During the 2017-2018 membership year, National Commander Denise Rohan will award her National Commander pin to any American Legion Family member who obtains three new members. 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. Each member listed must be eligible for membership in The American Legion. Forward names of SAL or Auxiliary members to your detachment or unit for use in their respective incentive programs.



The certification form for this program 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 Rohan's pin incentive program will end June 30, 2018, or when supplies are exhausted.

**MID-YEAR CONFERENCE** This is a reminder that the 2018 Mid-Year Conference will be held January 12-14 at the Sandhills Convention Center in North Platte. Their phone number is 308-532-9090 and the room rates are \$89.00 for a king or queen room up to four people and \$110.00 for a two-room suite. Please give them a call and make your reservations early as there are only 85 non-suite rooms available.

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

Information on The American Legion's annual Oratorical Contest program was mailed to all Nebraska high schools on August 25. Post Commanders were also provided contest information in Septembers newsletter. Please contact your school officials about the value of this program and plan a local contest with your school.

The District elimination contests are scheduled throughout November, followed by the four Area contests in December, and concluding with the State Contest on Saturday, January 13 during Mid-Year conference in North Platte. If your Post has not yet made plans for a local contest - there may still be time to have one.

The Junior Speech Contest (for middle school students in 6<sup>th</sup> through 8<sup>th</sup> grades) requires a 3 to 5 minute speech on the following topic: "**Amendment 15**": Section 1. The right of citizens of the United States to vote shall not be denied or abridged by the United States or by any state on account of race, color, or previous condition of servitude. Section 2. The Congress shall have power to enforce this article by appropriate legislation. The Junior Speech Contest will be conducted on the same date as the District Oratorical Contest. Check with your District Oratorical Chairman or District Commander for details or visit [www.nebraskalegion.net](http://www.nebraskalegion.net) and [www.legion.or/oratorical](http://www.legion.or/oratorical) for more information.

The Department Chairman of the Law & Order Subcommittee will be meeting with staff to finalize plans for the 2018 Junior Law Cadet program. The 2018 program has the girls' session tentatively scheduled for June 11 – 15 and the boys' session tentatively scheduled for June 18 – 22. More information will be sent in February.

**100% AMERICAN LEGION FAMILY RIBBON** Any Post family who receives 100% membership by the May 9, 2018 target date is eligible for the 100% ribbon. A family is the Post, Auxiliary (if they have one), and Squadron (if they have one). All groups must be at 100% to ear the ribbon. The form is enclosed.

**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 or rifles or other military equipment. Both the American Legion Officers Guide and the Nebraska Adjutants Guide provide each Post with the information needed. Contact Brent Hagel-Pitt at 402-464-6338 for questions.

**UNSERVICEABLE U.S. FLAGS** The department has numerous unserviceable flags that need to be retired. Any post planning a flag retirement in the near future should contact Activities Director Brent Hagel-Pitt.



Enclosed:

- 1) Posts that have not submitted an Officers list for 2017-18.
- 2) National Commander's Incentive Program
- 3) 100 % American Legion Family Ribbon