

January 24, 2026

Greetings, Servant Leaders!

Is it c-c-c-c-c-cold enough for you all? It looks like winter finally arrived!

We had an amazing Midwinter Conference in Norfolk last weekend. I sure wish we could get more District One representation, but I also understand how busy we all are. Be sure to read up on it when you get the next issue of your STAR.

Scholarships: Please keep in touch with your school guidance counselor on scholarships. Maybe offer \$25 for each completed scholarship application and \$50 for the winner!!

NEXT UP: Cornhusker Girls State and District One Convention

By now you should have received your forms for Girls State. IMPORTANT – the teachers are NOT receiving the application forms – ONLY your President or Girls State Chair will receive them. (Our teacher downloaded her own form, which can be done at nebraskalegionaux.net.) IF YOU HAVEN'T RECEIVED YOUR ENVELOPE, CALL THE OFFICE RIGHT AWAY (402) 466-1808. The application fee will be \$450 this year. There will be a \$25 activity fee for the group pics and t shirt. You as a Unit can pay the activity fee, or ask the student to pay it, so she has some skin in the game. If you have trouble getting the money, don't hesitate to ask your local bank, power company, etc to help sponsor. They have accounts for just this sort of thing.

District One Convention is Saturday, March 28, 2026 in Valentine. Registration starts at 8 a.m. CT with joint session starting at 9. This is at the Legion Post Home on Main Street. I am including a copy of a page from the program as we are asking for sponsorships. The cost is \$25 for a quarter page, \$50 for half and \$100 for a whole page. If a business does not want to buy an ad, but still wants to support our Veterans, you can ask them for \$10 to have their name listed as a supporter and/or an item from their business to donate for a door prize. If they do buy an ad or donate a prize, they are welcome to add their business card (about 100) to our courtesy bags that each registrant receives. We will need all ads in by mid-February, so please ask any business owners you know ASAP!! You can contact me with any questions. Cost for the day will be \$35 – 10 for registration, 10 for lunch and 15 for supper. There are some rooms at the Trade Winds Motel (our only locally owned motel) if you would like a room. 1-(402) 284-3828.

For the District One Fundraiser, we are asking each Unit and Post to provide a theme basket for a silent auction. Ask your members to donate an item for any theme you choose so no one has to carry the cost. If your post doesn't want to do a basket, they can sure contribute to yours. Try to use items from your local merchants; they support us, so we need to support them!

MEMBERSHIP! MEMBERSHIP! MEMBERSHIP! I was hoping to see a bump this past week, but, sigh, all for naught. We are still sitting at 81.97% PLEASE make a point to get some

memberships gathered! And PLEASE DO NOT HOLD MEMBERSHIPS! If one of your members happens to suffer a catastrophic event and you have not sent in their membership, they would not be eligible for the \$3000 hardship grant. Memberships for 2025 are officially expired on 12-31-25. If you have any questions, please, let me know and I will help in any way I can. This is the lifeblood of our organization. We had a special guest at Midyear, Northwest National VP Shareen Johnson of WY, who explained membership very well. **She explained there are three types – 1) the card carrying member, who belong but have no time for meetings or any other contributions; 2) the members who will step up to bring baked items, contribute to baskets, and may even come to meetings, and 3) the leaders who go to the conventions and conferences on behalf of the Unit. ALL ARE NECESSARY FOR THE SURVIVAL OF THE ORGANIZATION!** When our Department President Ruth Hietbrink picked the theme *Stirring Up Members*, she meant not only to search for new members, but to take a look at your existing members to see if they are ready to step up to a chairmanship or even attend a department conference. Find out their “why”, and encourage them to honor “their Veteran” through increased contributions to the Unit.

Finally, I am asking for your prayers for our Department President Ruth Hietbrink. Her cancer has returned and is now at Stage IV. She is valiantly continuing with her treatments and works hard every day to keep up her positive attitude in her fight. If SHE can keep working for our organization during this time, we certainly can! She is hoping to be at our District Convention, and I hope you can be there to show her some love and support.

Sincerely, For God and Country

Jean Vackiner, President, Nebraska District One

Unit	City	Objective	Junior	Senior	Total	Percent
0079	Ainsworth	194	18	151	169	87.11%
0090	Valentine	73	1	52	53	72.6%
0202	Wood Lake	39	5	32	37	94.87%
0319	Cody	96	25	71	96	100%
0012	Chadron	138	5	103	108	78.26%
0138	Crawford	40	7	31	38	95%
0098	Springview	63	3	27	30	47.62%
0123	Bassett	86	8	68	76	88.37%
0227	Newport	54	8	35	43	79.63%
0034	Gordon	109	12	89	101	92.66%
0161	Rushville	145	7	103	110	75.86%
0239	Hay Springs	72	5	43	48	66.67%
TOTAL		1109	104	805	909	81.97%