# THE DEPARTMENT OF TENNESSEE GENERAL BULLETIN
## AUGUST 2026
### Guidance, Direction, Purpose; True North

National: www.legion.org State: www.tennesseelegion.org
Boys State: www.tnboysstate.org SAL: www.legion.org/sons

We mail monthly bulletins to only to posts with ***CERTIFIED*** Post Officers to the post's dues remittance mailing address. We also email the Bulletin to all post officers. Please visit on our website; www.tennesseelegion.org for current and past bulletins. Please share this information with the members of your post.

**TENNESSEE AMERICAN LEGION COLLEGE:** September 26 & 27, 2026, held at Department Headquarters, Application is available on the Department website in the Training and Education tab.

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**LIT – Legion Care Benefits**

UP TO $5,000.00 NO COST TO YOU; ACCIDENTAL DEATH INSURANCE PROTECTION:

As a member of the Legion Family, you're now eligible for Legion Care, up to $5,000.00 in NO COST to you accident coverage. This coverage is an important coverage extended to valued Members – compliments of Your Department of The American Legion.

Yes, Legion Care really is at NO COST To You. That's because coverage has been arranged and paid for on your behalf by the Legionnaire Insurance Trust.

You can't be turned down, no matter how dangerous your job or how often you travel. Plus, it pays benefits regardless of any other coverage you have. But it's not automatic – you have to activate it. Visit www.thelit.com for more information.

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**NATIONAL DISASTER PREPAREDNESS MONTH:** The month of September is dedicated to preparing for natural disasters. **National Emergency Fund** (NEF) grant eligibility is open to Legionnaires (up to $3,000) and Legion Posts (up to $10,000).

- Applicant must have been displaced from their primary residence due damage sustained during a declared natural disaster. If emergency/disaster shelters are available, and applicant chooses not to stay at shelter, need to know the reason they did not stay in the shelter.
- Not meant to replace or repair items, only to meet most immediate needs (i.e., temporary housing, food, water, clothing, diapers, etc.) during the period immediately following the disaster.
- Does not cover insurance compensation or monetary losses from a business, structures on your property (barns, tool sheds, etc.,), equipment or vehicles.
- Membership must be active at time of disaster and the time of application.

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**DEPARTMENT-LEVEL OFFICERS, ELECTED, OR APPOINTED:** shall, within 30 days of election or appointment, complete at a minimum, American Legion Education Institute (ALEI) Basic Training. Once completed, a copy of the course certification will be forwarded to the Department Adjutant per Department Constitution Article VII, Section 11.

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**POST ADJUTANTS**: please complete both pieces of the 2-part membership card and "all" portions of the form, including BOS, War Era, Phone#, and email address when transmitting a new member application through Department Headquarters.

**VAMC CHRISTMAS DONATIONS/PARTIES:** The deadline for the VAMC Christmas Donations will be December 10, 2026. Please have all donations made to Department Headquarters before the above date.

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**EARLY BIRD MEMBERSHIP TARGET DATE:** September 10, 2026, kicks off the Early Bird Membership Target Date. Posts are expected to reach 50% of their post Membership Goals for the year.

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**DEGREE OF SEPARATION:** If nothing else, recent lawsuits have demonstrated the need for a greater degree of separation between the Post, District, Division, and Department. Post business is just that; post business and it is their responsibility. The only exception is outlined in the Department Constitution Article XI. Districts, Divisions, and Department staff shall not directly or indirectly interfere in the post, unit, or squadron's day-to-day business or operation, which includes auditing. The ***American Legion is a bottom-up organization*** – starting at the post-level. The Department does not rent post facilities or manage "legal" post events/activities. The only time the Department needs to get involved is if the Post has its charter suspended according to the auspices of the Department Constitution Article XI.

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**JUNIOR SHOOTING SPORTS PROGRAM**: Club registration opens on September 1, 2026. The American Legion's Junior 3-Postion Air Rifle Tournament provides American Legion-affiliated youth competitors an opportunity to evaluate their marksmanship skills in competition with other junior competitors throughout the nation. The individual tournament has two phases of competition; the first round is the state championships, and the second round is qualification for national championships. For more information visit www.legion.org/jssp-club-registration. Questions? Contact Don Ward at 907-957-1897 or *heraclitus762@yahoo.com*

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**TEMPORARY FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE (TFA) PROGRAM:** is strictly for the basic needs of minor children including shelter, utilities, food, clothing and medical. Medical grants must be approved prior to treatment and must be accompanied by a physician's statement and estimated costs. TFA *will not* pay for cable, consumer debt, Internet services, insurance, taxes, transportation, previous debt, or any expense that does not contribute to the active basic needs of minor children. TFA does not give a family a "clean slate" on their debts,

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**POST ADJUTANTS**: Please DO NOT mail in the Officers' Notification form packaged with membership cards.

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**POST OFFICERS GUIDE AND MANUAL OF CEREMONIES:** The publication went through a complete rewrite in 2025; multiple changes, please take the time to thumb through the 2026 publication; Each Post attending Commander's tour is receiving the 2026 edition.

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**NATIONAL HISTORY CONTEST AND SHOWCASE**: Guide can be found at the following link: 2026 Contest and Showcase Information · 2026 History Contest and Showcase · National History Contest and Showcase
Department will be able to submit:

- 1 One-Year digital Department history for contest (these entries will be judged and showcased on the online exhibit)
- 1 One-Year hard-copy Post history for showcase (these entries will be showcased at National Convention)
- 1 One-Year digital Post history for showcase (these entries will be showcased on the online exhibit)

Entries in the department digital contest should consist of one PDF file not to exceed 100MB and should be submitted digitally by Aug. 1 annually. Post submissions for the national showcase (digital and hard copy) need to be received by the national library no later than August 7th.

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**50-, 60- OR 70-YEAR CERTIFICATES**: Annually in February, National Headquarters issues certificates for every member credited on the national records with a minimum of 50 years of continuous membership, and those who have not previously received an award. A member receives only one of these awards for each specified year. The certificates are sent to each post with qualifying members. Each post should receive the certificates in mid-to-late February in time to be presented in connection with The American Legion's birthday, March 15-17.

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**AUGUST 2026 CALENDAR**

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| 1: | Tenth District Commander's Tour, Post 1 |
| 1: | Samsung American Legion Scholarship applications due to National Headquarters |
| 4: | Coast Guard Birthday |
| 4-9: | American Legion Baseball Tournaments |
| 5-8: | National Membership Workshop |
| 14-19: | American Legion Baseball World Series in Shelby, NC |
| 23: | American Legion Legacy Run |
| 26-(9/3): | National Convention |

**SEPTEMBER 2026 CALENDAR**

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| 1: | Junior Shooting Sports Registration Opens |
| 7: | Labor Day (HQ offices closed) |
| 11: | Patriot Day |
| 14-20: | Constitution Week |
| 18: | US Air Force Birthday |
| 19: | POW/MIA Recognition Day |
| 20-26: | Employ Older Workers Week |
| 26-27: | Tennessee Legion College, Department Headquarters |

**IS YOUR POST INCORPORATED, IF SO WAS A SUPPLEMENTAL CHARTER ISSUED?** When a post becomes incorporated, it is necessary to apply for a supplemental charter. When a post incorporates and changes its name, the change is enough for it to be considered by the government as a new entity, thereby requiring an Employer Identification Number (EIN). The incorporation of a post modifies the information sent in on the earlier inclusion letter reporting the post name to the national organization. The legal name of the post will appear on the incorporation papers or corporate charter with the state in which it is located. A change in the name, even just adding "Inc.," will be reported to the IRS. The national organization must maintain the correct, legal, and accurate post name exactly as it appears on the corporate charter from the state on this report to the IRS. Send changes to National Headquarters through the Department so the IRS records will remain up-to-date, and the post can avoid any IRS issues. When submitting a supplemental charter form, attach a copy of the post's Articles of Incorporation, issued by the state. The supplemental charter form is available from the department headquarters. If the name of the post charter changes while a supplemental charter is in place, the supplemental charter will be null and void. A new supplemental charter application and articles of incorporation will need to be submitted.

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**21ST CENTURY AD HOC COMMITTEE SUMMARY OF RECOMMENDATIONS:** The purpose of this Committee's report is to propose recommendations aimed towards bettering our organization. These recommendations are intended to assist The American Legion's leadership in developing and implementing new or refined strategies in order to improve recruitment, engagement, retention, and training in a multi-generational service organization. The members of this diverse Committee have identified several key elements listed above that The American Legion should examine in greater depth as we strive to be our Nation's most innovative and forward-thinking veteran service organization.

**OCTOBER 2026 CALENDAR**

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| 4-7: | Department Commanders and Adjutant National Meetings |
| 7-8: | Fall Meetings |
| 12: | Columbus Day (HQ offices closed) |
| 14-18: | *National Commander's Visit (subject to change), he will tour the Eastern Division* |
| 15: | Third District Meeting |
| 16: | Second District Meeting |
| 17: | First District Meeting |
| 22: | Eighth District Meeting |
| 23: | Ninth District Meeting |
| 24: | Tenth District Meeting |
| 31: | Halloween |

**NOVEMBER 2026 CALENDAR**

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| 6: | Fifth District Meeting |
| 7: | Seventh District Meeting |
| 11: | Veteran's Day |
| 13: | Fourth District Meeting |
| 14: | Sixth District Meeting |
| 16-21: | National American Legion College |
| 17: | Seventh District Meeting |
| 26-27: | Thanksgiving (Department HQ offices closed) |