# THE DEPARTMENT OF TENNESSEE GENERAL BULLETIN

## February 2026

**Veterans Offering Lifelong Service**

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

**SHARE THIS BULLETIN WITH THE MEMBERS OF YOUR POST**. We mail monthly bulletins to the post dues mailing address. Post Commanders and Adjutants will receive a copy via email. The Bulletin is also available on our website; www.tennesseelegion.org. Please share this information with your Post membership.

**ORATORICAL CONTEST**: Each post shall contact each of their High School. First place state scholarship is $3000. Due the winter storm the application deadline is extended to 4:29 PM on 17 February 2026. District Oratorical Contests are from 21 February, through 21 March 2026. Divisional Oratorical Contests are on 28 March 2026. The Department Oratorical Contest is April 11, 2026. Check Department website Oratorical page for exact dates, times, and locations. Missing contest dates, times, and locations for District 7, 9 & 10, location & time missing for District 6.

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**AMERICA'S 250TH BIRTHDAY:** Posts can help celebrate through state commissions. The America250 Foundation, formed in support of the congressionally established U.S. Semiquincentennial Commission, is looking for American Legion assistance in coordinating the national observance – on every level – of the United States' 250th birthday in 2026. For questions contact Shawn McBurney, America250's senior manager of state outreach, at smcburney@america250.org, or Grace LeFevre, coordinator of state outreach, at glefevre@america250.org. For questions on veterans and/or military-related issues, contact David Hamon at dhamon@america250.org .

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**POST CONSTITUTION AND BYLAWS**: Any Post Constitution and Bylaws prior to the "Legion Act;" July 30, 2019, no longer complies with National or Departmental Constitution and Bylaws and needs to be reviewed and updated. Post officers, the Department will review your draft Constitution and Bylaws. Taking advantage of this service could save you time and potentially embarrassment. We look for National and Departmental compliance. Please forward drafts as an email attachment to Adjutant@tnlegion.org and Mike@tnlegion.org.

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**LEGIONNAIRE INSURANCE TRUST:** As a member of the American Legion Family, you are eligible for a no cost, to you, $5000 Accidental Death Insurance. Visit the link following for more information or to sign up. http://www.thelit.com/no-cost-legioncare/

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**AMERICAN LEGION BOYS STATE:** The time is now to start collecting donations so that you can send eligible young men to Boys State. The tuition remains $425 per young man. ***Delegate registration will start in February 2026***. Once again, the Boys State will be on Tennessee Tech University campus starting **Sunday May 24, 2026, with inauguration May 29, 2026.**

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**DISCIPLINE:** Who or what entity can judge a post member? Reference Department Constitution Article XI, Section 4 or National Bylaws Article IV, Section 1.

**TRANSMITTING MEMBERSHIP DUES**: Per National Constitution Article X, Section 3.1: "The annual dues shall be collected by each Post and transmitted promptly through the Department to the National Treasurer. Departments are designated agents for collection for The American Legion with respect to such annual dues and upon the receipt thereof shall, remit them promptly to The American Legion. In no event shall the period transpiring between the receipt of such annual dues by a Department and the remittance thereof to The American Legion exceed **thirty (30) days**." Recommend processing membership weekly.

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**LEGACY SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATION:** Children, adopted child, or stepchild of U.S. military members who died while on active duty on or after September 11, 2001. Children adopted child or stepchild of post-9/11 veterans having been assigned a combined disability rating of 50 percent or greater by the Department of Veterans Affairs also qualify. Each needs-based scholarship provides up to $20,000 for children of the fallen, and up to $5,000 for children of disabled people for undergraduate or post-graduate college. Recipients may reapply for additional annual awards up to six times. The application deadline is Wednesday, ***March 25, 2026***. After administrative review and approval, scholarship recipients will be notified of their scholarship award between May 8 and May 22, 2026, via the email addressed placed on the application.

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**OFFICER CERTIFICATIONS:** We enclosed 2026-2027 Officer Certification forms for both the American Legion as well as the Sons of the American Legion in last month's mailing. We realize some posts hold their officer elections well before the Legion's standard of April or May. Please send completed and signed officer certifications to the Department by **June 21, 2026**.

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**POST DATA REPORTS (PDR)**: We plan to mail the PDR with the March Bulletin. Upon receipt, please review, record changes, sign, and return the signed PDR to the Department by **April 15, 2026**. Even if there are no changes; we still need the Post Data Reports returned!

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**CONSOLIDATED POST REPORTS:** Posts can document their activity in their 2026 Consolidated Post Report using myLegion.org. Due by **May 15, 2026,** for Awards Board evaluation.

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**EAGLE SCOUT OF THE YEAR**: Due March 1, 2026

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**DEPARTMENT STAFF UPDATE: To** make everyone aware Dean Tuttle has retired effective January 11, 2026 at the close of the Mid-Winter Conference. We wish him and his wife Kathleen a happy retirement and thank him for his service to the Department of Tennessee.

**2026 MID-WINTER APPROVED RESOLUTIONS:**

**Legion Resolutions:** (Constitutional Resolutions will be in the May Tennessee Legionnaire)

Resolution 2026-02; Rescinding the Department American Legion Riders (ALR) Constitution and Bylaws

Resolution 2026-03: Amend Article VII **Department of Tennessee Bylaws**.

Resolution 2026-04: Merger of Post 0059 to Post 0040.

Resolution 2026-05: Merger of American Legion Springfield Post 48, Springfield, TN into Greenbrier Post 45, Greenbrier, TN.

Resolution 2026-06: Nomination of Dennis M. Grifin for the Position of Department Adjutant / Finance Officer.

Resolution 2026-07: Dissolution of ALR 172 Charter.

**Resolution 2026-01:** A Resolution Recognizing Amateur Radio as an Official Program of the American Legion Department of Tennessee, was sent back to the Post for changes in format and content.

**Resolution 2026-08:** Replace Andrew Jackson "Old Hickory" with Alvin C. York "Sergeant York" on the Department of Tennessee Caps, was sent to the Finance Committee to ensure there was no financial burden placed on the Department for this change. It was tabled until further information could be received from Emblem Sales.

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**DEPARTMENT CONVENTION:** RE: Department Constitution Article V, Section 2. "*At the Department Convention, each chartered Post of The American Legion in the state shall be entitled to five delegates and five alternates; provided the Post has in good standing the fifteen members required for Charter. One additional delegate and alternate is authorized for each additional fifteen members or major fraction thereof. Post membership will be calculated by adding the current paid Post members to those Post 2000 transfers completed during the current renewal year. No delegate shall be seated unless the annual dues have been received by the Department Adjutant prior to Post delegate selection. Delegates shall be chosen at Post meetings not less than one week before the Department Convention."*

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**CANDIDATE RESOLUTIONS**: Can be found in the Tennessee Legionnaire on the Department website.

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**SONS OF THE AMERICAN LEGION OF THE YEAR:** Send nominations for SAL of the Year to Detachment by May 15, 2026.

**FEBRUARY 2026 CALENDAR**

*9: Oratorical Applications due to HQ*
*11: 5th Membership Renewal Reminder Cutoff*
*16: President's Day (Offices Closed)*
*21: Oratorical Contest – District 3*
*28: Oratorical Contest – District 2 & 6*
*28: Washington Conference, Washington DC*
*28: Basic Training – Post 12, Jackson*

**MARCH 2026 CALENDAR**

*1-3: Washington Conference, Washington DC*
*1; Eagle Scout of Year packages due*
*7: Oratorical Contest – District 4*
*11: Membership Target Date 90%*
*14: Oratorical Contests – Districts 5 & 8*
*21: Oratorical Contest – District 1*
*25: Legacy Scholarship Applications Due*
*28: Division Oratorical – East Middle & West*

**ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP:** dues shall be paid by October 20, each year prior to the start of the next calendar year. Legion membership is annual, the Legion year being from January 1 to December 31. Department and National dues shall be paid for the full year, irrespective of the month in which the member shall join the local Post. Membership dues are three-fold, Post, Department and National. Membership is not considered current until paid and transmitted to all three levels. If membership dues have not been paid by January 1 of each calendar year, the member becomes delinquent. If dues have not been paid by February 1, ***the member is suspended, but nevertheless as a member with no privilege to vote, or hold office except that of reinstatement by vote of the Post and payment of dues; and dues not being paid, such membership continues without privileges for a period of five months,*** to June 30, at which time the member is dropped from the roll by Constitutional mandate and the membership forfeited.

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**FREDRICK BOWLING JROTC CADET OF THE YEAR:** Send recommendations for the Colonel Frederick B. Bowling JROTC Cadet of the Year to the Department by- May 15, 2026. The cadet selected as the Colonel Frederick B. Bowling JROTC Cadet of the Year, will receive a $3,000.00 educational scholarship. The recommendation must be signed and certified to be accurate by the senior JROTC Instructor.

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**RISK MANAGEMENT:** is the process of identifying, assessing, and controlling financial, legal, strategic and security risks to an organization's capital and earnings. We have been questioned as to why we are against certain policy changes, if they come to fruition, the question is no longer "if" but "when."

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**DEPARTMENT MID-WINTER CONFERENCES AND CONVENTIONS:** The Department of Tennessee Mid-Winter Conferences and Conventions will be held in a new location for the next couple of years. The host property for the 2026 Department Convention is the Music City Sheraton located in Donelson, TN. The Reservation link is available on the Department website.

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**NEW SQUADRONS/POSTS:** We added Squadron 135 Post 135.

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**LEGIONNAIRE OF THE YEAR:** Send nominations for Legionnaire of the Year to Department by May 15, 2026.

***APRIL 2026 CALENDAR***

*3: Good Friday (Offices Closed)*
*8: Membership Target Date 95%*
*11: Department Oratorical Contest*
*14: District 7 District Convention*
*15: Post Data Reports due to Dept HQ*
*15: Boys State Tuition Due*
*17: District 4 District Convention*
*18: District 5 District Convention*
*20: District 6 District Convention*
*23: District 8 District Convention*
*24: District 9 District Convention*
*25: District 10 District Convention*
*25-30: Legionnaire Trust Meetings*
*30: District 2 District Convention*

***FIRST OF EVERY MONTH IS "BE THE ONE DAY"***