THE DEPARTMENT OF TENNESSEE GENERAL BULLETIN
January 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 only the ***CERTIFIED*** Post Adjutants. Post Commanders/Service Officers will receive theirs via email. The Bulletin is also available on our website; www.tennesseelegion.org. Please share this information with your Post membership.

2026 MID-WINTER CONFERENCE: We will return on January 10 and 11, 2026 to Embassy Suites Nashville SE, Murfreesboro for our annual Mid-Winter Conference. The Event agenda, registration links, along with a link to reserve accommodations are on the Department's landing page: www.tennesseelegion.org. The deadline for discounted rate has passed, it was December 10, 2025.

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ORATORICAL CONTEST: Each post shall contact each of their High School. First place state scholarship is $3000. Send applications to Department Headquarters by 9 February 2025. District Oratorical Contests are from 21 February, through 14 March 2026. Divisional Oratorical Contests are 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 Districts seven, nine and ten.

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SEMIQUINCENTENNIAL OF AMERICA: America's 250th birthday will be July 4, 2026, our posts need to plan ahead and start making plans for America's Semiquincentennial–**Each Post within the Department of Tennessee will need to appoint a post POC**. To learn more visit: https://www.legion.org/informationcenter/news/honor/2022/October/250-years-for-america-coming-soon.

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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 need 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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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**.

ON-LINE MEMBERSHIP REIMBURSEMENT: Department and Detachment will be direct depositing on-line reimbursements (that exceed $25) to posts that filed an ACH form or be mailing checks in January for their members that have renewed online for 2026. Books are closed in previous years. ACH forms for future reimbursements are available on the Department website. ACH_Deposit_Form.pdf Earnings less than $25 will be held until the total reimbursement reaches $25.

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EMPLOYMENT AWARDS: The Department annually presents awards at the Department Convention to honor employers who hire veterans, disabled veterans, and older workers. We also recognize those who help veterans find employment. The awards include:

- Employer of the Year – Small, Mid-Size, and Large
- Employer of the Disabled Workers Award
- Employer of Older Workers Award
- Local Veterans Employment Representative (LVER) of the Year
- Outstanding Disabled Veteran Outreach Program (DVOP) Specialist of the Year
- Outstanding Employment Service Office of the Year

Nomination forms for each award are available through the Department website. Please include no more than two typed narrative pages along with the official nomination form. Send submission to the Department Headquarters, 318 Donelson Pike, Nashville TN 37214 by **January 5, 2026**.

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LAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICER OF THE YEAR: To recognize a well-rounded Law Enforcement Officer, who has exceeded, above and beyond, the duty requirements expected of the position held and who exemplifies the virtues of professionalism and dedication and has demonstrated a distinct pattern of community service to the community, state, or Nation. Send your submission to Dept HQ by **January 5, 2026**.

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EMERGENCY MEDICAL TECHNICIAN OF THE YEAR: To recognize a well-rounded Emergency Medical Technician, who has exceeded, above and beyond, the duty requirements expected of the position held and who exemplifies the virtues of professionalism and dedication and has demonstrated a distinct pattern of community service to the community, state, or Nation. Send submissions to Dept HQ by **January 5, 2026**.

FIREFIGHTER OF THE YEAR: To recognize a well-rounded Firefighter, who has exceeded, above and beyond, the duty requirements expected of the position held and who exemplifies the virtues of professionalism and dedication and has demonstrated a distinct pattern of community service to the community, state, or Nation. Submissions due to the Dept HQ by **January 5, 2026**.

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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 following link for more information or to sign up. http://www.thelit.com/no-cost-legioncare/

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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**." Please process membership transmittals at least weekly.

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PARADE FLAG DISPLAY: The flag, when carried in a procession with another flag or flags, should be either on the marching right; that is, the flag's own right, or, if there is a line of other flags, in front of the center of that line. The flag should not be displayed on a float in a parade except by a staff. The flag should not be draped over the hood, top, sides, or back of a vehicle or of a railroad train or a boat. When the flag is displayed on a motor vehicle, the staff shall be fixed firmly to the chassis or clamped to the right fender. When display from a Motorcycle, centered. If two flags are being displayed, the US Banner is displayed to the right.

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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.

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2025-2026 CPR/CSR: Fillable forms are available for download on Legion.org. CPR's/CSR's are also now available for entry on Mylegion. Adjutants, when updating on Mylegion do not click on submit until the final entry is made later in 2026.

THE AMERICAN LEGION NATIONAL REGIONAL INFORMATION CONFERENCE: Attendees will gain valuable insights into Constitution & Bylaws, Post Operations, Be The One, and more, with sessions designed to enhance member engagement and leadership. ***Mission Statement***: To enable the American Legion Family to promote the founding principles of our organization through focused regional training and education; ensuring collaboration and networking of our members. Challenging our Legion Family to fully understand our legacy and prepare them to lead The American Legion beyond the 21st Century. Vision Statement: Through American Legion Family education, we enable and facilitate a culture to create an environment where the needs of our organizations, veterans, youth, and community are fulfilled. ***Dates***: Indianapolis – Jan. 31, 2026; Atlanta: Feb.7, 2026. Website: National Regional Information Conference | The American Legion.

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CONGRATULATIONS: We made the 75% Membership Target. Next Target is 80% on January 14th.

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MID-WINTER RESOLUTIONS: Legion Resolutions:

Resolution 2026-01; Amend Department Constitution Article VII, Recognizing Amateur Radio As An Official Program of the Department of Tennessee

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

Resolution 2026-03: *Amend Department Constitution Article VII, Section 1.*

Resolution 2025-04; *Cancelation of Post 0059 Kingston Springs Charter assets to merge with Post 0040 Ashland City*

Resolution 2025-05: *Cancellation of Post 48, Springfield Charter asset to merge with Post 45, Greenbrier.*

Resolution 2025-06*: Nomination of Dennis M. Griffin to serve as Department Adjutant/Finance Officer.*

Resolution 2025-07: Cancellation of Riders 0172 Charter

Resolution 2026-01 From Martin Post 55, *"Replacing Old Hickory on Department of Tennessee Official Legion cap with Sgt Alvin York"*

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EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY: Anyone interested in becoming an ***Office Manager*** for the American Legion Department of Tennessee, please email Mike@TNLegion.org.

"First of Each Month is "Be the One Day."

JANUARY CALENDAR

1: Legacy Scholarship Application Opens
1: Baseball Registration Opens
1: Samsung American Legion Scholarship Application Opens
5: Employment Awards along with, Firefighter, EMT, and Law Enforcement of the Year due
9-11: Department Mid-Winter Conference
19: Dr. Martin Luther King Day (Offices Closed)
22: Be The One Virtual Training
26: Post Adjutant's Virtual Education/Training
26-31: National Regional Information Conference – Indianapolis
31: Gaming Event application due to the TN Secretary of State's office

FEBRUARY CALENDAR

1: Four Chaplains Sunday
7: National Regional Information Conference Atlanta
9: Oratorical Applications due the Department Headquarters
16: President's Day (Offices Closed)
21: 3rd District Oratorical Contest
23: Post Adjutant's Virtual Educational/Training
28: 2nd District Oratorical Contest
28: 6th District Oratorical Contest
28 – March 3: Washington Conference

MARCH CALENDAR

1: Eagle Scout of the Year Applications Due to Department Headquarters
15: American Legion Birthday/Buddy Checks