

THE TENNESSEE LEGIONNAIRE



Volume XLI, Number 4

www.tennesseelegion.org

May 2026

Message from the Department Commander

By **Todd McKinley**

Department Commander

With Spring upon us, that means we've just completed our Department Oratorical contest, and our winner is on their way to national at Hillsdale College in Michigan.

When it comes to membership, we met every goal up to 85% and came 2% shy of meeting the 90% goal. When it comes to Voter Voice, week in and week out, we find ourselves finishing 3rd nationally as well as month to month. To me, this is solid, but when it comes to everything we do, there's room for improvement and that includes me.

I've missed sending a few Voter Voices to Washington along the way, but all in all, every 24 hours I logon and send my emails. After all, this is the easiest thing we can do to have our voices heard, but most still ignore doing this.

We ended 2025 in 5th place in annual Voter Voice actions, but I think we can do better in 2026.

Given I serve as Department Commander, I've personally pledged to support every Voter Voice, but I ask that you support what you can.

This past March 12th, we held our first ever Legion Family Day on the Hill in Nashville and I learned a lot and will make changes for our next one.

We should plan to hold the next one before the bill filing deadline and that's for starters. However, we had 31 attendees and I expected about 20, so to me it was a success. Gina Harjani and Cooper Castle were recognized on the floor, and I was allowed to speak on the Senate floor as well. Remember, we need to be a value added in Nashville and not just look to be detractors.

What I'm asking from everyone, is to dig in and push membership, given it's the lifeblood of our organization and we need



all the help we can muster.

Remember, I use my personal website www.toddmckinley.com to discuss Legion business as Department Commander.

Links mentioned above: ·
[National Commander Visit](#)
[Be The One Commission](#) ·
[TN Commander's Blog](#)
[Voter's Voice](#)
[Department website](#)

Boys State registration continues until May 19 at noon

Boys State begins on Sunday, May 24 at Tennessee Tech University. Registration of delegates will begin later this month and tuition per student is \$425.

Each boy who attends should ideally be partnered with a post, even if your post isn't able to fund the cost of sending a student. If your post has never sent delegates and you'd like to know more, let us know and we'll help you get started.

Students who attend will participate in a 5-day exercise that involves the governing of a mythical 51st state, complete with elections, political parties, and operation of judicial, legislative and executive branches of government. Each school guidance counselor should have received a flier with more information about the program. Visit the Department website Americanism tab for more info. See flier on last page.

First-Ever Legion Day on the Hill



The Department of Tennessee hosted its first-ever Legion Day on the Hill in March and 31 people showed up in support. Members sat in on floor sessions of the Senate and the House and spoke to representatives about the Legion's legislative priorities.

Consolidated Post Reports are due to Department by May 15 for Awards Board Evaluation. Beyond awards, the National Commander uses these post activities to document the work that The American Legion is doing nationwide.

Living Your Life With Purpose

By Shoney Shonebarger

Department Chaplain

There are some verses in Scripture that read like they were written for our exact moment in history.

In an age of raised voices, quick tempers, and political trench warfare, the Apostle Paul's words land with both conviction and clarity:

"If it be possible, as much as lieth in you, live peaceably with all men."

Notice what Paul does here. He doesn't call us to win arguments. He doesn't command us to dominate the public square. He doesn't tell us to divide the world into "our side" and "their side." Instead, he calls us to do something far more difficult – and far more Christlike. He calls us to peace.

Peace doesn't mean surrendering our convictions. It means refusing to surrender our character.

Somewhere along the way, our culture began confusing volume with strength and hostility with leadership. We traded statesmanship for showmanship, dialogue for diatribe, and mutual respect for mutual suspicion.

But the heartbeat of a healthy society has never been partisan victory. It has always been the ability of neighbors – even those who disagree – to live together with dignity, humility, and goodwill.

Civility is not weakness. It is wisdom. Dialogue should not be equated with compromise. It is courage. Mutual respect is not naiveté. It is necessary.

We need leaders who understand this. Leaders who can sit at a table with people they disagree with and still see the image of God across from them. Leaders who refuse to demonize, dehumanize, or divide. Leaders who know that the loudest person in the room is rarely the one who brings the most light.

In short, we need statesmen again. Statesmen don't inflame tensions; they calm them. They don't weaponize differences; they bridge them. They don't tear down opponents; they build up communities.

And truthfully, we don't have to wait for elected officials to model this.

Continued on p. 3

FINANCIAL STATEMENTS as of APRIL 30, 2026		INCOME	
ASSETS			
UNRESTRICTED FUNDS:		Dues Regular	\$274,035.00
CURRENT ASSETS:		Riders/Veterans & Childrens Fund	\$2,192.00
Cash and Cash Equivalents	\$676,667.47	Interest/General Funds	\$98.12
Investments	\$338,704.34	Charitable Contributions/NEF Donations	\$16,390.00
	-----	Dividends John Deere Stock	\$3,236.76
TOTAL CURRENT ASSETS	\$1,015,371.81	Conferences/Conventions	\$19,228.80
		Insurance/Emblem Sales Commissions	\$4,377.55
Property and Equipment	\$1,526,359.19	Closed Post Funds	\$84,252.90
Accumulated Depreciation	-\$513,226.77	Boys State Income (Expenses)	-\$5,106.99
	-----	Labels/Fundraising Programs	\$5,883.50
TOTAL UNRESTRICTED FUNDS	\$2,028,504.23		-----
		TOTAL INCOME	\$404,587.64
RESTRICTED FUNDS:		National Dues Current	\$9,329.50
Cash and Cash Equivalents	\$89,608.89	National Dues Prior Years	\$0.00
Investments	\$524,561.81	Salaries/Taxes	\$146,336.32
	-----	Commander/Adjutant/Asst Adjutant	\$21,533.22
TOTAL RESTRICTED FUNDS	\$614,170.70	Vice/District Commanders	\$5,482.00
		Conventions/Conferences	\$43,361.87
TOTAL ASSETS	\$2,642,674.93	Office Machines/Equipment/Computers	\$10,154.23
		Membership Expenses	\$5,566.89
LIABILITIES AND EQUITY		TN Legion College/Basic Training	\$2,806.46
UNRESTRICTED FUNDS:		Emblem Sales/Flags	\$1,038.92
CURRENT LIABILITIES:		Postage	\$6,064.65
Accounts Payable	\$59,918.53	Printing/Supplies	\$3,695.81
Funds Held for Others	\$91,328.67	Telephone/Utilities	\$20,554.66
Surplus Capital	\$286,640.72	Maintenance/Repairs	\$12,943.63
	-----	VA & R Programs	\$1,000.00
TOTAL UNRESTRICTED FUNDS	\$437,887.92	Insurance	\$13,791.66
		Depreciation	\$28,531.35
RESTRICTED FUNDS:		Labels/Fundraising Expenses	\$733.41
FUND BALANCES:		Youth Programs	\$19,889.26
Net Income / (Loss)	\$ 22,833.17	CPA Audit/Legal Fees@Post 95	\$26,163.49
	-----	Miscellaneous Expenses	\$2,777.14
TOTAL RESTRICTED FUNDS	\$2,204,787.01		-----
TOTAL LIABILITIES/EQUITY	\$2,642,674.93	TOTAL EXPENSES	\$381,754.47
		NET INCOME	\$ 22,833.17

Cont'd from p. 2

Peace begins at the street level — in our neighborhoods, churches, workplaces, and conversations.

It begins when we choose patience over provocation, listening over labeling, and understanding over assumption.

Living peaceably with all men means loving the neighbor who votes differently, worships differently, or sees the world through a different lens. It means remembering that unity is not

uniformity; it is the shared commitment to treat one another with honor, dignity and respect, even when we disagree.

Paul's challenge is personal: "as much as lieth in you." In other words, peace starts with the part you can control — your tone, your posture, your words, your willingness to build a bridge instead of a barrier.

This week, may we be people who

carry peace into divided spaces. May we speak with grace, stand with conviction, and walk with humility.

And may we show our communities — and our country — that living peaceably is not only possible, but powerful.

Because when we choose peace, we look a little more like "The One" who called us to it. May God bless you and our nation.

Pro Deo et Patria!

American Legion Baseball ramps up for 2026

By Phil Pillet

Baseball Commissioner

Tennessee American Legion Baseball offers players from 15 to 19 the opportunity to play competitive baseball without the high cost of travel teams. Our mission is simple: to develop players into exceptional athletes and outstanding citizens.

We need the support of every post in the Department to help us grow the program and support additional players and teams for 2026.

Recently, a team of volunteers set up a fundraising table at Walmart in Dickson, and raised \$1,200 in five hours. The project required \$200 in

supplies, so the net profit was \$1,000. It's a project that any post can do, and the results could be phenomenal for our program.

If you'd like more information about the Walmart fundraiser, email me at fdmr@me.com.

Plans are already in motion for the 2026 season, with Tennessee aiming to double the number of participating teams. The Department of Tennessee aims to achieve this by fostering partnerships between Legion posts and local teams, as well as providing financial support for these programs.

If you know of a coach, a team, or a player who'd like to know more about

American Legion Baseball, send us an email at info@tnlegionbaseball.com. In many cases, teams that play together in other leagues can register to participate in American Legion Baseball tournaments as a team.

Even if you don't know any teams or players, your post can help by donating to the program, with no amount being too small:

- \$20 buys a player jersey
- \$75 pays for an umpire
- \$250 registers a player
- \$2,000 pays for team uniforms

Make plans to come out and catch our games this summer at Columbia State Community College.

2025 - 2026 Department Leadership

DEPARTMENT COMMANDER

Todd McKinley, 202-256-0219, toddmac78@yahoo.com

DEPARTMENT SENIOR VICE COMMANDER

Tonya Launsby, 731-636-9600, tonyalaunsby@gmail.com

NATIONAL EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEMBER

Lanny Culver, 731-225-8033, ldclga@hotmail.com

ALTERNATE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEMBER

Larry Kersey, 317-213-9607, navy78lk@att.net

East TN Vice Commander: Dwight Woodcock, 423-223-7966, dwoodcock2399@gmail.com

Middle TN Vice Commander: Ron Hessil, 262515-1746, rhessil@sbcglobal.net

West TN Vice Commander: Jean Launsby, 731487-2825, launsby55@gmail.com

DEPARTMENT CHAPLAIN

Shoney Shonebarger, 601-446-2427 jtshonebarger@gmail.com

DISTRICT COMMANDERS

First: Jean Michele Perry, 423-300-8737 grimseyperryhold@gmail.com

Second: Sammie Cox, 865-356-2299 scox2299@gmail.com

Third: Mark Williams, 931-266-6778 maekwilliamsii@gmail.com

Fourth: Ed Bray, 843-696-3704 edbray44@yahoo.com

Fifth: David Brewer, 615-429-5362, dcbrewer@yahoo.com

Sixth: Glen Baggett, 615-319-5692, baggett.glen@gmail.com

Seventh: Vince Cuevas, 931-212-0257, vcuevas.alpost39@gmail.com

Eighth: Gary Wallace, 731-589-1107 gpwalljac@gmail.com

Ninth: Doug Marshall, 937-459-0301 dougmarshallpost0047@gmail.com

Tenth: Jeff Jungkans, 901-872-8833 junker1965@hotmail.com

DEPARTMENT ADJUTANT

Mike Griffin, 318 Donelson Pike, Nashville, 615-391-5088 Mike@TNLegion.org

Department Adjutant's Corner

By Mike Griffin

Department Adjutant

In accordance with the Department of Tennessee Constitution and Bylaws, revisions to our governing documents are being published in this month's edition of the Legionnaire, as required when amendments or updates are proposed.

Article 14, Section 1 of the Department of Tennessee's constitution states:

This Constitution may be amended or revised at the Department Convention by a two-thirds vote of duly qualified delegates, provided that any proposed amendment or revision is read at the Mid-Winter Conference preceding the annual convention, and published in "The Tennessee Legion-

naire" prior to consideration at the convention.

This issue includes proposed modifications to both the Legion's governing documents and the Legion Riders program.

The current text is presented with strikethrough formatting, while suggested changes appear bold for clarity on page xx of this Legionnaire.

The proposed amendments are outlined as follows:

TAL Bylaws – Article VII, Sections 1–4

ALR Constitution and Bylaws - Resolution 2026-02 Submitted to and Approved by the Department Executive Committee at the 2026 Mid-Winter Conference:

- RESOLVED, In a regularly

scheduled meeting of Post 077, on 28 August 2025, the Post membership recommends that the Department Executive Committee of The American Legion Department of Tennessee further recommend that the 2026 Convention rescind the current Department American Legion Riders Constitution and Bylaws; and, be it further

- RESOLVED, That the rescinded ALR Constitution and Bylaws be replaced with a Department Standard Operating Procedure (SOP), providing guidance to Posts choosing to charter this program.

These revisions will be subject to a vote during the general session at the Department Convention scheduled for June 28, 2026, in Murfreesboro.

DEPARTMENT OF TENNESSEE CONSTITUTION

PREAMBLE

For God and Country, we associate ourselves together for the following purposes; To uphold and defend the Constitution of the United States of America; to maintain law and order; to foster and perpetuate a one-hundred-percent Americanism; to preserve the memories and incidents of our association in all Wars; to inculcate a sense of individual obligation to the community, state and nation; to combat the autocracy of both the classes and the masses; to make right the master of might; to promote peace and good will on earth; to safeguard and transmit to posterity the principles of justice, freedom and democracy; to consecrate and sanctify our comradeship by our devotion to mutual helpfulness.

ARTICLE I

NAME

Section 1. The name of this organization will be The American Legion, Department of Tennessee.

Section 2. Department Headquarters of The American Legion, Department of Tennessee is located at 318 Donelson Pike, Nashville, Tennessee 37214.

ARTICLE II

NATURE

Section 1. The American Legion, Department of Tennessee, is a civilian organization. Membership does not affect nor increase liability for military or police service. Rank does not exist in The American Legion; no member shall be addressed by their military or naval title in any convention or meeting of The American Legion.

Section 2. The American Legion, Department of Tennessee, will be absolutely nonpolitical and will not be used for the dissemination of partisan principles nor for the promotion of the candidacy of any person seeking public office.

ARTICLE III ORGANIZATION

Section 1. The American Legion, Department of Tennessee shall be organized into three Grand Divisions, ten Districts,

and Posts as hereinafter provided.

ARTICLE IV ELIGIBILITY

Section 1. (a) Any person shall be eligible for membership in The American Legion who was a member of the Army, Navy, Marine Corps, Coast Guard, Air Force, or Space Force of the United States and assigned to federal active duty at some time in accordance with the eligibility dates consistent with the National Constitution and Bylaws of The American Legion; or who, being a citizen of the United States at the time of their entry, served on active duty in the armed forces of any of the governments associated with the United States during either of the eligibility periods; provided, however, that such service shall have been terminated by honorable discharge, separation, or continued honorably after either of the periods; provided further, that no person shall be entitled to membership who, being in such service during either of the periods, refused on conscientious, political or other grounds to subject himself to military discipline or unqualified service.

(b) All new applicants for membership in The American Legion, Department of Tennessee must file a written application for membership and in addition, present for examination to a qualified officer of the Post or the Department, proof of honorable federal active-duty service.

Section 2. There shall be no form or class of membership except an active membership and dues shall be paid annually or for life.

Section 3. No person may be a member at any time of more than one Post.

Section 4. No person who has been expelled by a Post shall be admitted as a member in another Post without the consent of the expelling Post. The person expelled may appeal to the Department Executive Committee for permission to apply for membership in another Post. The person shall be ineligible for membership until such permission is granted.

Section 5. It will be required that any officer, elected or appointed in The American Legion, Department of Tennessee will, within 30 days, provide satisfactory evidence of honorable federal military service, providing eligibility for membership in The American Legion as follows:

Eligibility for American Legion post officers will be certified by their Adjutant with notification to the Department Adjutant.

Eligibility for American Legion department officers will be certified by the Department Adjutant with notification to the National Adjutant.

ARTICLE V DEPARTMENT CONVENTION

Section 1. The legislative body of this organization is the Department Convention, to be held annually at a place to be fixed by vote of the preceding convention. If the preceding convention does not fix a place, the Department Executive Committee will decide on a meeting place and set the dates and times for the convention.

~~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.~~

Section 2. At the Department Convention, each chartered Post of The American Legion in the state shall be entitled to the voting strength of five delegates; provided the Post has in good standing the fifteen members required for Charter. One additional delegate is authorized and added to the total voting strength, 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 and alternates shall be chosen at Post meetings not less than one week before the Department Convention.

Section 3. Each registered delegate shall be entitled to one vote. The vote of any registered delegate absent and not rep-

resented by an alternate shall be cast by the majority of the registered delegates from their Post, there shall be no unit rule. Alternates for registered delegates shall have all the privileges of registered, except that of voting.

Section 4. A quorum shall exist at a Department Convention when the Posts representing thirty percent of the delegate strength in the Department of Tennessee are present and qualified to vote, regardless of whether the Posts have all of the delegates or alternates to which they are entitled present or only a fraction thereof. Once the Convention is called to order and roll call is performed, it shall be determined whether a quorum exists. Should a quorum not exist, the Convention Chair and Secretary of the Convention will make every effort to contact posts that can, without delay, travel to become a delegate to the Convention, and in turn provide sufficient delegates to constitute a quorum.

Section 5. The rules of procedure at the annual Department Convention shall be those set forth in Roberts' Rules of Order.

Section 6. All resolutions to be considered at a Department Executive Committee Meeting, or a Department Convention shall be submitted to the Department Adjutant at least twenty (20) days in advance of the meeting or convention at which they are to be considered, and to the Chair of the Resolutions Committee at least fifteen (15) days in advance of the meeting or convention at which they are to be considered, unless these time limits are waived by a majority vote of the Resolutions Committee. The Department Executive Committee, the Constitution and Bylaws Committee, or Resolutions Committee may initiate a resolution at Mid-Winter or the Department Convention as a Committee Resolution.

Section 7. All resolutions, except those by the Department Executive Committee, the Constitution and Bylaws Committee, and the Resolution Committee presented to the Convention Resolutions Committee, must have the approval of the respective Posts submitting the resolution. Such Resolutions should be signed by the Commander and Adjutant of the submitting Post.

Section 8. All convention resolutions must be submitted to the convention through and by the Resolutions Committee.

Section 9. Convention Committees:

(a) The following convention committees and convention subcommittees shall be established: Americanism, Veterans Affairs and Rehabilitation, National Security, Children and Youth, Credentials and Rules, Internal Affairs, and Finance.

(b) The duties of the convention committees will be as follows:

(1) Americanism- Assigned to the convention committee on Americanism are the American Legion Boy's State, American Legion Baseball, Scouts, High School Oratorical Scholarship, and Junior Shooting Sports Chairs. Each of these committees will meet preceding the Mid-Winter Conference and Department Convention to formulate and recommend matters of American Legion policy to the Department Convention, including plans and programs respecting matters pertaining to patriotic devotion to the United States, education and educational facilities, development of patriotic youth activities and the cultivation of loyalty to the United States as expressed in the preamble to The American Legion Constitution.

(2) Veterans Affairs and Rehabilitation- Assigned to the convention committee on Veterans Affairs & Rehabilitation are the Department Service Officer, Veterans Affairs Voluntary Service (VAVS), and Homeless Veterans Chairs. Each of these committees will meet prior to the Mid-Winter Conference and Department Convention to formulate and recommend to the Department Convention policies including, but not limited to, plans and programs for the physical and mental rehabilitation of veterans, their entitlement to compensation and pension benefits, and the welfare and support of their immediate family members, dependents, and survivors.

(3) National Security- Assigned to the convention committee on National Security are the National Emergency Fund (NEF), Prisoner of War/Missing in Action (POW/MIA) and Junior Reserve Officers' Training Corps (JROTC) Chairs. Each of these committees will meet preceding the Mid-Winter Conference and Department Convention to formulate and recommend matters of American Legion policy, including plans and programs respecting the training of the youth of the nation and disaster preparedness, to the Department Convention.

(4) Children and Youth- Assigned to the convention committee on Children and Youth are the Children and Youth and Family Support Chairs. Each of these committees will meet prior to the Mid-Winter Conference and Department Convention to formulate and recommend matters of American Legion policy respecting Child Welfare Foundation (CWF), Temporary Financial Assistance (TFA), and family support, to the Department Convention.

(5) Internal Affairs- Assigned to the convention committee on Internal Affairs are the Membership and Post Activities, Legion Riders, the Sons of the American Legion, Constitution and Bylaws, and Resolutions Chairs. Each of these committees will meet preceding the Mid-Winter Conference and Department Convention to formulate and recommend matters of American Legion policy, including plans respecting promotion of American Legion membership and all other phases of internal affairs of The American Legion, Department of Tennessee.

(6) Finance- Assigned to the Finance Committee are the five appointed members, the Department Commander, the Department Adjutant, and the Department Judge Advocate. The Finance Committee shall meet prior to the Mid-Winter and Department Convention to formulate and recommend matters of policy respecting the budget and fiscal well-being of The American Legion, Department of Tennessee.

(7) Credential and Rules- Assigned to the Credential and Rules Committee are the Department Commander, Department Adjutant, and Credentials Chair. The committee will receive from the Credentials Chair a statement of the number of posts and delegates to which the several posts are entitled under the Department Constitution verify, and recommend approval of the same, and report to the Mid-Winter Conference and Department Convention at its first session. The committee will also consider and devise special rules of order for the Department Convention not provided for in the rules of convention as may be required or directed by the Department Convention for the purpose of processing issues or the special business of the Department Convention. Such special rules shall apply only to the Department Convention for which they were adopted.

(c) MANNER OF APPOINTMENT- Unless otherwise provided for in this Constitution and Bylaws, all Department Committee members for the ensuing year will be appointed by the Department Commander within thirty days following the adjournment of the Department Convention.

(d) Mid-Winter and Department Convention Committee Procedures shall be as follows:

All the delegates assigned by their respective posts to committees shall proceed to business immediately preceding the Mid-Winter Conference and Department Convention as described in the Mid-Winter and Department Convention Agenda and will consider and act upon all the resolutions referring to it by the convention committee. Convention committees should endeavor to complete their tasks and compose their final report by the day immediately preceding the opening of the Mid-Winter Conference and Department Convention. Such final reports shall be filed with the Department Adjutant. The convention committee chair will then submit the consolidated report to the Department Executive Committee for action.

Each post shall designate members to attend each convention committee for which the post has an active American Legion program and shall notify their designees of their appointment to convention committees during the post meeting immediately prior to Mid-Winter and the Department Convention.

ARTICLE VI

NATIONAL EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEMBER- ALTERNATE NATIONAL COMMITTEE MEMBER

The National Executive Committee members and the Alternate National Executive Committee members will be elected biennially by the Department Convention at the convention preceding the expiration of the terms of the present elected incumbents. The National Executive Committee members and the Alternate National Executive Committee members may elect to run for a total of two consecutive terms, or four years. In case of the death, resignation or removal of the National Executive Committee member, the alternate will serve for the unexpired term, or until the next Department Convention; in case of the death, resignation or removal of the Alternate Committee member, the Department Commander will appoint a successor who will serve until the next meeting of the Department Convention and/or until their successor be elected.

ARTICLE VII

DEPARTMENT OFFICERS

~~Section 1. At the Department Convention a Department Commander and Department Senior Vice Commander will be nominated and elected by the whole body, who cannot serve until properly installed at the same Department Convention. The Department Commander and/or Department Senior Vice Commander will be limited to two terms in office, and they must run consecutively. At the Division caucus conducted during the annual Department Convention,~~

~~there shall be a Vice-Commander for each of the three Grand Divisions nominated and elected, who cannot serve until properly installed at the same Department Convention.~~

Section 1. At the Department Convention a Department Commander and Department Senior Vice Commander whose nominating resolutions have been forwarded to the Department Adjutant, and received by the Mid-Winter Conference, will be elected by the whole body, who cannot serve until properly installed at the same Department Convention. The Department Commander and/or Department Senior Vice Commander will be limited to two terms in office, and they must run consecutively. At the Division caucus conducted during the annual Department Convention, there shall be a Vice Commander for each of the three Grand Divisions whose nominating resolutions have been forwarded to the Department Adjutant, and received by the Mid-Winter Conference, to be elected, who cannot serve until properly installed at the same Department Convention.

Section 2. The Department Vice Commanders and the District Commanders will be eligible nominees, if the person is a member of an American Legion Post in good standing within their respective Division or District from which they are elected.

Section 3. District Commanders will be nominated and elected at their respective District Convention held in their respective districts at least 30 days prior to the Department Convention but cannot serve until properly installed. All elections conducted for Department Commander, National Executive Committee Member, Alternate National Committee Member, Department Senior Vice Commander, Department Vice Commanders, and District Commanders will be held on a delegate basis, at their respective conventions, with voting strength based on current paid membership, plus those Post 2000 transfers completed during the current membership cycle as of the day of the nomination and election.

Section 4. The term of office for all department officers will begin at the adjournment of The Department Convention, at which they were installed and will end upon the adjournment of the next Department Convention, or until their successors are duly chosen and installed. Upon the death, resignation, or removal of the Department Commander, the Department Senior Vice-Commander will act as Department Commander until the Department Executive Committee meets or until the Department Convention, whichever comes first, and elects or appoints a successor Department Commander. All vacancies in other Department offices not otherwise provided for shall be filled by the Department Commander.

Section 5. Each District Commander will appoint, within 30 days, a District Adjutant, and District Membership Chair; and may appoint a District Sergeant at Arms and/or a District Chaplain and appointed officials will be officially recognized as District Officers while they are performing their duties within the confines of their respective Districts.

Section 6. (a) All Past Department Commanders and all Past Department Adjutants, while in good standing in their respective Posts, shall be members for life of the Department Executive Committee, without vote and shall be life delegates to all Department Conventions, with vote, to be exercised with the vote of their respective Posts.

(b) All Past Department Commanders with voice and no vote on the Department Executive Committee and in good standing with their respective Post, and not serving on the Department Finance Committee, Constitution and Bylaws Committee or Resolution Committee, and who are present for roll-call and for the entire called Department Executive Committee meeting will be allowed expense round trip mileage from respective Posts within the Department of Tennessee, based on the rate authorized by the Department Executive Committee.

Section 7. (a) A Department Adjutant and Finance Officer will be elected by the Department Executive Committee. Such Adjutant and Finance Officer shall serve a probationary period of not more than two (2) years, after which the Department Adjutant and Finance Officer shall serve without tenure. The Department Adjutant and Finance Officer shall serve subject to removal only when two-thirds of the members of the Department Executive Committee determine it to be for cause and in the best interest of The American Legion. Vacancies occasioned by death or resignation, or such removal as designated above shall be filled in the same manner as original appointment was made.

(b) The Department Executive Committee and the appointed Department Adjutant and Finance Officer may by contract, delineate the duties, responsibilities, and compensation of the Department Adjutant and Finance Officer provided that no term of such contract shall be in conflict with the duties and responsibilities of the Department Adjutant and Finance Officer.

(c) All persons having custody of funds will secure adequate crime insurance which shall be approved by the Depart-

ment Executive Committee.

Section 8. The Assistant Department Adjutant/Programs Director hereafter will be referred to as Assistant Adjutant, and they will be elected by the Department Executive Committee.

Section 9. The Department Commander will, following their election, appoint a Department Chaplain, Department Judge Advocate, Department Historian, Department Service Officer, Department Sergeant-at-Arms, and other Chairs and Committee members, required to fill their administration, and perform the mission of The American Legion, Department of Tennessee.

Section 10. (a) The Department Commander will, following their election, appoint members to the Department Finance Committee (consisting of five members) for a three-year term as terms expire. The Department Commander will name one of the members of their choice to serve as the Chair during their administration.

(b) It shall be the duty of the Department Finance Committee to consider any and all matters pertaining to appropriations, such requests, and any and all matters pertaining to the finances of the Department Tennessee; to advise with the Department Adjutant and Finance Officer with reference to Department funds; and to check all receipts and expenditures and submit recommendations to the Department Executive Committee for final action.

(c) There shall be a Personnel Committee to review and hear grievances of the full-time employees of the Department of Tennessee. Before any employee shall be terminated, they shall have the right to appeal to the Personnel Committee and ratified by the Department Executive Committee. The Committee shall be composed of the Department Commander, Immediate Past Department Commander, and the Department Judge Advocate. The Department Judge Advocate shall be the Chair and a permanent member of the Committee.

Section 11. All 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 course certification will be forwarded to the Department Adjutant.

ARTICLE VIII DEPARTMENT EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Section 1. Between Department Conventions, the administrative power will be vested in the voting members of the Department Executive Committee, which shall be composed of twenty members, which include the Department Commander, Department Senior Vice Commander, three Department Vice-Commanders, National Executive Committee member, Alternate National Executive Committee member, three immediate Past Department Commanders, and ten District Commanders. Upon receiving a formal call-in from the Department Headquarters, the expense of the voting members of the Department Executive Committee, Department Judge Advocate, and Department Sergeant-at-Arms shall be based on the mileage rate from the individual's Tennessee American Legion Post, as authorized by the Department Executive Committee and will be allowed daily lodging for one day as authorized by the Department Headquarters Call. Individuals must be present for rollcall and remain for the entire length of their respective Called meeting in order to be eligible for claiming expenses and a copy of the motel/hotel bill must be presented with the expense report in order to claim the authorized daily lodging.

Section 2. Eleven members shall constitute a quorum of the Department Executive Committee.

Section 3. The Department Judge Advocate shall be present in an advisory capacity at all meetings of the Department Executive Committee, on the same basis as members of the Department Executive Committee.

Section 4. "The newly elected Department Commander shall Call the newly elected Department Senior Vice Commander, Department Vice-Commanders, and District Commanders to its first meeting immediately following the adjournment of the Department Convention. At this time, the Department Commander will either hold an Orientation Session or schedule Orientation Sessions to be held in the three Grand Divisions. If, the meetings are held in the three Grand Divisions, the newly elected Department Commander, Senior Vice Commander, three Department Vice Commanders and ten District Commanders, who were elected and installed during the most recent Department Convention for the ensuing year will be allowed round-trip mileage to and from the orientation site from the member's respective Tennessee American Legion post of record.

ARTICLE IX POST ORGANIZATION

Section 1. Those who desire to form a Post will make an application for a temporary charter to the Department Commander or the Department Adjutant. When such an application, properly executed, is approved by the Department Commander or by the Department Executive Committee, the temporary charter will be issued by the National Commander and the National Adjutant.

Section 2. The minimum membership for a post shall be fifteen members.

Section 3. A temporary charter will be granted and will state that it is granted on the recommendation of the Department and on the following terms and conditions:

(a) The above-named post will uphold the declared principles of The American Legion and will conform to and abide by the regulations and decisions of the Department and National Executive Committees, or other duly constituted national governing body of The American Legion.

(b) This charter is subject to revocation by the National Executive Committee on the recommendation of the Department.

Section 4. After a temporary charter has been in effect for a probationary period of at least ninety days, an application for a permanent charter may be made. Such probationary period shall not exceed one year. The Department will determine whether a permanent charter shall be issued or denied. The action of the Department shall be final.

Section 5. All charters will be countersigned by the Department Commander and the Department Adjutant.

Section 6. Permanent charters may be recommended for suspension, cancellation, or revocation by the Department Executive Committee as provided hereafter in Article XI and in the National Bylaws.

Section 7. No Post will be organized or chartered by The American Legion, Department of Tennessee which is named for any living person, political party, any business or industrial corporation, profession, firm, partnership, fraternal or religious society or business association, and whose membership will be derived from, confined, or restricted to, membership of such parties, societies, partnerships, professions, political parties, or employees of such business or industrial corporations.

Section 8. The officers of the Post shall be:

(a) Post Commander.

(b) One or more Post Adjutants/Finance Officer.

(c) Post Service Officer.

(d) Such other officers as the Post shall deem necessary that are contained in the Officers Guide and Manual of Ceremonies, under Post Officers.

The Post Executive Committee shall be composed of such odd number of members as is provided in the Constitution and Bylaws adopted by such Post, and in addition thereto, the Post Commander and Post Adjutant shall be ex-officio members of the Committee.

Section 9. Roberts' Rules of Order shall supplement the Constitution and Bylaws in any area of procedure not covered by the Constitution and Bylaws.

Section 10. All officers of the Post for the ensuing year will be elected and certified to the Department Adjutant not later than five days prior to the announced dates of the Department Convention. Post members must be present or give intent, to accept nomination for all officer positions. Certification shall be made on forms furnished or prescribed by the Department. No delegate, of any Post, will be seated until such election and certification is complete.

Section 11. (a) All Post Homes shall be properly identified with appropriate signs, preferably with the Legion emblem.

(b) Except that as provided in Article XI. Section 3(b), no Post Home, or other real property owned by a Post shall be encumbered or sold, except by majority vote at a regular or special meetings of the Post, upon ten days written notice of such proposed action, to the entire membership of the Post.

Section 12. Each Post will adopt a Constitution and Bylaws. No provision of a Post's Constitution and Bylaws may conflict with the National or Department Constitution and Bylaws. A copy of the Post's Constitution and Bylaws together with any subsequent amendments will be filed with the Department Adjutant. Until such time as the Department Adjutant has received and recorded the copy of a Post's Constitution and Bylaws, The American Legion, Department of

Tennessee Constitution and Bylaws will be the governing document for that post.

Section 13. Post homes that operate a lounge, canteen, or bar should adopt and have posted the following House Rules:

(a) The following shall be admitted:

1. All members of The American Legion showing current American Legion card and spouse or escort.
2. All members of The American Legion Auxiliary showing current card and spouse or escort.
3. All members of The Sons of The American Legion showing current card and spouses or escort.
4. Guests if accompanied by an American Legion, Sons of The American Legion or Auxiliary member showing current card. Members are responsible for their guests and may not leave before guests.
5. There shall positively be no drinking of any kind during the Legion meeting or drinks brought into the meeting room.
6. No intoxicated member will be tolerated in the lounge, canteen, or bar.
7. Cashing of Checks, credit or lending of lounge funds is strictly prohibited.
8. Any members or guests removing, damaging, or destroying any property of The American Legion shall pay for damages.

(b) The employees or attendants on duty may refuse service to anyone who is in violation of the House Rules.

The steward or employee in charge shall have full authority to enforce house rules while on duty and may reject any member or guest for misconduct or violation of house rules. The member may have the right to appeal to the Post Executive Committee, if necessary, to regain entry into the lounge canteen or bar.

ARTICLE X FINANCE

Section 1. The revenue of The American Legion, Department of Tennessee, shall be derived from annual membership dues and such other sources as may be approved by the National and Department Executive Committees.

Section 2. The amount of such annual dues will be determined by each National Convention and Department Executive Committee for the ensuing year.

Section 3. The annual dues will be collected by each Post and either transmitted on-line to National or forwarded to the Department Adjutant and Finance Officer, who will retain the Department dues and transmit to the National Treasurer the National dues.

Section 4. Annual membership dues shall be paid by October 20, of 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.

ARTICLE XI DISCIPLINE

Section 1. The Department Executive Committee may, after fifteen days' notice and a hearing if requested, suspend, cancel, or revoke a Post Charter. The action taken by the Department Executive Committee will be final and conclusive unless an appeal is taken to the National Executive Committee within thirty days from the date of the suspension, cancellation, or revocation. The action taken by the National Executive Committee upon appeal will be final.

Section 2. Any post failing to meet the obligations imposed upon it by the Constitution and Bylaws, ceasing to function for six months as an American Legion Post, voluntarily ceasing to function as a post, merging with one or more other Posts, refusing to pay the Department and National capita dues, or under such other conditions as might make such action necessary, will upon order of the Department Executive Committee, surrender its charter for cancellation. Upon

failure to surrender such charter, immediate steps may be taken for its revocation, suspension, or cancellation.

Section 3. (a) Upon revocation, cancellation, or suspension of the charter of a Post in The American Legion, Department of Tennessee, the post will immediately cease operations and upon revocation or cancellation will surrender its charter to the Department Commander or Department Executive Committee. The Department Executive Committee will be authorized, empowered, and directed by and through its duly authorized agents to take possession, custody, and control of all the records, property, and assets of the Post; provided, however, that nothing herein shall be construed as requiring the Department of Tennessee to assume any financial responsibility as to such property. The Department Executive Committee may provide for the transfer of the members in the Post to other Posts of their choice, subject to the approval of such other Post, and shall take all necessary and proper steps and proceedings to wind up and close the affairs of such Post.

(b) Should any post, as a result of internal problems, fail to have a minimum compliment of officers either by resignation, neglect, or refusal to serve, for carrying on the Post business, the Department Commander or Department Adjutant shall be authorized to appoint temporarily the necessary officers for the purpose of conducting the affairs of the Post until such time as officers may be duly elected.

Section 4. (a) Each Post of The American Legion, Department of Tennessee, shall be the judge of its own membership, subject to the restrictions of National and Department Constitutions and Bylaws.

(b) Member Expulsion or Suspension:

(1) To initiate the process in all actions of expulsion or suspension against a member of The American Legion in good standing, the accuser, or accusers, all of whom must be members of the same post as the accused, shall file with the Post Adjutant, written charges. Charges set forth must be for disloyalty, neglect of duty, dishonesty, or conduct unbecoming a member of The American Legion, and shall be in terms of simplicity and understanding in order the accused may properly prepare a defense.

(2) The Post Adjutant shall issue formal charges specifying conduct and sign it, directing the Sergeant-at Arms (or some other member of the post in good standing), to read and present the charges, as well as, summon the accused to appear at the post meeting place at the next regular meeting (provided 15 days' written notice has been given), to show cause why they should not be suspended or expelled.

(3) Before the accused defends in their own proper person, or through counsel, they shall file an answer in writing to the Post Adjutant to the charges, on or before the date of the regular meeting to which the accused has been summoned to appear.

(4) If the accused fails to answer the charges as set last forth, the charges and matters and things therein stated shall be taken as confessed, and the request for suspension or expulsion granted.

(5) Whenever the accused has filed an answer to the charges preferred, the entire proceedings shall automatically be continued until the next regular post meeting, at which time the trial shall be had.

(6) The Post Judge Advocate shall preside at the trial and shall have the power and authority to pass upon the materiality and relevancy of all the evidence presented and shall have the general power to prescribe the necessary and reasonable rules and regulations for the orderly procedure of the trial. In the absence of a Post Judge Advocate, it shall be the duty of the Department Commander, when duly notified by the Post Adjutant, to appoint a special Judge Advocate to fill such vacancy.

(7) The post officers and post executive committee (if the post has no executive committee, the judge advocate shall instruct the sergeant-at arms to select 5 post members in good standing), are hereby selected as jurors, to ascertain under the guidance of the judge advocate, the truth of the charges preferred. Subject matter is strictly limited to questions of fact and exclusive consideration of the matters that have been proven by evidence of the interested parties during the trial.

(8) To expel or suspend a member of The American Legion in good standing, two-thirds of the members selected to sit as jurors shall vote in the affirmative.

(9) Any member who has been suspended or expelled has the right to appeal to the Department Executive Committee or the Department Convention. The decision of the Department will be final.

(10) All appeals to the Department Executive Committee, or the Department Convention shall be filed within 40 days

after judgement of suspension or expulsion. It shall be the duty of the accused to obtain from the Department Adjutant the date of the Department Executive Committee meeting or Department Convention and the exact time and place of the trial.

(11) Where an appeal is taken and the Department Executive Committee or Department Convention sustains the appeal, the expelled member automatically becomes a member in good standing of the post. Any post failing to comply with this provision is subject to having its charter suspended or revoked.

Section 5. The Department Adjutant and the Department Executive Committee, who are the custodians of lists of Commanders and Adjutants, are prohibited from furnishing such lists to individuals or members of the organization for political or commercial purposes. This provision also applies to local Posts in the handling of their Post records.

ARTICLE XII CHANGE OF RESIDENCE

Section 1. Any member in good standing desiring to change their membership shall be entitled to a certificate from their Post stating their membership and the duration thereof.

ARTICLE XIII AUXILIARIES

Section 1. The American Legion, Department of Tennessee, recognizes an auxiliary organization known as "The American Legion Auxiliary," organized in accordance with the regulations of the National Constitution. The members of a Section 501(c)(19) auxiliary that is related to a Post are a separately formed organization and recognized as tax exempt and, therefore the auxiliary members are not considered part of the post.

Section 2. The American Legion, Department of Tennessee also recognizes the organization known as The Sons of The American Legion, as programs of The American Legion Posts which sponsor them.

Section 3. Membership in The Sons of The American Legion will be as prescribed by the National Constitution of The Sons of The American Legion.

ARTICLE XIV AMENDMENTS

Section 1. This Constitution may be amended or revised at the Department Convention by a two-thirds vote of the duly qualified delegates thereto, provided that any proposed amendment or revision shall be read at the Mid-Winter Conference preceding the annual convention and published in "The Tennessee Legionnaire" prior to being voted upon at the convention.

Section 2. The Department Executive Committee is empowered and authorized to amend or revise this Constitution by a two-thirds vote of the membership thereof, to conform to any changes made at any time in the National Constitution of The American Legion when amendments or revisions cannot, in the opinion of a majority of the Department Executive Committee, be deferred to the next annual convention of the Department of Tennessee. The action of the Committee shall be placed before the next annual Department Convention held thereafter for ratification according to the provisions of Section 1 of this Article.

Section 3. In the event of any conflict between the provisions of the National Constitution and Bylaws and the Department Constitution and Bylaws, the National Constitution and Bylaws will prevail.

Section 4. All proposed amendments will be submitted through the Department Adjutant to the members of the Department Constitution and Bylaws Committee and then to the Department Executive Committee. Proposed amendments will be in the hands of the Department Adjutant forty (40) days prior to the Mid-Winter Conference. The Department Adjutant shall forward the proposed amendments to the Department Constitution and Bylaws Committee at least thirty (30) days in advance of the Mid-Winter Conference. After review, the Department Constitution and Bylaws Committee will report the proposed amendments, with a recommendation, to the Department Executive Committee at the Mid-Winter Conference. It may be amended by a unanimous vote at any Department Convention without prior notice.

Section 5. Proposed amendments will be submitted through the Department Adjutant to the members of the Depart-

ment Constitution and Bylaws Committee and then to the Department Executive Committee and then considered by the Department Convention. The proposed amendments must either be initiated by the Resolutions Committee, Department Executive Committee, and Constitution and Bylaws Committee, or have first received the formal endorsement of a Post. Proposed amendments, received from a Post, must receive the formal endorsement of the Department Executive Committee prior to being presented to the Department Convention for consideration.

Section 6. The Department Adjutant, as the Administrative Executive for the Department of Tennessee, is hereby authorized to make any and all changes, at any time necessary, to The American Legion, Department of Tennessee Constitution and Bylaws that are grammatical or clerical in nature and do not affect policy as written, for the Department of Tennessee.

BYLAWS

ARTICLE I DEPARTMENT EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Section 1. It shall be the duty of the Department Executive Committee to pass upon all matters relating to the administration of this organization, to review the accounts of the Department Adjutant and Finance Officer as to proper and safe investment of Department funds, and to accept or reject all audits and reports of the business of the Department of Tennessee. The Department Executive Committee may at any time during its term of office call upon the Department Adjutant and Finance Officer for a report of all accounts and business transacted by them in the execution of their office. The Department Executive Committee will have power to remove for cause any officer from office, but the officer shall not be removed unless two-thirds of the members of the Committee vote in favor of such removal.

Section 2. The Department Executive Committee shall meet in business session at least once each year, and at any time upon Call of the Department Commander or of any seven voting members of the Department Executive Committee.

Section 3. Any matter relating to the business of this organization not specified in these Bylaws shall be referred to the Department Executive Committee for the determination and adjustment thereof.

Section 4. The Department Executive Committee will elect the Department Adjutant and Finance Officer. The election of the Department Adjutant and Finance Officer shall take place at the annual convention at which the Executive Committee, whose duty it shall be to elect a Department Adjutant and Finance Officer shall have been elected; and it shall be the duty of the Department Executive Committee to hold such election immediately following its own election and qualification. After the initial election of the Department Adjutant and Finance Officer, they will serve without tenure.

Section 5. The Department Executive Committee will have the power to enter into such contract with the Department Adjutant and Finance Officer for a salary or compensation for the services of the officer, as well as computer and other office expenses for the faithful performance of their duties, within the limitations of the Constitution and Bylaws of the Department of Tennessee as the Committee regard as expedient and proper. It is expressly understood that the Department Executive Committee retains the power to remove the Adjutant and Finance Officer for cause at any time before the expiration of the contract period.

Section 6. All questions affecting the election, eligibility for office and conduct of Department officers shall be referred to and determined by the Department Executive Committee. All questions affecting the election, eligibility for office and conduct of Post Officers shall be referred to and determined by the Executive Committee of the Post involved which will be the final authority.

Section 7. The Department Commander may in lieu of the above notice, and Call for meeting, may at their discretion, submit any matter properly to be passed on, by mail, email, or electronic means, to each member of the Department Executive Committee and if the majority of the members shall, by mail, email, or electronic means, vote in favor of the motion, it shall be considered as though adopted in regular meeting.

ARTICLE II DEPARTMENT OFFICERS

Section 1. DEPARTMENT COMMANDER: The Department Commander will be the executive head of The Amer

ican Legion, Department of Tennessee with full power to enforce the provisions of the Department Convention. They shall be the Chair of the Department Convention and the Department Executive Committee. When the Executive Committee is not in session and it becomes necessary for policy decisions to be made for the immediate welfare and continuance of good order of the Department, and would normally fall within the purview of that body, the Department Commander will have the power incident to their office as the elected Chief Executive of the Department, to make such decisions and promulgate such orders necessary to carry on the purposes of the Department, ensure necessary discipline, compliance with Constitutional regulations and fill vacancies of offices within the Department in their sole discretion, subject to the review and approval of the Executive Committee at the next regular or special meeting of such body. The Department Commander shall perform such other duties as are usually incident to the office.

Section 2. (a) DEPARTMENT SENIOR VICE COMMANDER: The Department Senior Vice-Commander shall act as a representative of the Department Commander on all matters so referred to them, and shall, on the request of the Department Commander, preside over meetings of the Department Convention or Department Executive Committee, and shall perform such other duties as are usually incident to the office. In the event the Department Commander shall be absent from the state or for any other reason be unable to serve temporarily, the Department Senior Vice-Commander shall assume such the duties of the Department Commander. In case of death, resignation, or removal from office of the Department Commander, the Department Senior Vice Commander shall assume the duties of the Department Commander until the Department Executive Committee meets or until Department Convention, whichever comes first, elects, or appoints a successor Department Commander.

(b) DEPARTMENT VICE COMMANDERS: The three Department Vice-Commanders shall act as representatives of the Department Commander on all matters so referred to them and shall perform such other duties as are usually incident to the office.

(c) DEPARTMENT DISTRICT COMMANDERS: The Department District Commanders shall act as representatives of the Department Commander and the Department Senior Vice-Commander, as well as the Department Vice Commanders on all matters referred to them by such officers and shall perform such other duties as are usually incident to such office. Each District Commander, their appointed District Membership Chair or District Adjutant shall visit each Post in their District not less than once during their year, and endeavor in all ways to promote membership in and the programs of The American Legion. District officers may, with the approval of the Department Commander, conduct a virtual site visit. The District Commander will be required to submit a report of such visit to the Department Adjutant, and a subsequent report to be submitted to the Department Executive Committee during the annual Mid-Winter Conference and the Department Convention.

(d) All Districts shall hold at least three meetings each calendar year. The first meeting following the Department Convention will be a Commander's Tour. This meeting will introduce the newly elected Department Commander and their vision of the district. The second meeting will be the District Meeting, used to discuss all matters relating to the district. The third meeting will be the District Convention, whose purpose it is to elect the following year's District Commander. The Department Headquarters may and shall, with the concurrence of District officers, designate and fix the dates upon which the District meetings shall be held, but nothing herein shall be construed to prohibit any of the Districts of this Department from holding other meetings at any other time or place, fixed, and appointed by the officers of such Districts.

Section 3. DEPARTMENT ADJUTANT AND FINANCE OFFICER: (a) The Department Adjutant and Finance Officer will be responsible to the Department Commander, the Department Executive Committee, and the Department Convention for the proper administration of their respective policies and mandates. They will supervise the Headquarters staff, including the Assistant Department Adjutant, secretarial, and clerical personnel. All Department Officers and committee chairs seeking information and services of the Department Headquarters staff (except Department Commander) will make their request to the Department Adjutant. They will be responsible for preparing programs, agendas and allied materials for conventions, conferences, seminars, etc. The Department Adjutant will prepare and disseminate information and reports required by the National Organization. They will act as liaison officer between the Department staff and National Headquarters staff. They shall keep a record of all current officers for the Post, Department, and National Organization with correct addresses. They will also keep the same information on all Department and National

Committee appointments. They will serve in a liaison capacity between The American Legion, Department of Tennessee and other organizations, corporations, representatives of governmental bodies, general public and the media. The Department Adjutant shall be responsible for the editing and distributing "The Tennessee Legionnaire." They shall keep a record of the membership of each Post in the Department and be responsible for the collection of the annual per capita dues for the Department and National Organization.

(b) They shall keep the Finance Chair advised as to the status of Department investments and will invest or re-invest specified amounts of Departments funds in such types of securities and/or financial institutions as agreed upon.

(c) They shall render to each member of the Department Finance Committee an annual record of receipts and disbursements made the preceding year, and they shall keep all such record books in readiness at all times for inspection and auditing of all accounts. They shall sign all checks, disbursing funds of the Department and shall make periodic reports of such expenditures and the financial condition of the Department to the Department Finance Committee. They shall provide crime insurance in the amount prescribed by the Department Executive Committee.

(d) The Department Adjutant shall receive compensation or salary for their services and other expenses as the Department Executive Committee may deem appropriate.

(e) The Department Adjutant shall publish a quarterly financial statement in the "Tennessee Legionnaire" listing revenues and expenditures.

Section 4. (a) ASSISTANT DEPARTMENT ADJUTANT: The Assistant Adjutant shall be under the direct supervision of the Department Adjutant and will assist them in any manner the Adjutant may deem admissible.

(b) In the absence of the Department Adjutant, the Assistant will be in charge of the staff and perform duties as may be necessary.

(c) The Assistant Adjutant shall have completed the American Legion Education Institute "Basic Training" course offered by the National Organization. The Assistant Adjutant shall spend an extensive amount of time in the field working with the Posts in an effort to solve problems, create interest and develop leadership, which shall entail visiting with community leaders and attending meetings of civic, fraternal, and religious groups explaining the purposes, principles, and programs of The American Legion.

(d) The Assistant Adjutant shall work with American Legion Boys State Chair, Director, and Staff.

(e) The Assistant Adjutant will work closely with the Chair of American Legion Baseball and act as liaison between the Chair and the National Director.

(f) The Assistant Adjutant will visit high schools and work with principals, counselors, English, and history teachers in an effort to get local participation in The American Legion High School Oratorical Contest.

Section 5. DEPARTMENT JUDGE ADVOCATE: The Department Judge Advocate shall advise the Department Officers and the Department Executive Committee on all legal matters, including the construction and interpretation of the Department Constitution and Bylaws, and shall perform such other duties as are usually incident to the office.

Section 6. DEPARTMENT HISTORIAN: The Department Historian shall collect from year-to-year all records and data of value and interest for the Department and shall compile during their term of office a complete history of the year's activities. They shall also assist Post Historians to coordinate and unify the work of these officials and shall have such other duties as the Department Executive Committee shall prescribe.

Section 7. SERGEANT-AT-ARMS: The Sergeant-at-Arms shall assist the Department Commander and Department Adjutant with all Department meetings, including Executive Committee Meetings. They will take charge of the colors and all equipment and see that the auditorium or meeting room is set up in accordance with instructions from the Commander and/or Adjutant. They will make themselves available for assignments during all business and social functions. The Sergeant-at-Arms shall have the authority to appoint such assistants, from time to time, as it may be necessary to assist them in the performance of their duties, subject to the approval of the Department Commander.

Section 8. DEPARTMENT CHAPLAIN: The Department Chaplain shall perform such divine services as may be necessary, adhering to such ceremonial rituals as may be recommended by National and Department Headquarters from time to time.

ARTICLE III MONIES AND COLLECTIONS

Section 1. All Department and Post Officials handling American Legion monies will be covered by crime insurance to cover double the average amount of money handled in a single year.

Section 2. The premium on the crime insurance of the Department Adjutant and Finance Officer will be paid out of the treasury of this organization.

Section 3. (a) In case of delinquencies in the payment of amounts due to Department Headquarters, actions will be taken at once by the proper officials to bring about a speedy and complete settlement.

(b) Crime Insurance provided for by the Department and Post officials shall be approved by the respective Department Executive Committee and Post Executive Committee.

ARTICLE IV DELEGATES

Section 1. The delegates and alternates to represent this Department at the National Convention shall be elected by the Department Convention.

Section 2. One delegate and one alternate shall be elected by each District at its caucus at the Department Convention for each unit of members for which the Department is allowed one delegate and one alternate under the National Constitution, exclusive of any fractional part of the unit. Upon their nomination, delegates will be submitted to the Department Convention by each respective District caucus.

Section 3. Any additional delegates and alternates allowed by the National Constitution and Bylaws shall be elected at large by the Department Convention; provided, however, that the Department Commander and Department Adjutant shall be delegates at large, and the Department Commander shall be Chair of the Department delegation to the National Convention.

ARTICLE V EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETINGS

Section 1. At least five days' written notice shall be given to all members of the Department Executive Committee of any regular or special meeting of such committee. Such notice shall be mailed or emailed to the address of record in the Department Adjutant's office. No business shall be transacted at any special or call meeting of the Executive Committee except such as shall be specifically stated in the Call or business of a routine nature which may be proper to come before such meeting.

ARTICLE VI OFFICERS CAPS

Section 1. Department Officers authorized to wear white American Legion caps in the Department of Tennessee are: Department Commander, Department Adjutant, The Department Senior-Vice Commander, the Department Vice Commanders from the three Grand Divisions, Judge Advocate, Historian, Sergeant-at-Arms, Chaplain, and Service Officer. Department Officers authorized to wear the blue and white caps are the District Commanders and all appointed District Officers; however, the appointed District Officers are not authorized to wear the blue and white cap outside their respective Districts.

ARTICLE VII DEPARTMENT PROGRAMS

~~Section 1. The American Legion, Department of Tennessee also recognizes the program known as The American Legion Riders, as a program of The American Legion Post that sponsor them.~~

~~Section 2. Membership in The American Legion Riders shall be as prescribed in The American Legion, Department of Tennessee American Legion Riders Constitution and Bylaws.~~

~~Section 3. The American Legion, Department of Tennessee also recognizes the corporation known as American Legion Boy's State Inc., as a Department Americanism program.~~

~~Section 4. Tennessee American Legion Boy's State will have a Board of Directors to oversee the program, as well as the voting members of the Department Executive Committee. The three-member Board of Directors includes the Chair, Vice Chair, and Department Adjutant.~~

~~Section 5. Tennessee American Legion Boy's State will be governed by The American Legion, Department of Tennessee Constitution, and its own Bylaws.~~

Section 1. The American Legion, Department of Tennessee also recognizes the program known as The American Legion Riders, as a program of The American Legion Post that sponsors them.

Section 2. The American Legion, Department of Tennessee also recognizes the corporation known as American Legion Boy's State Inc., as a Department Americanism program.

Section 3. Tennessee American Legion Boy's State will have a Board of Directors to oversee the program, as well as the voting members of the Department Executive Committee. The three-member Board of Directors includes the Chair, Vice Chair, and Department Adjutant.

Section 4. Tennessee American Legion Boy's State will be governed by The American Legion, Department of Tennessee Constitution, and its own Bylaws."

ARTICLE VIII RISK MANAGEMENT

Section 1. A criminal background check, as well as, successful completion of sexual abuse awareness training will be mandatory for all coaches, managers, and volunteers 18 years of age or older who have regular contact with minors affiliated with The American Legion, Department of Tennessee Americanism, and National Security programs. Refresher training will be required on an annual basis coinciding with the membership renewal cycle.

Section 2. The Department is hereby authorized and directed to execute such contract(s) as may be necessary to support the execution of criminal background checks and sexual abuse awareness training.

ARTICLE IX AMENDMENTS

Section 1. These Bylaws may be amended or revised at the Department Convention of The American Legion, Department of Tennessee by a two-thirds vote of the duly qualified delegates thereto, provided that any proposed amendment or revision shall have been read at the Mid-Winter Conference and preceding the annual convention, and published in "The Tennessee Legionnaire" prior to being voted upon at the annual Department Convention.

Section 2. All proposed amendments will be submitted through the Department Adjutant to the members of the Department Constitution and Bylaws Committee and then to the Department Executive Committee. Proposed amendments will be in the hands of the Department Adjutant forty (40) days prior to the Mid-Winter Conference. The Department Adjutant shall forward the proposed amendments to the Department Constitution and Bylaws Committee at least thirty (30) days in advance of the Mid-Winter Conference. After review, the Department Constitution and Bylaws Committee will report the proposed amendments, with a recommendation to the Department Executive Committee at the Mid-Winter Conference. It may be amended by a unanimous vote at any Department Convention without prior notice.

Section 3. Amendments may be submitted through the Department Adjutant to the members of the Department Constitution and Bylaws Committee and then to the Department Executive Committee and then considered by the Department Convention by the Department Commander, Department Constitution and Bylaws Committee, Resolution Committee or any other Department Committee without the proposed amendment first receiving the formal endorsement of a Post. All other proposed amendments to the Department of Tennessee Constitution and Bylaws must first receive the endorsement of an initiating Post. Proposed amendments, received from a Post, must receive the formal endorsement of the Department Executive Committee prior to being presented to the Department Conventions for consideration.

Section 4. In the event of any conflict between the provisions of the National Constitution and Bylaws and the Department Constitution and Bylaws, the National Constitution and Bylaws prevail.

The June 6, 2021, Department Constitution and Bylaws supersedes all previous editions; summary of approved amendments follows:

Resolutions Approved by the 2019 Department Executive Committee, February 3, 2019, to Amend the Revised June 26, 2004, edition of the Department of Tennessee Constitution and Bylaws: Collinwood 2018-01 – Amend the Preamble of the Constitution of the Department of Tennessee

Collinwood 2018-02 – Amend Article I, Section 2 of the Constitution of the Department of Tennessee

Collinwood 2018-03 – Amend Article III, Section 1 of the Constitution of the Department of Tennessee

Collinwood 2018-04 – Amend Article IX, Section 8 of the Constitution of the Department of Tennessee
 Collinwood 2018-06 – Amend Article V, Section 2, of the Constitution of the Department of Tennessee
 Collinwood 2018-07 – Amend Article V, Section 6 of the Constitution of the Department of Tennessee
 Collinwood 2018-08 - Amend Article V, Section 7 of the Constitution of the Department of Tennessee
 Collinwood 2018-09 – Amend Article VII, Section 3 of the Constitution of the Department of Tennessee
 Collinwood 2018-10 – Amend Article VII, Section 4 of the Constitution of the Department of Tennessee
 Collinwood 2018-11 – Amend Article VII, Section 5 of the Constitution of the Department of Tennessee
 Collinwood 2018-13 - Amend Article VII, Section 9 of the Constitution of the Department of Tennessee
 Collinwood 2018-14 – Amend Article VIII, Section 1 of the Constitution of the Department of Tennessee
 Collinwood 2018-15 – Amend Article VIII, Section 2 of the Constitution of the Department of Tennessee
 Collinwood 2018-16 – Amend Article VIII, Section 3 of the Constitution of the Department of Tennessee
 Collinwood 2018-17 – Amend Article VIII, Section 4 of the Constitution of the Department of Tennessee
 Collinwood 2018-18 – Amend Article X-A of the Constitution of the Department of Tennessee
 Collinwood 2018-19 – Amend Article X-B of the Constitution of the Department of Tennessee
 Collinwood 2018-20 – Amend Article XIII, Section 1 of the Constitution of the Department of Tennessee
 Collinwood 2018-21 – Amend Article XIV, Section 6 of the Constitution of the Department of Tennessee
 Collinwood 2018-22 – Amend Article V, Section 4 of the Constitution of the Department of Tennessee
 Collinwood 2018-23 – Amend Article II, Section 3 to the Bylaws of the Department of Tennessee
 Collinwood 2018-24 – Amend Article VI, Section 1 to the Bylaws of the Department of Tennessee
 Collinwood 2018-25 – Amend Article VII, Section 3 to the Bylaws of the Department of Tennessee
 Collinwood 2018-26 – Amend Article XIV, Section 5 of the Constitution of the Department of Tennessee
 Collinwood 2018-27 – Amend Article I, Section 3 of the Bylaws of the Department of Tennessee
 Collinwood 2018-28 – Amend Article I, Section 4 of the Bylaws of the Department of Tennessee
 Collinwood 2018-29 – Amend Article V, Section 1 of the Bylaws of the Department of Tennessee
 Resolutions Approved by the 2020 Department Executive Committee, February 8, 2020, to Amend the Revised June 2, 2019, edition of the Department of Tennessee Constitution and Bylaws
 Collinwood 2020-01 - Amend Article IV, Section 1 of the Department Constitution
 Collinwood 2020-02 - Amend Article IV, Section 5 of the Department Constitution
 Collinwood 2020-03 - Amend Article V, Section 9 of the Department Constitution
 Collinwood 2020-05 - Amend Article VII, Section 10(a) of the Department Constitution
 Collinwood 2020-06 - Amend Article IX, Section 10 of the Department Constitution
 Collinwood 2020-07 - Add Article IX, Section 12 to the Department Constitution
 Collinwood 2020-08 - Add Article XI, Section 4(b) to the Department Constitution
 Collinwood 2020-09 - Add Article XIII, Section 2 to the Department Constitution
 Collinwood 2020-10 - Add Article 1; Section 7 to the Department Bylaws
 Collinwood 2020-11 - Amend Article II, Section 2(b) of the Department Bylaws
 Collinwood 2020-12 - Add Article VII, Section 1 to the Department Bylaws
 Department Constitution and Bylaws Committee 2020-13 - Amend Article VII; Section 1 of the Department Constitution
 Department Constitution and Bylaws Committee 2020-14 - Amend Article VI of the Department Constitution
 Department Constitution and Bylaws Committee 2020-15 - Amend Article VII, Section 2 of the Department Constitution
 Department Constitution and Bylaws Committee 2020-18 - Amend Article VIII, Section 1 of the Department Constitution
 Department Constitution and Bylaws Committee 2020-19 - Amend Article VIII, Section 2 of the Department Constitution
 Department Constitution and Bylaws Committee 2020-20 - Amend Article VIII, Section 4 of the Department Constitution
 Department Constitution and Bylaws Committee 2020-21 - Amend Article II, Section 2(b) of the Department Bylaws
 Department Constitution and Bylaws Committee 2020-22 - Add Article II, Section 2(c) to the Department Bylaws

Department Constitution and Bylaws Committee 2020-23 - Amend Article II, Section 2(a) of the Department Bylaws
 Department Constitution and Bylaws Committee 2020-24 - Amend Article VI, Section 1 of the Department Bylaws
 Department Constitution and Bylaws Committee 2020-25 - Amend Preamble of the Department Constitution and Bylaws
 Collinwood 2020-30 - Add Article VII, Section 11 to the Department Constitution
 Collinwood 2020-31 - Expunge Article IX Section 3(a) of the Department Constitution
 Department Constitution and Bylaws Committee 2020-32- Add Article IX Section 13 to the Department Constitution
 Collinwood 2025-01 – Amend Article V, Section 2 of the Department Constitution
 Collinwood 2025-03 - Amend Article VII, Section 1 of the Department Constitution
 Lexington 2026-03 – Amend Article VII, Section 1-4 of the Department Constitution

RESOLUTIONS

Based on the Rules of the National Executive Committee of The American Legion, adopted by the National Executive Committee at its November 1940 meeting, the following regulations have been established for the procedure for National Executive Committee Resolutions:

- 1) Resolutions of Posts, intermediate bodies or other officially constituted subordinate organizations which shall have received favorable action for the Department Executive Committee.
- 2) In submitting resolutions, the following points should be carefully observed:
 - a) Each resolution is to be prepared on separate official forms furnished for this purpose by the Department Adjutant, The American Legion, Department of Tennessee
 - b) Each resolution is to be prepared in computer file format, using the designated computer template, and sent via email to the Department Adjutant, The American Legion Department of Tennessee, 318 Donelson Pike, Nashville, TN 37214.
 - c) Each resolution shall deal with only one subject – do not attempt to deal with more than one subject in the resolving clauses.
 - d) Local resolving clauses may be used to specify the place and date the Post Meeting or Department Committee was held (it is not necessary to fill in the Department Executive Committee meeting and dates in resolving clause).
 - e) Each resolution is to be worded in full, including all Whereas clauses and the Resolved clauses.



RESOLUTION: 2026-02
 TITLE: Rescinding the Department American Legion Riders (ALR) Constitution and Bylaws
 ORIGIN: Lexington Post 77
 DATE: August 28, 2025
 SUBMITTED BY: Jared Melton

WHEREAS, The American Legion Riders is a program of the sponsoring Post; and

WHEREAS, A Department Standard Operating Procedure will replace the current ALR Constitution and Bylaws; and

WHEREAS, Each incoming Department Commander, with the support of the Department ALR Director and Department Adjutant, will review the ALR SOP for approval; and

WHEREAS, Each Post shall assume responsibility for their ALR Chapter's compliance with the Department Standard Operating Procedure; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, In a regularly scheduled meeting of Post 077, on 28 August 2025, the Post membership recommends that the Department Executive Committee of The American Legion Department of Tennessee further recommend that the 2026 Convention rescind the current Department American Legion Riders Constitution and Bylaws; and, be it further

RESOLVED, That the rescinded ALR Constitution and Bylaws be replaced with a Department Standard Operating Procedure (SOP), providing guidance to Posts choosing to charter this program.


 Post Commander


 Post Adjutant


 ALR Director

The above resolution was approved at

Department Executive Committee held at		on
Department Convention held at		on
	Committee Chairman's Name typed to the right	



RESOLUTION: 2026-008
 TITLE: Replace Andrew Jackson "Old Hickory" with Alvin C. York "Sergeant York" on the Department of Tennessee American Legion Caps
 ORIGIN: Martin Post 55
 DATE: October 23, 2025
 SUBMITTED BY: Tonya L. Launsby

WHEREAS, Andrew Jackson owned about 150 slaves at the time of his death, yet owned over 500 in his lifetime; and

WHEREAS, Andrew Jackson's administration was responsible for policies that led to an event known as the Trail of Tears; and

WHEREAS, Andrew Jackson's practice of rewarding political supporters with government jobs; the spoils system, leading to corruption and inefficiency; and

WHEREAS, Andrew Jackson's practice of rewarding political supporters with government jobs; the spoils system, leading to corruption and inefficiency; and

WHEREAS, Alvin C. York a highly decorated World War I soldier who earned the Medal of Honor; and

WHEREAS, Alvin C. York dedicated his life after war to charitable work and education; and

WHEREAS, Alvin C. York founded The York Agricultural Institute to provide rural students with a high school education and practical skills; and


WHEREAS, Alvin C. York became a symbol of American Courage and sacrifice; his efforts helped many of young people in his community; and

WHEREAS, The French Republic awarded Alvin C. York with the Croix de Guerre, Medaille Militaria and Legion of Honor, now, therefore be it

RESOLVED, That the Officers and Members of Martin American Legion Post 55, Department of Tennessee, in a regular meeting assembled on October 23, 2025, voted unanimously in favor of replacing Andrew Jackson "Old Hickory" with Alvin C. York "Sergeant York" on the Department of Tennessee American Legion Caps, and be it further

Resolved, that Post 55 recommends that the Department Executive Committee and Department Convention 2026 vote to approve this resolution, and be it finally

Resolved, that the members be allowed to phase in new caps with attrition.


 Sherwood Tackett
 Post Commander
 Post 55 Martin, TN


 Jean Launsby
 Post Adjutant
 Post 55 Martin, TN

The above resolution was approved at

Department Executive Committee held at		on
Department Convention held at		on
	Committee Chairman's Name typed to the right	

**THE AMERICAN LEGION DEPARTMENT OF TENNESSEE HEADQUARTERS
NASHVILLE, TENNESSEE**
USE THIS FORM FOR RESOLUTIONS TO BE ACTED UPON BY THE DEPARTMENT EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE
Please fill out and email To: adjutant@tnlegion.org
RESOLUTION



RESOLUTION: 2026-03
 TITLE: Amend Article VII Of The Department of Tennessee Bylaws
 ORIGIN: Lexington Post 77
 DATE: August 28, 2025
 SUBMITTED BY: Jared Melton

WHEREAS, Department of Tennessee Bylaws Article VII Section 1 states, The American Legion, Department of Tennessee also recognizes the program known as The American Legion Riders (ALR), as programs of The American Legion Posts that sponsor them; and

WHEREAS, Department of Tennessee Bylaws Article VII Section 2 currently states, Membership in The American Legion Riders shall be as prescribed in The American Legion, Department of Tennessee American Legion Riders Constitution and Bylaws; and

WHEREAS, A Department of Tennessee American Legion Riders Standard Operating Procedure (SOP) has been developed to replace the Department ALR Constitution and Bylaws; and

WHEREAS, Each incoming Department Commander, with the support of the Department ALR Director and Department Adjutant, will review The American Legion Riders SOP for approval; and

WHEREAS, Each Post shall assume responsibility for their ALR Chapter's compliance with the Department Standard Operating Procedure; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, In a regularly scheduled meeting of Post 077, on 28 August 2025, the Post membership recommends that the Department Executive Committee of The American Legion Department of Tennessee further recommend that the 2026 Convention reword Department Bylaws Article VII, DEPARTMENT PROGRAMS to read as follows:

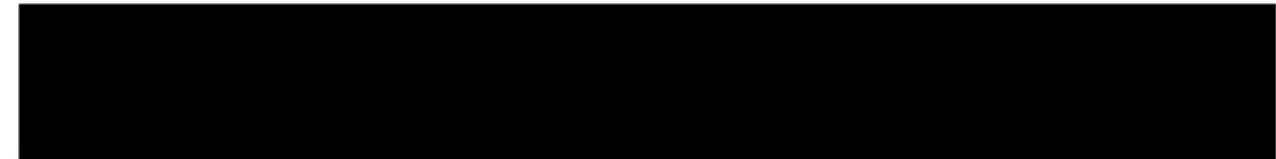
“ARTICLE VII - DEPARTMENT PROGRAMS

Section 1. The American Legion, Department of Tennessee also recognizes the program known as The American Legion Riders, as a program of The American Legion Post that sponsors them.

Section 2. The American Legion, Department of Tennessee also recognizes the corporation known as American Legion Boy's State Inc., as a Department Americanism program.

The above resolution was approved at

Department Executive Committee held at		on
Department Convention held at		on
	Committee Chairman's Name typed to the right	



Resolution 2026-03

Page 2 of 2

Section 3. Tennessee American Legion Boy's State will have a Board of Directors to oversee the program, as well as the voting members of the Department Executive Committee. The three-member Board of Directors includes the Chair, Vice Chair, and Department Adjutant.

Section 4. Tennessee American Legion Boy's State will be governed by The American Legion, Department of Tennessee Constitution, and its own Bylaws.”

Post Commander

Post Adjutant

ALR Director

The above resolution was approved at

Department Executive Committee held at		on
Department Convention held at		on
	Committee Chairman's Name typed to the right	

RIDERS - STANDARD OPERATING PROCEDURES**BACKGROUND**

The American Legion Riders (ALR) is a program of The American Legion. Members of the ALR come from The American Legion, The Sons of the American Legion, and The American Legion Auxiliary, collectively "The American Legion Family," who share an interest in motorcycling. They can be found partaking in parades, motorcycle events and supporting the communities in which they live, work.

The American Legion Riders is formed to promote the aims and purposes of The American Legion as a family-oriented motorcycling activity for members of The American Legion Family.

The American Legion Riders chapters shall abide by The American Legion National Constitution and By-laws as well as their established Post, District, and Department Directives. The American Legion National Headquarters and The American Legion Department of Tennessee shall maintain general oversight of The American Legion Riders Program. Resolution Number 5 passed by The National Executive Committee on May 5-6, 2021 (see attachment 1), shall provide overall guidelines for The American Legion Riders program. The Department of Tennessee provides guidelines for this program through The American Legion Riders committee and this document.

The ALR is not a motorcycle club (M/C) and does not practice M/C rules or regulations. There is no patching or pledging permitted. An ALR Chapter Member is not permitted to join the "Council of Clubs."

Per NEC Resolution No.37, May 4-5, 1988, ALR Chapters do not have the authority to enter any formal association or club/council membership with any outside organization that may act or vote in any manner outside the control of the American Legion.

ARTICLE I**DEPARTMENT ALR COMMITTEE**

Purpose: To ensure The American Legion Riders (ALR) operate in accordance with the Department of Tennessee rules and procedures and operate within the guidelines of Resolution No. 5, passed 5-6 May 2021 and any subsequent resolutions as adopted by the National Executive Committee.

Section 1. SOP Trustees: Shall consist of three (3) trustees; Department Commander, Department Adjutant, and Department ALR Chairman;

a. To ensure that this SOP does not supersede Department and National Guidelines in its adoption or any future amendments to this SOP. b. In accordance with Department of Tennessee Constitution and Bylaws, this SOP must be reviewed annually at Department Summer Convention by the incoming Department Commander and Department ALR Chairman for continuity.

Section 2. Membership: Shall consist of the following twenty (20) members: a. Department ALR Committee: Department Commander, Department ALR Chairman; Adjutant/Finance Officer; Three (3) Division Chairman (West, Middle, East); Chapter Consultant; Safety Officer; Public Relations Officer (PRO); Ten (10) District Chairman.

b. Special appointed members: Chaplain; Sergeant at Arms (SAA); Road Captain; Historian; Special Projects Consultant; Events Coordinator; American Legion Rider Of Honor Coordinator (ALROH).

Section 3. Qualifications: Must be a member in good standing of The American Legion Family (The American Legion, American Legion Auxiliary, and Sons of The American Legion) within the Department of Tennessee.

Section 4. Committee Appointments and Selections

1. Department ALR Chairman: Appointed by The Department of Tennessee Commander.

2. Division ALR Chairman: Appointed by Each Division Vice Commander. 3. District Chairman: Appointed by Each District Commander.

4. The Department Chairman appoints the Adjutant/Finance Officer, Safety Officer, Chapter Consultant, and Sgt. at Arms with the approval of the Department Commander.

5. Sergeant At Arms (SAA); Chaplain; Road Captain; Historian; Special Projects Consultant; Events Coordinator; and any necessary positions: Appointed at the discretion and as needed by the Department ALR Chairman.

6. All members of the Committee are highly encouraged to attend all Department of Tennessee events, Conferences, and Conventions.

7. Vice Commanders are encouraged to consult with the Department ALR Chairman and District Commanders are encouraged to consult with their respective Division ALR Chairman when making their selections.

Section 5. Qualifications and Duties

a. Department Chairman

1. Must be a member in good standing of The American Legion family and a current American Legion Rider within the Department of Tennessee. 2. Must be a current or past Post ALR Chapter Director, or Division Chairman of Department of Tennessee American Legion Riders.

3. Charged with the overall supervision of the Committee and the American Legion Riders program in the Department of Tennessee, reporting directly to the Department Commander and the Department Executive Committee.

4. Sets the agenda for all meetings of the Committee.

5. Monitors to ensure all Chapters are following the Rules and Procedures as set forth by the Department.

6. Monitors to ensure all functions participated in by the Chapters are within the guidelines set forth by The American Legion, Department of Tennessee, and the National Organization.

7. Monitors to ensure that the good name of The American Legion is not tarnished by the actions of American Legion Riders or Legion Rider Chapters that could be perceived as detrimental to our image in our community.

8. Monitors to ensure the motto "Legion Family First, Rider Second" is instilled in every Chapter.

9. Ensures all necessary reports are submitted promptly to the Department Commander and Adjutant as required.

b. Adjutant/Finance Officer:

1. Records minutes of all committee activities.

2. Maintains copies of minutes and reports.

3. Handles all administrative functions and correspondence of the committee at the discretion of the Chairman.

4. Maintains accurate records of all transactions by the ALR Department procedures

5. Provides financial reports to the ALR Committee at all ALR Committee Meetings.

6. Submit annual budget forecast by Mid-Winter Conference for each year.

c. Division Chairman

1. One (1) Division Chairman shall be selected to assume the duties of the Department Chairman in his/her absence at the instruction of the Department Chairman, Commander, or Senior Vice Commander after a selection vote from the ALR Committee.

2. Shall notify the Department Chairman before the Mid-Winter Conference, and the Department Convention, or as needed as follows:

i. District Chairman Appointments.

ii. Annual Post ALR Officer Changes as needed from District Chairman or Post Directors.

iii. Anything for the good of The American Legion Riders.

iv. Dept. sub-committee programs and events tasks by the Dept. Chairman or Sub-Committee Chairman.

3. Monitor to ensure all Chapters are following the rules and procedures set forth by this SOP, The Department of Tennessee and the National Organization.

4. Visit as many chapters as possible within their Division at least once annually per American Legion Year.

5. Coordinates with the ALR Chapter Consultant on posts within their Division that wish to sponsor an ALR Charter. The Division Chairman shall assist the ALR Chapter Consultant in ensuring the Post Understands all their requirements prior to the Department approving an ALR Chapter.

6. Represent Chapters within their Division at all Committee meetings.

d. District Chairman

1. There shall be a total of Ten (10) District Chairman, one (1) for each of the 10 presiding districts in the Department and not limited to ALR members.

2. Monitor to ensure all Chapters are following the rules and procedures set forth by this SOP, The Department of Tennessee and the National Organization.

3. Visit as many chapters as possible within their Division at least once annually per American Legion Year.

4. Disseminate information to and from Division Chairman and Chapter Directors.
5. District Chairman shall be appointed by the District Commanders.
6. Report any pertinent information concerning Chapters to their respective District Commander.
7. Their duties may include, but not limited to:
- i. Representing the Department of Tennessee ALR at their respective District meetings and Conventions.
 - ii. Performing other duties as assigned by the Division Chairman.
- e. Safety Officer
1. Provides safety information and public sources to riders.
 2. Assists the Chapter Road Captains in educating members about “Group Riding” techniques and general safety principles.
 3. The primary duty is to ensure the safe operation of group rides and events by following all applicable Federal, State, and Local laws.
 4. Provides safety information, and training when appropriate to ALR members.
 5. Retrieve accident reports from Chapter Directors and forward to Department ALR Chairman and Adjutant.
- f. Chapter Consultant
1. Advisor and consultant to the Chairman of the ALR.
 2. Recommended that Chapter Consultant should be a Past Department Chairman/Director.
 3. Assists Posts considering sponsoring an ALR Chapter.
 4. Ensures sponsoring Posts have the required number of qualified riders to start an ALR Chapter and continues to monitor their status through till the charter is issued.
 5. Prepares charter for new chapters. Turns completed information over to Division Chairman for presentation scheduling.
 6. Meets with sponsoring post leadership to ensure the post knows obligations of the sponsoring post and the ALR chapter’s reporting requirements to both the sponsoring post and the Department ALR Committee. Provide guidance to the sponsoring post ALR committee to establish a financial account with the post as an administrator and an ALR email address.
 7. Provides applications, training, and any other applicable material as required.
 8. Coordinate administrative preparations of a new chapter charter with the Department ALR Chairman and Adjutant, as well as Post Commander, Chapter Director, Department Adjutant, Department Commander, Division Chairman, Senior Vice Commander and others as necessary.
 9. Conducts ongoing support for all chapters regarding accountability and continuity as a Post Program
 10. Chapter Consultant should play a pivotal role as a liaison to Chapters with questions concerning this SOP, and any attached documents, programs, and events.
- Section 6. Committee Meetings
- a. There shall be two (2) official Committee meetings held annually as scheduled by the Department Adjutant. These meetings are held at the:
1. Department Mid-Winter Conference and the
 2. Department Summer Convention.
- b. All Committee members are encouraged to attend the above events.
- c. The Department ALR Chairman should attend the above events for the purpose of reporting on Department Rider activity.
- d. Additional meetings may be called by the Committee Chairman at his/her discretion. Minutes of additional meetings shall be prepared by the Department ALR Adjutant.
- e. Each Post American Legion Riders chapter in the state shall be entitled to the voting strength of one (1) delegate.
1. The Post ALR Chapter shall be in good standing with the five (5) members required for Charter.
 2. No delegate shall be seated unless the annual dues have been received by the Department ALR Adjutant prior to Chapter delegate selection.
 3. Delegates shall be chosen at Post ALR meetings and approved by the Sponsoring Post not less than one week before the Committee Meetings.
 4. Each registered delegate shall be entitled to one vote on behalf of

their Chapter.

Section 7. ALR Sub-Committee Chairman

- a. The following appointments are to be established as directed by the ALR Chairman and approved by the ALR Committee.
1. Media and Communications (for ALR Social Media)
 2. Public Relations Representative (for ALR Public Media and News Relations)
 3. Special Events
 4. American Legion Rider Of Honor (ALROH) Chairman/Coordinator as needed
 5. Ad-Hoc as required

Section 8. Special Events

- a. There may be several Department-wide ALR events held annually. The Division Chairman will provide advisory assistance to Chapters supporting any Department-wide ALR event. These events include, but are not limited to:
1. Mid-South Roundup. This annual three-day event is to bring chapters, Posts, Units, Squadrons together for Fun Competition and camaraderie. The last morning MAY be utilized as a Department ALR Meeting as deemed necessary by the Department ALR Chairman and Committee. A Roundup Sub-Committee Shall be formed directly following Department Convention with members that will provide or assist in coordinating and planning of event.
 2. Tennessee Legacy Run (TLR). This event is conducted to bring chapters together as a department. All funds collected will be for designated Legion Charities. The Dept. ALR committee will select a TLR Chair, and the Chair will select Legion Family members to fill committee positions as needed for the event. Route planning, sponsorships, fundraisers, and execution shall be the sole responsibility of the TLR committee, working in conjunction with the committee Safety Officer. Planning meetings will be held as required; following each a written summary will be provided to the ALR committee Chair through the Dept ALR Adjutant. All other standard guidelines for American Legion activities apply.
 3. The Chair of any ALR committee appointed subcommittee conducting a fundraiser in the name of The American Legion, Department of Tennessee, will work with the Chairman and Adjutant of the ALR Committee to ensure the Department Commander is notified of the plans for handling of funds.

Section 9. Financial

- a. The American Legion Riders, Department of Tennessee, is a “self-funding” program of the Department.
1. Department ALR Funds collected from event(s), registration, donations, and other fundraising methods after recouping expenses should be saved for future events.
 2. The Department ALR Committee will allow for allocation of final account balance for the fiscal year accordingly two weeks prior to Department Convention:
 - i. Allocation of 20% of the account balance to the incoming Department ALR committee.
 - ii. Allocation of the remaining 80% of the account balance will be split between the three Divisions for their agreed upon Non profit veteran related organization.
 3. Proceeding the 2026 Department of Tennessee Summer Convention and the adoption of this SOP, there will be a Five Dollar (\$5.00) Department membership due required for all Members of The American Legion Riders Department of Tennessee
 - i. All Funds will be either mailed or sent electronically to the Department ALR Adjutant/Finance officer
 - ii. Funds will solely be allocated for any Travel and Administrative costs incurred by the ALR Dept. Chairman or Administrative costs incurred by the Dept. ALR Adjutant/Finance Officer.

Section 10. Amendments to the American Legion Riders SOP

- a. Amendments to the SOP may only be made at the two official committee meetings per year (Mid-Winter Conference and Summer Convention).
1. Requests must start at the Post Chapter and must be submitted in writing to the Division Chairman and finally to the Department ALR Chairman No Later Than two (2) months prior to committee meetings.
 2. Administrative and clerical changes can be made by the Department ALR Committee (DRC) as necessary.
- b. Post ALR Chapter Requests

1. Chapter ALR must vote and annotate in their Meeting Minutes. 2. ALR Director and Post Commander and Adjutant must sign written requests for Amendments to the SOP.

i. If Commander and Adjutant are ALR Officers, Post Officer and/or Post Executive Committee members NOT an ALR officer shall sign to prevent conflicts of interest.

c. Division Chairman

1. Report all written requests to Amend the SOP to the Department ALR Chairman and Adjutant/Finance Officer and Committee Members. 2. Division Chairman must sign request after reading and before forwarding to the Department Committee.

3. Division Chairman are tasked with ensuring all District Chairman and Posts within their Division are notified of any requests to Amend once the Department ALR Committee has excepted it.

d. Department Chairman

1. Must consult with the Department Commander on any requests to Amend the SOP prior to committee meetings and final vote to ensure compliance with Department, National guidelines are met.

2. Must report to the Department Committee on accepted amendment requests.

3. Ensures all accepted amendment requests are read and voted on during the Department ALR Committee meetings

ARTICLE II

AMERICAN LEGION RIDERS CHAPTER

Purpose: The purpose of the Riders Chapter is to support the programs of The American Legion Family by organizing and participating in charity events helping out veterans, their families and the local community by promoting motorcycle safety programs among Legion Family members that share a common interest in motorcycling. The ALR chapter should strive to represent the virtues, values, ethics, and morals of The American Legion in support of freedom, democracy, and the safety of our citizens.

Section 1. Establishment of Chapters

a. Chapters must have a sponsoring Post.

b. Chapters must have a minimum of five (5) qualified Riders that Must be members of the sponsoring Post, Squadron, and/or Unit. Of these five (5) members, three (3) must be eligible and current Legionnaires.

c. Chapters must take the Post number of the sponsoring Post. Any chapters with approved charters prior to the adoption of this SOP are grandfathered in and may retain their present name and Charter as written.

d. The ALR committee will ensure the proposed chapter will meet National and Department requirements and ensure compliance with current National resolutions.

e. The Post Commander should contact the appropriate Division Chairman and Department ALR Chapter Consultant in writing to indicate his/her desire to create a new rider's chapter.

f. Posts sponsoring a chapter agree thereby to having their ALR activity subject to oversight by the Department of Tennessee for compliance with this SOP.

Section 2. Member Qualifications

a. Must be a member in good standing of The American Legion Family (The American Legion, American Legion Auxiliary, and Sons of The American Legion) and comply with the bylaws of the sponsoring Post.

b. Members of a sponsoring post may not at any time hold membership in more than one Chapter of the ALR.

c. Each ALR member shall establish and maintain membership by owning either individually or through marriage, a common-law marriage, a life partnership, or a long-term relationship, a motorcycle licensed and insured as required by the ALR member's state laws. The operator must have a license with proper endorsement. (Per National resolution #5).

d. Individual ALR Chapters may allow for continued membership for those members who have given up motorcycle ownership due to age, illness, injury, as stated in Resolution 5.

e. Support Members. Chapters may accept support members.

1. Support members must be in good standing of The American Legion Family (The American Legion, American Legion Auxiliary, and Sons of The American Legion) under the guidelines of one of the three

organizations and identified by a rectangular (No bottom Rocker) "Supporter" Patch under the ALR back patch or designated patch/Pins for (Optional) non-vest owners.

2. A Supporter may only be a Supporter of one ALR Chapter.

3. May not hold any Department ALR Committee or Post Chapter officer positions.

4. Supporters shall have no voting rights at any Department-level meetings.

f. Future Rider and Junior Rider Members. Chapters may accept Future Rider and Junior Rider members, but at a minimum, they must:

1. Be a Qualifying Junior member of the American Legion Auxiliary or Sons of The American Legion and be identified by a Future or Junior Rider patch.

2. The Parent or Legal Guardian must sign the Participant Accident Waiver/Release of Liability form.

Section 3. Organization

a. An ALR Chapter is a Post Level Program of The American Legion and exists at the discretion of the sponsoring Post.

b. It is understood that the finances of the chapter will be monitored by the sponsoring post. Refer to Section 5,d, Line 3.

c. ALR Chapters are encouraged to adopt "ALR Standing Rules" and must be approved by the sponsoring post as well as any changes suggested by the Chapter and shall not supersede any Post Bylaws or this SOP.

d. The Rider Charter document is the property of the sponsoring Post.

Section 4. Officers

a. Elected Officers: Director, Assistant Director, Adjutant, Treasurer, Road Captain, and Safety Officer.

1. Director, Assistant Director, Adjutant, Treasurer MUST be members of the Sponsoring Post Family (i.e., TAL, ALA, SAL).

b. Appointed Officers: Sergeant-At-Arms, Chaplain, Membership Chairman Historian, Media and Communications, and other positions as needed.

Section 5. Post ALR Officer Duties

a. Chapter Director:

1. Serves as Chief Administrative Officer of the Chapter and presides over all meetings.

2. Serves as liaison to the Executive Committee of the sponsoring Post. 3. Supervises all affairs of the Chapter.

4. Coordinates with other ALR Officers at the Chapter, District, Division, and Department level.

5. Submits reports as required by the sponsoring Post, District, Division and Department

b. Assistant Director:

1. Perform such duties as directed by the Chapter Director.

2. Executes the duties of the Chapter Director during his/her absence or disability.

c. Adjutant:

1. Shall maintain membership records sufficient to establish:

i. Members in good standing through annual verification of American Legion Family memberships through Post Adjutant.

ii. Contact Information.

2. Maintains a full and accurate record of all chapter proceedings at meetings.

3. Process new member applications, issue membership decals or applicable methods as suited by Department ALR Committee and ensure the Treasurer receives new dues. (This duty may be delegated to a chapter membership chair, if one is established).

4. Ensure Commander Signs membership roster for membership verification before sending Officer Notification and Roster to

Department ALR Adjutant, Division Chairman, and Department Chairman.

5. Ensure the "SOP Adoption and Acknowledgement" and "Four Rules of an American Legion Program" are resigned in the case of any changes in Chapter Director and/or Post Commander, and amendments to this SOP from Department ALR Committee.

d. Treasurer:

1. Maintains accurate records of all transactions in accordance with the sponsoring Post's financial requirements.
2. Deposits funds in the ALR Chapter bank account and disburses funds as approved by the Chapter.
3. Provides financial reports to the sponsoring Post Commander as directed.
4. Collect Post Chapter dues as Voted on Annually by Post Chapter.
 - i. Department Dues of \$5.00 must be included and sent to Department ALR Adjutant/Finance Officer as directed before the end of the year.

e. Road Captain:

1. Responsible for organizing group rides and reporting details to the Post Adjutant and/or Commander.
2. Responsible for reporting to the Chapter Adjutant the following information for inclusion in the Chapters Monthly Activity Report:
 - i. Date and name of the event or ride.
 - ii. Length of event or ride in both hours and miles
3. Assigns additional road captains as necessary. It is each chapter's responsibility for conducting safe rides, to include,
 - i. Assigning sweeps (tail gunners) for large groups
 - ii. Determines safe number of riders in each group
 - iii. Giving a pre-ride briefing covering the route, hazards, and hand signals.
 - iv. Ensuring all guest riders sign a waiver of liability before all rides. Signed waivers will be given to the riders Adjutant for filing.

f. Safety Officer:

1. The Safety Officers' primary duty is to ensure the safe operation of group rides and events in their individual chapters in accordance with all applicable Federal, State, and local laws.
2. Chapter Safety Officers shall assist the Chapter Director in gathering information from any members involved in reportable motorcycle incidents during official functions.
3. Promote safe riding techniques and ongoing training.

g. Chaplain:

1. Offer the invocation at the beginning and the benediction at the end of all meetings and Chapter functions.
2. Visit sick and distressed members, their immediate family and fellow veterans, reporting to the membership their status and needs.
3. Report the death of any Chapter members to the Director, the District, Department Chairman and Post Chaplain.

h. Sergeant-at-Arms:

1. Preserve order at meetings and gatherings.
2. Assist the Road Captain in enforcing all rules of safe riding during rides, runs, and events.
3. Ensure members attending ALR meetings are current members and are in good standing, identify any guest(s) and their business with ALR and make Introductions when called upon.
4. Be responsible for the logistics and proper staging of flags and meeting room for all meetings and the appropriate staging of Flag Bikes and motorcycles during parades and escorts.

Section 6. Discipline

Posts are the basic unit of The American Legion, and each Post is the judge of its own membership, subject to the restrictions of the Constitution and By-Laws. Disciplinary actions against members (suspension or expulsion) must follow due process, including written charges, a fair trial, and the right of appeal to the Department Executive Committee.

Section 7. Election of Officers

All officers of The American Legion Riders Chapter shall be elected, no later than December 1st annually. Elected officers must be approved by the Sponsoring Post Commander.

Section 8. Finances

- a. Finances will be derived from Membership Dues, sale of approved merchandise and such other revenue sources as approved by the ALR General Membership.
- b. An ALR Chapter may not incur any debt in the name of the Post without prior approval of the Post membership documented in the Post Memberships minutes.

c. The ALR Chapter of a Post is a subordinate organization to the sponsoring Post which is a non-profit organization and a tax-exempt Corporation under the laws of the State of Tennessee.

d. Should the ALR Chapter be dissolved, all funds and assets will be immediately turned over to the sponsoring Post for disposition.

ARTICLE III PATCHES AND APPAREL

Section 1. Riders Vest Guidelines. There are two types of rider patches: a. Standard three (3) patch set worn by all ALR members. These include: 1. The ALR Back Patch. Centered, left to right, and attached to the back of the vest.

i. The only authorized back patch worn by current members of The ALR chapter, is copyrighted and sold by The American Legion Emblem Sales.

ii. 3-Line (8.5"x12"). Top line will be TENNESSEE, and the bottom second line will be the Post Number (Example: POST 77) and the third line will be the Post Location (Example: LEXINGTON)

iii. Rectangular patches are authorized, as long as they do not resemble rockers and do not claim territory. Limited to; Veteran, Auxiliary, Squadron, Charter Member, Branch of Service (United States Armed Forces Only).

iv. No Rockers Authorized directly above or below the American Legion Riders Back Patch.

2. US Flag patch

i. Attached to the upper left side of the front of the vest (wearer's left)

ii. Nothing is permissible above the flag as worn on the vest except for religious symbology (i.e., Cross, Star of David, etc.).

iii. Other official American Flags should NOT be worn below any other Patches front or back.

3. POW/MIA Patch. Should be one of three colors authorized and sold at The American Legion Emblem Sales. The patch shall be placed and worn "Respectfully" at the discretion of the Post ALR Chapter.

b. Individual Patches should display the integrity, principles and values of The American Legion and ALR by avoiding patches with:

1. Explicit, derogatory, or offensive language and/or images and
2. Political or partisan language and/or images.
3. No patches and pins indicating membership or support for any Motorcycle Club are permitted on the ALR Vest.
4. The Director shall restrict patches that are not appropriate.

c. Pins

1. When placed on the vest the pin will present a positive image of The American Legion and the ALR.

2. The Director shall restrict pins that are not appropriate.

d. Any appeals pertaining to Article III Section 1, should start at the sponsoring post commander. If resolution fails, refer to the Department ALR Committee Leadership Chain of command.

e. All extra patches/pins described and voted as mandatory by the ALR Chapter membership should be listed and/or written in the ALR Chapters "Standing Rules" and approved by the Post Executive Committee.

f. All vests should be in compliance with this SOP no later than the Department Convention June 2027.

g. This Article III Section 1, Line (e) will be administratively removed in accordance with Article 1, Section 8.

Section 2. Uniforms

Suggested member dress for Funerals and Special Events (Veterans Day and Memorial Day Ceremonies, etc.) should be dark pants, white shirt, rider vest, and appropriate Legion Family headgear.

Section 3. Use of Copyrighted Material

The American Legion owns, controls, protects and defends the American Legion's intellectual property, composed of trademarks, and copyrighted emblems. Permission must be obtained from the American Legion Emblem Sales prior to using any items bearing American Legion copyrighted material.

Department of Tennessee Officer Resolutions

Department Commander

[Tonya Launsby](#)

Department Senior Vice Commander

[Ron Hessil](#)

East Tennessee Vice Commander

[Dwight Woodcock](#)

Middle Tennessee Vice Commander

[Shawn Brunelle](#)

West Tennessee Vice Commander

[Jean Launsby](#)

THE AMERICAN LEGION RIDERS
DEPARTMENT OF TENNESSEE

**“BE THE ONE”
MID-SOUTH
ROUNDUP**

TENNESSEE'S "BE THE ONE" COMMISSION TO END VETERAN SUICIDE
VETERANS **O**FFERING **L**IFESAVING **S**ERVICES

15-17 MAY 2026

**!! ALL LEGION FAMILY INVITED !!
(ALL VEHICLES WELCOME)**

RIDES: SCAVENGER HUNTS AND FUN ROUTES
FOOD: CATERED, COOKED, TRUCK VENDORS
LIVE MUSIC * LIVE AUCTION

EVENT SCHEDULE TO BE POSTED BY 3/1/2026

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Donation/Sponsors Scan QR Code

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REGISTRATION ONLINE: WWW.TENNESSEELEGION.ORG

PUTNAM COUNTY CONVENTION CENTER
2121 Event Center Dr., Cookeville, Tn 38501

State ID: C023613

Jared "RODEO" Melton
Department of TN ALR
Director
tn.alr.director@gmail.com

Roy "Bud" Davis
Department of TN ALR
Adjutant/Finance
alr.tn.clerk@gmail.com



LEAD AMERICA INTO THE FUTURE

TN AMERICAN LEGION Boys State



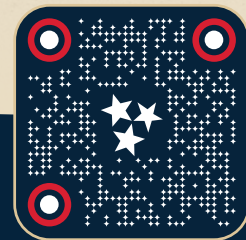
- Do you want to be a leader?
- Do you want to shape the future of our nation?
- Do you want to preserve the freedoms we all hold dear?
- Do you want to learn how to become a contributing citizen?
- Do you want to better your community, your nation, and society as a whole?

You can do all of this and more at **Tennessee American Legion Boys State**, a training ground for the leaders of tomorrow. This five-day gathering — made up of counselors and 600 young men representing every county in Tennessee — is designed to offer hands-on experience in the problems of government.

To accomplish this, participants are tasked with putting into practice the theories of government through actual participation in city, county, and state governments organized as a “Mythical 51st State,” complete with political parties, an election, and the establishment of judicial, legislative, and executive branches of government.

Want to learn more?

Scan the QR code or visit www.tnboysstate.org.



OUR MISSION

TN AMERICAN LEGION BOYS STATE



The mission of American Legion Boys State, Inc., is to develop leadership and to bring the young men who participate to a full realization of the duties of the American citizen.

Why is this so important? Because American citizenship is the priceless possession of us all. America is a free land, and the principles of democracy as guaranteed by our constitution have made us a great and powerful nation.

We believe that a prepared and trained youth will more effectively preserve and perpetuate this precious heritage and be ready to assume the trust and responsibilities that go with American citizenship.



Want to learn more?

Scan the QR code or visit www.tnboysstate.org.

