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

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

SHARE THIS BULLETIN WITH THE MEMBERS OF YOUR POST. We mail monthly bulletins to ***CERTIFIED*** Post Adjutants, using the mailing address placed on the annual Post Data Form. We email bulletins to compulsory Post Officers per Department Constitution Article IX, Section 8. Also visit www.tennesseelegion.org to obtain a copy. Please share this information with your Post membership.

2027 MID-WINTER CONFERENCE: We will return on January 15, 16, and 17, 2027 to Sheraton Music City, Nashville for our annual Mid-Winter Conference. Event registration link along with a link to reserve discounted accommodations, for $159 nightly plus tax, is available on the Department website: www.tennesseelegion.org.

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COMMANDER BOWEN'S PRIORITIES:
B.P.O.T.S.
Be Part of the Solution

1. **Veteran Suicide Prevention**
   - Remains the Organization's most important mission
   - Continue the message: "It's okay to not be okay"
2. **Veteran Assistance**
   - Connect Veterans with benefits, services and meaningful support
   - Make sure Veterans know The American Legion is there before a crisis becomes critical
3. **Youth Development**
   - Invest in programs that build citizenship, leadership and opportunity
   - Strengthen communities by engaging young people and their families
4. **National Security Advocacy**
   - Advocate for a strong national defense and those currently serving
   - Support servicemembers, military families and the quality of life needed to sustain readiness
5. **Membership Growth**
   - Show Veterans the value of membership through visible service and community impact
   - Recruit, engage and retain members by giving them meaningful ways to participate

COMMANDER CHALLENGE
Challenge members to become active participants rather than observers.
American Legion programs succeed when members choose to become part of the solution.

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VAMC CHRISTMAS DONATIONS/PARTIES: Please have all donations sent to Department Headquarters before **December 9, 2026**.

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RESOLUTIONS: Posts will submit resolutions, not affecting the Department Constitution and Bylaws, to the Department Adjutant. Resolutions to be considered at a Department Executive Committee Meeting must be sent to the Department Adjutant by **December 23rd, 2026.** Resolutions Affecting the Department Constitution & Bylaws must be submitted by **December 7th 2026.**

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DEPARTMENT/DISTRICT OFFICER NOMINATION RESOLUTIONS: Department Constitution Article VII, 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." Please have resolutions to the Department by **January 8, 2027**.

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Meeting with the Department Judge Advocate : The Tennessee American Legion is recruiting patriots to help make it easier for Veterans to Continue Serving. Please come join the American Legion Tennessee Judge Advocate Warriors (JAGWAR) :

- First meeting 0900 12DEC26 at Tennessee American Legion Headquarters, we will finish before the Army-Navy game.
- Receive briefing on Tennessee wage and hour law, premises liability, contract law, veteran's services, and Post operations.
- Join a working group to help support veterans and veteran activities in Tennessee.
- Join a working group to update a section of the JAG Manual for use by Posts all over Tennessee.
- Begin building a network of lawyers, law students, legal professionals, and veterans committed to practicing democracy and promoting successful American Legion activities.
- You DO NOT need to be a lawyer to participate. You just need to have an interest in seeing the American Legion serve as an incubator for more effective veteran service to our communities.
- **RSVP to Matt Bromund, TN AL JA, at mbromund@gmail.com**.

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INCORPORATION: Is your post incorporated to protect its members? If you are unsure, check with the Tennessee Secretary of State's office.

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DEPARTMENT HEADQUARTERS OFFICES: Will be closed November 11, 26 and 27, 2026; and again, December 24, 2026 through January 3, 2027, please plan accordingly.

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ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP DUES: shall be paid by October 20th, of each year before 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 collected at a local Post include Department and National dues. Membership dues are three-fold, Post, Department and National. Membership is not considered current until paid and transmitted to all three levels.

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ORATORICAL CONTEST: First place state scholarship is $3000. Send applications to Department Headquarters by 22 **January 2027**. ***District Oratorical Contests*** *are 6 February, through 27 February 2027.* ***Divisional Oratorical Contests*** *are between 6 March through 13 March 2027.* ***The Department Oratorical Contest*** *is set for March 20, 2027, held at Department Headquarters.*

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FIREFIGHTER OF THE YEAR: To recognize a well-rounded Firefighter, who has exceeded, above and beyond, the duty requirements expected of the position held and who exemplifies the virtues of professionalism and dedication and has demonstrated a distinct pattern of community service to the community, state, or Nation. Submissions due to the Department by **January 4, 2027**.

LAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICER OF THE YEAR: The American Legion gives its National Law Enforcement Officer of the Year Award to a well-rounded law enforcement officer who has exceeded the duty requirements expected of their position and has demonstrated a distinct pattern of community service coupled with professional achievement. Nominees must be U.S. citizens and living, active, full-time, and paid, sworn law enforcement officers entrusted with full authority and the powers of arrest. Submissions due to the Department by **January 4, 2027**.

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EMERGENCY MEDICAL TECHNICIAN OF THE YEAR: To recognize a well-rounded Emergency Medical Technician, who has exceeded, and has gone above and beyond, the expected duty requirements of the position exemplify the virtues of professionalism and dedication and has demonstrated a distinct pattern of community service to the community, state, or Nation. Submissions due by **January 4, 2027**.

THE AMERICAN LEGION NATIONAL REGIONAL INFORMATION CONFERENCE: Attendees will gain valuable insights into Constitution & Bylaws, Post Operations, Be The One, and more, with sessions designed to enhance member engagement and leadership. **MISSION STATEMENT**: To enable the American Legion Family to promote the founding principles of our organization through focused regional training and education; ensuring collaboration and networking of our members. Challenging our Legion Family to fully understand our legacy and prepare them to lead The American Legion beyond the 21st Century. **VISION STATEMENT**: Through American Legion Family education, we enable and facilitate a culture to create an environment where the needs of our organizations, veterans, youth, and community are fulfilled. To register visit: American Legion Training | The American Legion

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

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

Nomination forms for each award are available through the Department website. Please include no more than two typed narrative pages as well as the official nomination form. Applications due to Department Headquarters by **January 4, 2027**.

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MEMBERS RENEWED ONLINE POST PAYMENT Department Headquarters has sent out quarterly member online reimbursement ACH transaction to the post that have enrolled in the ACH process (approximately 50% of our posts). Checks will be mailed to the remaining posts. Reimbursements go to posts whose reimbursable per capita is equal to or greater than $25. If less than $25, the funds are held until the next quarter or when the reimbursable exceeds the $25 threshold.

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

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NOVEMBER CALENDAR

1: Daylight Savings Time Ends – Fall Back
6: Fifth District Meeting, Post 82 Nashville
10: Marine Corps Birthday
11: Veteran's Day (Department HQ offices closed)
12: 65% Membership Target Date
13: Fourth District Meeting, Post 4 Livingston
14: Sixth District Meeting, Post 228 Big Sandy
16-21: National American Legion College
21: Seventh District Meeting, Post 78 Manchester
26-27: Thanksgiving (Department HQ offices closed)

DECEMBER CALENDAR

7: Resolutions affecting Department Constitution and Bylaws due to the Department Adjutant
9: VAMC Contributions due to Dept. HQ
9: 75% Membership Target Date
12: Army-Navy Football game
20: Space Force Birthday
24-31 Christmas Holiday, Dept office closed

JANUARY CALENDAR

4: Employment Awards along with, Firefighter, EMT, and Law Enforcement of the Year due
15-17: Department Mid-Winter Conference