THE TENNESSEE LEGIONNAIRE

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Message from the Department Commander

By Tonya Launsby
Department Commander

Congratulations to all the posts that achieved 100% prior to the October 20, 2026, cutoff date:
McKenzie Post 37
Parkers Crossroads Post 286
Martin Post 88
Gleason Post 166
Also, congratulations to the Department for meeting the first milestone of 55% by the cutoff date of October 14, with 16 days to spare! The next goal is 65% by November 12, and we can do it because we are currently at 58%.
If you are utilizing the 21 st Century Committee Adhoc Report:
1. Legacy and Vision
2. Members and Membership Engagement
3. Training

Your post should have no problem reaching that goal. If you are having issues and need help, please reach out to your district commanders, vice commanders or me. We are here to help!

If you recruit 10 or more new members, your name will go into a hat and a drawing will be done at the June Convention and the winner will be sent to the membership workshop in Indianapolis at the beginning of August. Your hotel and fuel will be covered and other costs will be up to you. The things you will learn will be very beneficial to you and your members.

National has also put out some training dates. If you want to attend, you can pay for them and register here.

Omaha, Nebraska:
Saturday, November 14, 2026
Albany, New York:
Saturday, January 30, 2027
Las Vegas, Nevada:
Saturday, February 6, 2027

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.
Here's a glimpse of the agenda:
 8:30 AM - 10:30 AM: Legal
 10:30 AM - 10:40 AM: Morning Break



 10:40 AM - 11:30 AM: Post Operations & Member Relationships
 11:30 AM - 12:20 PM: Running an Effective Meeting
 12:20 PM - 1:00 PM: Lunch
 1:00 PM - 1:50 PM: Programs
 1:50 PM - 2:40 PM: Be the One
 2:40 PM - 2:50 PM: Afternoon Break
 2:50 PM - 3:40 PM: Marketing - Brand and Emblem Management
 3:40 PM - 4:30 PM: Marketing - Social Media Strategy
 4:30 PM - 5:00 PM: Wrap-Up / Networking

Please get your registration done and plan on coming to Mid-Winter Convention.

We plan to have a bowling session on Friday night starting at 5. If you win, there is no prize, just bragging rights for the weekend. Have fun!

Commander's Vision: Be Part of the Solution

By Mike Griffin
Department Adjutant

Having traveled throughout East Tennessee with National Commander Jay Bowen for five days, I had numerous opportunities to hear him speak about his priorities for The American Legion and the principles that drive his leadership. One message stood above all others: his unwavering belief in the acronym B.P.O.T.S. - Be Part of the Solution.

As Commander Bowen put it, "If you can be part of the solution and you choose not to be, then you are part of the problem. It's that simple."

That statement has stayed with me. It is direct, challenging, and impossible to misunderstand. It reflects not only Commander Bowen's leadership philosophy but also the very spirit upon which The American Legion was founded. Throughout our travels, he repeatedly emphasized that the success of our organization is not determined by what happens at National Headquarters, at department conventions, or in meetings. Success is determined by individual Legionnaires who choose to engage, serve, and make a difference in their posts and communities.

What follows is Commander Bowen's list of priorities, presented exactly as he has outlined them, followed by my interpretation of what I believe he is asking of us as Legionnaires. While these are national priorities, their success depends upon what happens at the local level when ordinary members decide to become active participants rather than observers.

COMMANDER'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 chose to become part of the solution

Turning Priorities into Action
While these priorities originate at the national level, their success depends on implementation at the post, district, and department levels. Every Legionnaire has the opportunity to contribute.

Veteran Suicide Prevention
Commander Bowen correctly identifies veteran suicide prevention as the organization's most important mission. Every veteran knows someone who has struggled with isolation, depression, post-traumatic stress, or the challenges of transitioning from military service to civilian life. The American Legion's role is not to replace professional healthcare providers, but to ensure veterans know they are not alone and that help is available.

Posts can support this priority by conducting Buddy Checks, promoting available resources, creating welcoming environments, and fostering meaningful connections among veterans. Sometimes the most important intervention is a simple conversation that reminds a veteran someone cares.

Veteran Assistance
Many veterans remain unaware of benefits they have earned through their service. Others become overwhelmed by the complexities of navigating government systems or seeking assistance during difficult circumstances.

The American Legion has long served as a trusted advocate for veterans and their families.

Whether helping a veteran file a claim, connecting them with local resources, or providing support during times of hardship, Legionnaires help bridge the gap between need and assistance. Effective veteran assistance means reaching veterans before a crisis occurs, not merely responding after one develops.

Youth Development
The future of our communities depends on the development of young leaders. Through programs such as

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FINANCIAL STATEMENTS as of OCTOBER 31, 2026

ASSETS			INCOME	
UNRESTRICTED FUNDS:			Dues Regular	$137,978.25
CURRENT ASSETS:			Riders/Veterans & Childrens Fund	$0.00
Cash and Cash Equivalents	$473,947.29		Interest/General Funds	$148.92
Investments	$543,788.56		Charitable Contributions/NEF Donations	$3,418.00
TOTAL CURRENT ASSETS	$1,017,735.85		Dividends John Deere Stock	$1,078.92
			Conferences/Conventions	$12,643.46
			Insurance Commissions	$0.00
			Closed Post Funds (2026-27 year)	$0.00
			Boys State Income (Expenses)	-$500.00
Property and Equipment	$1,527,229.19		Emblem Sales Commission	$0.00
Accumulated Depreciation	-$532,530.62			
TOTAL UNRESTRICTED FUNDS	$2,012,434.42		TOTAL INCOME	$154,767.55
			National Dues Current	$2,796.50
RESTRICTED FUNDS:			National/Natl Vice Commander Visit	$2,351.42
Cash and Cash Equivalents	$473,957.77		Salaries/Taxes	$28,041.00
Investments	$580,771.80		Commander/Adjutant	$8,590.51
TOTAL RESTRICTED FUNDS	$1,054,729.57		Vice/District Commanders	$2,182.16
			Conventions/Conferences	$17,769.71
			Office Machines/Equipment/Computers	$2,122.91
TOTAL ASSETS		$3,067,163.99	Membership Expenses	$2,118.00
			TN Legion College/Basic Training	$531.98
LIABILITIES AND EQUITY			Emblem Sales/Flags	$1,155.22
UNRESTRICTED FUNDS:			Postage	$2,265.25
CURRENT LIABILITIES:			Printing/Supplies	$1,227.49
Accounts Payable	$30,000.00		Telephone/Utilities	$9,334.28
Funds Held for Others	$110,019.59		Maintenance/Repairs	$2,715.20
Surplus Capital	$286,640.72		VA & R Programs/Donations	$500.00
TOTAL UNRESTRICTED FUNDS	$426,660.31		Insurance	$5,597.74
			Depreciation	$11,884.16
			Fundraising Expenses	$91.40
RESTRICTED FUNDS:			Youth Programs	$4,647.61
FUND BALANCES:	$2,601,209.35		CPA Audit/Legal Services	$8,761.47
Net Income / (Loss)	$ 39,294.33		Miscellaneous Expenses	$789.21
TOTAL RESTRICTED FUNDS	$2,640,503.68		TOTAL EXPENSES	$115,473.22
TOTAL LIABILITIES/EQUITY		$3,067,163.99	NET INCOME	$ 39,294.33

Upcoming Legion Dates & Deadlines

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. Divisional Oratorical Contests are between 6 March through 13 March. The Department Oratorical Contest is set for March 20, at Department Headquarters.

Firefighter, Law Enforcement and EMT of the Year
To recognize a well-rounded Firefighter, Law Enforcement Officer, and Emergency Medical Technician, the deadline for these three separate awards is January 4, 2027, for submissions to arrive at Department.

Message from the Senior Vice Commander

By Ron Hessil
Senior Vice Commander

Hello Tennessee Legionnaires!
What a great time I am having serving as your Senior Vice Commander. After National Convention, we took a few days and traveled with our camper south of Cincinnati and took in a baseball game, which my Milwaukee Brewers lost. But they did just win the World Series.
As you all know I love to travel, so traveling across Tennessee is right up my alley. Had the pleasure of being invited to Tennessee Tech to the Student Veteran Council and talking about the American Legion and what we can do for them. Also a reminder that the American Legion wrote the original GI Bill.
I traveled out in the East Division with the National Commander Jay Bowen during his visit, I was able to purchase a game ticket and attend the Tennessee Vols football game. That was definitely an experience.
I will be working with posts that might need some help with their membership renewals. We need to remind our members that once December 31 comes and goes, if not renewed by then, they risk not being covered by the Free Accidental Death Insurance. Also would not qualify for the National Emergency Fund if you were to be involved in a weather-related storm and your area is declared a National Emergency Disaster area.
I am waiting for my home post meeting to have my resolution adopted.
I am running for a second Term to serve as Department Of Tennessee Senior Vice Commander.
Just a friendly reminder, if you have a question and need someone to talk to, I am here to help answer your questions. I am here to serve you.

Staying connected through the holidays

By Shoney Shonebarger
Department Chaplain

For many veterans, the holiday season is not always filled with cheer. While television specials, familiar music, family traditions, and glowing decorations bring joy to many, they can also awaken a deep sense of loneliness, sadness, and loss. An empty chair at the dinner table, a favorite Christmas song, or a treasured ornament can instantly transport us back to happier days when the family circle was unbroken and loved ones gathered together.
These feelings are not uncommon. Many veterans carry memories of family members, spouses, friends, and fellow service members who are no longer with us. The holidays often magnify those absences. What should be a season of celebration can instead become a season of remembrance, and sometimes even hopelessness. Yet there is hope.
One of the most powerful remedies for loneliness is found in reaching out to others. Serving those in need not only blesses them but strengthens our own hearts. Consider volunteering at a homeless shelter, senior center, school, church, or community ministry. A few hours spent others can provide purpose, connection, and renewed perspective. When we become a blessing to someone else, we discover that our own burdens feel lighter.
Our American Legion Posts also offer a valuable source of fellowship and support.
Through Buddy Checks, we have an opportunity to connect with fellow veterans who may be carrying similar heartaches. Sometimes a phone call, a cup of coffee, or a conversation can make all the difference. No veteran should feel that they must walk through this season alone.
It may also help to establish new traditions. Invite someone over for supper. Meet a friend for lunch. Attend a community event. Create opportunities to connect rather than isolate. New traditions do not replace cherished memories, but they can build new moments of meaning and joy.
For those who are grieving deeply, remember that support groups are often available through local Hospice organizations during the holiday season. These groups provide a safe place to share experiences and find encouragement among others who understand loss.
Most importantly, do not hesitate to reach out. As your Department Chaplain, I want you to know that a call, a conversation, or a prayer is always welcome. We are a family, and families help one another through difficult times.
Let us walk through this holiday season together, supporting one another with compassion, friendship, and hope.
May God bless you, comfort you, and remind you that you are never alone.

Message from the Middle TN Vice Commander

By Shawn Brunelle
Middle Tn Vice Cdr

I want to begin by thanking all of you for your continued support of our department and fellow veterans. I regularly hear how our posts are engaging with their local communities and participating in veterans' programs. This involvement is taking place not only in our larger posts but also in our smaller ones.
If you are part of a small post that wants to do more in the community, do not hesitate to ask a neighboring post to collaborate. A notable example is Ed Bray's racing team at Post 135. He began with the help of several posts in District 4, and the team has since expanded statewide and nationally. His team has helped our fellow Legionnaires and veterans across the state spread the word that we are here to assist those in need.
If you have not already done so, please consider nominating a member of your post for the Department Legionnaire of the Year Award. Many individuals who contribute to the Legion deserve recognition. If your post has a Legionnaire of the Year program, please submit its honoree for consideration at the state level. If your post does not have such a program, please consider starting one. We all have members who go above and beyond and deserve to be recognized.
As I have said in the past, department officers are here to assist you and your post as best we can.
We are here to advise you not to run your post. With that in mind, please remember the chain of command. Whenever possible, begin with your District Commander, Vice Commander, or Senior Vice Commander before contacting the Department Commander or Adjutant. Most issues can be resolved at the appropriate level before they need to be escalated. Please also keep your post and department constitutional directives in mind when issues arise.
Thank you all for the excellent work you continue to do in your posts. Through your dedication, we will remain a successful organization. If I do not see you soon, have a safe and meaningful Veterans Day!

2026 - 2027 Department Leadership

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

DEPARTMENT ADJUTANT Mike Griffin, 615-391-5088, mike@tnlegion.org
318 Donelson Pike, Nashville

DEPARTMENT SENIOR VICE COMMANDER
Ron Hessil, 262-515-1746, rhessil@sbcglobal.net

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 Shaun Brunelle, 931-200-4869,sjbusnpa@gmail.com

WEST TN VICE COMMANDER: Jean Launsby, 731-487-2825, 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: Michael Testerman,865-742-6170, michael.testerman1@gmail.com
Third: William Barker, Jr., 423-580-7819, whb2519@gmail.com
Fourth: Billy Blankenship, 847-418-7214, whb2519@gmail.com
Fifth: Dave Hickman, 423-580-7819, dave.hickman@gmail.com
Sixth: Glenn Baggett, 615-319-5692, baggett.glen@gmail.com
Seventh: Vince Cuevas, 931-212-0257, vcuevas.alpost39@gmail.com
Eighth: Gary Wallace, 731-589-1107, gpwallacjac@gmail.com
Ninth: David Brewster, 731-535-1256, 1littlefarm@proton.me
Tenth: Jeff Jungkans, 901-872-8833, Junker1965@hotmail.com

Closing the gap in seasonal support

By Glen Baggett

6th District

Holiday food drives, pop-up pantries, and temporary winter shelter programs provide a critical safety net. These initiatives offer immediate relief to military families struggling to stretch fixed incomes, and to unhoused veterans braving the first severe freezes of winter. These efforts matter deeply. A warm holiday meal kit or a temporary bed in a seasonal shelter provides dignity, relief, and a tangible message that their service is remembered.

Service providers, homeless shelters, and food bank directors across the country report the same predictable cycle every year: an overwhelming flood of food donations and volunteer sign-ups in November and December, followed by a drastic drop in support starting in January. Homelessness and food insecurity are deeply intertwined issues that cannot be solved by seasonal outreach alone:

Long after holiday food drives conclude, thousands of veterans face empty pantries. Fixed retirement or disability incomes frequently fail to keep pace with rising costs. Furthermore, rural veterans and low-income senior veterans often live in food deserts or lack reliable transportation to access fresh, nutritious food on a weekly basis.

On any given night, tens of thousands of veterans experience homelessness—sleeping in cars, abandoned buildings, makeshift camps, or temporary shelters. While extreme winter weather poses immediate life-threatening danger, summer heatwaves bring severe dehydration and heat exhaustion. Housing insecurity is a 365-day threat that requires continuous funding for rapid re-housing and supportive housing services.

Food insecurity and housing instability fuel each other. Veterans forced to choose between paying rent, purchasing essential prescription medications, or buying groceries often slip into severe debt and, ultimately, eviction. Without stable housing, maintaining food storage, cooking basic meals, or managing chronic health conditions becomes nearly impossible.

Closing the gap between holiday charity and long-term stability requires shifting our approach from seasonal relief to continuous, community-driven support. Here is how we make a difference in our hometowns every day.

Commit to Sustained Monthly Giving: Instead of making a single end-of-year donation, set up a recurring monthly gift to your local food pantry, homeless shelter, or veterans' relief fund. Consistent monthly support allows agencies to stock pantries and cover emergency housing costs during lean spring and summer months.

Adopt an "Off-Season" Volunteer Schedule: Reach out to local shelters, VA community centers, and food distribution hubs to book volunteer shifts in April, July, or October—months when volunteer rosters are often depleted.

Check on Neighboring Veterans: Simple grassroots kindness goes a long way. Offer transportation to medical appointments or grocery stores, share surplus garden produce, or assist an elderly or disabled veteran neighbor with yard work and home maintenance.

Establish Emergency Relief Funds: Local posts, civic clubs, and faith-based groups can pool resources to create emergency relief funds dedicated strictly to short-term needs—preventing utility shutoffs, paying a month's rent shortfall, or purchasing emergency grocery gift cards.

Organize Mobile Pantry Outreach: For rural or homebound veterans without reliable transit, partner with regional food banks to establish regular mobile pantry stops and doorstep food deliveries.

The outpouring of compassion during the holidays demonstrates what is possible when communities unite behind a shared mission.

National Call Center for Homeless Veterans: Cal 1-877-4AID-VET (1-877-424-3838) for free, 24/7 confidential support for veterans who are unhoused or at risk of homelessness. Veterans Crisis Line: Dial or text 988, then Press 1. Find Local Assistance: Contact your county Veterans Service Officer (VSO) or visit Feeding America.org to locate year-round food pantries near you.

Please send all donations for VAMC Christmas donations and parties to Department Headquarters before December 9.

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Boys State, Oratorical Contest, American Legion Baseball, and numerous local initiatives, the Legion provides opportunities for young people to develop leadership skills, learn citizenship, and build confidence.

Investing in youth is not simply an investment in tomorrow; it strengthens communities today. When young people and their families become engaged with American Legion programs, they gain a deeper appreciation for service, patriotism, and civic responsibility.

National Security Advocacy

A strong national defense remains one of the American Legion's foundational principles. Advocacy efforts ensure that policymakers understand the needs of servicemembers, veterans, and military families. Supporting military readiness goes beyond funding and equipment. It includes advocating for adequate housing, healthcare, family support programs, and quality-of-life initiatives that sustain the all-volunteer force. Legionnaires have both the credibility and responsibility to speak on behalf of those who serve.

Membership Growth

Membership growth is more than a numerical goal. It is the means by which the organization continues its mission. New members bring energy, ideas, and diverse experiences that strengthen posts and communities. The most effective recruitment tool is not a membership brochure; it is visible service. When veterans see Legion members making a tangible difference in their communities, they recognize the value of belonging to an organization that serves long after military service ends. Retention is equally important. Members who feel welcome, engaged, and valued are more likely to remain active and encourage others to join.

Accepting the Commander's Challenge

The heart of this message is found in his challenge to members: become active participants rather than observers. Every post has opportunities to support veterans, mentor youth, assist military families, advocate for national security, and strengthen membership. Success does not require extraordinary resources. It requires committed Legionnaires willing to own the mission.

The American Legion's greatest achievements have always resulted from members who saw a need and chose to act. Commander Bowen's priorities provide a framework, but it is the actions of individual Legionnaires that will determine their success.

As we move into the coming year, each member should ask a simple question: "How can I be part of the solution?" The answer to that question may look different in every post and community, but the result will be the same: a stronger American Legion, stronger veterans, and stronger communities.

That is the challenge before us, and it is one worthy of our continued service.

Keeping track of your post roster, members

By David Brewster

9th District

There is an extremely small group of Posts nationwide that have accurate Membership Rosters. Those are typically Posts with a small membership. It is easier to keep up with any changes when everyone knows everyone else. In District 9, that Post is 180 in Bruceton, and our new Post 296 in Trenton.

I am asking all Posts statewide to contact each member on our rosters to do a "Buddy" Check and to update the rosters to reduce the workload on our Adjutants. Calls, texts and emails are fine, but nothing is better than knocking on a door and getting first hand knowledge.

For the out-of-state members, contact a Post closer to the member's actual residence for assistance. Accurate rosters will serve the Post and The Legion as a whole, much better.

While past members will drop off our membership rosters after three years, those that have passed on remain on our rosters until someone finally learns about their passing.

Over the past few years, I have learned a few truths:

- No one has reported the passing of the member.
- Family was unaware of the member's affiliations.
- Spouses continued to make yearly membership dues payments thinking they were continuing to honor their loved by making a yearly contribution.

All three of these issues still happen today and may always continue, but our efforts can definitely reduce the error rate.

“What’s in it for me” vs. “What can I do”

By Michele Perry
1st District Commander

“What’s in it for me” focuses on personal benefits and gains, while “what can I do” focuses on your actions, contributions, and role in the organization. Both perspectives are important when deciding to join The American Legion, but they serve different purposes in the decision-making process.

1. “What’s in It for Me” — Personal Benefits

This lens asks what you gain from joining. It’s about the value you receive, whether tangible or intangible. Common benefits in The American include:

- Networking & Community – Access to a supportive network of veterans, service members, and allies; opportunities to meet like-minded people.
- Skill Development – Gaining leadership, project management, fundraising, or advocacy skills that can benefit your career.
- Recognition & Credibility – Building a résumé through volunteer work, board service, or event leadership.
- Personal Fulfillment – Contributing to causes you care about, which can boost morale and sense of purpose.
- Resources & Support – Access to training, mentorship, and sometimes financial or logistical support for your own projects.

This is the “self-focused” side: you’re evaluating how the organization can enrich your life, career, and personal growth.

2. “What Can I Do” — Your Contributions

This lens asks what you can bring to the table. It’s about your role, responsibilities, and impact on the mission:

- Service Delivery – Helping veterans with job training, housing, healthcare, or benefits navigation.
- Advocacy – Supporting policy changes or raising awareness of veteran issues.
- Event & Program Support – Organizing fundraisers, community events, or outreach programs.
- Board or Leadership Roles – Contributing strategic guidance, governance, or decision-making.
- Fundraising & Donor Engagement – Securing resources or connecting donors to a Legion Post cause.
- Specialized Skills – Applying your professional expertise (e.g., legal, marketing, IT) to Legion Post needs.

This is the “action-focused” side: you’re considering how you can add value, solve problems, and help the organization achieve its mission.

3. How They Work Together

In practice, the best fit happens when your personal gains align with your ability to contribute. For example:

- If you want to develop leadership skills (“what’s in it for me”), you might join a nonprofit that offers board training and event leadership (“what can I do”).
- If you value networking with veterans (“what’s in it for me”), you might join a group that hosts community events and mentorship programs (“what can I do”).

Tip: Before joining, list your desired benefits and your potential contributions, then match them to the mission, services, and culture. This ensures you’re not just finding a place that benefits you, but one where you can make a meaningful difference.

In short:

- “What’s in it for me” = What I get out of it
- “What can I do” = What I can give to it

The most sustainable join is when both are strong.

In a closing note: District 1 Legionnaire Family did an outstanding job in greeting, escorting, and showing off their perspective Posts during the National Commander, Jay Bowen’s, visit. The associated cities and media also responded in preparation and excellent articles as well. Greeneville Post 64, Johnson City Post 24, and Rogersville Post 21 exhibited their ‘shine’ with little guidance. I enjoyed the ‘can I do this?’ questions and my ability to say ‘sure!’. Jefferson City Post 113 hosted the 1st District Meeting with National Commander, Jay Bowen, as a guest speaker. People are still telling me how much they were impressed at how well Post 113 conducted the opening ceremony.

Tennessee Midwinter Conference will be held January 15-17 at the Music City Sheraton in Nashville. Register now.



National Commander Jay Bowen Visits East Tennessee













Message from the 2nd District Commander

By Michael Testerman
2nd District Commander

Hello legionnaires. I am Michael Testerman, the 2nd District Commander. The 2nd district has had a busy summer with our units participating in many local events.

We are all struggling to get new members, but several units have found a way to recruit. We must not forget that we must also retain: retain those members we currently have. We start in-house with retention and then we can recruit.

The Second District welcomed the National Commander Jay Bowen to our area. He visited the East Tennessee Veterans Cemetery and the Gold Star Family Memorial, where Commander Bowen and Department Commander Launsby placed a wreath at the Veterans Overlook.

He then visited the new Hero's Hill in Knoxville, a tiny home community for homeless veterans. This is a very unique property and a special place for veterans to get their lives back on tract. They have a VA liaison on the property to help with the needs of the veterans. Post 2 will be working with the residents of Hero's Hill.

The commander visited with the past Knox County Mayor Glen Jacobs, and the Current Mayor Elect, Betsey Henderson.

After a hearty lunch at Calhoun's on the River, we moved to the East Tennessee Veterans Memorial. This memorial is in downtown Knoxville at the former L&N train station. For many of the people on this memorial, this was the last place they were alive on American soil. There are more than 6,000 names on the memorial.

Steven Patric of Post 2 demonstrated the ability of our Post Amateur Radio group. Steven was able to contact a Ham Radio Operator from Napa Valley California. We have recently started recruiting for our Radio Club. We hope to use this as a recruiting tool for the post as it grows. We had a very good District Meeting at Post 136 in Oneida, TN.

Post 13 hosted the East Tennessee SAL meeting and training. This was a good event in helping members understand what SAL can do to help the post and how they are a part of the Legion Family. We look forward to the next meeting.

I, Michael Testerman, will be running for the East Division Vice Commander for the 27-28 year. I have been the 2nd District commander off and on for four years and have worked through several difficult situations in the Legion. I look forward to stepping up to the next level and hope to help all districts of the East Division become the top districts in Tennessee. I would like your vote in the Spring Elections.

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.

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

Are You Ready to Make Tennessee Even Better?





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 (318 Donelson Pike, Nashville, TN 37214) Lunch will be provided and 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.**

Click here to download the Judge Advocate's Manual