LEGION ACT: Congress passed the bipartisan LEGION Act on Tuesday, July 23, 2019 extending the recognized wartime era back to December 7, 1941. President Trump signed the Act into law, Tuesday, July 30th, 2019. The LEGION Act fills in the gaps of war eras and redefines The American Legion’s membership eligibility dates. Posts need to review their Constitutions and Bylaws to ensure they comply with the current eligibility criteria.

POST ADJUTANTS: If you make an update in myLegion, please do not send a member data form requesting the same action. Additionally, we do not need a member data form when you make changes on the redesigned membership card. Finally, please complete “all” portions of the redesigned membership card; to include BOS, War Era, Phone #, and email.

AMERICAN LEGION MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL: National will send the next renewal notices on October 7th, 2019. To prevent your members from receiving the renewal notice, please send your membership cards to Department before September 9th; or process your membership using the Post On-Line Membership Transmittal process in www.mylegion.org or have your members renew by going to www.legion.org/renew.

2019 LEGIONNAIRE OF THE YEAR: Please congratulate Past Post Commander Robert Sea y, Post 250 Germantown, as our 2019 “Legionnaire of the Year”. He was recognized for his many contributions to the Veterans, Children & Youth, National Defense, and Americanism programs in his post and community.

2019 DEPARTMENT VICE COMMANDER OF THE YEAR: Lanny Culver, of Post 243, Scotts Hill, was selected as the “2019 Department Vice Commander of the Year”. Last year, Commander Culver was our District Commander of the Year.

2019 DISTRICT COMMANDER OF THE YEAR: Eighth District Commander Joel Pipkin was selected as District Commander of the Year. He was recognized for meeting or exceeding 24 predetermined objectives.

JUNIOR SHOOTING SPORT WINNERS: Jaden-Ann Fraser won First place in the Sporter class and her fellow cadet Olivia Cattrell placed Third at the National competition at the Olympic Training Center, Colorado Springs CO. Both of the Cadets hail from Church Hill, TN, sponsored by Post 3 Kingsport. Congratulations to both Cadets.

POSTS THAT HAVE NOT CERTIFIED THEIR POST OFFICERS, BY DISTRICT:
First District: Post 119 Rutledge
Second District: Post 110 Kingston.
Third District: Post 66 Pikeville.
Fourth District: 56 Hartsville;
Sixth District: Post 6 Nashville; Post 40 Ashland City; Post 59 Kingston Springs; and Post 211 Dickson.
Ninth District: Post 20, Union City; Post 26, Humboldt; and Post 210, Bells.
Tenth District: Post 86 Ripley, Post 165 Bolivar and Post 258 Raleigh.

YELLOW RIBBON REINTERGATION PROGRAM (YRRP) EVENTS
The Yellow Ribbon Reintegration Program is a DoD-wide effort to promote the well-being of National Guard and Reserve members and their families by connecting them with community healthcare, education, employment, financial and legal resources throughout the deployment cycle. That’s where The American Legion Post plays a vital role…Reconnect!

LOCATION COMPONENT DATE
Memphis 278 MITT ARNG Aug 10 & 11, 2019
Nashville 118 AW ANG Aug 17 & 18, 2019
Knoxville ARNG Aug 24 & 25, 2019
Smyrna ARNG Oct 20, 2019

AMERICAN LEGION BASEBALL
2019 DEPARTMENT WINNERS:
• 19 and Under Champions - Post 19 Columbia and Runner-up, Post 60, Pulaski. Most Valuable Player is William McCall, Columbia and Sportmanship is Jake Jackson, Pulaski
• 17 and Under Champions - Post 19 Columbia and Runner-up, Post 173 McMinnville. Most Valuable Player is Matt Gamble Post 19 and Ryland Holder Post 173 McMinnville.
• 15 and Under Champions - Post 17, Gallatin and Runner-Up, Post 281 Mt Juliet. Lawson Tea of Gallatin is recognized as the Most Valuable Player with Sportsman honors going Tyler Vestal of Mt Juliet Post 281.

Chairman Chuck Johnson sends his heartfelt congratulations to all teams, sponsors, coaches and all supporting posts for making this another successful tournament. Columbia will go to the South East Regional Tournament in Tampa, FL. National World Series Aug 16-21 on www.ESPN3.com.

WE WISH TO CONGRATULATE OUR DEPARTMENT SWEEPSKATES WINNERS; as well as everyone that participated. Coming to your mailbox, your sixteen-month 2020 Calendar.
AMERICAN LEGION 2020 ORATORICAL CONTEST: Now is the time plan your Post/District 2020 Oratorical Contests. We will mail Contest material in August. Please contact Chairman Charles Osterhoudt by calling 315-868-2267 or via email at coster7794@gmail.com with any of your Oratorical Program questions.

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THE EMPLOYER OF VETERANS AWARDS: Department of Tennessee may submit a total of 3 nominations for this category for national consideration. One nomination for a small company with 50 or fewer employees; one nomination for a medium sized company with work forces of 51 to 200 and one nomination for a large company with 201 or more employees. Submissions due to Department Headquarters by January 3, 2020.

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THE AMERICAN LEGION RIDERS (ALR) is a Department program for members of The American Legion, American Legion Auxiliary (ALA), and the Sons of The American Legion (SAL), collectively “The Legion Family,” who share an interest in motorcycling. Need to learn more? Contact Department Rider Director Jackie Laird, 731-364-5766 jllaird14@gmail.com. The American Legion Riders:

• Upholds the declared principles of The American Legion as well as conforms to and abides by the regulations and decisions of the Department, Post, or other duly constituted governing body.

• Maintains and protects the image of The American Legion at all times through appropriate wearing of The American Legion Emblem. The emblem of The American Legion demands “that the wearer shall ever guard the sanctity of home and country and free institutions.”

• Will avoid any perception of being a motorcycle or “biker” club or gang. Rather, the focus of membership is for the enjoyment of motorcyclists and comradeship and furthering American Legion programs.

• Strives to improve the public’s perception of the motorcycling community by promoting the honorable nature of service to one’s community, state and nation through the sport of motorcycling.

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2020 LAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICER OF THE YEAR AWARD: To recognize a well-rounded Law Enforcement Officer, who has exceeded, above and beyond, the duty requirements expected of the position held and who exemplifies the virtues of professionalism and dedication and has demonstrated a distinct pattern of community service to the community, state or Nation; and also, has proven personal dedication to societal security and protection. Submissions due to Department Headquarters by January 3, 2020.

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2020 FIREFIGHTER OF THE YEAR AWARD: 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; and also, has proven personal dedication to societal security and protection. Submissions due to Department Headquarters by January 3, 2020.

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THE TENNESSEE NONPROFIT GAMING LAW allows eligible 501(c)(3) and 501(c)(19) organizations to hold an annual “game of chance” fundraising event. In order to conduct such an event, an organization must file the following with the division:

• An application and all required attachments between July 1 and January 31 each year for the events to be held the following July 1 - June 30.

• Non-refundable fee

Does your post have the permission from the Tennessee Secretary of State?

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FIVE-YEAR STRATEGIC PLANS: Each post will complete a five-year strategic plan; your respective District Commander has a template for you to use. Please don’t look at completing your 5-year Strategic Plan template as a daunting task, work with your District leadership to answer a few straightforward questions. This document is a roadmap or plan to reach your membership penetration goal of 10% or more veteran penetration in your community. Overall, we have less than 5% of Tennessee’s eligible veteran population serving as legionnaires. You can find your penetration statistics on our webpage.

AUGUST CALENDAR:

02: Desert Shield 1990
07-10: American Legion Regional Baseball Tournaments
09-10: National Membership Workshop
07: Purple Heart Day
14: V-J Day 1945
19-23: American Legion Baseball World Series (Streamed live)
18-22: American Legion Riders Legacy Run
23-29: National Convention, Indianapolis, IN

SEPTEMBER CALENDAR:

02: Labor Day (Offices Closed)
07: Districts 4 & 8 Revitalization
11: Patriot Day, Remembrance of 9/11
14: myLegion Class, Department Headquarters
14: Districts 5 & 9 Revitalization
20: POW-MIA Recognition Day
20-22: National Children & Youth Conference
21: Districts 1 & 6 Revitalization
27-28: National Americanism Conference
28: Districts 2 & 7 Revitalization
29: Gold Star Mother’s Day