BUDDY CHECK - The American Legion was built on the power of personal contact. A century ago, when our organization was established, there was no other good way to grow and fulfill our purposes. Today, in honor of The American Legion’s centennial, we’re asking you to do what our founders did. Make personal contact with members and former members of your posts and districts.  

NATIONAL COMMANDER REISTAD TO VISIT TENNESSEE RESCHEDULED - National Commander Reistad will visit Tennessee March 17-19, 2019. Commander Reistad will tour through Districts Six, Seven, Eight, Nine, and Ten. Contact your respective District Commander for details.  

MEMBERSHIP – Please submit your membership transmittals and Member Data Forms by April 8th, 2019. This is the last day to record new members, changes, and renewals to ensure your post receives accurate preprinted 2020 membership cards.  

MORE MEMBERSHIP – National Commander Reistad has added renewals as a way to earn his membership incentive pin. This pin can still be earned by recruiting 3 new members into The American Legion or renewing 6 members for 2019. A new member is defined as someone who had not paid for 2018. A renewal is someone who had paid their 2018 and renewing for 2019. The goal is to increase retention and reward those who work to achieve it. Renewals received prior to 1/14/19 will not count.  

POST DATA REVIEW FORM - Department Headquarters will mail to the “last certified” Post Adjutant on file the Annual Post Data Review Form by March 1st. It’s imperative that each post return their respective Post Data Review Form responding to the 10 specific items as it relates to their post. Importantly, we need the first four items:  

1) Post physical address (where the post meets, does not need to be post home).  
2) Post Mailing Address.  
3) Dues Mailing Address.  
4) Annual Post Dues.  

The remaining items are important as well, please follow the instruction on the form’s reverse side and return to The American Legion, 318 Donelson Pike, Nashville TN 37214 by April 10, 2019. These forms are individualized by post and we will not place them on website.

AMERICAN LEGION EAGLE SCOUT OF THE YEAR 2019 - We mailed forms to eligible Eagle Scouts. Please have nominations to Department Headquarters by March 1, 2019.

POST OFFICER CERTIFICATION – Post Officer elections are right around the corner. Each post adjutant needs to certify their officers by checking the officer’s DD-214 or NGB-22 to validate their American Legion eligibility upon the annual election of post officers and no later than 5 days prior to the Annual Department Convention per Article IX, Section 10, Department Constitution. Copies available at www.tennesseeligion.org in the “Post Forms/Resources” tab.

CONSOLIDATED POST REPORT (CPR) - (2018-2019) - Information, as little as it may be, gleaned from “your” CPR is vital to NATIONAL HEADQUARTERS especially when testifying before Congress. We recommend posts use the Consolidated Post Report application in myLegion to initiate and continuously update. The Consolidated Post Report form is also available at www.tennesseeligion.org in the Post Forms/Resources tab. The Trophy and Awards Committee uses “your” CPR for post awards.

AMERICAN LEGION BOYS STATE – We have scheduled American Legion Boys State the week of May 19-25, 2019, at Tennessee Technological University in Cookeville. The tuition for 2019 remains $350.00 per delegate. We will mail brochures and information later this month to High Schools and Post Adjutant or Post Boys State Chairperson on record. Please send delegate fee to The American Legion, Department of Tennessee, 318 Donelson Pike, Nashville TN 37214. Please have your Delegates register by going to www.tnboysstate.org after receiving the site’s password from their counselor. The program administrator will email delegate forms to registered delegates.

AMERICAN LEGION BASEBALL 2019 - See www.legion.org/baseball to register online for your team and purchase insurance from S.A. Van Dyk. Insurance paid prior to receiving the baseball packets. Online registration started January 1, 2019. Also, background checks started January 1, 2019 by going to and click on the link on the homepage. Refer questions to Americanism Chairman Alexander at coachdg@ao.com; Deputy Department of Tennessee American Legion Baseball Advisor Mickey McKeel at memckeel@hotmail.com or Assistant Chairman Don “Chuck” Johnson coachplus@sbcglobal.net.

2019 DEPARTMENT CONVENTION – June 1st and 2nd, 2019 at the Marriott Cool Springs, Franklin. Rooms are available for $145 plus tax per night from May 31st to June 2, 2019. Go to our website and click on “Book Your Own Rate...” Call 1 (888) 236-2427 or (615) 261-6100, use special rate code “ALD.”
AMERICAN LEGION “LEGIONNAIRE OF THE YEAR” - Department Headquarters mailed the “Legionnaire of the Year” application to each Post Adjutant with last month’s bulletin. The form is also available by going to www.tennesseeligion.org and opening “Post Forms/ Resources” tab on the left side of the website landing page. Each Post should recognize that “special” legionnaire in their Post! Deadline: May 8, 2019.

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AMERICAN LEGION ROTC SCHOLASTIC AND MILITARY EXCELLENCE MEDALS

Posts are responsible for ordering and presenting ROTC Medals for presentation to local Junior and Senior ROTC students. Recommend ordering medals and certificates today; to ensure they arrive in time for “your school’s” Awards Day. Your post should award each ROTC unit two Bronze Medals (one Military and one Scholastic). Furthermore, your post may award the Senior ROTC six medals; two Bronze, two Silver and two Gold, (one each for Military Excellence and one each for Scholastic Excellence) in each category. You can find prices and descriptions at https://emblem.legion.org/searchprods.asp or by using the 2019 Catalog, page 130. Emblem Sales phone number is 888-453-4466.

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ONE-YEAR POST NARRATIVE HISTORY AND ONE-YEAR POST YEARBOOK - It has been a well-established policy of the American Legion to encourage the preparation of post histories. Such information will be valued for years to come. The National Historian conducts an annual one-year narrative history and yearbook (pictorial) History contest, entrants derived from the Department Contest. You can find instructions on pages 139-146 of the 2018 “Officer’s Guide and Manual of Ceremonies.” For maximum points, please follow charts on pages 139 and 149 respectively.

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AMERICAN LEGION RIDERS – 2019-2020 Officer Notification form is available on www.tennesseeligion.org under the Legion Riders tab; reminder, elections are to be held injunction with Post Officer elections per Department of Tennessee Riders Bylaws Article II, Section 3.

FEBRUARY CALENDAR

1-28: Americanism Month
2-3: Mid-Winter Conference at Embassy Suites Nashville-SE Murfreesboro (offices closed)
3: Four Chaplains Sunday
9: Yellow Ribbon Reintegration Event-Nashville
9: Middle TN Division Oratorical contest at Lakewood Baptist, Church 400 Donelson Pike, Nashville, at 11:00 a.m.
11: Fifth Membership Renewal Reminder
12: West TN Division Oratorical contest at Lexington Civic Center, 145 S. Main St. Lexington @ 3:30 p.m.
14: Valentine’s Day
16: East TN Division Oratorical contest at East Ridge Court, Main Court Rm. East Ridge at 10:00 a.m.
18: President’s Day, Department Headquarters closed
23: Yellow Ribbon Reintegration Event-Memphis

SONS OF THE AMERICAN LEGION – 2019-2020 Squadron Officer Certification available on our website under the Post Forms/Resources tab.

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THE AMERICAN LEGION BASIC TRAINING – American Legion Extension Institute has been rebranded as “Basic Training”: The course has been updated, streamlined and enhanced with videos, digital photos, clickable links, a historical timeline and additional features. To register and take the course, visit www.legion.org/alei. The program should take less than two hours to complete. It is divided into six sections, with a quiz at the end of each one, followed by a final exam. The online course is free for members of The American Legion and Sons of The American Legion. If you would like to hold a class contact Membership and Post Activities Chairman Luther Holsonback at lmholso@gmail.com.

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TENNESSEE LEGIONNAIRE – For those who prefer to use your tablet or mobile device, you can access the Tennessee Legionnaire from our website: www.tennesseeligion.org and click the “Tennessee Legionnaire” tab.

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DID YOU KNOW - Your family members will need a copy your DD214? Do they know where and how to obtain a copy? IRS inclusion 501(c)(19) forms are filed annually by the National Judge Advocate at the end of September. The IRS requires every post to file a Form 990 annually. If your post has a lounge, are the house rules up-to-date and posted? The Post Operations Manual lists suggested house rules.

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THE LEGIONNAIRE INSURANCE TRUST (LIT) - The Legionnaire Insurance Trust is pleased to announce that online enrollment is now available for the Legion Care No Cost Accidental Death benefit. Legion Care provides all Legionnaires and Legion Family with: $5000 in Accidental Death Coverage for covered accidents that occur if you are traveling on official Legion business. $1000 for all other covered accidents. To learn more or sign up, please visit http://www.thelit.com/no-cost-legioncare

FEBRUARY CALENDAR CONTINUED

24-27: Washington Legislative Conference and National Commander Congressional Testimony
26-Mar 1: Department Service Officer School

MARCH CALENDAR

1: Eagle Scout of the Year Award due to Department
9: Department Oratorical Contest 10 a.m., Department Headquarters, 318 Donelson Pike, Nashville
10: Daylight Savings Time begins
13: 90% Membership Target Date
15-17: American Legion 100th Birthday
17: St. Patrick’s Day
17-19: National Commander Reistad tours Tennessee
19: “Operation Iraqi Freedom” began
23: Second District Convention, at Post 112, Oliver Springs