Preamble

24th, 2020 for consideration, unless these time limits are waived by a majority vote of the Resolutions Committee. The Resolutions Committee may initiate a resolution as a Committee Resolution.

RESOLUTIONS: Posts may submit resolutions, not affecting the Department Constitution and Bylaws, to the Department Adjutant. Resolutions to be considered at a Department Executive Committee Meeting to the Department Adjutant by January 20th, 2020. The Department Adjutant will have resolutions to the Department Resolution Chairman by January 24th, 2020 for consideration, unless these time limits are waived by a majority vote of the Resolutions Committee. The Resolutions Committee may initiate a resolution as a Committee Resolution.

CHARTERED SOLICITATIONS AND GAMING: 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 Tennessee Division of Charitable Solicitations:
- An application and all required attachments between July 1 and January 31, 2020 each year for the events to be held the following July 1 - June 30.
- A non-refundable fee.
- The division will review the application and transmit a list of all qualifying applicants to the General Assembly for its authorization.

For more information call the Division of Charitable Solicitations at (615) 741-2555 or view the “Frequently Asked Questions” (FAQs) go to: http://sos.tn.gov/products/charitable-solicitations-and-gaming/charitable-gaming-faqs

********

VETERANS DAY, NOVEMBER 11: Observed on the 11th. For many members of The American Legion and the American Legion Auxiliary, Veterans Day will always have a very deep personal significance. Veterans Day speech is available online at www.mylegion.org or Department Headquarters www.tennesseelegion.org. Plan to participate in a program near you.

********

DEPARTMENT OF TENNESSEE MID-WINTER CONFERENCE: Once again Embassy Suites Nashville-SE, February 8-9, 2020. Suggest reserving your room prior to January 8, 2020 to receive the discounted rate. We will have limited Mid-Winter Conference Registration hours at Embassy Suites Nashville-SE, Murfreesboro. We’ll have a separate line for pre-registered attendees and another for those who have not. We will have pre-registered attendees’ packets ready, so they can reach their desired event on time. We ask our non-preregistered attendees to pack the patience; it takes time to build packets. Bottom-line: Please Pre-Register; forms available at www.tennesseelegion.org.

********

PROPOSED AMENDMENTS TO DEPARTMENT, DETACHMENT, OR RIDER CHARTERS: 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 to the Department Adjutant by December 30th, 2019. The Department Adjutant will have resolutions to the Department Resolution Chairman by January 9th, 2020 for consideration, unless these time limits are waived by a majority vote of the Resolutions Committee. The Resolutions Committee may initiate a resolution as a Committee Resolution.

********

SOCIAL MEDIA: We understand that social media can be a fun and rewarding way to share your life and opinions with family, friends and co-workers around the world. However, use of social media also presents certain risks and carries with it certain responsibilities. Be respectful - Always be fair and courteous. Nevertheless, if you decide to post complaints or criticism, avoid using statements or media that reasonably could be viewed as malicious, obscene, threatening or intimidating, that disparage The American Legion and/or its members, associates or suppliers, or that might constitute harassment or bullying. Be honest and accurate.

********

POST/SQUADRONS MEMBERSHIP ONLINE MEMBER TRANSMIT Sources Processing: Membership in myLegion allows Post and Squadron Officers to:
- Renew existing members
- Add new members and transfer in existing members from other posts (only those paying their dues at the gaining post)
- Electronic payment via eCheck

Current we have an 85 of 175 posts using the Post Membership Transmittal Process, along with two squadrons. We should have 100% usage – our goal is to have 110 posts using this process by our Mid-Winter Conference. More secure than mailing-why not save time and money?

********

TRAINING IN BOX, PHASE 1: Please visit http://www.tennesseelegion.org/index.php/id=123 for training items – added Phase 1 link “American Legion Training in Box” to our training page. Our expectation is to have every officer, at a minimum, take “Basic Training” either the on-line edition or contact Department Headquarters schedule an off-line Basic Training class.

********

VA CENTER CHRISTMAS DONATIONS: Deadline December 8th to send your contributions for the VA Medical Center Christmas. Please mail your donations to reach the Department Headquarters.
DISTRICT REVITALIZATION: We truly appreciate the members that attended their respective District Revitalization efforts. One thousand-twenty members have been transferred since July 1, 2019. Not all are a direct result of the revitalization process, numbers also include Project Stay Active. As it stands today, we still have 3,706 members that reside in the Department transition post, also know as Post 2000. The majority of these should belong to a post in their local community.

POST REVITALIZATION: We have several posts going through or will go through this process. We will do everything we can to have a post be a viable asset to their local community. The reasons why a post may struggle varies from location to location – changing demographics, leadership, and overall apathy tend to be the leading causes. Only the post and its members will decide the ultimate future of their post.

FUNDRAISING CALENDARS and LABELS: Legionnaires, you should have received your 2020 Calendars last August and your return labels in October. We greatly appreciate your donations, they directly assist our Veterans Affairs and Rehabilitation, Americanism, and Children & Youth programs. Look for the sweepstakes later.

2020 AMERICAN LEGION ORATORICAL CONTEST: We mailed Oratorical Scholarship materials to Post Commanders and Tennessee High Schools. Please visit your schools, if you have not done so. Every contestant who participates (and does not advance to the division contest) will receive a $25.00 check. The top State Scholarship is $3,000. Participant Certifications due to Department Headquarters by January 9, 2020. For contest dates and locations please visit: www.tennesseelegion.org/oratorical. National Oratorical Winners increased to First Place $20,000, Second Place $17,000, Third Place $15,000. First and Second Round participants will receive $2000 each.

2020 AMERICAN LEGION BASEBALL: The insurance, liability, and accident will be $240.00 for juniors and will be $300.00 for seniors. We will lay out the 2020 rules in detail in the 2020 rule book. Deadline for applications and to purchase insurance is May 15th, 2020. On-line registration starts January 1, 2020. Refer questions to Baseball Chairman Chuck Johnson, 256-200-4278 or coachplus@sbcglobal.net.

AMERICAN LEGION BOYS STATE 17-23 MAY, 2020: Contact your local school. Posts should sponsor students to attend. Each post can send as many candidates as they can afford, the cost remains $350 per delegate.

CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR NATIONAL ONE-YEAR POST NARRATIVE HISTORY WINNERS: Post 289 Clarksville for second place entry and Certificate of Participation to Scotts Hill Post 243.

MEMBERSHIP AND AWARDS MANUAL: Multiple post and individual awards available–Department’s Membership and Awards Manual found at: http://www.tennesseelegion.org

EAGLE SCOUT NOMINATIONS 2020: forms are available at Department Headquarters. Please contact us at 615-391-5088 or on our website; www.tennesseelegion.org if you need forms or have questions, please contact Chairman Schmidt at eaglewarr7@yahoo.com.

COMMEMORATIVE COIN SERIES: Proceeds from coin sales will help fund American Legion programs that support veterans, servicemembers, their families and the communities in which they live. Coin sales end Dec. 31. Those centennial coins make great Christmas gifts for Legion memorabilia. Visit www legion.org/coin or call 800-872-6468.

DO YOU KNOW: You may purchase a Tennessee Centennial Coin for $20. Contact Department Headquarters and available at Mid-Winter.

AMERICAN EDUCATION WEEK – NOVEMBER 11-15, 2019: Will present all Americans with a wonderful opportunity to celebrate public education and honor individuals who are making a difference in ensuring that every child receives a quality education.

YELLOW RIBBON REINTEGRATION PROGRAM YRRP: These events are the perfect time for us to “Reconnect” and support our Troops. You can see where The American Legion through its four pillars (Americanism, National Defense, Children & Youth and the Rehabilitation of Veterans).


RIDERS NOTICE: We have noticed not all Riders are in compliance with the current edition of the Riders Department Constitution and Bylaws, most notably Constitution Article V and Bylaws Article III. These articles, along with 13 others, were addressed last year at both the Department Mid-Winter Conference and subsequent Convention; but the changes failed to at the Convention. This is to serve notice to all riders; we anticipate receiving resolutions to make changes to the current Riders Constitution and Bylaws. If received, we will discuss the resolutions at the Department Mid-Winter Conference on Saturday February 8, 2020.

SAL ONLINE MEMBERSHIP PROCESSING allows SAL Officers to Process: (1) Electronic payment via eCheck, (2) Renew existing members and (3) Add new members and transfer in existing members from other squadron (only those paying their dues at the gaining Squadron). We need your Squadron Officers certified for 2019-20. Your Squadron will not be properly informed of current available information if the Department does not receive the Officer Certifications. Sons are currently at 30.30%. Sons of the American Legion Squadrons can now sign up for www.mysal.org or www.legion.org/SAL.

NOVEMBER CALENDAR
2-3: Yellow Ribbon Reintegration Program – Nashville
03: Standard Time Change. (Fall back 1 hour)
3-8: National American Legion College
11-15: American Education Week
11: Veterans Day (Office Closed)
16: Yellow Ribbon Reintegration Program – Knoxville
19: Seventh District Mtg. @ Post 19 Columbia, 6:00 pm
21: Fourth District Mtg @ Post 4 Livingston, 6:00 pm
22: Fifth District Mtg @ Post 74 Tracy City, 6:00 pm
23: Sixth District Mtg @ Post 17 Gallatin, 12:30 pm
28-29: Thanksgiving (Offices Closed)
28-Nov-Dec 31: Holiday Blood Donor Drive

DECEMBER CALENDAR
2: Open House RSVPs due; Robbie@TNLegion.org
5: Ninth District Mtg @ Post 32, Alamo – Olympic Steakhouse, Bells, 6:30 pm
6: Tenth District Meeting TBD
7: Pearl Harbor Day
9: Membership Renewal Cut off
16: Department Christmas Open House
20: Non-Constitutional Resolutions due
24-25: Christmas Observation (Offices Closed)
31-Jan 1: New Year Eve (Offices Closed)