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.

NATIONAL COMMANDER OXFORD VISITED THE DEPARTMENT: Commander Oxford expressed his gratitude to meeting the legionnaires in Middle Tennessee. A special thanks for all the posts and legionnaires that gave him a warm welcome.

AMERICAN LEGION DEPARTMENT OFFICER CANDIDATE ANNOUNCEMENT: If you plan to announce your candidacy for Department Commander, Vice Commander, or District Commander; please submit a resolution and photo to appear in the February 2020 issue of the Tennessee Legionnaire. Please submit your resolution and photo by December 20, 2019.

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 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.

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.

GREAT CHRISTMAS GIFT: Last opportunity to purchase the American Legion Centennial coins; either a set or individually by visiting The US Mint website: https://catalog.usmint.gov/interests/american-legion-100th-anniversary/.

DEPARTMENT CENTENNIAL COINS: Available for $20 per coin; contact Department Headquarters.

VA MEDICAL CENTER CONTRIBUTIONS: Please send your contributions by Dec 8, 2019. This will give the VA enough budget information for Christmas party planning for their hospitalized veterans.

MISSING POST DATA REPORTS (ORIGINALLY DUE APRIL 12, 2019) These reports are customized and available only by contacting Department Headquarters: Sixth District: Post 47, Ashland City; Post 140, White Bluff; Post 143, Clarksville; Post 211, Dickson; and Post 215, Franklin. Seventh District: Post 63, Lawrenceburg.

MISSING AMERICAN LEGION POST OFFICER CERTIFICATIONS 2019-2020: Sixth District: Post 211, Dickson. Ninth District: Post 20 Union City and Post 210 Bells. The Department Commander has subsequently appointed the respective District Commander as Post Commander/Adjutant of the posts listed above.

POSTS THAT HAVE NOT TRANSMITTED AT LEAST ONE MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL OR NEW MEMBER FOR 2020: Second District: Post 205, Lake City. Third District: Post 291, Chattanooga. Sixth District: Post 6, Nashville; Post 7, Clarksville; and Post 211, Dickson. Seventh District: Post 63, Lawrenceburg. Ninth District: Post 20, Union City; Post 26, Humboldt; and Post 210, Bells.

DEPARTMENT CONSTITUTION ARTICLE V. SECTION 2. At the Department Convention, each chartered Post of The American Legion in the state shall be entitled to five delegates and five alternates; provided the Post, has in good standing, the fifteen members required to maintain a Post Charter. One additional delegate and alternate is authorized for each additional fifteen members or major fraction thereof. No delegate shall be seated until annual dues are paid at all 3 levels, Post, Department, and National. Posts shall select their Delegates at a Post meeting not less than one week before the Department Convention.

MYLEGION POST ONLINE MEMBERSHIP TRANSMITTAL PROCESS: The “Process Membership” feature in myLegion allows American Legion Post Officers to renew, add new members and transfer-in existing members from other Posts. (NOTE: Posts can only transfer-in members that are paying their dues to the gaining post.) This feature utilizes electronic payment methods via myLegion and eliminates the need for Post Officers to send the National/Department portion of the (3-part) membership cards and paper-checks to the Department. Note: to use member on-line credit, please submit a traditional transmittal at least twice annually to use earned credit when a post member renews online. The Department DOES NOT need National/Department portions of the 3-part card for either the post online transmittals or member on-line renewals.

MYLEGION USEAGE: Of 176 posts in the Department of Tennessee, we have 155 posts registered myLegion users; however, 24 have not used their access in the past year.
AMERICAN LEGION ORATORICAL CONTEST: In August, we mailed Oratorical information to Post Commanders, Adjutants and High Schools. Please visit your schools as soon as possible. First place state scholarship is $3000. Please have contestants register by January 10, 2020. See www.tennesseeleague.org/oratorical for Division/District Chairmen list. Department Chairman Charles Osterhoudt; coster7794@gmail.com, 315-868-2267.

ONE-YEAR POST YEARBOOK AND NARRATIVE HISTORY BOOK: We have 176 posts in the State of Tennessee, this past year we had five submissions. We should see at least 50 submissions. You can find The One-Year Yearbook requirements on page 140-149 of the 2019 “Officer’s Guide.”

INTRODUCTION TO BASIC TRAINING AND MYLEGION COURSES: American Legion and its Four Pillars. Which pillar does Boys State: American Legion Baseball and Oratorical programs fall under? If you answered, “Children and Youth,” you need to take Basic Training. As for MyLegion, this course offers the student insight to the capability of MyLegion as well as how to create multiple products. Contact Adjutant@TNLegion.org.

NATIONAL EMERGENCY FUND (NEF): National provides up to $3,000 for qualified Legion Family members and up to $10,000 for American Legion Post homes. The eligibility requirements are: (1) Applicant must have been displaced from their primary residence due to a declared natural disaster. (2) Applicant must provide copies of receipts of items required to meet immediate needs such as temporary housing, food, water, clothing, diapers, etc. (3) Membership must be active at time of disaster and of application.

POST DISASTER PREPAREDNESS READINESS (DPR): Your Post should have three DPR goals: (1) Train a post DPR team and members for basic disaster preparedness and response (first aid, CPR, AED). (2) Develop an outreach program to educate the community, offer preparedness and response training, and inform youth and the media about the importance of disaster preparedness and having disaster kits. (3) Have a post response plan in place that lays out specifically what your post will do in the event of a local disaster. FEMA has free resources online at www.fema.gov/other-resources.

POST ADJUTANTS: As a reminder, the Department does NOT need a new Member Data Form (MDF) when submitting a new member card. Furthermore, with today’s technology, every post should use myLegion.

THE LEGION ACT: offers American Legion membership eligibility to any U.S. military veteran who served at least one day of active military duty since December 7, 1941 and was honorably discharged or is serving now. The act also affects day of active military duty since December 7, 1941 and was removed from the active membership report. If said Squadron remains inactive for a third year (three consecutive years), the Squadron of the Sons of The American Legion, Department of Tennessee failing to comply with the provisions of Constitution Article IX, Section 3. A Squadron of the Sons of The American Legion, Department of Tennessee Executive Committee, and approval of The American Legion Riders, shall revoke the charter of said Squadron.

OCTOBER CALENDAR:
05 3rd District Revitalization – Post 62, S. Pittsburg
05 10th District Revitalization – Location TBD
07 Third Membership renewal notice cutoff
11-13 Sons of The American Legion Conference
12 Basic Training, Henderson City Hall, 10 am
13-17 American Legion Fall Meetings
14 Columbus Day (Office Closed)
31 Halloween

NOVEMBER CALENDAR:
01 1st round of Junior Shooting Sports competition opens
03 Time Change (Fall back 1 hour)
03-08 National American Legion College
10 US Marine Corps Birthday
11 Veterans Day (Office Closed)
16 2nd District Meeting, time and location TBD
18-25 American Legion Education Week

AMERICAN LEGION RIDERS:

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. Please send applications by January 3, 2020.

THE EMPLOYER OF VETERANS AWARDS: Department of Tennessee may submit a total of three 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. Recognize your local Veteran Employers by sending in an award application by January 3, 2020.

EMERGENCY MEDICAL TECHNICIAN OF THE YEAR AWARD: To recognize a well-rounded Emergency Medical Technician, 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 3, 2020.

AMERICAN LEGION RIDERS: We are looking for existing Rider Officer Notifications as well rider rosters. Each Post Rider chapter needs to follow the Department and Post Rider Charters found on the Tennesseelegion.org website. If you have any questions please contact Jackie Laird, Department Legion Riders Director, at jlaird14@gmail.com or call 731-364-5766. Let him know if you would like to start American Legion Riders at your post or if you have any questions regarding The American Legion Riders.

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. Please send applications by January 3, 2020.


SONS OF THE AMERICAN LEGION: Detachment Constitution Article IX, Section 3. A Squadron of the Sons of The American Legion, Detachment of Tennessee failing to transmit any membership (zero members) for a period of two consecutive years shall be deemed inactive and shall be removed from the active membership report. If said Squadron remains inactive for a third year (three consecutive years), the Detachment Commander with a 2/3 majority of the Detachment Executive Committee, and approval of The American Legion, Department of Tennessee Executive Committee, shall revoke the charter of said Squadron.

NOVEMBER CALENDAR CONTINUED:
19 7th District Meeting, Post 19, Columbia @ 6 pm
21 4th District Meeting, Post 4, Livingston @ 6 pm
22 5th District Meeting, Post 74, Tracy City @ 6 pm
23 6th District Meeting, Post 17, Gallatin @ 12:30 pm
28-29 Thanksgiving (Office Closed)

DECEMBER CALENDAR:
05 9th District Meeting, Alamo Post 32 @ 6:30 pm
06 10th District Meeting, Location and Time TBD
07 Pearl Harbor Day
07 8th District Meeting, Post 12, Jackson @ 1 pm
09 Fourth Membership renewal notice cutoff
16 Department Open House, 11 am – please RSVP
20 Nomination Resolutions Due
24-25 Christmas (Office Closed)
30 Constitutional Amendment Resolutions Due
31 New Year Eve (Office Closed)