SEPTMBER 2019
TENNESSEE AMERICAN LEGION GENERAL BULLETIN
318 Donelson Pike, Nashville, TN 37214

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 membership in the American Legion Auxiliary and Sons of the American Legion, expanding their eligibility as well.


NATIONAL CONSTITUTION AMENDED: The Legion Act change eligibility in the American Legion to include all anyone that are currently serving or has been honorably separated/discharged since December 7, 1941 to present. The Constitution was also amended as follows: Membership in The American Legion Auxiliary shall be limited to the grandmothers, mothers, sisters, spouses, and direct and adopted female descendants of members of The American Legion, and to the grandmothers, mothers, sisters, spouses, and direct and adopted female descendants of all men and women who were in the Armed Forces of the United States during any of the following periods: April 6, 1917; to November 11, 1918; and any time after December 7, 1941; or who, being citizens of the United States at the time of their entry therein, served on active duty in the Armed Forces of any of the governments associated with the United States during any of said periods, and died in the line of duty or after honorable discharge; and to those women who of their own right are eligible for membership in The American Legion.

DISTRICT/POST REVITALIZATIONS: The primary purpose is to indicate whether a post is: (1) Fulfilling a useful function; (2) Whether it is an organization attracting veterans; and (3) Whether the post is truly a community asset. Every District has one or more posts that needs help...that post could be yours. These events are not intended to be a single event; but rather a partnership to help each maintain and grow. The team will have a list as well as pre-filled Member Data Forms of potential post members. We encourage every post to send at least one representative to the meeting site.

AMERICAN LEGION BOYS STATE: returns to TTU, from May 17 to May 23, 2020. Tuition remains $350 per delegate. To keep the tuition at $350, we need 550 young men in attendance. Never too early to get into your schools.

COMMANDER’S MEMBERSHIP TOUR: Commander Holsonback and staff truly appreciate our members that gave up a little piece of their time to gain some insight and his plan for the upcoming year. He discussed membership penetration (less than 5% of eligible veterans across the State belong to the American Legion), why and how membership goals were set where they are as well as how, when, and why we need each Post to complete their Post Strategic Plan.

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 dues are being paid for.) 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 Headquarters office. Note: to use member on-line credit, please submit a traditional transmittal at least twice annually to use the credit earned when a post member renewes online. The Department DOES NOT need National/Department portions of the 3-part card for neither the post online transmittals nor member on-line renewals.

PLEASE CONGRATULATE JUNIOR SHOOTING SPORTS CHAMPION: Jaden-Ann Fraser from Volunteer High School in Church Hill National Winner of the Sporter Division; finishing Third Nationally, also from Volunteer High School in the Sporter Division was Olivia Cattrell. Both were coach by Norman Greear and hosted by Kingsport Post 3. To learn more about Junior Shooting Sports, please contact Marty Goodman, 931-349-9438 or marty223@charter.net.

DEPARTMENT FUND-RAISING: Our legionnaires should have their 16-month 2020 Calendar. If your members received a 12-month Calendar, that appeal came from National and not the Department. Department Fundraising appeals ask our contributors to mail their donations to 318 Donelson Pike, Nashville TN 37214. If you or your members receive a fund-raising appeal with any return address other than the Department Headquarters, it is not a Department fund-raise appeal. As a reminder, donations support the Department of Tennessee American Legion Emergency Financial Aid Program, a variety of V&R Programs as well as Department Americanism Programs.

MISSING POST DATA REPORTS (ORIGINALLY DUE APRIL 12, 2019) These reports are customized and available only by contacting Department Headquarters: Sixth District: Post 40, Ashland City; Post 143, Clarksville; Post 211, Dickson; and Post 215, Franklin Seventh District: Post 63, Lawrenceburg
MISSING AMERICAN LEGION POST OFFICER CERTIFICATIONS 2019-2020:

First District: Post 119 Rutledge
Second District: Post 110, Kingston
Sixth District: Post 40, Ashland City, Post 88 Donelson (Adjutant Only) and Post 211, Dickson
Ninth District: Post 20 Union City and Post 210 Bells

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POSTS THAT HAVE NOT TRANSMITTED AT LEAST ONE MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL OR NEW MEMBER:

First District: Post 119, Rutledge; Post 201, White Pine; and Post 255, Gray
Second District: Post 110, Kingston; Post 154, Elk Valley; Post 205, Lake City; Post 232, Harriman
Third District: Post 62, S. Pittsburg; Post 66, Pikeville; and Post 291, Chattanooga.
Fourth District: Post 56 Hartsville
Sixth District: Post 6, Nashville; Post 7, Clarksville; Post 40, Ashland City; Post 91, Old Hickory; and Post 211, Dickson
Seventh District: Post 63, Lawrenceburg
Ninth District: Post 20, Union City; Post 26, Humboldt; Post 55, Martin; Post 118, Milan; and Post 210, Bells
Tenth District: Post 165, Bolivar.

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VALUE OF REPORTING: Did you know the Department of Tennessee reported via the 2018-19 Consolidated Post Report; 16,045 Post Service Officer cases, 19,863 VA Volunteer Hours, 104,000 Community Service hours, and participated in 2,716 funerals, spending over $43,000 on Funeral Honors. Also, our Posts spent over $141,000 on Americanism Programs.

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2019-20 MEMBERSHIP AWARDS MANUAL: Now is the time to coordinate with your community’s first responder leadership to recognize a well-deserving Law Officer, Emergency Medical Technician, and Firefighter as Officer, Technician, or Firefighter of the Year. Furthermore, please recognize our Employers that hire Veterans.

- The Employer of Veterans Award
- Employment Service Awards
  - Local Veterans Employment Representative (LVER)
  - Disabled Veterans Outreach Program specialist (DVOP)
- Employer of Older Workers Award
- Award to Enhance the Lives of Disabled Persons
- Homeless Veterans Outreach Award
Above awards due to Department by January 4, 2020.

TRANSITION POST MEMBERS (AKA POST 2000): The National Organization places members they recruit via the Direct Mail Solicitation (DMS) in an encumbered status. To find these members, please use the myLegion “Find Members in My Area” function to find, contact, invite, and transfer your fellow veteran neighbors into your local post.

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AMERICAN LEGION 2020 DEPARTMENT ORATORICAL CONTEST: Department mailed Oratorical material to schools this past month. Post Chairmen, please contact your schools immediately. Post Commanders and Oratorical Chairmen please contact your District Oratorical Chairman for District Contest dates. Please have your contestants register before January 10, 2020. Contact your District Commander and/or District Oratorical Chairman for Contest dates and locations.

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NATIONAL EMERGENCY FUND (NEF): We never know when another disaster will occur. As recently as the floods, fires and other National Disasters in the states, NEF supplies food and clothing for families pushed out of their homes. Energy drinks, snacks and personal supplies for hundreds of firefighters and support crew; breakfast cereal for an American Red Cross shelter; and diapers for a local hospital. If a Post or individual would like to contribute to the National Emergency Fund, please send the donation to (indicate post number) The American Legion, National Emergency Fund, P.O. Box 361623, Indianapolis, IN 46236. September is the American Legion Disaster Preparedness Month.

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AMERICAN LEGION BENEFITS: LegionCare, your No-Cost AD&D Program. Also, we want you to know too, LegionCare is now available to all members of the Legion Family including the American Legion Auxiliary and Sons of the American Legion members 18 years and older. LegionCare will cover you for as long as they maintain their membership in The American Legion. This new “one and done” approach will save our members from needing to re-enroll as long as they are current with dues. The LegionCare program will continue to cover you for $1000 of AD&D coverage plus provide the added benefit of up to $5000 Accidental Death Coverage occurs when on “official Legion business”. To enroll, please visit www.TheLit.com.

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SONS OF THE AMERICAN LEGION: Squadrons, the Detachment needs your Squadron Officer Certifications for 2019-2020. If you do not have a form, please give us a call at Department Headquarters or go to www.tennesselegion.org Post Forms-Resources tab.

SEPTEMBER CALENDAR:

01-30 Districts 8, 9, and 10 Revitalizations continuous throughout the month – contact West TN Vice Cmdr
02 Japan Signs Surrender 1945
02 Labor Day (Department Offices Closed)
07 Fourth District Revitalization; Post 46, Cookeville
08-11 National Commander Oxford visits Tennessee
09 Second Renewal Notice & 50% Target Date
Send Membership Cards to Department HQ or submit New/Renew Online Post Online Transmittal
11 Patriot Day, 9/11 Remembrance observed
11 Air Force Birthday
11 Membership Target Date for 60%
14 Fifth District Revitalization; Post 78, Manchester
14 MyLegion Class – Department HQ at 1 pm
16 American Legion Day
16-22 Constitution Week
20 POW-MIA Recognition Day
20-23 American Legion Children & Youth Conference

SEPTEMBER CALENDAR CONTINUED:

21 First District Revitalization – Post 145, Bristol
21 Seventh District Revitalization - Post 19, Columbia
21 MyLegion Class – Post 95, East Ridge at 1 pm
28 Second District Revitalization– Post 202, Gatlinburg
28 Sixth District Revitalization- Post 248, Fairview
28-30 American Legion Americanism Conference
29 Gold Star Mother’s Day

OCTOBER CALENDAR:

05 Third District Revitalization – Location TBD
10 Cutoff for third renewal notice deadline to avoid the third notice in November
11-13 Sons of The American Legion Conference
13-17 American Legion Fall Conference
14 Columbus Day
20 Constituional Membership Renewal Due Date
31 Halloween