

THE TENNESSEE LEGIONNAIRE



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November 2025

Message from the Department Commander

By **Todd McKinley**

Department Commander

Since the last Legionnaire was published back in August, I've attended the national membership conference and Fall meetings in Indianapolis and the national convention in Tampa. We also launched our Be The One Commission (link below), held Legion College in Nashville, and welcomed our National Commander, The Honorable Dan Willey (link below) to West TN. I want to thank everyone who participated in one capacity or another.

The next thing I want to briefly touch on are my weekly blog updates, which can be found by visiting my personal website (link below). In these weekly updates,

I discuss various issues, topics of interest and generally anything I feel I want to discuss for the week. Finally, I want to reiterate the importance of using Voter Voice (link below), after all, how often do you get an opportunity to communicate directly with your Member of Congress (House & Senate) or the Presidency. I get it, you're not directly communicating with the individual office holder, but the office itself, and this simple act can be done from the comfort of your sofa or recliner. Finally, midwinter conference is just around the corner, if you've not yet registered, do so quickly (link (you guessed it) below).



Links mentioned above: ·
[National Commander Visit](#)
[Be The One Commission](#) ·
[TN Commander's Blog](#)
[Voter's Voice](#)
[Department website](#)

Dept. prepares to launch Post 295 at Clifton prison

The Department of Tennessee is finalizing the process to stand up a new Legion post at South Central Correctional Facility in Clifton, TN. As of this writing, the post has 17 charter members and will tentatively receive its charter in December of this year.

When inmates at the facility first approached leadership about a veteran pod, the prison housed more than 100 veterans – almost enough to fill a single pod of 64 cells with 128 bunks. At the same time, they asked about the possibility of standing up a Legion post.

Renee Lutz, an employee at the prison and a member of Post 130 in Waynesboro, said that the process to bring the new post online took three long years.

“It is very important not just to those who have served in the Military, but everyone, to remember that

no matter what these gentlemen may have done to require their stay in prison – they were still willing to put their lives on the line for our country and should be afforded the respect earned,” Lutz said. “Within the prison walls, it is even more necessary to show the leadership needed to show other inmates a different way of conducting themselves despite their circumstances. We have seen military bearing and a sense of self-worth return to these gentlemen that is absolutely needed not only for their stay here, but for when they return to society.”

Three other state prisons – Trousdale, Bledsoe County and Turney Center – have Veteran Housing Units where veterans can get help with PTSD and pursue training that will help them with the re-entry process.

Department Adjutant's Corner

4 Rules Every American Legion Program Must Follow

By Dean Tuttle

Department Adjutant

The American Legion's most prized possessions are its name, emblem and logo. Its century of existence has built an environment of respect around those three things. Protecting those prized possessions is necessary to ensure that the environment of respect remains in place.

The American Legion's work under the four pillars, particularly the work involving Americanism and Children and Youth, often involves outside organizations and almost always community partnerships. Protecting the three possessions requires that rules be put in place to ensure that protection continues.

Many programs exist to carry forward The American Legion's work. Some are strictly internal, such as Sons of the American Legion and Legion Riders; others are more external,

such as American Legion Baseball and Boys State. All must obey the same set of rules, even though in some cases seemingly independent organizations are created to assist with the work of a certain program.

All programs, whether strictly internal or organized under a subsidiary corporation or entity, must obey the following four rules. Whether the program in question is chartered by a post, a county or district, a department or National Headquarters as the parent organization, this requirement is in place. If one or more of these rules is violated, National Headquarters will need to enforce intellectual property rights against the organization that caused the violation.

Rule 1: Leadership – All elected and appointed leaders must be confirmed by the parent organization after each selection, or as needed.

Rule 2: Rules – All by-laws, amendments and/or standing rules must be presented to the parent organization for confirmation and approval prior to use.

Rule 3: Reports – The program will provide to the parent organization: (a) monthly activities report. (b) quarterly financial reports. (c) an annual financial statement, and (d) any additional report(s) requested by the parent organization.

Rule 4: Controls – The parent organization may provide the program with the employer identification number (EIN) and the tax-exemption status with the necessary financial controls over their usage. All program financial accounts must have a minimum of two (2) signatories appointed by the parent organization

Message from the Senior Vice Commander

By Tonya Launsby

Senior Vice Commander

Personally, I would like to thank all the posts and individuals that assisted and or joined the National Commander Dan K. Wiley and his aide Doug Hensley as we traveled around West Tennessee. The hospitality, the escorts, and the food; it was an honor to see so many involved and it was appreciated.

District meetings are getting ready to kick-off for the fall. If you need any assistance, please contact me and I will assist you in any way that I can. I will be attending all of the meetings.

I would like to recognize the posts that either hit or exceeded their goal prior to October 20, 2025:

1. Post 203 McClendon-Garrison Inc., Spring City
2. Post 293 Captain Larry L. Taylor, Signal Mountain
3. Post 117 Macon County Inc., Lafayette
4. Post 137 Mark Twain, Jamestown
5. Post 40 Cheatham County Inc., Ashland City
6. Post 111 Flintville Inc., Flintville
7. Post 155 Hart-Beard, Petersburg
8. Post 200 Acie Moore Inc., Trenton

Thank you for the job well done and please make sure you follow the awards manual and put in the proper paperwork for your post award.

Final note, I believe the National Commander Dan K. Wiley enjoyed his time with us!

ASSETS		FINANCIAL STATEMENTS as of SEPTEMBER 30, 2025		INCOME	
UNRESTRICTED FUNDS:				Dues Regular	\$144,859.50
CURRENT ASSETS:				Riders/Legacy Fund	\$70.00
Cash and Cash Equivalents	\$750,797.19			Interest/General Funds	\$34.61
Investments	\$338,704.34			Charitable Contributions/NEF Donations	\$10,093.00
				Dividends John Deere Stock	\$1,078.92
				Conferences/Conventions	\$6,361.80
TOTAL CURRENT ASSETS	\$1,089,501.53			Emblem Sales Commission	\$0.00
				Closed Post Funds	\$84,252.90
Property and Equipment	\$1,526,359.19			Boys State Income (Expenses)	-\$520.49
Accumulated Depreciation	-\$503,075.87			Labels/Fundraising Programs	\$5,883.50
TOTAL UNRESTRICTED FUNDS	\$2,112,784.85			TOTAL INCOME	\$252,113.74
				National Dues Current	\$6,029.00
RESTRICTED FUNDS:				National Dues Prior Years	\$0.00
Cash and Cash Equivalents	\$89,597.14			Salaries/Taxes	\$45,311.61
Investments	\$524,561.81			Commander/Adjutant/Asst Adjutant Exps	\$13,068.89
				Vice/District Commanders	\$3,273.20
TOTAL RESTRICTED FUNDS	\$614,158.95			Conventions/Conferences	\$10,718.84
				Office Machines/Equipment/Computers	\$4,592.03
TOTAL ASSETS	\$2,726,943.80			Membership Expenses	\$4,542.71
				TN Legion College/Basic Training	\$1,184.20
LIABILITIES AND EQUITY				Emblem Sales/Flags	\$2,038.92
UNRESTRICTED FUNDS:				Postage	\$4,208.70
CURRENT LIABILITIES:				Printing/Supplies	\$2,784.28
Accounts Payable	\$59,918.53			Telephone/Utilities	\$6,274.48
Funds Held for Others	\$102,053.68			Maintenance/Repairs	\$8,362.56
Surplus Capital	\$286,640.72			VA & R Programs	\$1,000.00
				Insurance	\$5,238.86
TOTAL UNRESTRICTED FUNDS	\$448,612.93			Depreciation	\$9,510.45
				Labels/Fundraising Expenses	\$521.56
RESTRICTED FUNDS:				Youth Programs	\$17,591.13
FUND BALANCES:	\$2,181,953.84			Audit/CPA/Legal Fees	\$8,270.49
Net Income / (Loss)	\$ 96,377.03			Miscellaneous Expenses	\$1,214.80
TOTAL RESTRICTED FUNDS	\$2,278,330.87			TOTAL EXPENSES	\$155,736.71
TOTAL LIABILITIES/EQUITY	\$2,726,943.80			NET INCOME	\$ 96,377.03



TN's Steve Weismann elected NVC

Stephen T. Weismann was elected as a national vice commander of the American Legion on Aug. 28 during the National Convention. Weismann is a PUFL member of Post 254 in Collinwood with 24 years of continuous service. He is eligible for membership in The American Legion through his service in the Air Force from 1982 to 1996. He has served as department chairman of Americanism, Baseball, and Training and Education, as well as dean of Tennessee American Legion College. He has served on the National Security Council, National Legislative Council, and Na-

tional Convention Resolutions Assignment Committee. He is also a member of his post honor guard. Weismann is a graduate of The American Legion Extension Institute, American Legion Basic Training, Tennessee Legion College, and National American Legion College. He has been active with Veterans in the Classroom in Collinwood Middle School for 12 years and is a member of the Board of Directors for Alvin C. York Center for Peace and Valor. Weismann has one daughter, grandson Elijah, and granddaughter Zoe.

The American Legion 21st Century Report

The American Legion 21st Century Report centers on three strategic priorities designed to advance the organization's service to community, state, and nation: Legacy and Vision; Membership and Member Engagement; and Training. The implementation of these priorities is required across all organizational levels. Download the report [here](#).

The National Executive Committee endorsed the original 21st Century Report during its 1997 Fall Meetings. In 2017, the NEC re-established the 21st Century Ad-Hoc Committee to review and update the report.

With respect to Membership and Member Engagement, the committee emphasized effective strategies for reaching and engaging members. Key recommendations include:

Member Retention. Retention should begin immediately upon a new member's induction into The American Legion. It is recommended that new members receive a welcome letter expressing appreciation for their membership and providing concise information about The American Legion and local posts. Download this [New Member](#)

[Welcome toolkit](#) for guidance on best practices.

Buddy Checks. The Buddy Check program equips Legionnaires with resources to initiate contact, foster meaningful conversations, assess individual needs, and refer veterans to relevant services. Comprehensive materials to facilitate Buddy Checks can be found at [legion.org/buddycheck](#). The committee advocates establishing resolute Buddy Check committees within posts and conducting checks during significant occasions such as The American Legion birthday or Veterans Day, and potentially more frequently depending on local practice.

Basic Training Course. This online, complimentary course offers new Legionnaires an opportunity to learn about The American Legion's history, activities, and foundational principles through interactive content, including videos and images. A quiz follows each section to reinforce understanding. The committee considers this course instrumental in orienting new members, asserting that greater organizational knowledge enhances member retention. Take and share the course.

Proclaim the truth in a loving way and guard your hearts

Bob Howland

Department Chaplain

Proverbs 4:23, "Above all else, guard your heart, for everything you do flows from it." This verse emphasizes the importance of protecting your inner self, as it influences your actions and life choices. The things that sound true look true, feel true, but our lies may take us down a path to our destruction. So, guard our hearts with the truth of God.

Our world suffers from moral relativism. The belief that there are

many truths and there are no absolute truths. We all have our own truths. This leads to chaos and anarchy.

Our Founding fathers believed in absolute truths as they wrote the declaration of independence. In it, we read "We hold these truths to be self-evident" that the truths were absolute.

In our world today, we have conflicting truths, but there can only be one set of truths. It may be packaged to look like a truth, it may even sound true, but still a lie nonetheless. This is not new. It has been going on since

the beginning of time Satan through the serpent introduced Eve to moral relativism. That she wouldn't die and be Equal to God, which was against the truth that God told Eve.

We are not to condemn people just because they believe things other than the truth. That belongs to God alone. We are to just proclaim the truth in a loving way.

Read the word of God to find the truth of God to share with all. "For the Lord gives wisdom; from his mouth come knowledge and understanding." – Proverbs 2:6

Department Constitution Article VII, Section 1 states that candidates for Department Commander, Senior Vice Commander, and Commanders for each of the three Grand Divisions must be received by Mid-Winter Conference. Please have resolutions to the Dept. Adjutant by Jan. 8, 2026.

National Commander Wiley Visits Tennessee



Notes From the Middle Tn Vice Commander

By Ron Hessil

Middle TN Vice Commander

We have made it through the summer heat and storms and I am looking forward to cooler weather.

I'm happy to say that Middle Tennessee has been working hard on their membership to meet the goals and that Post 9 Byrdtown has recruited new members and elected new officers to keep the American Legion strong in their community.

I had the privilege to attend the Medal of Honor Milo

Lemert WWI Veteran Community Event hosted by Post 163. I also attended the Medal of Honor (MOH) National gathering in Chattanooga. Meeting so many MOH recipients and speaking with them was truly an honor.

Last week, I traveled with the National Commander Dan Wiley. The stops at Battleground Shiloh and Darkhorse Lodge were very informative.

I am looking forward to seeing everyone at the upcoming Fall District meetings. In closing, I am only a call, text or email away.

Update From the First District Commander

By Michele Perry

First District Commander

The National Commander, James Lacorsier, stated in August that he had been home only 29 days since being elected National Commander. I can appreciate the dedication he put in for a year and he has sacrificed much of his personal life in the last year.

If you want an idea what a District Commander's schedule can look like, here is a taste of my recent schedule:

- July - 12 events
- August - 7 events
- September - 10 events
- October - 16 events

Not all District Commanders bounce around as I do, but I'm also not married with children or grandchildren that also need attention. A recent medical challenge had some advising me to slow down but I think too much when I'm not doing anything. Couple this schedule with a additional volunteer work at a local church, and some side interests, you have a much fuller schedule than reflected here. Other District Commanders may do things differently, but that's okay. Just please appreciate that your District Commander is trying to give each Post a little time. We are all volunteers!

For the Posts, I've visited, each was provided with a flash drive containing the same information Steve Weismann handed out - pretty much everything Legion, Sons, Riders, and Auxiliary. It even includes certificates.

2025 Oratorical National winner continues to pay it forward. Gina Harjani, Gatlinburg, continues to

contribute with addressing high school students on the benefits of both the Oratorical program and the Girls State. Her Advocating for Constitutional, Civic, Ethical Protection in Technology (A.C.C.E.P.T.) mission is to educate, empower, and equip youth and veterans to defend their digital and constitutional rights.

Former Boys State, Reed Bull, in Johnson City, is helping veterans move into fully furnished micro-homes through his partnership with Heidi's House of Hope. Project Welcome Home Veteran brings comfort, stability, and honor to those who've served. He was awarded \$2000 2nd place in the ETSU ELEVATE program with an additional \$1000 for the People's Choice award toward funding his project. This resulted in him winning the same amount as the 1st prize.

2025 Boys State Governor elect, Cooper Castle, continues in his high school studies, his role in the JROTC, and public speaking in his ministry.

Be sure and follow up on your Post Oratorical and Boys/Girls State Nominees. They almost always had a great time participating in the programs and still can benefit from Legion mentorship. If you're lucky, they join the Legion family. If they don't join, then they are still family and will enjoy continued contact.

Work on the next generation of young leaders by urging participation in all of The American Legion Americanism programs.

A lot of feedback is wanting more training. Training opportunities need to be taken advantage of. Online

adjutant training is available the last Monday of the month. National online training is available the last Tuesday of the month. Basic Training is being held in Maryville 1 Nov and is also available online.

I can't say enough about touching base with Posts near you. You're not restricted by Districts if one is closer than the others. Collaboration and sharing are the keys to success, as well as combating the feelings of a Post being isolated and alone because is distance. Reach out yourselves and respond when another Post reaches out to you. All the Posts I've visited are willing to help each other, and some have already done so. Be The One isn't just about suicide awareness and Buddy Checks within a Post. It's also being there for your buddy, no matter where he/she is. 'American Legion Tennessee District 1' has a Facebook page. Events and information are posted there.

Be sure and contact me for assistance, if needed. Contact me to boast about your accomplishments, too!

Email me at grimseyperryhold@gmail.com or call me at 423-300-8737.



Notes From the Third District Commander

By Mark Williams

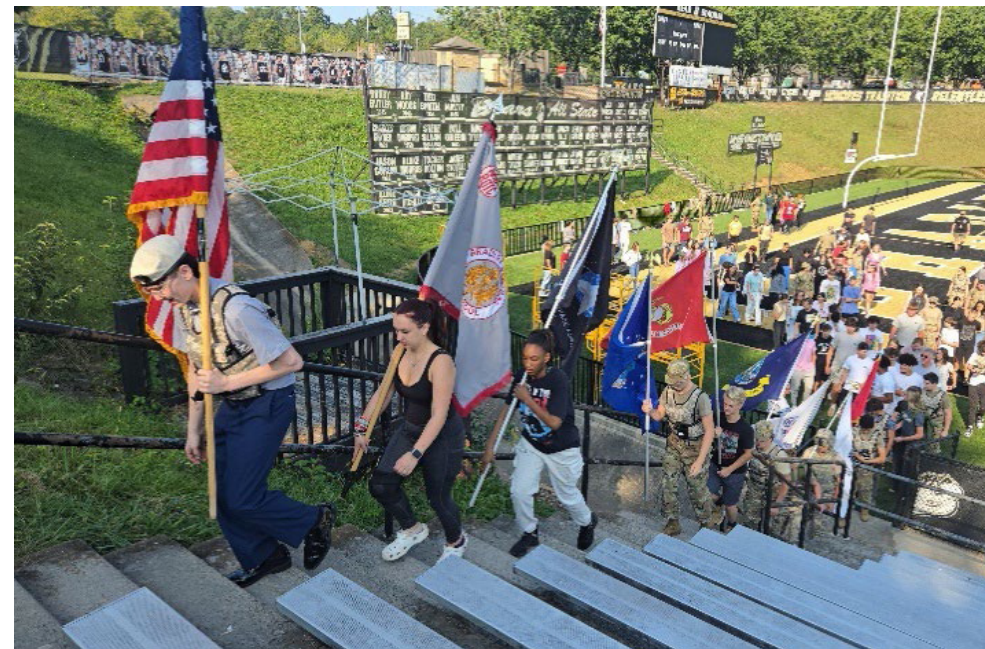
Third District Commander

The Third District Dispatch is a monthly newsletter that keeps the 18 posts in the district connected to each other and tells the story of the important work the Legion Family is doing.

Each month, we tell the stories of events that take place throughout our district to celebrate the effort and to inspire other posts with ways they can support their own membership and communities.

Some of the events hosted by our posts in October included:

- Flag retirement at Post 81
- Veteran Bowling Night at Post 291
- Post 190 participated in a cleanup project along Hwy 28 in Dunlap
- Bradley Central High School 9/11 Wreath Laying
- USA 250 walk to raise awareness about veteran suicide
- Post 14 Open House to connect vets with local resources
- Donation to Bradley County Honor Guard by Post 257
- POW/MIA remembrance ceremony hosted by Post 81
- Challenge 22 Event hosted by Post 190 to support veteran mental health



Bradley Central JROTC held a memorial stair climb in honor of the firefighters who climbed the steps of the World Trade Center on 9/11.



Post 190 adopted a 2-mile stretch of highway as part of Tennessee's Adopt-A-Highway Program. Their stretch of highway passes both the Legion post and VFW Post 7552.



Post 291 hosted a Veteran Engagement Night with the Scenic City Heroes Bowling Team, who are currently ranked among the top three teams in their league.

To maintain your post's exempt status, avoid using language on your marquee that says "open to the public" or "everyone welcome." Exceptions are post open houses or community events like legislative debates.

Notes from Tennessee Legion Riders Director

By Jared Melton

Department of TN Riders

The Department of Tennessee American Legion Riders will be hosting our first department wide Round-up event May 15-17, 2026, at the Putnam County Convention Center in Cookeville, Tn. All Tennessee Legion Family is invited and encouraged to join us for three fun-filled days of fellowship, camaraderie, rides, food, live music, and even some important classes. Doesn't matter whether you ride a motorcycle or drive a car, anyone can participate in the scavenger hunts or fun routes we will have planned out.

Follow the event on our public event Facebook page to keep up, or just search the event name. Registration, Sponsor/Donation, and mission statement are all posted on the page. For more information contact me at: tn.alr.director@gmail.com or Dept ALR Adjutant Bud Davis at: alr.tn.clerk@gmail.com.

Additionally, we need sponsors, volunteers, and coordinators for the Roundup Committee.

There are 4 tiers of sponsorship available to Posts, Units, Squadrons, and ALR Chapters. A \$100 donation gets your post on brochure, event poker chip and COA. See sponsor form on FB Page or Dept web page.

For the Department Mid-Winter Conference ALR meeting, all ALR Chapters are highly encouraged to send at least one representative attend the ALR meeting. You must register for the convention.

An ALR SOP is being written to replace the ALR Constitution and Bylaws. The ALR SOP along with Resolutions will be sent to DEC at Mid-Winter Conference. There will be changes coming soon. Brace yourselves but be patient with the Dept ALR Committee.

By now, Chapter Directors should have received the new officer roster. Rosters should be electronically filled, emailed and updated dept dues of \$5 should be mailed to Dept ALR Adjutant/Finance Officer NLT December 19, 2025. Info on Roster.

It will be the responsibility of the Chapter Directors/Secretaries to work with Post Commander and Adjutant to ensure Chapter members are Legion Family current before sending rosters in.

Regarding the Four Rules of An American Legion Program, ALR Chapters should be following these four rules as annotated in the 2025 Officer's Guide and Manual of Ceremonies, page 16. If you are not in compliance with National/Department Constitution and Bylaws and National ALR Resolutions, you may find it extremely difficult to adjust to the SOP once it's adopted.

The 2026 Tn ALR Inaugural Poker Chips are for Tennessee American Legion Riders to give out or resell as a fundraiser. We are currently doing pre-purchase orders as we currently lack funding to make a purchase. They will also be available at Mid-Winter Conference for \$5 each. Scan the QR code below to make

purchases. There will be \$5 shipping and handling added for every 15 poker chips on Zeffy link. The funds raised will go towards seeding future events, ALR Motorcycle Safety/awareness and Future Riders programs, as well as administrative expenses for ALR Chairman and Adjutant. Once the year has ended, we will evenly split the funds between Division ALR Chairmen to donate to Veterans Charities of their choosing.

Tennessee is a rather large state with lots of opportunities. Although the motorcycling world collectively has its competitive challenges, let's not forget our biggest challenge as American Legion Riders: camaraderie, brotherhood, and helping our veterans and families. Let's strive as an ALR Family to support each other and support our department, posts, and communities. Most of all, let's strive to be an integral part of the Four Pillars of The American Legion.

Also, don't forget to do your BUD-DY CHECKS regularly!!



Department Offices will be closed November 11, 27 and 28 and December 24 through January 2, 2026.

TN's Bryan Hine elected SAL Nat'l Vice Cdr for SE Region



Bryan Hine is serving as National Vice Commander representing the Southeast Region. He is a 26-year member of Squadron 146 in Loretto, Tennessee. Bryan and his wife, Melissa—an Auxiliary member—have been married for 39 years. They are blessed with three daughters and seven grandchildren, all residing in the Lawrence County, Tennessee area. His eligibility for membership in the Sons of The American Legion is through his Stepfather's military service during the Vietnam War. Bryan

is a graduate of the American Legion Extension Institute and the Tennessee American Legion College. He has held every office at the squadron level and has served the Detachment of Tennessee as District Commander, Vice Commander, and Detachment Commander. For the past four years, he has continued his service as Detachment Adjutant, NEC, and most recently as National Membership & Squadron Activities Chairman for the Southeast Region during the 2024-2025 administrative year.

Monthly Post Adjutant Training takes place on the fourth Monday of each month at 4:30 pm CST. Training is open to any post, unit or squadron member. Zoom link is on the Department website.

2025 - 2026 Department Leadership

DEPARTMENT COMMANDER

Todd McKinley, 202-256-0219, toddmac78@yahoo.com

DEPARTMENT SENIOR VICE COMMANDER

Tonya Launsby, 731-636-9600, tonyalaunsby@gmail.com

NATIONAL EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEMBER

Lanny Culver, 731-225-8033, ldclga@hotmail.com

ALTERNATE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEMBER

Larry Kersey, 317-213-9607, navy78lk@att.net

East TN Vice Commander: Dwight Woodcock, 423-223-7966, dwoodcock2399@gmail.com

Middle TN Vice Commander: Ron Hessil, 262515-1746, rhessil@sbcglobal.net

West TN Vice Commander: Jean Launsby, 731487-2825, launsby55@gmail.com

DISTRICT COMMANDERS

First: Jean Michele Perry, 423-300-8737

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Second: Sammie Cox, 865-356-2299

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Third: Mark Williams, 931-266-6778

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Fourth: Ed Bray, 843-696-3704

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Fifth: David Brewer, 615-429-5362,

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Sixth: Glen Baggett, 615-319-5692,

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Eighth: Gary Wallace, 731-589-1107

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Ninth: Doug Marshall, 937-459-0301

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Tenth: Jeff Jungkans, 901-872-8833

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DEPARTMENT ADJUTANT

Dean A. Tuttle, 318 Donelson Pike, Nashville,

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TAL, SAL and the Four Rules of an American Legion

We are hearing more anecdotal evidence that various Departments and Posts are incorrectly interpreting the IRS code with regard to the SAL and, crucially, are potentially doing things that could jeopardize The American Legion's non-profit status. Congress sets the membership eligibility criteria for The American Legion, and the laws they have been set up around are found in Title 36 of the United States Code, Chapter 217, of which deals exclusively with our organization.

For us, the problem arises from the fact that Congress and the IRS have created differing rules for veterans of the various conflicts, rules that largely do not apply to the Sons. SAL squadrons, detachments, and the national organization are not stand-alone Veteran Service Organizations, but, rather, must coexist through the adoption and sponsorship of a post and cannot have their own EIN and tax-exempt status. This means that the SAL is under the full autonomy of its sponsoring post. If the post chooses to allow the squadron to use the post's EIN and tax-exempt status, that would be predicated on whether the squadron is in full compliance with the Four Rules of a Program. Moreover, the rights and privileges of a program are not the same as those of a Legionnaire.

For example, the post bar, restaurant, canteen, or other social activity is intended for Legion members of the post, with the revenue staying in the tax-exempt category. Social non-members are not eligible for membership in The Amer-

ican Legion. The members of the SAL squadron would be considered social non-members, and therefore, any sales or revenue generated from social non-members can also be subject to tax by the IRS.

Interpreted by the IRS, SAL members who patronize the post's social activities, such as a bar, would be considered taxable income if a Legion post member does not sign in that individual.

For clarity, though SAL members may be considered a member of the post through the lineage of a male or female veteran descendant and upon acceptance by the squadron, their membership only applies to official Legion activities, such as community events or post event activities. When it comes to the post's non-official social activities and events, the SAL, in the eyes of the IRS, is not considered a member; therefore, revenue generated by any non-members is considered taxable income, unless a legion post member officially signs them in.

In summary, the SAL program should be viewed as a participatory initiative that fosters the development of youth into patriotic Americans as outlined in the SAL Preamble; to uphold and defend the Constitution of the United States, foster and perpetuate a true spirit of Americanism, preserve the memories of veterans from all wars, to inculcate a sense of individual obligation to the community, state and nation, to safeguard the principles of justice, freedom and democracy, to sanctify our friendship by our devotion to mutual helpfulness, and the last phrase; to adopt in letter

and spirit all of the great principles for which The American Legion stands, and to assist in carrying on for God and Country.

The SAL, being a program, is equivalent to an ALR chapter, Boys and Girls State, or Oratorical. All of them are Legion programs, but do not entitle those participants or members to equal rights and privileges as veterans eligible for a TAL membership. Certainly, no Post would assume that a member of the Post's American Legion Baseball team would have unfettered access to the post commensurate to what a Legionnaire enjoys, but some Posts then turn a blind eye to members of the Sons of The American Legion, despite the SAL also being a program. In order to deal with these issues, we have long had rules governing the running of a program.

Attached to this Memorandum you will find our latest incarnation of those rules, along with an acknowledgement section to be signed by the program participant or leader as the Post or Department may determine. Together, these four rules governing Leadership, Rules, Reports and Controls collectively apply to all programs of The American Legion, be it one of our exclusively Youth Programs (Oratorical, Boys State, Shooting Sports etc.) or programs like the SAL or The American Legion Riders. Regardless of what the program is, whether it be an ambulance service, rodeo, yacht clubs, cruiser clubs or some other program, the four rules apply to each of them.

(See Adjutant's Corner on p. 2 for information about the 4 Rules.)