



THE DEPARTMENT OF TENNESSEE GENERAL BULLETIN
December 2025

Veterans Offering Lifelong Service (VOLS)

National: www.legion.org

State: www.tennesseelegion.org

Boys State: www.tnboysstate.org

SAL: www.legion.org/sons

SHARE THIS BULLETIN WITH THE MEMBERS OF YOUR POST. We mail monthly bulletins to **CERTIFIED** Post Adjutants, using the mailing address placed on the annual Post Data Form. We email bulletins to compulsory Post Officers per Department Constitution Article IX, Section 8. Also visit www.tennesseelegion.org to obtain a copy. Please share this information with your Post membership.

2026 MID-WINTER CONFERENCE: We will return on January 10 and 11, 2026 to Embassy Suites Nashville-SE, Murfreesboro for our annual Mid-Winter Conference. Event registration link along with a link to reserve accommodations are on the Department website landing page: www.tennesseelegion.org.

FOUR RULES OF AN AMERICAN LEGION PROGRAM

Please review the four rules:

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 bylaws, amendments and/or standing rules must be presented to the parent organization for confirmation and prior approval.

Rule 3: Reports – The program will provide to the parent organization: (a) monthly activities reports, (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 signatories appointed by the parent organization.

LEGAL OPINION – THE FOUR RULES OF AN AMERICAN LEGION PROGRAM: Here is what we understand as interpreted by the IRS, SAL members are considered **social non-members** when they use a post's social activities (if the operations are not already open to the general public and paying UBI tax for the income derived), and may generate taxable income if a Legion **post member** does not sign in that individual **and pay for all food and entertainment for the guest**. This includes all social or recreational activities of a Post not related to one of the other exempt purposes of a 501(c)19. In all such activities, a SAL member is considered as a **non-member**; therefore, revenue generated by these non-members will be considered as taxable income, unless a Legion post member officially signs the non-member into the post and pays for all their purchases and services or another exception to Unrelated Business Income (UBI) is claimed (such as volunteer labor exception). This is an evolving situation by the National Judge Advocate and the Internal Revenue Service; for posts/squadrons without lounges, this opinion will have little to no impact.

MONTHLY POST ADJUTANT TRAINING: Virtual training is open to any post, unit, or squadron member willing to participate, Zoom meetings are set for the 4th Monday each month at 4:30 Central/5:30 Eastern. Find the Zoom link on the Department website. No training session in December.

VAMC CHRISTMAS DONATIONS/PARTIES: Please have all donations sent to Department Headquarters before **December 10, 2025**.

DEPARTMENT CONSTITUTION AND BYLAWS RESOLUTIONS: Posts and Department Standing Committees are required to submit any resolutions that impact the Department Constitution and Bylaws to the Department Adjutant by **December 1st 2025**.

RESOLUTIONS NOT AFFECTING DEPARTMENT CONSTITUTION AND BYLAWS: Posts and Department Standing Committees are required to submit any resolutions that **do not** have an impact on the Department Constitution and Bylaws to the Department Adjutant by **December 21st, 2025**.

DEPARTMENT/DISTRICT OFFICER NOMINATION RESOLUTIONS: Department Constitution Article VII, Section 1: “At the Department Convention a Department Commander and Department Senior Vice Commander **whose nominating resolutions have been forwarded to the Department Adjutant, and received by the Mid-Winter Conference**, will be elected by the whole body, who cannot serve until properly installed at the same Department Convention. The Department Commander and/or Department Senior Vice Commander will be limited to two terms in office, and they must run consecutively. At the Division caucus conducted during the annual Department Convention, there shall be a Vice Commander for each of the three Grand Divisions whose nominating resolutions have been forwarded to the Department Adjutant, and received by the Mid-Winter Conference, to be elected, who cannot serve until properly installed at the same Department Convention.” Please have resolutions to the Department by **January 8, 2026**.

ORATORICAL CONTEST: We enclosed Oratorical information for each Post and to share with your High Schools. First place state scholarship is \$3000. Sent applications Department Headquarters by **9 February, 2026**. **District Oratorical Contests** are 21 February, through 21 March 2026. **Divisional Oratorical Contests** are between 28 March to 4 April 2026. **The Department Oratorical Contest** is set for April 11, 2026 held at Department Headquarters.

MISSING POST OFFICER CERTIFICATIONS: **District 1:** Post 21 (Post Adjutant) ; **District 2:** Post 109, Tazewell and **District 4:** Post 18, Celina and Post 122, Smithville (Post Commander).

MISSING POST DATA REPORTS: **District 4:** Post 9, Byrdstown, and Post 18 Celina. **District 5:** Post 156 Brentwood and **District 6:** Post 140, White Bluff.

INCORPORATION: Is your post incorporated to protect its members? Unsure, check with the Tennessee Secretary of State’s office. If your post’s title does not include INC., but is incorporated, please submit a supplemental charter request.

THE AMERICAN LEGION NATIONAL REGIONAL INFORMATION CONFERENCE: Attendees will gain valuable insights into Constitution & Bylaws, Post Operations, Be The One, and more, with sessions designed to enhance member engagement and leadership. Mission Statement: To enable the American Legion Family to promote the founding principles of our organization through focused regional training and education; ensuring collaboration and networking of our members. Challenging our Legion Family to fully understand our legacy and prepare them to lead The American Legion beyond the 21st Century. Vision Statement: Through American Legion Family education, we enable and facilitate a culture to create an environment where the needs of our organizations, veterans, youth, and community are fulfilled. To register visit: [American Legion Training | The American Legion](#)

CHARITABLE 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. To conduct such an event, an organization **must** file the following with the division: An application and all required attachments between July 1 and January 31 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>. Raffles, poker runs, and 50/50 events are **illegal** unless permitted by Tennessee Secretary of State (SoS).

NATIONAL CONVENTION DELEGATES: National Convention Registration forms forthcoming, the internal process has changed, we will need **delegate intentions** by **February 1, 2026**, we understand life events can change plans, we need applications more for projections than an actual commitment

CONGRATULATIONS TO: 2025 National American Legion College (NALC) graduate: **Dwight Woodcock**.

DEPARTMENT HEADQUARTERS OFFICES: Will be closed December 24, 2025 through January 2, 2026, please plan accordingly.

HAVE YOU ENROLLED FOR LIT’S NO COST AD&D ?

DECEMBER CALENDAR

- 1: Resolutions affecting Department Constitution and Bylaws due to the Department Adjutant
- 10: VAMC Contributions due to Dept Headquarters
- 10: Fourth Membership Renewal Notice Cutoff
- 12: Post 295 Charter Presentation – Clifton TN
- 13: Amy-Navy Football Game
- 20: Space Force Birthday
- 22: Post Adjutant’s Virtual Training & Education
- 24-31 Christmas Holiday, Dept offices closed

JANUARY CALENDAR

- 1: Legacy Scholarship Application Opens

FIREFIGHTER OF THE YEAR: 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. Submissions due to the Department by **January 5, 2026**.

LAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICER OF THE YEAR: The American Legion gives its National Law Enforcement Officer of the Year Award to a well-rounded law enforcement officer who has exceeded the duty requirements expected of their position and has demonstrated a distinct pattern of community service coupled with professional achievement. Nominees must be U.S. citizens and living, active, full-time, and paid, sworn law enforcement officers entrusted with full authority and the powers of arrest. Submissions due to the Department by **January 5, 2026**.

EMERGENCY MEDICAL TECHNICIAN OF THE YEAR: To recognize a well-rounded Emergency Medical Technician, who has exceeded, and has gone above and beyond, the expected duty requirements of the position exemplify the virtues of professionalism and dedication and has demonstrated a distinct pattern of community service to the community, state, or Nation. Submissions due by **January 5, 2026**.

EMPLOYMENT AWARDS: The Department annually presents awards at the Department Convention to honor employers who hire veterans, disabled veterans, and older workers. We also recognize those who help veterans find employment. Awards include:

- *Employer of the Year – Small, Mid-Size, and Large*
- *Employer of the Disabled Award*
- *Employer of Older Workers Award*
- *Outstanding Local Veterans Employment Representative (LVER) of the Year*
- *Outstanding Disabled Veteran Outreach Program (DVOP) Specialist of the Year*
- *Outstanding Employment Service Office of the Year*

Nomination forms for each award are available through the Department website. Please include no more than two typed narrative pages as well as the official nomination form. Applications due to Department Headquarters by **January 5, 2026**

OFFICE MANAGER EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY: Department Office Manager performs a range of administrative and personnel duties, overseeing day-to-day operations, and supporting the Department Commander, Officers, Committees, and Adjutant. Their duties include preparing reports, managing membership data, and ensuring compliance with National and Departmental Constitutions and Bylaws. Please email Mike@TNLegion.org , or mail a resume to 318 Donelson Pike, Nashville TN 37214.

JANUARY CALENDAR CONTINUED

- 1: Baseball Registration Opens
- 1: Samsung American Legion Scholarship Application Opens
- 5: Employment Awards along with, Firefighter, EMT, and Law Enforcement of the Year due
- 9-11: Department Mid-Winter Conference
- 19: Dr. Martin Luther King Day (Offices Closed)
- 26: Post Adjutant’s Virtual Education/Training
- 26-31: National Regional Information Conference – Indianapolis
- 31: Gaming Event application due to the TN SoS office