

# THE DEPARTMENT OF TENNESSEE GENERAL BULLETIN

## March 2026

Veterans Offering Lifelong Service

National: [www.legion.org](http://www.legion.org)

State: [www.tennesseelegion.org](http://www.tennesseelegion.org)

Boys State: [www.inboysstate.org](http://www.inboysstate.org)

SAL: [www.legion.org/sons](http://www.legion.org/sons)

**SHARE THIS BULLETIN WITH THE MEMBERS OF YOUR POST.** We mail monthly bulletins to the post dues mailing address. Post Commanders and Adjutants will receive a copy via email. The Bulletin is also available on our website; [www.tennesseelegion.org](http://www.tennesseelegion.org). Please share this information with your Post membership.

**DEPARTMENT OF TENNESSEE CONVENTION:** The 2026 Department Convention is at the Sheraton Music City, Nashville, June 26-28, 2026. We suggest reserving your room prior to June 1, 2026, to receive the discounted rate of \$189, plus, tax, which includes: special room rates over convention dates. For reservations call 1-615-885-2200 and press 2 or use the link found on the Department website landing page.

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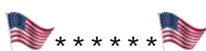
**NATIONAL CONVENTION** – August 27 - September 3, Louisville, KY. We will stay at the Spring Hill Suites Louisville Downtown. If you intend to become a Delegate, delegate election happens at the caucus on Sunday June 28, 2026, at Department Convention, Sheraton Music City. Recommend registering early as delegates get priority. We cannot take reservations after July 24th, 2026. All rooms must be reserved through the Department, rooms are \$138 plus \$24.37 tax and fees, for \$162.37 per night. For those driving, self-parking is \$19 per day. The registration fee is \$40 per person. The registration form will be finalized soon and available on our website landing page.

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**ORATORICAL CONTEST:** Divisional Oratorical Contests are March 28, 2026. The Department Oratorical Contest is April 4, 2026.. Check Department website Oratorical page for exact dates, times, and locations. First place state scholarship is \$3,000.



**AMERICA'S 250<sup>TH</sup> BIRTHDAY:** Posts can help celebrate through state commissions. The [America250 Foundation](http://America250Foundation.org), formed in support of the congressionally established U.S. Semi quincennial Commission, is looking for American Legion assistance in coordinating the national observance – on every level – of the United States' 250th birthday in 2026. For questions, contact Shawn McBurney, America250's senior manager of state outreach, at [smcburney@america250.org](mailto:smcburney@america250.org), or Grace LeFevre, coordinator of state outreach, at [glefevre@america250.org](mailto:glefevre@america250.org). For questions on veterans and/or military-related issues, contact David Hamon at [dhamon@america250.org](mailto:dhamon@america250.org).



**AMERICAN LEGION BOYS STATE:** The time is now to start collecting donations so that you can send eligible young men to Boys State. The tuition remains \$425 per student. **Delegate registration has begun.** Once again, Boys State will be on Tennessee Tech University campus starting **Sunday May 24, 2026, with May 29 inauguration.** Everyone is welcome to attend the inauguration.

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**CANDIDATE RESOLUTIONS:** Can be found in the Tennessee Legionnaire on the Department website.

**2026 POST DATA REVIEW FORM** – Posts will be receiving this year's Post Data Form soon. It is imperative that each post return their respective Post Data Review Form respond to the ten specific items as it relates to their post. Importantly, we need the first four items:

- 1) Post's physical address (**where the post meets; does not need to be post home**).
- 2) Post Mailing Address.
- 3) Dues Mailing Address.
- 4) Annual Post Dues. **Minimum Per Capita \$38.**

The remaining items are important as well, so please follow the instructions on the form's reverse side and return -- even if there are no changes -- to Department Headquarters by **April 8, 2026.** These forms are individualized and **are not** available online.

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**SONS OF THE AMERICAN LEGION OF THE YEAR:** Send nominations for SAL of the Year to Detachment by May 15, 2026.

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**NATIONAL AMERICAN LEGION COLLEGE:** The link should be available soon on the department website in the education and training tab. Applications due to the Department by Friday, June 19, 2026, so we can interview candidates Saturday, June 27, 2026.

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**POST AND SQUADRON OFFICER CERTIFICATIONS:** 2025-2026 Officer Certification forms for both the American Legion and the Sons of the American Legion are available on the Department Website. We realize some posts hold their officer elections well before the Legion's standard of April or May. Please send completed and signed officer certifications to the Department by **June 21, 2026.**

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**CONSOLIDATED POST REPORTS:** Posts should document their activity in their 2026 Consolidated Post Report using myLegion.org. The Department uses this information to track our activity and determine awards, and the National Commander uses it to document the work that the Legion is doing across the country. You can fill your report out gradually as you hold events at your post. Just be sure that you choose the Save Draft option rather than the Submit Final option. Due by **May 15, 2026,** for Awards Board evaluation.

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**TENNESSEE LEGIONNAIRE AND INSTAGRAM:** The Tennessee Legionnaire has a new design which lends itself to photos of the things happening around the department. The publication comes out in February, May, August, and November. Email your photos to [shannon@tnlegion.org](mailto:shannon@tnlegion.org). Also, we have launched an Instagram account for the Department, and you can find it @theamericanlegiontn. Follow us there so we can follow you as well. Instagram is a great way to connect with young veterans, who do not typically use Facebook.

**Legion Family Day on the Hill:**

**From Commander McKinley**

The first ever Legion Family Day on the Hill. will be held Thursday, March 12th in Nashville and will coincide with [Be The One](#) Day in Tennessee.

**Location:**

We'll meet on the 8th floor in conference room 8A of the Cordell Hull Building, as close to 8:00am as possible.

**Cordell Hull State Office Building**

425 Rep. John Lewis Way N.

Nashville, TN 37243

**Why only the Legion Family?**

The **Legion Family Day on the Hill** shouldn't be confused with a Veterans Day on the Hill as this event is purely for the Legion Family, which includes the **American Legion**, the **Sons of the American Legion** and our **#1 ally the Legion Auxiliary**.

**Q:** Why aren't we looking to share our day with other fellow VSOs?

**A:** The reason is simple, I don't want our department's message to be lost in the shuffle. In other words, it's easier for an individual Legislator or the entire Legislature (which isn't going to happen) to ignore us when our message is drowned out by dozens of other Veteran Service Organizations. After all, we may not speak for other VSOs, but with everything we as an institution stand for, we look out for all Veterans and their families, especially orphaned children and widows. Also, if other organizations fail to comport themselves properly, then the Department of Tennessee will also get blamed and we'll certainly be ignored and likely not invited back in the future.

**Todd A. McKinley**

**Department Commander**

**American Legion Department of Tennessee**

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**POST CONSTITUTION AND BYLAWS:** Any Post Constitution and Bylaws prior to the "Legion Act" of July 30, 2019, no longer complies with National or Departmental Constitution, meaning they need to be reviewed and updated. Post officers, the Department will review your draft Constitution and Bylaws. Taking advantage of this service could save you time and potentially embarrassment as we review for National and Departmental compliance. Please forward drafts to [adjutant@tnlegion.org](mailto:adjutant@tnlegion.org) and [mike@tnlegion.org](mailto:mike@tnlegion.org).

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**JROTC AWARD MEDALS:** Some of the JROTC scholastic and general awards were recently on back order. Advise that posts order these as soon as possible to avoid any disruptions. Catalog #717.100 for Military Excellence and #717.101 for Scholastic Excellence.

**MARCH 2025 CALENDAR**

- 1: Eagle Scout of Year packages due
- 7: Oratorical Contest – District 4
- 11: Membership Target Date 90%
- 12: Legion family Day on the Hill
- 14: Oratorical Contests – Districts 5 & 8
- 21: Oratorical Contest – District 1
- 28: Oratorical Contests – East, Middle & West
- 25: Legacy Scholarship Applications Due

**APRIL 2025 CALENDAR**

- 4: Department Oratorical Contest
- 8: Membership Target Date 95%

**LEGACY SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATION:** Children, adopted child, or stepchild of U.S. military members who died while on active duty on or after September 11, 2001. Children adopted child or stepchild of post-9/11 veterans having been assigned a combined disability rating of 50 percent or greater by the Department of Veterans Affairs also qualify. Each needs-based scholarship provides up to \$20,000 for children of the fallen, and up to \$5,000 for children of disabled people for undergraduate or post-graduate college. Recipients may reapply for additional annual awards up to six times. The application deadline is Wednesday, **March 25, 2026**. After administrative review and approval, scholarship recipients will be notified of their scholarship award between May 8 and May 22, 2026, via the email addressed placed on the application.

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**POST WEBSITES:** The Department website hosts a page for all the district and post websites in Tennessee to help prospective members find you. If your post has a website that you would like to include on the page, email [shannon@tnlegion.org](mailto:shannon@tnlegion.org) with the link to your site and we will include it on our website.

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**TENNESSEE AMERICAN LEGION COLLEGE:** **September 26 & 27, 2026**, held at Department Headquarters. Application is available on the Department website in the American Legion Training and Education tab.

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**LEGIONNAIRE OF THE YEAR:** Send nominations for Legionnaire of the Year to Department by May 15, 2026

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**FREDRICK BOWLING JROTC CADET OF THE YEAR:** Send recommendations for the Colonel Frederick B. Bowling JROTC Cadet of the Year to the Department by-May 15, 2026. The cadet selected as the Colonel Frederick B. Bowling JROTC Cadet of the Year, will receive a \$3,000.00 educational scholarship. The recommendation must be signed and certified to be accurate by the senior JROTC Instructor.

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**DIGITAL HISTORY CONTEST:** Please have all pictures you want to submit for the Digital History Contest to Department Headquarters by May 1, 2026. Entire document cannot exceed 50MB. More instructions forthcoming.

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**TRAINING TUESDAY:** The American Legion National Headquarters staff offers monthly training aimed at commanders and adjutants. You can watch them live or stream them later. Find them [here](#).

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**FIRST OF EVERY MONTH IS "BE THE ONE DAY"**

- 10: District 4 District Convention
- 11: District 5 District Convention
- 14: District 7 District Convention
- 15: Post Data Reports due to Dept HQ
- 15: Boys State Tuition Due
- 20: District 6 District Convention
- 23: District 8 District Convention
- 24: District 9 District Convention
- 25: District 10 District Convention
- 26-30: Legionnaire Trust Meetings
- 30: District 2 District Convention