

NEC October 2025 Newsletter

This is your monthly update of everything National in The American Legion.

Government Shutdown

Congress failed to reach an agreement by the October 1st deadline to ensure the Federal Government is funded and continues operating as normal. Essential government functions will continue, however, veterans, service members, federal employees, and other Americans will be impacted.

During a shutdown, VA Medical Centers, Outpatient Clinics, and Vet Centers will be open as usual and provide services. The availability of these services is subject to change depending on the length of the shutdown.

The following services will be paused during the length of the shutdown:

- VA will not provide veteran career counseling or TAP activities.
- The GI Bill Hotline will be closed.
- VA regional benefits offices will be closed.
- VA will cease public affairs and outreach to veterans.
- VA will not place headstones or maintain the grounds at VA national cemeteries.
- VA will not process applications for pre-need burials.
- VA will not print new presidential memorial certificates.

What can you do? Members are urged to contact their representatives and demand immediate passage of a Continuing Resolution to fund the government. Use the online **Voter Voice** to tell your members of congress to fully fund the government; ask them to protect veterans' services and urge them to negotiate in good faith. Use this link:

<https://www.votervoice.net/AmericanLegion/Campaigns/130478/Respond>

Through the shutdown, The American Legion will provide frequent outreach containing updates on next steps, as well as updates on how national staff is working with partners to help end the shutdown.

Be on the lookout for an official statement from National Commander Dan K. Wiley, which will include resources you can utilize if your salary is impacted by the shutdown.

Fall Meetings

Members of The American Legion's National Executive Committee, along with American Legion commission and committee members, will convene October 6-9, 2025, in Indianapolis for the organization's annual Fall Meetings. Along with our Commander and myself, Arkansas will send representation there to attend the Americanism and Media and Communication Commissions. I have asked them to provide reports of their Commissions upon return. I will also provide a complete report on the activities of the NEC. I expect the two pending resolutions proposed by Arkansas Legionnaires to be taken up during the normal business of the NEC.

National Commander Dan Wiley – Arkansas Visit

Commander Dan Wiley is visiting Arkansas in November. His plane arrives the evening of the 11th and departs the afternoon of the 14th. Commander Gordon and I have planned his trip to visit several posts and a few Arkansas VA agencies during his stay. The full schedule will be posted on the Department website next week around October 9th. I am working on a venue for a gathering of Department Leadership to meet with him on the morning of the 14th. More information to follow.

Communications With National

I will never tell you not to call up to our National Headquarters with an issue or question that you feel needs to be brought to their attention. That being said, National normally defers these questions back to Department Headquarters. They expect Legionnaires to follow the “chain of command” like we all did when in the military.

I have established connections with every division at National. Quite often, I can answer your question or refer you to the exact person at National who knows the answer. I work for you, the “Blue Hat” Legionnaires, please allow me to be your liaison with National.

Communications With Posts and Members

Again, I work for you. I believe that it is important that all Arkansas Legionnaires know what is occurring at National. The easiest and most efficient way to reach every Arkansan is through emails to Post Leadership, posting on the Department webpage, and writing in *The Arkansas Legionnaire* newspaper. I will continue to provide a monthly update newsletter.

I ask every Post Commander and Adjutant to provide me your email address plus your Post email address. If others in your Post want to receive these newsletters, please pass on their email address to me.

Please let me know if there is anything I can do for you – do not hesitate to contact me if you need assistance.

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