



Knoxville, Tennessee

January 2024

Chartered in 1919

The American Legion Post 2

Happy New Year Legionnaires!

I hope everyone had a very Merry Christmas! Another year has passed and the New Year 2024 brings us closer to our new Post building and renovations.

First off, 2024 finds the Post meeting in a new location - back at the American Red Cross headquarters, located at 6921 Middlebrook Pike, in Knoxville on January 8th.

While we welcome the upgraded kitchen facilities, The Post needs additional manpower to to set up and tear down the tables and chairs. There will be a sign up sheet at the January meeting. We will need to leave the facility set up the way we found it and cleaned.

NEW LOCATION

*** JANUARY MEETING ***

Monday January 8th at the Red Cross Building
Dinner begins at 6pm with the meeting at 7pm.

The New Year kicks off with BBQ, baked beans, coleslaw, macaroni & cheese, and a variety of desserts along with iced tea, coffee, and water.

The meal cost is \$10 per person with all proceeds to the building fund.

***** YOU MUST REGISTER IN ADVANCE *****

If you invite guests, **YOU MUST REGISTER THEM** on the Eventbrite site or email Patrice Collins so we have an accurate headcount. Those who arrive who are not pre-registered will go through the food-line last.

If you have any questions or need additional assistance, please email Patrice at pcollins@knoxvillechamber.com or call 865-806-4487.

legionknox.com

Commander@legionknox.com

865-313-0964

More than a Century of Service
1919-2024

Administratively, 2024 will be a busy year for the Post, starting with updating our Constitution and Bylaws. These changes will be presented to the Post membership for review at the January meeting, with the vote to approve the updated Constitution and Bylaws at the February Post meeting.

In addition, the Post 2 Executive Committee is developing a strategic plan to get more Post 2 family members involved in the various Legion community programs, and will also be evaluating our Post commitments and obligations for the upcoming year. This includes operating the concession stand at Neyland Stadium, and yearly events such as Beans & Boos, and Mingle with Kringle.

For 2024, I am encouraging all Post 2 members to take the online American Legion Basic Training course. This is a great opportunity to learn more about the great history of the American Legion, and what volunteer opportunities are available to you within the various pillars..

Please visit <https://www.legion.org/> and then scroll down to basic training, and log in.

Finally, as we start the new year, please remember that Post leadership elections will take place in May, with slate of nominations due in April. All elected and appointed positions are open, and this is a great way for some of our newer members to contribute to the Post and our community.

And, as always, if you have any questions and concerns, please call me at 865-313-0964 or email me at commander@legionknox.com.

I look forward to seeing everyone at the American Red Cross on January 8th!

Mike Testerman

UPCOMING EVENTS

All events are held at the Red Cross Building unless otherwise noted.

- Jan 8 Post Meeting meal and dinner begins at 6pm, with meeting beginning at 7pm
- Jan 18 Legion Riders meet at Knoxville Harley Davidson beginning at 6:30 pm, followed by SAL meeting at 7:30
- Jan 29 Post Executive Meeting begins at 6:30pm



SONS OF THE AMERICAN LEGION

Dan Chipman, Squadron Commander

The Sons of The Legion will hold their first meeting of 2024 at Knoxville Harley Davidson on Thursday, January 18th beginning at 7:30pm. Immediately following the Legion Rider's meeting. I also want to welcome PJ Diefenbach as our newest member of the SAL and the Legion Riders.



AMERICAN LEGION RIDERS

Dan Chipman, ALR Director

December was a warm and wet month - which unfortunately precluded the Legion Riders participation in the annual Powell Christmas parade. However the Riders did celebrate the holidays with a great SAL/Riders Christmas party at the home of Bob and Lorraine Vergith.

As always, there was plenty of delicious food and drink, along with a lively round of Dirty Santa gift exchange. Thanks again to Bob & Lorraine for hosting!



The ALR also gathered for their last monthly luncheon for 2024 at the Wild Boar Tavern, with a large group attending. The Riders will resume their normally scheduled monthly meetings at Knoxville Harley Davison on January 18th, beginning at 6:30pm.



AUXILIARY UPDATES

Melina Rogers, Unit President

We welcome 2024 at a new location and new plans for the upcoming year! So please remember we will be meeting at the American Red Cross Building!

The January Post meal will feature BBQ courtesy of Janet and Jamie Pawlinks. Auxiliary members are asked to contribute sides dishes and desserts, so please be on the lookout for an email from Patrice for more details!

Look forward to seeing everyone on January 8th!

PEARL HARBOR DAY 2023

The annual Post 2 Pearl Harbor Remembrance Day Ceremony was held to mark the 82nd anniversary of the bombing of Pearl Harbor and America's entry in to World War II.



A big thank you goes to Knox County Mayor Glenn Jacobs who served as the featured speaker.



Post 2 Commander Mike Testerman served as master of ceremonies, while Bob Vergith provided the both the invocation and benediction for the event.

Thanks also goes to the members of the Smokeyland Sound Chorus and the East Tennessee Veterans Honor Guard for their participation in this important annual event.



As the "Greatest Generation" continues to pass away, leaving even fewer eye witnesses to World War II, it is even more critical for Post 2 to continue this tradition to educate, honor and remember their sacrifices.

