



Central News – February 2023

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Important dates

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| 7 February 2023 | Membership Town Hall – please use this link to join at 7pm |
| 3-4 March 2023 | County Chairs Seminar |
| 19-21 May 2023 | Annual Conference |

Take our Central News Bulletin one year survey

Last month we shared the link to the one year Central News Bulletin survey, aiming to collect feedback from the Branch and County Officers who receive it. Thank you to everyone who has already taken the survey, providing us with valuable feedback.

If you haven't taken the survey yet, please do so by **15th February** to help us ensure the Bulletin meets its purpose and your needs.

Please take this [short and anonymous survey](#) to let us know what you think about the Central News Bulletin and how we could improve it for you.

Annual Conference

Delegate registration

You can register your Branch Delegate by completing the [online form](#) on the Membership Administration Portal (MAP).

If you cannot access the form, please email annualconference@britishlegion.org.uk to receive a form that you'll need to complete and return to the same email address. **Please register your delegate by 5pm on 14/04/2023.**

National Awards



Every year at Annual Conference we recognise individual members, branches, clubs, and counties/districts/Women's Section located in the UK and abroad that promote the aims of the RBL through their work in their communities. From delivering BCS support, raising funds, and collaborating with other organisations and local authorities to assist beneficiaries and champion Remembrance, their examples inspire us all and highlight achievements and innovative ideas.

With the exception of the Poppy Appeal Awards that are result-based, Members can nominate formations and individuals giving Conference the chance to acclaim our best of the best!

Closing date for National Awards extended

The Chairman of the Membership Awards Working Group, David Street, would like to remind everyone that the closing date for nominations was Friday 3rd February 2023, however, it has been recognised that the recent issues nationally in relation to the cost of living, industrial disputes and fuel availability,

have caused difficulty for some members.

As a result, it has been decided to help members by **extending the closing date to Friday 17th February 2023**, should you have been affected by the industrial difficulties before and after Christmas.

Please remember that we are seeking to celebrate the achievements of friends and colleagues, so if you are unable to make the original deadline, please continue to nominate because we will consider all submissions for recognition upon their individual merits up to and including the extended date.

Branch Committee Policies

This is a quick reminder about the policy around forming branch committees and the eligibility criteria to fill an officer role.

A Branch must have a committee of at least seven members, elected and appointed. If a Branch isn't able to form a committee, it can apply to its County for County-supported Branch status.

A Branch Committee Member occupies a key place in the management of the Branch and as such to be elected to the Branch Committee an individual must comply with the following eligibility requirements:

- They must be a member of the branch they are standing for.
- They must be aged 18 or above.
- They must not have an unspent conviction, have been disqualified as a company director or a trustee, or be undischarged bankrupt.
- They must be ever vigilant that they always serve the interests of the Charity.

In addition, they must follow in every respect the duties and responsibilities as required by the Board of Trustees, Charity Law and the Membership Council:

- Adhere to all Legion policies and procedures.
- Ensure the formation complies with charity law.
- Serve the interests of the Legion at all times.
- Undergo appropriate training for their role.
- (For Branch officers) not serve as officers of an associated club Committee.
- (For Branch officers) not be a tenant or representative of a tenant of properties held in trust by the Branch.

For more information on this policy please refer to Section 9 of the [Membership Management Handbook](#).

Membership Services Update

The membership services team are significantly short-staffed at the moment due to a number of reasons including staff illness and staff vacancies. They are working through a backlog of enquiries so please bear with us if it takes a little longer for us to process your request. We are doing all we can

to bolster support for the team but we appreciate your support and patience whilst we go through this period of flux.

The King's Coronation

We are aware of The King's Coronation coming up on Saturday 6 May 2023 at Westminster Abbey in London, we know that Branches will be looking to celebrate with their communities. We will be sending out more communications and guidance about this in the coming weeks to support your planning.
