

Adopted 06-22-2017

Updated 06-25-2021

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# **CONSTITUTION**

Of the American Legion Auxiliary, Department of Oregon, as amended and adopted at the 100th Department of Oregon Convention held in Aloha, Oregon, June 22, 23, 24, 25, 2022.

## **PREAMBLE**

For God and Country, we associate ourselves together for the following purposes: To uphold and defend the Constitution of the United States of America, to maintain law and order; to foster and perpetuate a one hundred percent Americanism, to preserve the memories and incidents of our associations in all wars; to inculcate a sense of individual obligation to the community, state and nation; to combat the autocracy of both the classes and the masses; to make right the master of might; to promote peace and good will on earth; to safeguard and transmit to posterity the principles of justice, freedom and democracy; to participate in and contribute to the accomplishment of the aims and purposes of The American Legion, to consecrate and sanctify our association by our devotion to mutual helpfulness.

## **ARTICLE I -- NAME**

Section 1. The name of this organization shall be American Legion Auxiliary, Department of Oregon.

Section 2. The Department Headquarters of the American Legion Auxiliary shall be in the same city or metropolitan area as The American Legion Department of Oregon Headquarters.

## **ARTICLE II -- NATURE**

Section 1. The American Legion Auxiliary is a civilian patriotic service organization that supports the mission of The American Legion.

Section 2. The American Legion Auxiliary shall be absolutely non-political and shall not be used for the dissemination of partisan principles nor for the promotion of the candidacy of any person seeking public office or preferment.

## **ARTICLE III – ELIGIBILITY**

Section 1. Eligibility for membership in the American Legion Auxiliary is determined by The American Legion. The eligibility requirements from The American Legion governing documents shall be provided as a footnote to this Constitution for information purposes and shall be updated as appropriate.<sup>1</sup>

Section 2. There shall be two (2) classes of membership, Senior and Junior.

- (a) Senior membership shall be comprised of members age eighteen (18) and older; provided, however, a member eligible under Section 1 of this article and who is under the age of eighteen (18) years and married shall be classified as a Senior member.
- (b) Junior membership shall be comprised of members under the age of eighteen (18) years, whose activities shall be supervised by the Senior membership. Upon reaching the age of eighteen years, Junior members shall automatically be admitted into Senior membership with full privileges.

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(c) Dues of both classes shall be paid annually or for life.

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<sup>1</sup> Membership in the American Legion Auxiliary shall be limited to the:

- (1) Grandmothers, mothers, sisters, spouses, and direct and adopted female descendants of members of The American Legion; and
- (2) grandmothers, mothers, sisters, spouses, and direct and adopted female descendants of all men and women who served in either of the following periods: April 6, 1917, to November 11, 1918 and any time after December 7, 1941 who being a citizen of the United States at the time of their entry therein served on active duty in the Armed Forces of any of the governments associated with the United States during either eligibility periods and died in the line of duty or after honorable discharge;
- (3) grandmothers, mothers, sisters, spouses, and direct and adopted female descendants of all men and women who were in the Armed Forces of the United States during either of the following periods: April 6, 1917, to November 11, 1918; and any time after December 7, 1941 who served on active duty in the Armed Forces of the United States during either eligibility periods and died in the line of duty or after honorable discharge; and
- (4) to those women who of their own right are eligible for membership in The American Legion.

#### **ARTICLE IV DEPARTMENT OFFICERS**

Section 1. The Department organization shall have the following department officers: Department President, Department Vice President, National Executive Committee person, District Presidents, Department Secretary, Department Treasurer, Department Chaplain, Department Historian, Department Parliamentarian, Department Sgt.-at-Arms, and Department Assistant Sgt.-at-Arms.

Section 2. Department officers must maintain their primary residency within the state of Oregon.

Section 3. The Department Convention shall elect annually by ballot, a President, and Vice President. When there is but one (1) candidate for an office, the nominee may be elected by voice vote. Such officers may serve a maximum of two, one-year terms or until their successors are elected, a term shall start upon adjournment of the department convention.

Section 4. The Department Convention shall elect annually by ballot, District Presidents, and District Vice Presidents. A term shall start upon adjournment of the department convention.

Section 5. In the event of a vacancy in the office of Department President, the Department Vice President shall become President, a vacancy in the office of District President, the District Vice President shall become District President, and shall assume the duties and authority of the office. Vacancies occurring between department conventions in these offices other than Department President and District Presidents shall be filled by election by the Department Executive Committee, and any member of the American Legion Auxiliary, Department of Oregon, in good standing, shall be eligible for election to such vacancy.

Section 6 The Department organization will elect a National Executive Committee person and an Alternate National Executive Committee person who will serve a maximum of two, two-year terms, elected in same years.

Section 7 A Department Secretary, Department Treasurer, Department Chaplain, Department Historian, Department Sgt.-at-Arms, Asst. Sgt.-at-Arms and Department Parliamentarian shall be appointed by the Department President with the approval of the Department Executive Committee.

Section 8. All questions affecting the eligibility, election, and conduct of a department officer shall be referred to the Department Executive Committee where a decision by two-thirds vote in said committee shall be the final authority thereon.

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## **ARTICLE V DEPARTMENT EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE**

Section 1. Between Department Conventions, the Department Executive Committee shall serve as the governing body of the organization with fiduciary, policy, and strategic responsibility for the organization.

Section 2. The Department Executive Committee shall be comprised of the Department President, Department Vice President, Department Secretary, Department Treasurer, the District Presidents, National Executive Committee person, Department Parliamentarian, Department Chaplain, Department Historian, Department Sgt.-at-Arms, Department Assistant Sgt.-at-Arms and Past Department Presidents with membership in the Department of Oregon.

Those members with the right to vote are the Department Vice President, National Executive Committee person and District Presidents with the Department President voting in case of a tie.

Section 3. The Department President and Department Vice President shall serve as Chairman and Vice Chairman of the Department Executive Committee respectively.

## **ARTICLE VI NATIONAL OFFICERS**

Section 1. The Department shall elect a National Executive Committee person from among the members, who will serve for a two-year term of office, and further will be allowed to serve for an additional elected two years of service. The term of office shall commence immediately following the adjournment of the National Convention next ensuing and shall end at the adjournment of the National Convention in two years or after a four-year term of office, if reelected.

Section 2. The Department shall elect an Alternate National Executive Committee person and the term of office shall commence immediately following the adjournment of the ensuing National Convention for two years or after a four-year term of office, if reelected.

Section 3. The National Executive Committee person and Alternate National Executive Committee person shall be elected in the same years.

Section 4. It shall be the duty of each National Executive Committee person to fulfill the responsibilities of the National Executive Committee, and to articulate the organization's mission, accomplishments, and goals to the public and to the Department.

Section 5. It shall be the duty of the Alternate National Executive Committee person to act in the capacity of the National Executive Committee person in their absence or inability to act.

## **ARTICLE VII DEPARTMENT CONVENTION**

Section 1. The American Legion Auxiliary, Department of Oregon, Department Convention shall be held annually at the same time and place as The American Legion, for the purpose of electing officers, receiving reports, and transacting such other business as shall properly come before it.

Section 2. Representation in the Department Convention shall be by Units. Each Unit shall be entitled to delegates based upon the number of members whose dues are paid up-to-date as provided in the Standing Rules.

Section 3. Changes to the formula for delegate voting strength and the manner for casting votes may be determined only by a two-thirds vote of the Department delegates. Two delegates and two alternates and one additional delegate and one additional alternate for each fifty members, or major fraction thereof, whose current Department and National dues have been paid and received by the Department Headquarters, thirty days prior to the holding of the Department Convention. Each Unit shall have as many votes as it is entitled to delegates.

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Section 4. The Department President and Department Vice President shall be delegates-at-large to the Department Convention, with vote to be exercised with their Units, and shall serve as Department Convention Chairman and Vice Chairman respectively.

Section 5. The National Executive Committee person, Department Secretary, Department Treasurer, Department Chaplain, Department Historian, Department Parliamentarian, Department Sgt.-at-Arms, and Department Assistant Sgt.-at-Arms shall be delegates-at-large to the Department Convention, with vote to be exercised with their Units.

Section 6. Past Department Presidents in good standing in their Units shall be delegates-at-large to the Department Convention, with vote to be exercised with their Units.

Section 7. The District Presidents shall be delegates-at-large to the Department Convention with vote to be exercised with their Units.

Section 8. Each Department Committee chairman shall be delegates-at-large to the Department Convention with vote to be exercised with their Units.

Section 9. Each delegate shall be entitled to one vote. The vote of any delegate absent may be cast by the majority of the delegates present from the Unit. A delegate-at-large must be present to cast their own ballot. The manner for casting votes shall be as provided in the Department Convention Standing Rules.

Section 10. A quorum shall exist when 40% of the Units are represented by having paid their Department Convention delegates fees.

Section 11. Additional information regarding Department Convention delegates shall be as provided in the Convention Standing Rules.

## **ARTICLE VIII AMENDMENTS**

Section 1. The Constitution may be amended at any Department Convention by a two-thirds vote of the Department Convention delegates, provided the proposed amendments shall have been submitted through the Department Headquarters to the Units and members of the Department Executive Committee by distributing the same to them at least thirty (30) days prior to the convening of the next Department Convention and provided further that all proposed amendments shall be read at a regular meeting of the Department Convention. Units shall be responsible for distributing the proposed amendments to their delegates to the Department Convention.

Section 2. Amendments proposed after distribution, as shown in Section 1 hereof, may be adopted by a two-thirds vote of the Department Convention delegates, provided they have been read at one session of the Department Convention prior to taking the vote.

Section 3. An amendment not having been previously read or distributed as required in Section 1 hereof, may be adopted by the unanimous vote of the Department Convention delegates.