

## 2026 PROPOSED CHANGES TO DEPARTMENT CONSTITUTION

### Page 49: Article III - ELIGIBILITY

#### CURRENT WORDING:

Article III – ELIGIBILITY

#### PROPOSED WORDING, IF ADOPTED, WILL READ:

Article III-MEMBERSHIP

*Rationale: Wording changed at National Convention in Tampa, August 2025*

### Page 49: Article III – ELIGIBILITY (MEMBERSHIP, if previous item is adopted)

Add new Sections 4, 5 and 6

#### PROPOSED AMENDMENT IF ADOPTED, WILL READ:

**Section 4.** A member whose dues are paid up-to-date and who is not subject to suspension or expulsion shall be considered in good standing and the member shall be entitled to full membership rights, privileges, and benefits in the Unit.

**Section 5.** Each unit of the ALA, except department headquarters units, has the authority to decide its membership and shall be responsible for verifying eligibility of prospective members, transfer or new.

**Section 6.** No person who is a member of an organization which has for its aim the overthrow of the United States Government or who subscribes to the principles of any group opposed to our form of government shall be eligible to become or remain a member of the American Legion Auxiliary.

*Rationale: Theses sections were added to the National Constitution at the National Convention in Tampa, August 2025.*

### Page 49: Article VI - NATIONAL OFFICERS

#### CURRENT WORDING:

Article VI – NATIONAL OFFICERS

#### PROPOSED WORDING, IF ADOPTED, WILL READ:

Article VI - NATIONAL EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE PERSON

*Rationale: Wording changed in National document. The NEC is not an officer, but part of the National Executive Committee.*

## 2026 PROPOSED CHANGES TO DEPARTMENT BYLAWS

### Page 53, Article II – DUTIES AND POWERS OF OFFICERS

#### CURRENT WORDING:

**Section 1.** The Department President shall be the chief executive of the department and preside at all meetings of the department convention and the Department Executive Board; sign contracts and other legal documents that require the signature of the chief executive of the department; appoint or hire a parliamentarian; appoint members of standing committees; create such other committees and appoint members thereon as deemed advisable; appoint all officers not otherwise provided for, with the approval of the Department Executive Board; serve as ex-officio member of all committees with the exception of Finance and perform such other duties as are usually incident to the office; be the official representative of the department with authority to designate a department Vice President to represent the department at public ceremonies and meetings.

#### PROPOSED WORDING, IF ADOPTED, WILL READ:

**Section 1.** The Department President shall be the chief executive of the department and preside at all meetings of the department convention and the Department Executive Board; sign contracts and other legal documents that require the signature of the chief executive of the department; appoint or hire a parliamentarian with the approval of the Finance Committee; appoint members of standing committees; create such other committees and appoint members thereon as deemed advisable; appoint all officers not otherwise provided for, with the approval of the Department Executive Board; serve as ex-officio member of all committees with the exception of Finance and perform such other duties as are usually incident to the office; be the official representative of the department with authority to designate a department Vice President to represent the department at public ceremonies and meetings.

*Rationale: Added “with the approval of the Finance Committee.” Moved from Standing Rules.*

### Page 55: Article V STANDING COMMITTEES, Section 1

#### CURRENT WORDING:

**Section 1.** The Department President shall name such committee chairs as deemed advisable, subject to the ratification of the Department Executive Board. There shall be the following standing committees: Americanism, American Legion Auxiliary Badger Girls State, WALA State Bowling Association, Children & Youth/Liaison to The American Legion Child Well-Being Foundation, Community Service, Constitution and Bylaws, Education, Finance, Fundraising, Junior Activities, Leadership, Legislative, Membership, National Security, Office Policy, Past Presidents Parley/Cavalcade of Memories, Poppy, Liaison to The American Legion Department of Wisconsin Marketing & Communications Committee, Liaison to The American Legion Department of Wisconsin Camp American Legion Committee, Public Relations, Standing Rules and Veterans Affairs & Rehabilitation.

#### PROPOSED WORDING, IF ADOPTED, WILL READ:

**Section 1.** The Department President shall name such committee chairs as deemed advisable, subject to the ratification of the Department Executive Board. The Department President shall also appoint such other committees as deemed necessary or shall be provided for by the Executive Board or by the Department Convention.

There shall be the following standing committees: ALA In The Know, Americanism, American Legion Auxiliary Badger Girls State, WALA State Bowling Association, Children & Youth/Liaison to The American Legion Child Well-Being Foundation, Community Service, Constitution and Bylaws, Education, Finance, Fundraising, Junior Activities, Leadership, Legislative, Membership, National Security, Office Policy, Past

Presidents Parley/Cavalcade of Memories, Poppy, Liaison to The American Legion Department of Wisconsin Marketing & Communications Committee, Liaison to The American Legion Department of Wisconsin Camp American Legion Committee, Public Relations, Standing Rules and Veterans Affairs & Rehabilitation.

*Rationale: Move 2nd sentence from Standing Rules, page 63 #11. Add ALA In The Know as a Standing Committee.*

## **Pages 56-57: Article V – Standing Committees, Sections 2 through 15**

### **CURRENT WORDING:**

**Section 2.** The Finance Committee is comprised of three members who serve 3-year terms, one of whom shall be appointed each year by a committee composed of the Senior Vice President and the First and Second Vice Presidents, with additional input from the Department President and the Department Executive Secretary-Treasurer. Each candidate will first submit a resume detailing specific information relating to knowledge of finance, accounting, auditing or relevant experience. The Chair and Vice Chair of the Finance Committee will be appointed by the Department President from among these three members. The chair of the Office Policy Committee and the Alternate National Executive Committee person are automatically members of the Finance Committee. The number of Finance Committee members shall then be five.

1. If a member is absent in the Finance Committee meeting, the Department President shall act as a voting member. In case of resignation or death of a member of the Finance Committee, the President shall fill the vacancy by appointment, and such newly appointed member shall serve for the duration of the r
2. The Committee's decision on routine financial matters shall be final between department conventions unless overruled by a two-thirds vote of the Executive Board. In non-budgeted financial matters, the Department President may ask for a decision of the Department Executive Board, either at a special meeting, by electronic means, or by mail.
3. It shall be the responsibility of the Finance Committee to review and approve the annual audit or financial review.
4. This committee shall meet at least two times a year, or at the call of the Department President. It shall be their duty to budget the expenditures of the department, check on all bills pertaining to all funds of the department, determine reimbursable expenses for officers and committees on official call, decide what property or equipment shall be purchased by the department and the sum to be expended for this

**Section 3.** The Office Policy Committee shall be comprised of three members who serve 3-year terms, one of whom is appointed each year by the Department President. All members must be Past Department Presidents.

1. The Office Policy Committee shall oversee the operations of the Department Headquarters office, working closely with the Department Executive Secretary-Treasurer to ensure prompt attention to matters relating to our mission and provide oversight to ensure established office policies are being followed.
2. The Office Policy Committee shall be responsible for periodically reviewing Wisconsin Non-profit Statutes for Department compliance.

**Section 4.** The Department President shall appoint three members from counselors who have served Girls State for at least three years within the past five years to 3-year terms on the American Legion Auxiliary Badger Girls State Committee.

American Legion Auxiliary Badger Girls State, Inc. shall consist of 13 Auxiliary members, nine of whom have been appointed. The current Department President, Department Senior Vice President, Department Americanism Chair, and Department Executive Secretary-Treasurer shall serve for one year. All members of the committee shall have vote.

The Chair, Vice Chair, Executive Director and Assistant Executive Director shall be appointed annually by the Department President from the nine appointees. The Department Executive Secretary-Treasurer, who by virtue of that office, shall be Secretary-Treasurer of ALABGS, Inc.

**Section 5.** The Department President shall appoint three members to the Wisconsin American Legion Auxiliary State Bowling Committee to serve 3-year terms. The Wisconsin American Legion Auxiliary State Bowling Association, Inc. shall consist of twelve Auxiliary members, nine of whom have been appointed. The current Department President, Department Senior Vice President and Department Executive Secretary-Treasurer shall serve for one year. All members of the committee shall have vote.

The Chair/Tournament Manager and Vice Chair shall be appointed annually by the Department President from the nine appointees. The Department Executive Secretary-Treasurer, by virtue of that office, shall be Secretary-Treasurer of the Wisconsin American Legion Auxiliary State Bowling Association, Inc.

**Section 6.** American Legion Auxiliary Badger Girls State, Inc. and Wisconsin American Legion Auxiliary State Bowling Association, Inc. are incorporated bodies, carrying on their separate functions as prescribed in their articles of incorporation and standing rules, provided they are not in conflict with the department bylaws and standing rules. Meetings of these committees shall be scheduled with the approval of the Department President.

**Section 7.** The Leadership Committee shall be composed of three members appointed by the Department President.

**Section 8.** The Junior Activities Committee shall have a chair and vice chair appointed by the Department President.

**Section 9.** The Veterans Affairs & Rehabilitation Committee shall be composed of five members to be appointed by the Department President. The five members include a Veterans Affairs and Rehabilitation Chair, Service to Veterans Chair, Director of Hospital Volunteers, Homeless Women Veterans Chair, and Christmas Gift Shop Chair.

**Section 10.** The following standing committees shall be chaired by a Past Department President: Constitution and Bylaws, Legislative, Office Policy, Past President's Parley, and Standing Rules.

**Section 11.** There shall be a Publication Editor appointed by the Department President to serve as a liaison to The American Legion Department of Wisconsin Marketing & Communications Committee who shall attend meetings at their own expense.

**Section 12.** There shall be a liaison to The American Legion Department of Wisconsin Camp American Legion Committee who shall attend meetings at their own expense.

**Section 13.** The Department President shall appoint all committee chairs, all committee members and all vacancies on committees, with the exception as it relates to the Finance Committee, as defined in Article V, Standing Committees, Section 2. Appointments are subject to the ratification of the Department Executive Board.

**Section 14.** The Membership Committee shall be comprised of the Department First Vice President as Chairman, and two committee members appointed by the Department President who are not members of the Department Executive Board. The Department Senior Vice President shall serve as an advisor to the committee. The Senior Vice President shall have no responsibilities on this committee except to provide any knowledge of current membership issues.

**Section 15.** The Legislative Chair shall automatically be the immediate Past Department President.

PROPOSED WORDING, IF ADOPTED, WILL READ: These sections will be moved to Standing Rules

*Rationale: Moving to Standing Rules to comply with National documents.*

**Page 58: Article VII UNIT ORGANIZATION, Section 8.**

CURRENT WORDING:

**Section 8.** Each unit of the American Legion Auxiliary shall be responsible for verifying eligibility and deciding its membership subject to the restrictions of the unit, department and national governing documents. No person who is a member of an organization which has for its aim the overthrow of the United States government or who subscribes to the principles of any group opposed to our form of government shall be eligible to become or remain a member of the American Legion Auxiliary.

PROPOSED WORDING, IF ADOPTED, WILL READ:

**Section 8.** Each unit of the American Legion Auxiliary shall be responsible for verifying eligibility and deciding its membership subject to the restrictions of the unit, department and national governing documents.

*Rationale: Removed duplication; will appear in Constitution, if adopted.*