

DISTRICT CONSTITUTION

TO BE USED BY THE TEN DISTRICTS IN THE DEPARTMENT OF MINNESOTA

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 per cent Americanism; to preserve the memories and incidents of our associations during the Great 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 to 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

Subsidiary Organization

Section 1. All ten (10) District are subsidiary organizations of the Department and chartered by the Department and National Headquarters.

Article II

Organization

Section 1. The ten Districts shall have the same numbers and territorial limits as the Districts set up in the Constitution of The American Legion.

Article III

Nature

Section 1. The American Legion Auxiliary is a civilian organization of women and each member shall perform her full duty as a citizen according to her conscience and understanding and according to the Constitution of the United States of America.

Section 2. The American Legion Auxiliary shall be wholly non-political and non-sectarian, 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 IV

Officers and Their Election

Section 1. Each District at its annual Convention meeting of delegates shall elect by plurality a President, a First Vice President, a Second Vice President and two members of the Executive Committee. The Secretary, Treasurer, Sergeant-at-Arms, Chaplain, Historian, Parliamentarian and District Chairmen shall be named by the President with the approval of the Executive Committee. The Secretary and Treasurer may be one person. The Parliamentarian shall attend the District Executive Committee meetings in an advisory capacity.

Section 2. (a) The District Executive Committee shall consist of seven persons, two of who shall be elected as such by the District Convention, and the President, First Vice President, Second Vice President, Secretary and retiring President. Any District wishing its Secretary to be an ex-officio member of the District Executive Committee, without privilege of vote may elect three members instead of two. Four members of the District Executive Committee shall constitute a quorum. A vacancy existing in the District Executive Committee from any other cause than the expiration of a term shall be filled by a majority vote of the Committee. Any present member of the Executive Committee shall continue as such during the remainder of the term for which she has been elected.

Section 2. (b) In the event of the death or resignation of the District President, the District First Vice President shall automatically succeed to the office of District President and the Second Vice President shall automatically become First Vice President.

Section 3. The District President shall be an ex-officio member of all District committees, without power of vote.

Section 4. Duties of the District Officers shall be the same as provided for the Department.

Section 5. The Secretary, Treasurer, Sergeant-at-Arms, Chaplain, Historian and Parliamentarian as well as District Chairmen shall be named by the President-Elect of the District and approved by the members of the District Executive Committee-Elect within thirty (30) days following the annual election of officers; this action to be ratified by the District Executive Committee at a meeting to be held after the close of the Department Convention and preceding the next regular District meeting in Districts holding monthly meetings. If no monthly District meeting is held the action is to be ratified by the District Executive Committee at a meeting to be held after the close of the Department Convention.

Section 6. The District Officers and members of the District Executive Committee shall assume their duties immediately following the adjournment of the Department Convention.

Article V

Fiscal Year

Section 1. The fiscal year for the ten (10) Districts of the Department of Minnesota American Legion Auxiliary shall be August 1 through July 31.

Article VI

District Convention

Section 1. There shall be one annual meeting or Convention at the time and place designated by the District Executive Committee. Notice of such meeting shall be mailed out at least thirty (30) days prior to the meeting.

Section 2. Representation at the annual District Convention shall be on the same basis as representation at the Department Convention. Each Unit shall elect alternates to serve in place of the delegates in case of their absence; such alternates may speak in the Convention but not vote if the delegates are present. Delegates shall serve in the order of their election before any alternate delegate. Then alternates shall serve in order elected. The vote of each Unit shall be equal to the total number of delegates. The vote of any delegate absent and not represented by an alternate shall be cast by the majority vote of the delegates present. There shall be no voting by proxy except as here provided.

Section 3. Members of the District Executive Committee shall be seated as delegates of the District Convention and entitled to vote.

Section 4. The Convention shall be the judge of the qualifications of the delegates.

Section 5. All Past District Presidents, as long as they remain members in good standing of a Unit in the District over which they presided, shall be delegates-at-large to the District Convention and entitled to vote. She must be present at the District Convention at which she is voting. However, no person is allowed two votes, i.e. she may vote with her Unit if she is a Unit delegate, or she may vote in her capacity as a Past District President or a member of the District Executive Committee, but she may not vote as both. Each Past District President will assume all responsibility for payment of her own convention registration.

Section 6. The District dues shall be a per capita tax based upon the previous year's membership and shall be sent to the District Secretary or Treasurer. If remittance is made to the Secretary, she shall in turn transmit such dues to the District Treasurer.

Section 7. Only Units which have remitted District dues in full 30 days prior to the District Convention, shall be entitled to representation in the District Convention.

Section 8. Representation of a new Unit at a District Convention shall be left to the discretion of the District Executive Committee.

Section 9. A quorum at a District Convention shall exist when 25% of the Units are represented.

Section 10. Delegates from the District to the National Convention shall be elected at the District Convention.

Article VII

District Rules

Districts may adopt such rules for their government and such regulations as are proper under the Constitution of the American Legion Auxiliary and the rules, regulations and orders of the National and Department organizations. In matters not otherwise regulated the District Conventions may adopt such rules governing and regulating the Units within the District as do not conflict with the Constitution, Bylaws or Standing Rules of the Department or National organizations.

Article VIII

Rules of the Convention

Robert's Rules of Order, Newly Revised, as modified by the rules of the last preceding Convention, shall constitute the temporary Rules of the Convention until the Rules Committee of the Convention shall have reported upon proposed permanent rules of the Convention either submitted to it or recommended by it; provided the Convention may adopt its permanent rules upon a majority vote of all the authorized delegates in attendance.

Article IX

Amendment

Section 1. This Constitution may be amended at any Department Convention by a two-thirds vote of the total number of votes to which the accredited delegates present are entitled by provisions set forth in Article VII, Section 2, of the Department Constitution, providing the proposed amendments shall have been submitted through the Department Secretary to the Department Executive Committee prior to the convention; and provided further that all proposed amendments shall be read at a regular meeting of the convention.

Section 2. Necessary amendments proposed after distribution as described in Section 1, may be adopted by a two-thirds vote of the delegation, provided they have been read at one meeting of the convention session prior to taking the vote.

Section 3. A proposed amendment not having been previously read or distributed as required in Section 1 shall be referred to the Convention Constitution and Bylaws Committee called together for a special meeting before it comes to the floor for a vote. It may be adopted by the unanimous vote of the convention body.

Article X

This Constitution shall be automatically amended to conform to the Constitution of the American Legion Auxiliary, Department of Minnesota.