

Audit
Suzette Maluchnik ~ Chairman
Vida Bacon ~ Committee Member
Cari Lamb ~ Committee Member

The audit committee's purpose is risk aversion. To accomplish this purpose, the committee is responsible to engage and review the independent external audit of the Department financial records, then to present the audit to the Department Executive Committee (DEC) prior to making the information available to the membership through the Department website and unit mailings.

The committee is also responsible to establish policies and practices to prevent financial fraud. In this role, the committee has previously worked to develop a Fraud and Whistleblower Policy and an Investment Policy in accordance with National guidelines, both of which have been approved by the DEC. These are published on the Department website at www.mnala.org. The Department website also includes Record Retention and Social Media Policies, which have been developed by other committees and approved by the DEC to protect the integrity of the American Legion Auxiliary. It is important for Units as well as our Department to be aware of and follow these policies. Additional information and help can be found in the members only section of the National website (www.alaforveterans.org) in sections prepared specifically for audit committee roles and procedures and the strategic plan.

One of the roles listed for the audit committee on that website is to meet the governance expectations of the IRS Form 990. The committee has assumed an active role in this process at the Department level. It is equally important for District and Unit audit committees to develop procedures to insure that the 990 form has been completed annually and to verify that has been done. Filing of the 990 is essential to maintain Unit and District tax exempt status and failure to do so could impact that status for the Department and National organization as well

This committee is relatively new and evolving. As it has become more established, it is increasingly apparent that this role in our Auxiliary needs to be nurtured and developed in our Districts and Units as well as in the Department.

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