



American Legion Auxiliary

Department of Minnesota
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Parliamentarian

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“This is a new year. A new beginning. And things will change.” - Taylor Swift

Well, actually as of the 2019 National Convention in Indianapolis, things have changed for the American Legion Auxiliary. Eligibility in the American Legion Auxiliary is determined by The American Legion. The American Legion convention delegates voted to replace the word “wife” with “spouse” in their constitution and bylaws, opening membership in the American Legion Auxiliary to include male spouses.

How does this affect you and your Unit?

- **All** levels of our organization (Department, District and Unit) need to make the required changes. This includes changing verbiage for all documents including on websites and social media. Gender specific terminology will need to be gender neutral. Be cautious in clauses that reference voting on membership acceptance. If your Unit does not currently vote on accepting new members, they can not choose to vote on accepting male members.
- Remember that all Units, Districts and Departments need to be compliant with the Constitution and By-Laws of our National organization.
- We used to state that we were the largest patriotic women’s organization in the world...we are now the largest patriotic auxiliary of a veteran’s organization in the world!
- The position known as the National Executive Committee Woman will simply be the National Executive Committee Member.
- We are not the American Legion Women’s Auxiliary or the Women’s Auxiliary. We are simply the American Legion Auxiliary.
- We are just about ready to celebrate 100 years of service to veterans, their families and our communities. We are the American Legion Auxiliary and we are all proud to be members and have opened our doors to include the spouses of all female veterans!

Please bear with our Department and National organizations as we work to change our documents to be all inclusive and gender neutral. This is a big change for everyone.

If any Unit needs assistance in converting your documents, please feel free to contact myself or Department Constitution and Standing Rules Chairman Carol Kottom. We are here to help.

Marsha Bible
Department Parliamentarian