

# AMERICAN LEGION AUXILIARY



## DEPARTMENT OF ALASKA CONSTITUTION 2026

# CONSTITUTION OF THE AMERICAN LEGION AUXILIARY

## DEPARTMENT OF ALASKA

### 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 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

The name of this organization shall be American Legion Auxiliary, Department of Alaska, Inc.

### ARTICLE II - Nature

- Section 1. The American Legion Auxiliary is a civilian patriotic organization of persons that support 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 – Membership

- 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 are as follows:

Membership in the American Legion Auxiliary shall be limited to:

- (a) Grandmothers, mothers, sisters, spouses, and direct and adopted female descendants of members of The American Legion, and
- (b) 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;
- (c) 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
- (d) To those women who of their own right are eligible for membership in The American Legion.

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

- (a) Senior membership shall be composed 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 classed as a Senior member.
- (b) Junior membership shall be composed 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.
- (c) Dues of both classes shall be paid annually or for life.

Section 3. 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 4. 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 5. 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.
- Section 6. Membership can only be offered upon an affirmative vote of the Unit members, unless an alternate procedure is set forth in the Unit Bylaws.
- Section 7. No person may, at any time, be a member of more than one Unit.

#### **ARTICLE IV - Department Officers**

- Section 1. The Department shall elect annually a President, First Vice President, Second Vice President, Historian, Chaplain, Sergeant-at-Arms, and two Department Executive Committee Members at the annual Department Convention. The Department President, First Vice President and the Second Vice President shall be delegates to the Department Convention and are members of the Department Executive Committee. The Department President and First Vice President shall serve as the Chair and Vice Chair, respectively, of both bodies.
- Section 2. The Department will appoint the Secretary and the Treasurer positions at the Post Convention DEC meeting.
- Section 3. The office of National Executive Committee Member and the Alternate National Executive Committee Member shall be elected. The term of office is for a two-year term and runs from the post-convention at National Convention to the close of the pre-convention at National Convention every two (2) years on odd numbered years. Any person elected to these positions is highly recommended to have served as Department President, so that as a National Executive Committee Member they know the policies and procedures of the Department. The current Department President shall be the Second Alternate National Executive Committee Member. They shall also be members in good standing with the Department of Alaska

In the event that the ALA National Headquarters makes a determination to extend terms of office, the term for the National Executive Committee Member shall be extended to the next scheduled election (odd years).

## **ARTICLE V - Department Executive Committee**

- Section 1. Between Department Conventions, the administrative power shall be vested in the Department Executive Committee which shall be composed of the Department President, Department First Vice President, Department Second Vice President, Department Secretary, Department Treasurer, Department Chaplain, Department Historian, Department Sergeant-at-Arms, two Department Executive Committee Members, Department Standing Committee Chairs and the President of each Unit in the Department or an alternate from that Unit to be elected by the Unit, and such other members as provided in Section 2 hereof.
- Section 2. All Past Department Presidents in good standing in their Units have a vote and shall be members for life on the Department Executive Committee.
- Section 3. Term of Office: The term of the Department Executive Committee shall commence immediately following the adjournment of the Department Convention and shall end at adjournment of the next succeeding Department Convention.
- Section 4. In the event of dissolution or the revocation of the charter granted to the Department of Alaska by the National Organization of the American Legion Auxiliary, provision is made in the National Constitution and Bylaws for the National Executive Committee to take control, possession and custody of the records, property and assets of the Department, and may provide for such continued recognition and activities of Units in said Department as it may deem proper.

## **ARTICLE VI - Department Convention**

- Section 1. The Legislative body of the American Legion Auxiliary, Department of Alaska, shall be the Department Convention, to be held annually at the same time and place as the convention of The American Legion, Department of Alaska.
- Section 2. Representation in the Department Convention shall be by Units. Each Unit shall be entitled to one delegate and one additional delegate for each ten members or major fraction thereof whose current dues have been received by the Department Headquarters thirty days prior to the meeting of the Convention for which they are elected, and to one alternate for each delegate. The delegates and alternates shall be elected at a Unit meeting not less than two weeks before the Department Convention. Alternates shall

have priority in the order of their election.

- Section 3. All Past Department Presidents in good standing in their Units shall be delegates-at-large to the Convention with a vote, to be exercised in their own right and must be present at the Department Convention to cast their vote.
- Section 4. Members of the Department Executive Committee shall be delegates-at-large to the Convention with a vote to be exercised in their own right and must be present at the Department Convention to cast their vote. Members of the Department Executive Committee shall be limited to one vote at the Department Convention, regardless of whether they are Past Department Presidents or hold more than one Department Chair or office. (Only Standing Committee Chairs, not Co-Chairs, are included in the Department Executive Committee and shall be delegates-at-large with vote to be exercised in their own right.)
- Section 5. Each delegate shall be entitled to one vote. The vote of any delegate absent and not represented by an alternate shall be cast by the majority of the delegates present from their Unit.
- Section 6. A quorum shall exist at a Department Convention when thirty percent of the Units are represented.

### **ARTICLE VII – Fall Conference**

- Section 1. The Fall Conference shall be held annually; the conference shall be a training and education opportunity allowing members to learn more about working the ALA core programs and mission, while networking with other members throughout Alaska.
- Section 2. Dates and venue for the Fall Conference will be determined by the American Legion Auxiliary, Department of Alaska during the Department Convention held that calendar year, ensuring there are no date conflicts with The American Legion Family Fall meetings.

### **ARTICLE VIII - Delegates to National Convention**

- Section 1. The members of the National Executive Committee shall be delegates-at-large to the National Convention with votes to be exercised with their Departments.

Section 2. The Department of Alaska shall be entitled to seven delegates and one additional delegate for each 1200 members or major fraction thereof whose current dues are received by the National Treasurer thirty days prior to the meeting of said Convention, and to one alternate for each delegate. In addition, the National Executive Committee Member is a delegate due to their position.

Section 3. The outgoing Department President, the Department Secretary and the Department Treasurer shall be delegates to the National Convention. The remaining delegates and all alternates shall be selected from those indicating at the Department Convention their intent to attend the National Convention.

**ARTICLE IX - Amendments**

Section 1. This Constitution may be amended at any Department Convention by a vote of two-thirds of the total authorized representation, provided that the proposed amendments shall have been submitted through the Department Secretary to the Units and members of the Department Executive Committee by distributing the same to them at least sixty (60 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.

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

Section 3. An amendment not having been previously read or distributed as required in Section 1, will be adopted by the unanimous vote of the convention body.

Section 4. Amendments to the National Constitution adopted by National Convention shall automatically become effective in this Department.

DocuSigned by:



Annette Gwaltney-Jones

Department President

April 25, 2026

Date

Signed by:



Barbara Nath

Department Secretary

April 25, 2026

Date