



American Legion Auxiliary

*A Community of Volunteers Serving Veterans,
Military, and their Families*

TO: National Officers, National Executive Committee, Alt NEC, National Chairs,
Department Presidents, Department Secretaries/Executive Directors, Past National
CC: Presidents, National Headquarters Staff, Convention Parliamentarian Chris Dickey
FROM: Office of the National Secretary
DATE: August 7, 2026
SUBJECT: Proposed amendments to the American Legion Auxiliary national governing
documents that will come before the 2026 National Convention delegates

In compliance with ALA National Constitution Article VII. Amendments and ALA National Bylaws Article XIV. Amendments, this memorandum serves as official notice twenty days prior to national convention of the proposed amendments to the American Legion Auxiliary National Constitution, Bylaws, and Standing Rules that will be considered at the 2026 National Convention in Louisville, Kentucky. **Departments are responsible for distributing the proposed amendments to their delegates to the National Convention.**

Attached is a list of the resolutions and amendments that will come before the National Convention body, followed by each proposal. Amendments to the Constitution and Bylaws are in 3-column format.

After the delegate registration deadline on August 14, all National Convention delegates with valid emails in the ALA online registration system will receive an electronic copy of the documents. They will also be posted on the American Legion Auxiliary National website.

The Constitution & Bylaws Pre-Convention Meeting is open to all delegates to ask clarifying questions about the proposed amendments. A clarifying question pertains to the *meaning* of the wording in a proposal. There is to be no debate on the merits of, or opinions about, the proposals by the delegates during the Pre-Convention Meeting. Debate is reserved for the convention floor on Tuesday. National Convention Parliamentarian Chris Dickey will be present at the C&B Pre-Convention Meeting along with the Constitution & Bylaws Committee and national officers. The Constitution & Bylaws Pre-Convention Meeting is currently scheduled for Saturday, August 29, 2026 at the Kentucky International Convention Center, Hall C&E. Please check updated schedules on site for any time/location updates.

Thank you for being a part of the corporate responsibilities in the governance of the American Legion Auxiliary as a 501 (c) 19 tax-exempt organization incorporated in the state of Indiana.

American Legion Auxiliary
National Convention 2026

SUMMARY OF AMENDMENTS

	AMENDMENT(S)	SUBJECT	PRESENT AT	SUBMITTED BY
Proposed Amendment	1	Constitution, Article III, New Sect. 5 Proposal: expelled members would not be eligible for membership in a new unit without approval of expelling unit.	CONVENTION BODY C&B Pre-Con	Department of California
Proposed Amendment	2	Constitution Article III, Section 2b. Proposal: clarifying membership rights/privileges at junior level. No substantive changes.	CONVENTION BODY C&B Pre-Con	Department of Kansas
Proposed Resolution	1	Resolution: Membership Eligibility Proposal: request TAL change eligibility language to align with gender neutral terms.	CONVENTION BODY Membership Pre-Con	Department of Arizona
Proposed Resolution	2	Resolution: Membership Eligibility Proposal: request TAL to allow currently non-eligible fathers, grandfathers and brothers related to eligible member within two degrees of consanguinity	CONVENTION BODY Membership Pre-Con	Department of Iowa

*Amendments for consideration by the Convention delegates
are presented in full on the following pages*

Proposed Amendment to Constitution Article III Membership _ new section 5, renumber current 5 to new Section 6		
Current Wording	Proposed Amendment	If Adopted, Will Read
<i>No Current wording</i>	Section 3. No person, who has been expelled from The American Legion Auxiliary by a Unit, and such expulsion reported by the Department to the National Headquarters within thirty (30) days, shall be admitted to membership in another Unit without the consent of the expelling Unit, except that where such consent has been asked for and denied by such Unit, such person may then appeal to the Executive Committee of the Department of the expelling Unit for permission to be admitted to membership in another Unit, and shall be ineligible for membership until such permission is granted.	Section 3. No person, who has been expelled from The American Legion Auxiliary by a Unit, and such expulsion reported by the Department to the National Headquarters within thirty (30) days, shall be admitted to membership in another Unit without the consent of the expelling Unit, except that where such consent has been asked for and denied by such Unit, such person may then appeal to the Executive Committee of the Department of the expelling Unit for permission to be admitted to membership in another Unit, and shall be ineligible for membership until such permission is granted.

Proposed by: Department of California

Rationale: A member who is subject to suspension or membership revocation is eligible to transfer membership to another unit per the National Standing Rules. The addition of this proposed amendment would not allow an expelled member to join another unit without approval of the unit that issued the discipline, as prescribed by the rules of The American Legion.

Amendment for Consideration to National Constitution

Proposal ARTICLE III Eligibility Section 2b			
Current Wording	Proposed Amendment	If Adopted, Will Read	Rationale
(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.	(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, including voting and holding office.	(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, including voting and holding office.	To clarify that Junior members do not vote or run for office with the Senior members.

Proposed by: Dept of Kansas endorsed May 31, 2025

AMERICAN LEGION AUXILIARY DEPARTMENT OF
ARIZONA CONVENTION JUNE 25-28, 2026
RESOLUTION

SUBMITTED BY: Dolores Chavez, Rose Ficklin

SUBJECT: Membership Eligibility

DATE: April 16, 2026

Resolution No. R13

(Assigned by Resolutions Committee)

DO NOT TRY TO SQUEEZE THE RESOLUTION INTO THIS SPACE. PLEASE ATTACH TEXT OF
RESOLUTION AS A SEPARATE PAGE

Routing: E. Com., 2 readings on floor

Submitted by: Name and Signature Rose Ficklin

Submitted by: Name and Signature Dolores Chavez

Submitted by: Name and Signature _____

E. Com. 6-25-26 Approved ☒ Rejected _____ Revised _____

Approved _____ Rejected _____ Revised _____

Approved _____ Rejected _____ Revised _____

Convention Action: Approved 6-27-26 Rejected _____ Date _____

RESOLUTION NO. R13

SUBJECT: Resolution asking the American Legion to change eligibility requirements for the American Legion Auxiliary

Submitted by: American Legion Auxiliary Department of Arizona

WHEREAS; The mission of the American Legion Auxiliary is to support The American Legion and to honor the sacrifice of those that serve by enhancing the lives of our veterans, active-duty military and their families; and

WHEREAS; The American Legion National Constitution establishes eligibility for membership in the American Legion Auxiliary in Article XIII, Section 2; and

WHEREAS; The American Legion Auxiliary Constitution, Article III, Eligibility, Section 1, states that eligibility for membership in the American Legion Auxiliary is determined by The American Legion; and

WHEREAS; The American Legion and the American Legion Auxiliary has historically evolved its membership eligibility to reflect the full diversity of military families, including the change of "wife" to "spouse" adopted at the 2019 National Convention; and

WHEREAS; There are not only members of veteran and active-duty military families, but also members of Gold Star families that have no eligibility in the American Legion Family; and

WHEREAS; These family members want to work the mission of the American Legion Auxiliary in honor of their loved one who has served, currently serving, or gave the ultimate sacrifice; and

WHEREAS; The Internal Revenue Code Section 501(c)19, auxiliaries affiliated with veterans organizations may include members who are spouses or relatives within two degrees of consanguinity of eligible veterans; and

WHEREAS; The American Legion has the constitutional authority to define and amend eligibility for membership in the American Legion Auxiliary; now, be it

RESOLVED; The American Legion Auxiliary National Convention delegates assembled in Louisville, Kentucky August 28th through September 3rd, 2026, humbly requests that the American Legion amend Article **XIII**, Section 2 of the American Legion National Constitution to expand membership in the American Legion Auxiliary; and be it further

RESOLVED; That The American Legion changes grandmothers, mothers, sisters, spouses, and direct and adopted female descendants of members of the American Legion to now read grandparents, parents, siblings, spouses and direct and adopted female descendants of members of The American Legion; and be it further

RESOLVED; that this action will ensure that the American Legion Auxiliary continues their mission to support our veterans and active-duty military and their families.

Rationale: The 2019 change in language from wife to spouse has been positive for the ALA. However, being three generations removed since the last military draft, we now have grandfathers, fathers, and brothers with no eligibility to join The American Legion Family. A unit President in Arizona had to tell a Gold Star Father, that wanted to join and work the ALA mission in honor of his son, who gave the last full measure of devotion, that he could not join the ALA because we didn't accept fathers. We speak of inclusion, yet we do not practice it.

Even though some will argue that the ALA does not accept stepchildren or great grandchildren, that IS NOT AN American Legion or American Legion Auxiliary rule, it is an Internal Revenue Service directive for Veteran Service Organizations non-profit status.

AMERICAN LEGION AUXILIARY
RESOLUTION #1

SUBMITTED BY: American Legion Auxiliary Department of Iowa

SUBJECT: Resolution for The American Legion to change eligibility requirements for the ALA

DATE: July 18, 2026

RESOLUTION NO. _____

(Assigned by Resolutions Committee)

Whereas, The American Legion Auxiliary mission promotes service and support of veterans, military, and their families: and

Whereas, The American Legion Auxiliary is a diverse and inclusive organization: and

Whereas, The American Legion Auxiliary seeks to be an organization inclusive of anyone who supports veterans, military, and their families; and

Whereas, Eligibility for membership in The American Legion Auxiliary is determined by the American Legion: and

Whereas, The American Legion Changed their governing documents to allow all spouses of veterans to become members of the American Legion Auxiliary in 2019: and

Whereas, The American Legion Auxiliary changed its Constitution in 2019 to update without American Legion Auxiliary governing board action should The American Legion further change its Constitution regarding eligibility For the American Legion Auxiliary: and

Whereas, The most recently revised IRS regulation for 501(c)(19) organization states <https://www.irs.gov/charities-non-profits/other-non-profits/vetrans-organizations>: **A veterans post or organization must meet the following requirements to be exempt under Section 501(c)(19):**

1. It must be organized in the United States or any of its possessions
2. At least 75 percent of its members must be past or present members of the United States Armed Forces
3. At least 97.5 percent of its members must be:
 - o present or former members of the United States Armed Forces,
 - o cadets (including only students in college or university ROTC programs or at Armed Services academies) or
 - o spouses, widows, widowers, ancestors, or lineal descendants of individuals referred to in the first or second bullet
4. It must be operated exclusively for one or more of the following purposes:
 - o to promote the social welfare of the community (e.g., to promote the common good and general welfare of the people of the community
 - o to assist disabled and needy war veterans and members of the United States Armed Forces and their dependents - and the widows and orphans of deceased veterans
 - o to provide entertainment, care, and assistance to hospitalized veterans or members of the United States Armed Forces
 - o to carry on programs to perpetuate the memory of deceased veterans and members of the United States Armed Forces and comfort their survivors
 - o to conduct programs for religious, charitable, scientific, literary or educational purposes
 - o to sponsor or participate in activities of a patriotic nature

- to provide insurance benefits for members or their dependents or
 - to provide social and recreational activities for members
5. No part of its net earnings may inure to the benefit of any private shareholder or individual: and

Whereas, the most recently revised IRS regulation for 501(c)(19) organization states <https://www.irs.gov/charities-non-profits/other-non-profits/vetrans-organizations>: **An organization may be exempt under Section 501(c)(19) as an auxiliary unit or society of a veterans' post or organization if it meets the following requirements:**

1. It is affiliated with, and organized in accordance with the bylaws and regulations of, a veterans' post or organization described above
2. At least 75 percent of its members are veterans, spouses of veterans, or related to a veteran within two degrees of consanguinity (i.e., grandparent, brother, sister, grandchild represent the most distant allowable relationships)
3. All members are either members of a veterans' post or organizations described above, or spouses of a member of such post or organization, or are related to a member of such post or organization within two degrees of consanguinity
4. No part of its net earning inures to the benefit of any private shareholder or individual: and

now, therefore, be it

Resolved, The American Legion Auxiliary National Convention delegates assembled in Louisville, Kentucky, August 28 to September 3, 2026 request that The American Legion change is governing documents to allow membership in the American Legion Auxiliary for all currently non-eligible fathers, grandfathers, and brothers, related to The American Legion eligible member, within two degrees of consanguinity: and be it finally

Resolved, Should The American Legion change its governing documents to allow membership in the American Legion Auxiliary for all currently non-eligible fathers, grandfathers, and brothers related to a The American Legion member, the American Legion Auxiliary shall immediately allow into American Legion Auxiliary membership fathers, grandfathers, and brothers related to The American Legion eligible member within two degrees of consanguinity.

Rationale: The 2019 change to the American Legion Auxiliary's Constitution to be inclusive and diversify our organization, providing eligibility to the spouses of veterans has proven to be a positive decision. It has however, left a portion of the family & descendants of the veterans who would like eligibility to support their Veterans ineligible due to gender, for any of our American Legion Family organizations (i.e., a Veteran's father, brother, or grandfather). While the mother, grandmother, and sister of a Veteran have eligibility with the American Legion Auxiliary, these male relatives remain ineligible for any American Legion organization. Changing the American Legion Auxiliary's Constitution to allow for the inclusion of these male relatives would grow our membership and strengthen our organization to support our Veterans for the future.

Creating a inclusive and diverse environment to execute our mission is significant to increasing our membership. Following the IRS regulations and expanding the eligibility of our membership eliminates previously identified barriers that will make our organization better and stronger to ultimately enhance our support for our veterans, the military, and their families.

Routing:

Committee Chair Name and Signature

_____	Recommend ☐	Not Recommend ☐	Recommend with Amendment ☐
_____	Recommend ☐	Not Recommend ☐	Recommend with Amendment ☐
_____	Recommend ☐	Not Recommend ☐	Recommend with Amendment ☐