



Constitution and By-Laws

2023 - 2024

I found this very helpful information in part on the National website, it stresses the importance of keeping our governing documents up to date.

"Remember The American Legion's mandated eligibility changes that occurred at the 2019 National Convention (1: "wives" to "spouses" and 2: Legion eligibility for veterans extended to all service since World War II)? Unless you have a provision in your bylaws that automatically amends them to be consistent with the national bylaws, your unit or department has to vote the changes into your governing documents."

"The national governing documents clarify that departments and units are separate legal entities that operate independently as affiliates. However, as affiliates of the national organization, their governing documents cannot conflict with the national governing documents. Not updating your governing documents with membership eligibility changes is an example of how a unit or department's governing documents would be "in conflict" with the national governing documents."

Constitution & Bylaws are complicated, but not overwhelming.

As chairman of this committee, it is my responsibility to assist our districts and units with their governing documents when called upon to do so. I am always eager to help. There have been so many changes these past few years and it can be confusing. We have units that have no idea where their documents are, not to worry I have a couple templates on hand to assist with that. I would be happy to share those with you or if you prefer I can do that with you.

I have come to the conclusion, that every unit in our department runs a little differently, as our communities are different. Your Constitution, By-laws and Standing Rules should reflect that.

Some ask, "what are standing rules?" It is recommended that anything that may change in the foreseeable future be put in the standing rules, i.e., Dues, meeting times and place, projects you do for our veterans.

After you complete your updates and revisions please send a signed copy to the Department Secretary, Joann Babbitt, 804 10th South, Nampa, ID 83651-4553. Emailing me a copy is also helpful, as if there is a copy on file and yours is ever lost or misplaced you can always call the office for a copy.

For God & Country,

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