

CONSTITUTION AND BYLAWS

The 2015 -2016 Auxiliary year brought many changes to our National, Department and Unit Constitution and Bylaws. As of May 19, 2016 this Department Chairman received 98 revised Constitution, Bylaws and Standing Rules and only 72 were approved. My desk still has 26 revised documents to be sent back to the respective units for corrections.

One of the biggest change was in the eligibility and starting with our Department Workshop continuing on to the Fall Conference I could have not said enough about this change but yet many units continue to submit the old wording. The other change was in the nature of our organization. The new wording states "The American Legion Auxiliary is a civilian patriotic organization of women who support the mission of the American Legion."

I applaud one Unit in particular and that is Panama City Unit 392, chairman Tina Kirchoff. After several reviews of this Unit's Constitution and Bylaws and a few phone call and emails, Tina submitted the revised document and this Unit has covered anything and everything that could possibly come up in their Standing Rules.

So many of the Units Standing Rules are so vague and they do not address who signs checks, how much money a chairman can spend on their programs, this is important to state and it will eliminate problems down the road. Other Units give Honorary Memberships to outgoing Unit Presidents, which is very nice, but they have no criteria and they should.

There are four resolutions that I know of that are being submitted which if approved will change our Departments governing documents and Units should go back and check their Standing Rules to see if these resolutions will change anything in their Unit.

It has been an honor to serve as the Department Constitution and Bylaws Chairman and I will pass to the new chairman any of the Units governing documents that have not yet been approved as we are waiting on the corrected documents.