

**CONSTITUTION & BY-LAWS**  
**AMERICAN LEGION AUXILIARY UNIT 358, Inc.**  
**Department of Florida**  
**4350 Oleander Ave.**  
**White City, FL 34982**

**February 26, 2020**

**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 percent 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 goodwill 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.

**CONSTITUTION**

**ARTICLE I – NAME**

The name of the organization shall be American Legion Auxiliary White City Unit #358, Inc., Department of Florida.

**ARTICLE II – NATURE**

- Section 1.** The American Legion Auxiliary White City Post Unit #358, Inc. is a civilian patriotic organization that supports the mission of The American Legion.
- Section 2.** American Legion Auxiliary White City Post Unit #358, Inc. shall be absolutely nonpolitical and shall not be used for dissemination of partisan principles nor for any promotion of the candidacy of any person seeking public office or preferment

### **ARTICLE III – OBJECT**

**Section 1.** The object of the American Legion Auxiliary White City Unit #358, Inc., Department of Florida shall be as stated in the Preamble to the Constitution.

### **ARTICLE IV – ELIGIBILITY**

**Section 1.** Eligibility for membership in The American Legion Auxiliary is determined by The American Legion. Eligibility requirements from The American Legion governing documents shall be provided as follows and shall be updated as appropriate.

- (1) Grandmothers, mothers, sisters, spouses, and direct and adopted female descendants of members of The American Legion.
- (2) Grandmothers, mothers, sisters, spouses, 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;
- (3) 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 of after honorable discharge; and
- (4) 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 classified as a Senior.
- (b) Junior membership shall be comprised of members under the age of eighteen (18) years whose activities shall be supervised by the Senior membership. Upon reaching the age of eighteen (18), Junior members shall automatically be admitted into Senior membership with full privileges.
- (c) Dues of both classes shall be paid annually or for life.

### **ARTICLE V- UNIT OFFICERS**

**Section 1.** The Unit shall elect annually a President, First Vice-President, Second Vice-President, Secretary, Treasurer, Chaplain, Historian and Sergeant-at-Arms, who shall serve until their successors are duly installed or as otherwise provided (or a combination of some of these officers).

## **ARTICLE VI - EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE**

**Section 1.** There shall be an Executive Committee which shall consist of all officers and up to three (3) additional members-at-large elected by the Unit. The term of office for members of the Executive Committee shall be for one year.

## **ARTICLE VII - FISCAL YEAR**

**Section 1.** The fiscal year shall be the same as that of the Department.

## **ARTICLE VIII - AMENDMENTS**

**Section 1.** This Constitution may be amended by a two-thirds (2/3) vote of the members at a regular Unit Meeting, provided the proposed amendments shall have been read at a previous meeting.

**Section 2.** Amendments not having been previously read may be adopted by the unanimous vote of the members present.

**Section 3.** This Constitution shall automatically be amended to conform to the National and Department Constitution and By-Laws and Standing Rules of the American Legion Auxiliary.

## **BY-LAWS**

### **ARTICLE I - EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE**

**Section 1.** Between meetings the government and management of this Unit shall be entrusted to the Executive Committee and all proceedings of said committee shall be presented to the Unit at the next meeting for approval.

**Section 2.** A vacancy existing in the Executive Committee from any cause other than the expiration of a term shall be filled by a majority vote of the entire committee. A person so elected shall hold office for the unexpired term of the member succeeded.

**Section 3.** A majority of the members of the Executive Committee shall constitute a quorum.

**Section 4.** Special meetings may be called by order of the President or on a written or electronic request of at least three (3) members of the Executive Committee. Uniform notice of such special meetings shall be given to all members of the Executive Committee; and, except in extreme emergency, shall be given at least forty-eight (48) hours in advance. At special meetings only business specified shall be transacted.

## **ARTICLE II - DUTIES AND POWERS OF OFFICERS**

- Section 1.** Duties of the Unit President - It shall be the duty of the President to preside at all meetings of the Unit and Unit Executive Meetings; to enforce strict observance of the Constitution and By-Laws; to appoint members of the Standing Committees; to create such other committees and appoint members thereof as deemed advisable; to perform such other duties as custom and parliamentary usage required, and to appoint all officers not otherwise provided for.
- Section 2.** Duties of the Vice-President - the First and Second Vice-Presidents in the order named, shall, when called upon, assist the President, and if absent perform her duties of the office and shall succeed to the office in case of death, resignation or removal from office.
- Section 3.** Duties of the Secretary - It shall be the duty of the Secretary to receive and answer official mail under the direction of the President; to keep on file, in a comprehensive manner, copies of all correspondence sent and received; and to send and give notice of all meetings. It shall be the duty of the Secretary to record the proceedings and transactions of all meetings of the Unit; and to keep all books, papers and records that are needed to carry on the working of the office and care for the archives of the Unit. The Secretary is hereby vested with such authority as it is necessary to carry out the duties successfully for the good of the American Legion Auxiliary.
- Section 4.** Duties of the Treasurer - It shall be the duty of the Treasurer to receive all monies belonging to the Unit and to account for them. The Treasurer shall pay the bonding fee as determined by the Department Office. The Treasurer shall maintain two (2) separate funds, namely and General and a Poppy Fund. All Poppy donations shall be placed in the Poppy Fund and be used to assist the Veteran and his/her children. The Treasurer shall keep an accounting of receipts and expenditures, making an annual report thereon and such other reports as may be deemed necessary by the Unit Executive Committee. The accounts shall be audited annually. All current bills shall be paid before transferring all funds, books, vouchers and papers belonging to the Unit to the successor.
- Section 5.** Duties of Chaplain - It shall be the duty of the Chaplain to offer prayer at the opening and closing of each meeting, and to perform such other duties as directed by the President, and to notify Department of any deceased members on a monthly basis.

- Section 6.** Duties of the Historian - It shall be the duty of the Historian to compile historical records of the Unit and make a report to the Department.
- Section 7.** Duties of the Sergeant-at-Arms: It shall be the duty of the Sergeant-at-Arms to preserve order at the meeting of the Unit and to perform such duties as may be requested by the President.

### **ARTICLE III - DUES**

- Section 1.** The annual Senior membership dues of the Unit shall be as stated in the Standing Rules which shall include the Department and National per capita. The annual dues of Junior membership shall be as stated in the Standing Rules to include the Department and National per capita.
- Section 2.** A member failing to pay annual dues, including the Unit, Department and National assessments by January 31 shall be classified as delinquent and shall be suspended from all membership privileges. Payment of back dues, after suspension, shall reinstate such member to active membership. Any member delinquent to December 31 of the year of the delinquency shall automatically be dropped from the rolls and may be reinstated only by paying all back dues or by re-establishing eligibility and making application as a new member.

### **ARTICLE IV - UNIT MEETING**

- Section 1.** The regular meeting of The American Legion Auxiliary White City Unit #358, Inc. shall be held as stated in the Standing Rules. An Executive Committee meeting shall held as stated in the Standing Rules.
- Section 2.** The number of members of a Unit that shall constitute a quorum at any regular scheduled meeting of the Unit shall be as stated in the Standing Rules.
- Section 3.** Special meetings of the Unit may be called by the President, by a majority of the Executive Committee, or upon written request of three (3) members of the Unit.

## **ARTICLE V – ELECTION**

- Section 1.** Elections shall be held annually. In order to participate in the election of the Unit Officers, a member shall have paid dues for the current fiscal year within which the election is held.
- Section 2.** Elections shall be by ballot, and a majority of the votes cast shall be necessary with the nominee declared. If there is only one person nominated for an office the ballot may be dispensed with and that nominee declared a winner.
- Section 3.** All Officers and Executive Committee members shall be elected at a meeting duly called for that purpose not more than ninety (90) days prior, nor less than fifteen (15) days prior to Department Convention.
- Section 4:** The Unit shall notify the Department Secretary of the names and addresses of such newly elected officers, not less than ten (10) days prior to Convention, certification to be made on forms furnished by Department.
- Section 5.** Vacancies in office between annual elections shall be filled by the Executive Committee.
- Section 6.** Delegates and Alternatives to a District Constitutional Conference, or Department Convention shall be elected not less than two (2) weeks prior to the Conference or Convention. Alternates shall have priority in order of their election.

## **ARTICLE VI – COMMITTEES**

- Section 1.** The Unit shall have the following Core Committees: Americanism, Children and Youth, Constitution and By-Laws, Membership, National Security, Audit, and Veterans Affairs and Rehabilitation, and such other mission and membership/organizational support committees as provided in the Standing Rules.

## **ARTICLE VII – TRANSFERS**

- Section 1.** Transfers of membership from one Unit to another in the Department of Florida shall be upon application of the member to, and acceptance by, the other Unit, in conformity with National and Department Constitution and By-Laws

**ARTICLE VIII - DISCIPLINE**

- Section 1.** For any violation of the Unit, Department, or National Constitution, or for conduct improper and prejudicial to the welfare of the Auxiliary or The American Legion, any member may be expelled from membership or any officer removed from office by two-thirds (2/3) vote at a Unit meeting duly called for that purpose; said expulsion or removal to be binding only in the event said member or officer shall have been given at least fifteen (15) days' notice in writing by the Unit Secretary of the charges and hearing thereon. Either party may have the right to appeal to the Department Executive Committee, and their action thereon shall be final. The expense of said appeal shall be borne by the appellant.
- Section 2.** No member, or group of members, shall subject this Unit to liability without authorization of the Unit.

**ARTICLE IX - PARLIAMENTARY AUTHORITY**

- Section 1.** The Unit organization shall be governed by "Robert's Rules of Order, Newly Revised" on all points not covered in National and/or Department Constitution and By-Laws.

**ARTICLE X - AMENDMENTS**

- Section 1.** These By-laws may be amended by two-thirds (2/3) vote of the members present at a regular meeting provided the proposed amendments shall have been read at a previous Unit meeting.
- Section 2.** Amendments not having been previously read may be adopted the unanimous vote of the members present
- Section 3.** These By-Laws shall automatically be amended to conform to the National and Department Constitution and By-laws and Standing Rules of The American Legion Auxiliary.

**THIS CONSTITUTION AND BY-LAWS READ, VOTED UPON AND APPROVED AT OUR MEETING ON JUNE 24, 2020.**

Patricia Outhadad

**Unit President**

6/24/20

**Date**

A Jaime Mickey

**Unit Secretary**

6/24/20

**Date**

Carla Menzali

**Department Constitution & By-Laws Chairperson**

**APPROVED**

7/3/2020

**Date**

**STANDING RULES**

1. The regular scheduled meeting of the American Legion Auxiliary White City Unit #358., Inc. shall be held on the 4th Wednesday of each month and shall be called to order at 5:00 pm during summer daylight savings time and revert back to 4:00 pm for winter daylight savings time. An Executive Committee meeting shall be held at the discretion of the President.
2. Four (4) members present at any regular scheduled meeting of the Unit shall constitute a quorum.
3. The annual Senior membership dues of the Unit shall be \$30.00, and the annual dues of the Junior membership shall be \$8.00 both to include Department and National per capita.
4. In addition to the Core Committees listed in the Bylaws, the Unit shall have the following committees: AEF, Community Service, Constitution & Bylaw, Girl's State, Membership, Poppy.
5. Unit elected officers consisting of the President and Treasurer are authorized to sign checks for the disbursement of funds from the Unit treasury. All checks MUST have two signatures.
6. All members responsible for Unit funds shall be bonded through the blanket Fidelity Bond and the Unit will pay the annual premium to the Department Headquarters.
7. During times of National emergency, meetings may be held in person, via telephone or electronic means. In addition, voting may be by voice, ballot, email or other electronic means.
8. Budget and Audit Committees composed of three members, including the Unit Treasurer shall be appointed by the President for the purpose of presenting a budget for the ensuing year; and to audit the Treasurer's accounts at the close of each term and make a report of the budget and audit to the Unit.
9. A nominating committee composed of three members shall be for the purpose of presenting a slate of officers for the ensuing year. The committee shall have the permission of each candidate for an office in order to be presented. This committee is to form no later than two (2) months prior to election.

The Unit shall be guided by the Code of Ethics as published in the National Auxiliary Standing Rules on pages 23-27.

Standing Rules are adopted by a majority vote and may be amended by two-thirds (2/3) vote at any meeting, or if notice has been given, by a majority vote.

**THESE STANDING RULES WERE READ, VOTED ON AND APPROVED AT**

**OUR MEETING ON APRIL 28, 2021**

*Patricia Haddad*  
Unit President

*A. Jayne Hickey*  
Unit Secretary

*A. Jayne Hickey*  
Constitution and By Laws Chairman

*4/28/2021*  
Date

**Department Constitution & Bylaws Chairman**

**Date Approved**

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