

CONSTITUTION AND BYLAWS OF
AMERICAN LEGION AUXILIARY
MICHAEL J. CICERO, UNIT #173, INC.
DEPARTMENT OF FLORIDA
P.O. BOX 3572
HOLIDAY, FLORIDA 34692

January 19, 2023

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 this organization shall be *American Legion Auxiliary Michael J. Cicero, Unit #173, Inc., Department of Florida.*

ARTICLE II – NATURE

Section 1: American Legion Auxiliary Michael J. Cicero, Unit #173 Inc., is a civilian patriotic service organization that supports the mission of The American Legion.

Section 2: American Legion Auxiliary Michael J. Cicero, Unit #173 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

The object of the American Legion Auxiliary Michael J. Cicero Unit#173, 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. The eligibility requirements from The American Legion governing documents shall be provided as follows and shall be updated as appropriate.

- grandmothers, mothers, sisters, spouses, and direct and adopted female descendants of members of The American Legion; and
- 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;

- 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
- 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.

- 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.
- 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.
- Dues for 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, Sergeant-at-Arms, Assistant Sergeant-at-Arms who shall serve until their successors are duly installed or as otherwise provided.

ARTICLE VI – EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

There shall be an Executive Committee, which shall consist of all officers and 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

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

ARTICLE VIII – AMENDMENTS

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

Section 2: Amendments not having been read at the previous meeting may be adopted by the unanimous vote of the members present.

Section 3: This Constitution shall be automatically amended to conform to the National and Department Constitution and Bylaws and Standing Rules of the American Legion Auxiliary.

BYLAWS

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 on the Executive Committee, from any cause other than 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 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 Bylaws; to appoint members of Standing Committees; to create such other committees and appoint members thereof as deemed advisable; to perform other such 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 the duties of the office and shall succeed to the office in case of death, resignation or removal.

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 of the office 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 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 a General Fund, and 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 the 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 the Chaplain – It shall be the duty of the Chaplain to offer prayer at the opening and closing of each meeting, and 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 the historical records of the Unit and to 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 the 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 by only paying back dues or by re-establishing eligibility and making application as a new member.

ARTICLE IV – UNIT MEETINGS

Section 1: The regular scheduled meeting of American Legion Auxiliary, Michael J. Cicero, Unit #173 Inc., shall be held as stated in the Standing Rules. An Executive Committee meeting shall be 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, with the President notified, 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 the 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 Alternates to 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 the order of their election.

ARTICLE VI – COMMITTEES

The Unit shall have the following Core Committees: Americanism, Children & Youth, Constitution and Bylaws, Membership, National Security, Audit, Veterans Affairs and Rehabilitation, and such other mission and member/organizational support committees as provided in the Standing Rules.

ARTICLE VII – TRANSFERS

Transfer 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 Bylaws.

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 may be removed from office by a 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 the hearing thereon. Either party may have the right to appeal to the Department Executive Committee and their action thereon shall be final. The expenses of the 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

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 Bylaws.

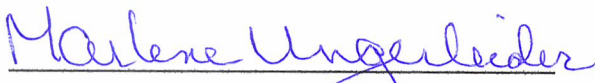
ARTICLE X - AMENDMENTS

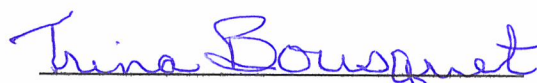
Section 1: These Bylaws may be amended by two thirds (2/3) vote of the members present at a regular meeting, provided the proposed amendments shall have been read at a previous Unit meeting.

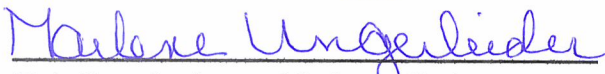
Section 2: Amendments not having been previously read may be adopted by the unanimous vote of the members present.

Section 3: These Bylaws shall automatically be amended to conform to the National and Department Constitution and Bylaws and Standing Rules of the American Legion Auxiliary.

THIS CONSTITUTION AND BYLAWS WERE READ, VOTED ON AND APPROVED AT OUR REGULAR UNIT MEETING ON , January 19, 2023.


Unit President


Unit Secretary


Unit Constitution and Bylaws Chairman

Department Constitution & Bylaws Chairman

Date Approved

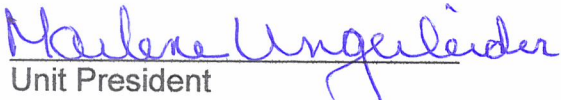
AMERICAN LEGION AUXILIARY
MICHAEL J. CICERO UNIT 173, Inc.
HOLIDAY, FLORIDA - DISTRICT 16
STANDING RULES


- Dues shall be paid annually or for life. Senior dues are \$40.00 and Junior dues for age under 18 are \$6.00.
- In case of the death of a Unit member, \$20 shall be remitted to the Department, earmarked for the Memorial Scholarship Fund and \$25 for Past Unit President. Sympathy cards shall be mailed to the next of kin.
- The Secretary of the Unit shall be responsible for purchasing the Past President's pin and the expenditure shall not exceed \$50.00. If the President has served two consecutive terms, a gift of \$50.00 will be made.
- Automatic delegates for the Department and Constitutional Convention shall be the in-coming and out-going President and Secretary. If any of the aforementioned is unable to attend, a delegate shall be elected to go in their place. If time does not permit for an election to be held for an Alternate Delegate, the delegation shall select a member for that purpose. The selectee should be willing to participate in the role of the delegate. If either the in-coming or out-going President is unable to attend, the Secretary shall be the Chairman.
- The Secretary will serve as Chairman of the Delegates for said Department Convention. They will secure a check prior to and be responsible for registering the Unit.
- All Delegates and Alternates to the Department Convention shall report on the Chairmanships assigned by the Chairman of the Delegation, at the next regular meeting.
- All Delegates are responsible for their own reservations and accommodations.
- There shall be no alcoholic beverages allowed during the Unit meeting.
- There shall be no smoking during the Unit meeting.
- Elections will be held in May, contingent on the date of the Department conference. The June Executive Committee meeting shall be attended by the incoming and outgoing Executive Committee. At the close of the June meeting, all records shall be turned over to the incoming officers.
- The Executive Committee shall serve as the Ways and Means Committee. The Second Vice President will serve as the Chairman. The Committee will discuss and make recommendations to be presented at the regular meeting of the Membership.
- Auxiliary membership pins will be available ONLY after attending two (2) general meetings. On request of a qualifying member, year pins will also be purchased. The above mentioned pins

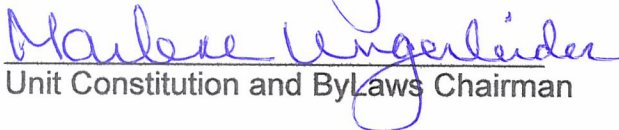
will be presented at a general meeting. The Unit will purchase incremental years commencing with 35 and over. The Unit will also recognize those Members with other number of years who have consistently contributed, volunteered hours and funds for our causes.

- The Unit will pay for lodging for the Incoming/Outgoing Presidents and the Secretary to attend the Fall Conference and Department Convention. A stipend of \$75.00 is available, upon request, for officers and/or committeeman, not to exceed three attendees, for such conferences.
- The signature card will include four signatories on the checking account. The signatories are to include the President, First Vice President, Secretary and the Treasurer. If the Secretary/Treasurer is held by one person, the President may appoint, with the Executive Committee approval, the fourth signatory.
- There shall be two signatures on all checks as required by Department.

Presented and approved at the regular meeting held on *January 19, 2023*.


Unit President


Unit Secretary


Unit Constitution and ByLaws Chairman

Department Constitution and ByLaws Chairman

Date Approved

2023