

For Reference Only

**CONSTITUTION AND BYLAWS
OF
AMERICAN LEGION AUXILIARY PLACID UNIT 25, INC.
DEPARTMENT OF FLORIDA
P. O. BOX 218
LAKE PLACID, FL 33862
&
1490 U.S. HWY. 27 NORTH
LAKE PLACID, FL 33852**

JULY 11, 2022

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 Placid Unit 25, Inc., Department of Florida.

ARTICLE II – NATURE

Section 1: American Legion Auxiliary Placid Unit 25, Inc. is a civilian patriotic service organization that supports the mission of The American Legion.

Section 2: American Legion Auxiliary Placid Unit 25, 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 Placid Unit 25, 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.

- (1) grandmothers, mothers, sisters, spouses, and direct and adopted female descendants of members of The American Legion; and
- (2) 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;
- (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 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, and 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 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

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 Presidents – 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. Second Vice President shall be in charge of Membership, including dues processing, and shall maintain official email data base to give notice of all meetings.

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. 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 only 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 at any monthly Unit meeting, 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.

Section 8: Where considered necessary, a recording secretary and a corresponding secretary may be elected to carry out the duties normally performed by the secretary.

Section 9: The office of secretary may be combined with that of treasurer and called “secretary-treasurer.”

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 Placid Unit 25, 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.

Section 4: Electronic meetings and voting may be held during an emergency situation or at any time a Unit's officers deem necessary. Notification of an electronic meeting and/or voting must be sent to each member of the Unit via email or regular mail if no email address is available and shall contain an agenda and any documents that participants will need to reference in advance so that participants can follow the flow of the meeting and/or voting procedure. Minutes of the electronic meeting must be created as well as recording the motions and votes.

ARTICLE V – ELECTIONS

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, 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 within 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.

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 11th day of July, 2022.

Unit President

Unit Secretary

Unit Constitution and Bylaws Chairman



**American Legion Auxiliary
Placid Unit 25**

P. O. Box 218
Lake Placid, FL 33862

March 27, 2023

Mr. Keny Gardner
American Legion Auxiliary
Department of Florida
1912 A Lee Road
Orlando, FL 32810

Re: Unit 25 Standing Rules

Dear Keny:

At our meeting on Feb. 13, 2023, Lake Placid Unit 25 revised and adopted our Standing Rules. We direct your attention to Rule #3 concerning dues increase.

Please let me know if you need any additional information. Thank you.

For God and Country,

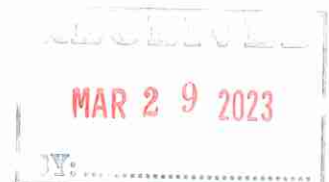
A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Linda F. Kolarik".

Linda F. Kolarik

Unit 25 Secretary

Enclosure

Cc w/encl: Ms. Harriet Martin



STANDING RULES

1. The regular scheduled meeting of American Legion Auxiliary Placid Unit 25, Inc. shall be held on 2nd Monday of each month, unless otherwise specified, and shall be called to order at 5:00 p.m. An Executive Committee meeting, if necessary, shall be held the 2nd Monday of the month and shall be called to order at 4:00 p.m. Special meetings may be called at any other date, time and place duly notified.
2. Six (6) members of this Unit shall constitute a quorum at any regular scheduled meeting of the Unit. Six (6) members of the Executive Committee shall constitute a quorum at any duly called Executive Committee meeting.
3. The annual Senior membership dues of the Unit shall be \$40 for 2023 **and \$45 beginning in 2024 (adopted 1-10-23)** to include Department and National per capita. The annual dues of the Junior membership shall be \$5 to include the Department and National per capita.
4. In addition to the Core Committees listed in the Bylaws, the Unit shall have the following Committees: Auxiliary Emergency Fund (AEF), Community Service, Education, Girls State, Cavalcade of Memories, Junior Activities, Leadership, Legislative, Past Presidents Parley, Poppy, and Public Relations.
5. Unit Officers, consisting of President, First Vice President, Second Vice President and the Treasurer are authorized to sign checks for disbursement of funds from the Unit treasury. All checks **MUST** have two (2) of the above four (4) officer signatures.
6. President may spend up to \$100 per fiscal year at her discretion on Auxiliary matters without Unit approval.
7. All Unit expenditures not covered in the Budget must be authorized by the membership prior to obligation being incurred and bills so authorized must be presented to the membership for payment.

8. All members responsible for Unit funds shall be bonded through blanket Fidelity bond and the Unit will pay the annual premium to Department Headquarters.
9. In February, a Nominating Committee composed of three (3) members, shall be appointed by the President, for the purpose of soliciting and identifying and then presenting a Slate of Officers to the Unit for the upcoming year. The Committee must have the permission of each candidate for office in order to be presented by this Committee.
10. In March, the Nominating Committee shall present its Slate of Officers for the upcoming year and the President shall call for any further nominations from the floor.
11. In April, the Unit shall hold its annual Election of Officers. President shall again call for any further nominations for any office from the floor. President shall appoint three (3) members to the Audit Committee.
12. In May, President shall appoint Core and Other Committee Chairs. Said list shall be ratified by the membership and forwarded to District President.
13. In June, the Audit Committee shall report to the Unit membership its findings after reviewing of the Unit's deposits and expenditures.
14. In June, a Budget Committee composed of three (3) members, including the Unit Treasurer, shall be appointed by the President, with concurrence of incoming President, for the purpose of preparing and presenting a budget for the ensuing year. Committee chairs should advise Budget Committee of any expected expenditures expected of by the committee.
15. Auxiliary members are encouraged to be active at the District, Department and National level. With prior Unit 25 membership approval and funds being available, reimbursement for attendance at such functions will be as follows: Department Fall Conference and other Workshops (up to 2 nights);

Department Convention (up to 3 nights); and National Convention (up to 6 nights). Rooms will be compensated at a rate of \$150 per night, plus \$30 per diem for delegates who attend provided they attend the majority of meetings each day. If they do not attend, an amount determined by the President shall be deducted from their reimbursement. If a husband and wife attend and the Legion is paying for room, Auxiliary will not duplicate pay for same room. **Unit 25 shall reimburse Auxiliary driver for roundtrip mileage for any District or Department function, if not reimbursed by Legion Post 25 or SAL, at Department of FL authorized reimbursement rate (for 2022-2023, the rate is \$.25 per mile). After second and discussion, motion passed. (Adopted 12-19-22)**

16. June 1st is Close of Books and it shall be the annual goal of Unit 25 to work toward obtaining 100% membership each year.
17. Installation of Officers takes place at the time and manner set by Post 25. The outgoing Auxiliary President shall coordinate with Commander on the plans for such installation (food, drinks and decorations). Unit shall present installing officer with a monetary give. Outgoing Unit President shall receive a Past President's pin or gift of equal value. Officers assume office immediately following Installation of Officers.
18. At next Unit meeting following Installation, Budget committee will present its budget for the upcoming fiscal year. Membership may propose changes from the floor. Budget shall be ratified by the membership.
19. Being an Officer is a serious commitment which requires faithful attendance at as many meetings as possible. Any officer absent for three (3) consecutive meetings, without valid reasons acceptable to the President, may be asked to resign.
20. No smoking will be allowed during regularly scheduled meetings. A member may bring an alcoholic drink into the meeting; however, Sergeant at Arms may ask any member to leave meeting for any disorderly conduct.
21. Unit 25 membership list is private property of Unit and shall not be made

available to any prospective candidate for public office nor any outside organization or group of people not associated with the American Legion Auxiliary Unit 25.

22. Any member participating in Unit activities is encouraged to wear an Auxiliary shirt and/or Auxiliary name badge.
23. Any member attending any Legion family funeral or memorial service is encouraged to wear white blouse with Auxiliary pin and name badge and black- or navy-colored slacks or skirt.
24. The Unit shall be guided by the Code of Ethics as published in the National Auxiliary Standing Rules on pages 22-28.

Standing Rules are adopted by a majority vote and may be amended by two-thirds (2/3) vote at any meeting if notice has been given or by a majority vote without notice.

THESE STANDING RULES WERE READ, VOTED ON AND APPROVED AT OUR REGULAR UNIT MEETING ON 13th DAY OF FEBRUARY, 2023.

Patricia Bloom

Unit 25 President

Linda J. Kalanik

Unit 25 Secretary

Linda J. Kalanik

Unit 25 Constitution and Bylaws Chairman

Department of Florida
Constitution & Bylaws Chairman

Date Approved