

**CONSTITUTION, BYLAWS AND STANDING RULES**

**OF**

**AMERICAN LEGION AUXILIARY**

**BOCA RATON UNIT 277, INC**

**DEPARTMENT OF FLORIDA**

**FEBRUARY 1, 2024**

**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 the Great 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 Boca Raton Unit 277, Inc. Department of Florida.

**ARTICLE II - NATURE**

**Section 1:** The American Legion Auxiliary Boca Raton Unit 277, Inc is a civilian patriotic service organizational of women that supports the mission of The American Legion.

**Section 2:** The American Legion Auxiliary Boca Raton Unit 277, Inc shall be absolutely nonpolitical and shall not be used for the 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, Boca Raton Unit No 277, Inc Department of Florida shall be as stated in the Preamble of the Constitution.

## **ARTICLE IV - ELIGIBILITY**

**Section 1:** Membership in the American Legion Auxiliary shall be limited to the grandmothers, mothers, sisters, wives and direct and adopted female descendants of members of The American Legion, and to the grandmothers, mothers, sisters, wives and direct and adopted female descendants of all men and women who were in the Armed Forces of the United States during any of the following periods: April 6, 1917 to November 11, 1918; December 7, 1941 to December 31, 1946; June 25, 1950 to January 31, 1955; February 28, 1961 to May 7, 1975; August 24, 1982 to July 31, 1984; December 20, 1989 to January 31, 1990; August 2, 1990 to the date of cessation of hostilities as determined by the Government of the United States, all dates inclusive, or who, being, citizens 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 any of said periods, and died in line of duty or 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.

- A. Senior membership shall be composed of members age of eighteen (18) or older; provided, however, that a wife under the age of eighteen years, who is eligible under Section 1 of this article shall be classed as a Senior.
- B. Junior membership shall consist of that group under the age of eighteen (18) years, whose activities shall be supervised by the Senior membership. Upon reaching the age of eighteen years, 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, Assistant 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 the 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 a two-thirds (2/3) vote of the members present at a regular Unit meeting, provided the proposed amendments shall have been read at the previous meeting.

**Section 2:** Amendments not having been read at the previous meeting may 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 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 she succeeds.

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

**Section 4:** Special meetings may be called by order of the President or on written request of at least three (3) members of the Executive Committee. Uniform notice of such special meeting 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 Committee; 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 she deems advisable; to perform such other duties as custom and parliamentary usage require 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 in her absence, perform her duties, and shall succeed her in 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. She is hereby vested with such authority as it is necessary to carry out 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. She shall pay the bonding fee as determined by the Department Office. She shall maintain two (2) separate funds, namely a General Fund 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. She shall keep an accounting of her receipts and expenditures, making an annual report thereon, and such other reports as may be deemed necessary by the Unit Executive Committee. Her accounts shall be audited annually. She shall pay all current bills before transferring all funds, books, vouchers and papers belonging to the Unit to her 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 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 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 this 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 classed 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 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 MEETINGS**

**Section 1:** The regular meetings of the American Legion Auxiliary, Boca Raton Unit 277 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 this 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:** Five (5) members shall constitute a Quorum at any meeting 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 her 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.

**Section 6:** Delegates and alternates to a District Constitutional Conference, or a 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 Constitutions and Bylaws.

Department Constitutions 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 of 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 the hearing thereon. Either party may have the right of 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

The Unit organization shall be governed by "Robert's Rules or Order, Newly Revised," on all points not covered by this Constitution and Bylaws.

### ARTICLE X – AMENDMENTS

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

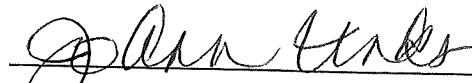
**Section 2:** Amendments not having been previously read may be adopted by the unanimous vote of the members present.

**Section 3:** These Bylaws shall be automatically amended to conform to the National and Department Constitutions and Bylaws and standing rules of the American Legion Auxiliary.

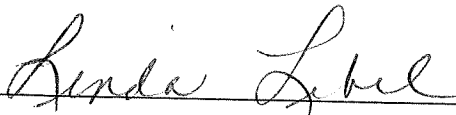
THIS CONSTITUTIONS AND BYLAWAS WERE READ, VOTED ON AND APPROVED AT OUR REGULAR MEETING ON \_\_\_/\_\_\_/\_\_\_



Tammy, Procino, Unit President



JoAnn Unks, Unit Secretary



Unit Constitution and By Laws Chair

2/1/2024

Date Approved

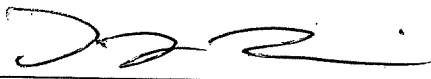
Department Constitution and Bylaws Chair

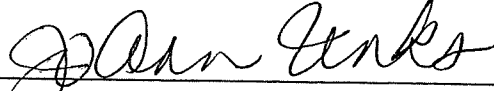
Date Approved

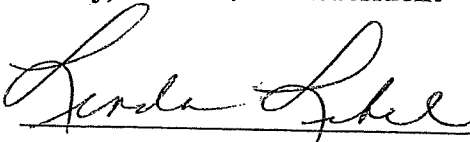
## STANDING RULES

1. The regular meetings of the American Legion Auxiliary, Boca Raton Unit 277 shall be held on the 1<sup>st</sup> Thursday of each month at 6:30pm at 340 NE 23<sup>rd</sup> Street, Boca Raton, FL 33431 or another appropriate location based on availability. An Annual meeting of this Unit shall be held in the month of April each year for the purpose of electing officers and receiving annual reports.
2. Five (5) members of this Unit shall constitute a quorum at any regular meeting.
3. The annual Senior membership dues of this Unit shall be \$45.00 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: 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 elected Officers, consisting of four, are authorized to sign checks for disbursement of funds from the Unit treasury, All checks MUST have two of the four signatures above.
6. All members responsible for Unit funds shall be bonded through a blanket Fidelity bond and the Unit will pay the annual premium to Department.
7. Where deemed necessary, a Recording Secretary and Corresponding Secretary may be elected/appointed to carry on the duties normally performed by the Secretary.
8. A Budget Committee composed of three (3) members, including the Unity Treasurer, shall be elected by the members, or appointed by the President, for the purpose of presenting a budget for the ensuing year.
9. A Nominating Committee, comprised of three (3) members, shall be elected by the members 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 by this committee. This committee is to form no later than two (2) months prior to elections.

10. The Unit shall pay, from the treasury, the sum of one hundred dollars (\$100.00) to each delegate or alternate who represents the Unity at the Department Convention, when the Executive Committee determines funds are available.
11. Any American Legion Auxiliary Junior member who would like to attend Girl's State and is a member in good standing of Unit 277 shall have the right to go if the Unit so votes their approval.
12. In the interests of unity and harmony, Unit members will not discuss unit business at the bar.
13. All awards and citations shall become the property of the Unit's historian until such time as a specified dispersion is made. All trophies shall become the property of the Unit and be kept on display in the post home until such time as specified dispersion is made or be stored during the temporary closure of the post.

  
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 Tammy, Procino, Unit President

  
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 JoAnn Unks, Unit Secretary

  
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 Unit Constitution and By Laws Chair

2/1/2024  
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 Date Approved

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 Department Constitution and Bylaws Chair

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 Date Approved

Standing Rules amended on 02/01/2024