

CONSTITUTION AND BYLAWS
OF
AMERICAN LEGION AUXILIARY
JOHN F. MURPHY UNIT 303, INC.
DEPARTMENT OF FLORIDA
27678 IMPERIAL SHORES BLVD.
BONITA SPRINGS, FL 34135

NOVEMBER 20, 2019

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 100% 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 John F Murphy Unit 303, Inc., Department of Florida*

ARTICLE II- NATURE

Section 1: American Legion Auxiliary John F. Murphy unit 303, Inc. is a civilian patriotic service organization that supports the mission of the American Legion.

Section 2: American Legion Auxiliary John F Murphy Unit 303, 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 American John F Murphy Unit 303, 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.: 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 anytime 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, 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.)

*Secretary is appointed.

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 1- 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 unwritten 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 they deem 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 their duties of the office and shall succeed them 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. 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. They shall pay the bonding fee as determined by the Department Office. They 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. They shall keep an accounting of their receipts and expenditures, making an annual report and thereon and such other reports as may be deemed necessary by the Unit Executive Committee. Their accounts shall be audited annually. They shall pay all current bills before transferring all funds, books, vouchers and papers belonging to the Unit to their 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 reestablishing eligibility and making application as a new member.

ARTICLE IV- UNIT MEETINGS

Section 1: The regular scheduled meeting of American Legion Auxiliary, John F. Murphy Unit 303, 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 and 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 be 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 PROCEDURE

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 MEETING ON December 13, 2022

X Muse Seidahl
Unit President

Veronica Crawford
Unit Secretary

X Veronica Crawford
Unit Constitution and Bylaws Chairman

X _____
Department Constitution & Bylaws Chairman.

Date Approved

STANDING RULES

1. The regular scheduled meeting with American Legion Auxiliary John F. Murphy Unit 303, Inc., shall be held on the second Tuesday of each month, unless otherwise specified and shall be called to order at 6:30 PM. The Executive Committee shall meet annually. The meeting shall be held in the first month following the installation of officers, on the second Tuesday at 6:00 PM.
2. One third (1/3) of the members of the Executive Committee of this Unit shall constitute a quorum at any regular scheduled meeting of the Unit.
3. The annual senior membership dues of the Unit shall be **\$40** to include Department and National per capita. The annual dues of the Junior membership should be \$6.00 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 President Parley, Poppy, and Public Relations.
5. Unit elected Officers, consisting President, 1st Vice President and Treasurer are authorized to sign checks for disbursement of funds from the Unit treasury. All checks must have two of the three above 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 Department Headquarters.
7. Where deemed necessary, a Recording Secretary and a 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 Unit Treasurer, shall be elected by the members, or appointed by the President, for the purpose of presenting a budget for the ensuing year. The Budget will be set at an annual Executive Committee meeting, and presented to the Membership for approval at the next regular meeting. The "books" will be audited once a year, at the end of the fiscal year. The Auditing committee may employ an outside professional auditor/CPA to verify that the "books" are in order.
9. A Nominating Committee, composed 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 election.

10. All applications for membership shall be voted upon at the next regularly scheduled general membership meeting following the making of such application. Vote may either be oral or ballot. Vote may be excepted, rejected for further investigation or consideration. Proposed applicant should not be present during the voting process. Applicant should be escorted from the room and brought back only after the vote is complete.
11. The outgoing president shall be responsible for organizing the installation program for newly elected officers in concert with the post.
12. The outgoing officers shall leave a minimum of \$1500 in the general fund for incoming officers to pay their initial obligations, if at all possible.
13. The outgoing President shall be responsible for organizing the installation program for newly elected officers in concert with the post.
14. Any member with at least 40 years continuous membership may qualify for their dues to be paid by the Unit. Honorary memberships will also be given to Presidents completing two years of office.
15. During a Unit meeting, NO Unit 303 members shall remain at the bar or be served a drink from the bar. Alcoholic beverages are not allowed in the meeting. No smoking is allowed at the meetings.
16. Each officer will be given a Unit guide purchased by the Unit. Also, any chairman that desires one will be given a Unit Guide.
17. The president has the authority to spend up to \$100 in emergency cases, up to two times a year, without previous consent, as long as she brings proof of transaction to the next meeting.
18. Our Poppy days will be Veterans Day and Memorial Day each year. These days can only be changed with notice to the Department.
19. Delegates to Department Convention, Fall Conference or Workshop, will have their room(s) paid (double occupancy.) Transportation should try to be "pooled", with the driver being paid \$.38 per mile driven, for gas. Delegates are to attend Friday and Saturday General Sessions, all day, plus any "break-out" workshops possible. If monies are available, the delegates may receive \$30 per day, toward their food purchases.
20. Prior to a natural disaster, it is advisable to digitalize all important documents, create a virtual library of awards and certificates earned, continue to add to the Unit Email list for instant communication, create a membership travel kit and assign a person to gather the Charter, gavel, podium, flags, etc. for their safe keeping.

THESE STANDING RULES WERE READ, VOTED ON AND APPROVED AT
OUR REGULAR UNIT MEETING ON December 13 2022.

X Muse Seidahl
UNIT PRESIDENT

X Veronica Crawford
UNIT SECRETARY

X Veronica Crawford
UNIT CONSTITUTION AND BYLAWS CHAIRMAN

X _____
DEPARTMENT CONSTITUTION & BYLAWS CHAIRMAN

X _____
DATE APPROVED

