

**American Legion Auxiliary**  
**Sonny Andrews Bicentennial Unit #333**

2 Seagate Blvd.  
Key Largo, FL 33037

MAY 23 2024

CONSTITUTION

**PREAMBLE**

For God and Country, we associate ourselves together for the following purposes; To uphold and defend the Constitution on 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 good will 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 out devotion to mutual helpfulness.

ARTICLE I

NAME

The name of this organization shall be American Legion Auxiliary, Sonny Andrews Bicentennial Unit no. 333 Department of Florida.

ARTICLE II

NATURE

Section 1: American Legion Auxiliary is a civilian patriotic service organization of women who support the mission of the American Legion.

Section 2: American Legion Auxiliary Sonny Andrews Bicentennial Unit # 333 shall be absolutely non-political and shall not be used for the dissemination of partisan principles nor for the promotion of candidacy of any person seeking public office or preferment.

ARTICLE III

OBJECT

Section 1: The object of the American Legion Auxiliary, Sonny Andrews Bicentennial Unit 333, Department of Florida, shall be as stated in the preamble of the Constitution.

to Dec 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 scheduled meeting of the American Legion Auxiliary, Sonny Andrews Bicentennial Unit # 333, 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 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, or upon written request of 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 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 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**  
**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 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 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 proceeding 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 she succeeds.

Section 3: One-third 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 request of at least three 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 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 the 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 President 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 need 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 her duties successfully for the good of the American Legion Auxiliary.

**Section 4: Duties of the Treasurer-** It shall be the duty of the Unit 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 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 Unit 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 other 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, State 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 privileges. Any member delinquent

**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 directed 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: Aril 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 herein, 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 are eligible for membership in the American Legion.

Section 2: There shall b two classes of membership. Senior and Junior.

a. Senior membership shall be the group of members over the age of eighteen years; provided however, that a wife under the age of eighteen years, who is eligible under

Section I of this article shall be classed as a Senior member.

b. Junior membership shall consist of that group under the age of eighteen years, whose activities shall be supervised by the Senior membership. Upon reaching the age of eighteen years, Junior members shall automatically be admitted into the 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.)

\* Secretary may be elected or appointed.

Section 2: The President elect shall appoint a Recording Secretary before the date of installation.

Section 3: The office of Secretary may be combined with that of the Treasurer and called "Secretary-Treasurer."

**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**  
**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, State or National Constitutions, 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 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 Unity Secretary of the charges and the hearing thereon. Either party has the right to appeal to the Department Executive Committee, or their action thereon shall be final. The expense related to said appeal shall be the responsibility of 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 the current edition of "Robert's Rules of 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 vote of the members present at a regular Unit 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.