

Section 13. In case of a vacancy in an elective, appointive, or Ex officio District Office, including, but not limited to membership on the District or Department Executive Committee, District Vice Commanders, or any other such District Office, occurring after the District Spring Conference, except as otherwise provided, the District Commander shall fill such vacancy for the unexpired term of such office, provided, however, that such appointment be confirmed by the District Executive Committee at its first meeting following the appointment.

ARTICLE IX

POST ORGANIZATION

Section 1. The Officers of the Post shall be as follows: A Post Commander; one or more Post Vice Commanders; a Post Adjutant; a Post Finance Officer; a Post Historian and Publicity Officer; a Post Chaplain, a Post Service Officer; a Post Child Welfare Officer; and such other officers as the Post shall determine. All officers, except the Post Commander and the Post Vice Commanders, may be appointed by the Post Commander in the manner provided in the Bylaws of the Post. The officers of Post Adjutant, Post Finance Officer and Post Service Officer, or any two thereof, may be held by one person if the Post so desires.

Section 2. All elective Post Officers shall be chosen at a regular meeting of the Post, or at a special meeting called for said purpose, to be held not more than forty-five days nor less than ten days preceding the Department Convention, and shall be inducted into office at the first Post meeting following the Convention.

Section 3. Each Post shall submit a certified copy of its Constitution and Bylaws to the Department Headquarters and shall further submit to Department Headquarters a certified copy of all amendments thereof within thirty days of adoption.

ARTICLE X

MUNICIPAL ORGANIZATION

Section 1. In order to provide for concert of action and the proper coordination of ideas, a committee to be known as a Municipal Council shall be provided for in each municipality where there are five or more posts, when requested by a majority of the posts in the municipality.

Section 2. The Department Executive Committee shall provide rules and regulations setting forth in detail the personnel, limitations and authority of the Municipal Councils.

ARTICLE XI

FINANCE

Section 1. The revenue of THE LOUISIANA DEPARTMENT OF THE AMERICAN LEGION shall be derived from annual membership dues and from such other sources as may be approved by the Department Executive Committee.

Section 2. The amount of such annual dues shall be determined by each Department Convention for the ensuing year.

Section 3. The annual dues fixed by the National Convention and dues fixed by the Department Convention shall be collected by each Post and transmitted to the Department Finance Officer, who shall forward the National dues to the National Treasurer.

Section 4. The Department Finances shall be arranged and managed under a budget system and all matters pertaining to the finances of THE LOUISIANA DEPARTMENT OF THE AMERICAN LEGION shall be administered by the Department Commission on Finance with the approval and consent of the Department Executive Committee subject to the mandate or mandates of the Department Convention pertaining to finance

Section 5. Any request for extra or special appropriations must be submitted in writing to the Department Headquarters not less than fifteen (15) days prior to the opening day of the Annual Department Convention. Special appropriations are defined as any appropriation which has not, by practice or custom, been regularly included in previous operating expenses or specifically and successively included in previous budgets.

Section 6. Annual dues for the ensuing year shall be due on October 20th of each year.

ARTICLE XII

DISCIPLINE

Section 1. The Department Executive Committee may suspend, cancel or revoke a Post Charter. The action taken by the Department Executive Committee shall be final and conclusive unless an appeal is taken to the National Executive Committee within thirty days from the date of said suspension, cancellation or revocation. The action taken by the National Executive Committee upon appeal shall be final.

Section 2. The Department Executive Committee may provide for the government and administration of a Post during its suspension or upon revocation of its charter.

Section 3. An appeal may be had to and acted upon by the Department Convention on any disciplinary measure or suspension ordered by the Department Executive Committee, except a suspension pending action by the National Executive Committee, on the revocation of a Post Charter provided, that the filing of an appeal shall not suspend the action of the Department Executive Committee until the Department Convention has acted upon it.

ARTICLE XIII

CHANGE OF RESIDENCE

Section 1. Members wishing to remove themselves from this Department and are in good standing in Posts of this Department or who while being in good standing, desire to affiliate with another Post in this Department because of a change of residence, shall be entitled to a certificate from their Post stating their membership and the duration thereof; and members shall also be entitled to such a certificate if affiliation with another Post in the parish of their residence is desired.

ARTICLE XIV

THE AMERICAN LEGION AUXILIARY

Section 1. THE LOUISIANA DEPARTMENT OF THE AMERICAN LEGION recognizes an auxiliary organization known as *The American Legion Auxiliary*.

Section 2. Membership in The American Legion Auxiliary shall be limited to those declared eligible by the national organization of The American Legion.

Section 3. The auxiliary shall be governed in this department of THE AMERICAN LEGION by such rules and regulations as may be prescribed by the National Executive Committee and thereafter approved by this Department of THE AMERICAN LEGION.

ARTICLE XV

THE SONS OF THE AMERICAN LEGION

Section 1. THE LOUISIANA DEPARTMENT OF THE AMERICAN LEGION recognizes the organization known as *The Sons of The American Legion*.

Section 2. Membership shall be restricted to those declared eligible by the National Organization of The American Legion.

Section 3. The Sons of The American Legion shall be governed in this Department by such rules and regulations as may be prescribed by the Department Executive Committee.

Section 4. All matters of policy and matters of controversial nature concerning any local Squadron of The Sons of The American Legion shall first be submitted to the local American Legion Post for advice and decision before an appeal can be made to the Detachment Organization.

ARTICLE XVI

RATIFICATION

All acts performed under preexisting constitutions are hereby ratified and confirmed.

ARTICLE XVII

AMENDMENTS

This constitution may be amended by a two-thirds ($\frac{2}{3}$) vote of the delegates present at any Department Convention and voted upon on the same day as the election of the Department Officers provided, that the proposed amendment shall be introduced and read at such convention at least twenty-four (24) hours prior to the vote thereon.

ARTICLE XVIII

INTERPRETATION

Section 1. Should any controversy or question arise with reference to the interpretation or definition of this Constitution or Bylaws provided for, the matter shall be referred to the Department Judge Advocate through Department Headquarters for decision.

Section 2. Any other controversy or question arising within THE LOUISIANA DEPARTMENT OF THE AMERICAN LEGION may be referred by Department Headquarters to the Department Judge Advocate for a decision.

Section 3. Any decision of the Department Judge Advocate rendered pursuant to the above provisions shall be final and binding upon all agencies of THE LOUISIANA DEPARTMENT OF THE AMERICAN LEGION until revoked by action of the Department Executive Committee as hereinafter provided.

Section 4. The Department Executive Committee at its first meeting following the rendering of the decision appealed from, may in its discretion revoke or amend any ruling of the Department Judge Advocate complained of by any party at interest in such appeal.

ARTICLE XIX
STYLE AND REVISION

After each convention the Department Commander shall appoint a Style and Revision Committee, whose duty it shall be to recast and frame in suitable language all amendments which may have been made to this Constitution.