



# American Legion Auxiliary Department of California Constitution and Bylaws

Bulletin #3 – November 2020

Hello Founding Mothers and Framers,

Here we are – Thanksgiving is just a couple of weeks away, and then we start the countdown to Christmas. I imagine it is on all our minds about how we are going to handle the holidays this year. Like our meetings, the holidays will not be the same as in the past.

I hope you, your District and/or your Unit is preparing for the National “Read Your Constitution and Bylaws” Day on November 14<sup>th</sup>. Have you located where to pose for the picture that will be taken? Here in Palmdale where I live, an aircraft city, I know where my Unit will be posing!

Have you noticed on the Mid-Year report that I am asking for Units and Districts to describe how you participated? Whether or not you are participating in the National “Read Your C&B”, I am looking forward to seeing what the Department of California is doing. I will personally have a gift for the winning California entry. So, make your plans today! It was my intent to request a picture of Units and Districts participating and I forgot to ask. Please send them. I am not asking for all the guidelines National has for their contest, I just want to see participation (for bragging rights). California should be and deserves to be recognized for the work we do, and we need to lift our spirits. Make this fun. Maybe your Unit can win the National award and a Department of California award! Come on – let’s do this!

**REWRITES** - If your District or Unit is due to rewrite Bylaws, you should have received notice by now. I have had a few letters returned because of incorrect addresses. Unfortunately, we have about 12 units that are extremely late, two or more years, in rewriting Bylaws. I strongly encourage these unit to take care of this as instructed in their letters.



*Electronic Meetings ...Who Knew! Taken from NP – National Parliamentarian, Official publication of the National Association of Parliamentarians; Volume 81, No 4 | Summer 2020*

**Question:** *Our organization uses Robert’s Rules, and our bylaws state that all business of the organization and of the board must be conducted during an appropriately called meeting, and the bylaws further state that both the board and the organization can meet electronically, with no additional details. I think this means we can conduct business by email; another member is arguing that we can’t, that this just means we can use teleconferences. Who is correct?*

**Answer:** *The member who stated that your organization cannot conduct business by email was correct. Under Robert’s Rules of Order Newly Revised, the intent of allowing electronic meetings is to include the use of technology, such as teleconferencing or videoconferencing, to conduct meetings. Utilizing this type of technology to meet maintains the characteristics of a deliberative assembly, meaning that all members can simultaneously hear each other and participate in debate without being present in the same location. It does not intend to allow the use of email, whereby the members cannot simultaneously hear each other and participate. Unless specifically included in the organization’s bylaws, utilization of email to conduct your organization’s business would most likely be a violation of your bylaws. It is important to understand that, regardless of the technology used, the opportunity for simultaneous aural communication is essential to the deliberative character of the meeting. Therefore, a group that attempts to*

*conduct the deliberative process in writing (such as by postal mail, e-mail, "chat rooms," or fax – which is not recommended) does not constitute a deliberative assembly. Any such effort may achieve a consultative character, but it is foreign to the deliberative process as understood under parliamentary law.*

**November Calendar:**

November 1 - Daylight Savings Changes – Fall Back  
November 10 – ALA Official Birthday  
November 10 – Marine Corps Birthday  
November 11 – Veterans Day  
NOVEMBER 14 – NATIONAL READ YOUR CONSTITUTION AND BYLAWS DAY  
November 15 – National Philanthropy Day  
November 21 – Family Volunteer Day  
November 26 – Thanksgiving Day

I didn't realize November is or could be such a busy month! It was busy enough without seeing all the additional dates shown above. There is plenty to do with some creativity.

Have a wonderful Thanksgiving but please make it safe for you and yours.

Yours in Service,

*Linda*

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