



American Legion Auxiliary Department of California Constitution and Bylaws

October 2020 Bulletin

Hello Founding Mothers and Framers,

I hope this finds everyone doing well. We have had too much happen in such a short time. My heart and prayers go out to all of you who have had to deal with cancer, COVID-19, other illnesses, deaths, loss of a home, loss of job, fires – I hope this craziness ends soon! Our world seems to have suddenly turned upside down – will it ever turn right side up? I think I can talk for most of us, *we are here for you if you need a shoulder.*

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.

There are a few issues that I have noticed when receiving rewritten bylaws and amendments. Hopefully, the following is helpful:

1. **Signatures!** Sometimes a unit does not have a C & B Chairman so the President signs on both lines. *Two different signatures are needed.* If you do not have a chairman, then the unit secretary can sign instead.
2. **Use the Guidelines** – there is a page in front of the index of the Models with guidelines. If districts and units will use these, there will be fewer Bylaws returned for corrections.
3. **Revision Date** – (I feel like a nag here!) The only Bylaws that can be accepted read “Rev November 20, 2019” at the bottom left of each page. No other revision date will be approved! In the last couple of weeks, I have received Model Bylaws from 2018 and one with multiple dates on the different pages.
4. **Officers? Are they Elected or Appointed?** – Article IV – Unit Officers: This Article seems to be confusing.
 - a. **Section 1.** The Officers of this Unit shall be: President, First Vice President, Second Vice President, Secretary, Treasurer, Historian, Chaplain, Sergeant-at-Arms, Assistant Sergeant-at-Arms, Parliamentarian, Junior Past President, and Executive Committee. Your Executive Committee counts as one office, but you can have from 1 to 3 persons or more on the Committee. **(The only Optional officers are the Assistant Sergeant-at-Arms and the Parliamentarian.)**
 - b. **Section 2.** From the list of officers in Section 1, the *elected* Officers are: President, First Vice President, Second Vice President, Secretary, Treasurer, and the Executive Committee. If your Secretary and Treasurer are combined into one position, show that with the slash: Secretary/Treasurer. Otherwise, keep the two positions separated. NOTE: Other Officers may be elected, and are to be included on the blank lines, *or*:
 - c. **Section 3.** The remaining officers are *appointed by the President* and listed on the lines provided. Junior Past President does not need to be listed as they are automatically included.

- d. Optional Officers. If you do not have an Assistant Sergeant-at-Arms or Parliamentarian, please draw a line through the duties of those positions.

On September 4th, I sent out information and a flyer regarding the "National American Legion Auxiliary Read Your Constitution and Bylaws Day" to be held on November 14. They are posted on the Department's website under Bulletins. The information is also shown below.



ALA National Read Your Constitution & Bylaws Day November 14, 2020

Why Create a Day to Highlight Reading Governing Documents?

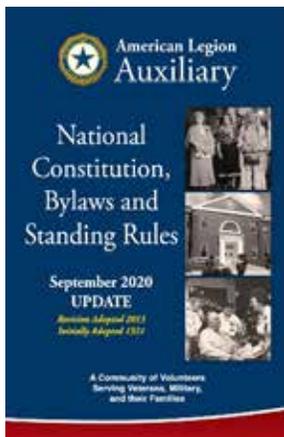
1. Greater understanding of governing documents is needed across all levels of the American Legion Auxiliary
2. It's time to encourage activism and energy around reading the organization's governing documents
3. The COVID pandemic has illuminated the need for members to become more knowledgeable about their governing documents

Get Your Mask • Get Your Governing Documents • Get Involved • Join Us!

- Urge your members to acquire their governing documents and commit to reading them on November 14, 2020 (and throughout the year) – Take Photos!
- \$50.00 Gift Card Challenge - Acquire the ALA National Constitution & Bylaws and submit an entry for one of two gift cards that will be awarded at ALA National Convention 2021. Awards will be based upon: **Most creative and Best location utilizing an American recognizable landmark**

Photo submission requirements:

- Members in photo must be branded with the ALA emblem and reading the ALA National Constitution & Bylaws booklet (This booklet is in stock in Emblem Sales)
- The bright blue ALA National Constitution and Bylaws booklet must be visible in the picture(s)
- Winners of the gift card must use the funds to support the ALA mission in their state
- Teams must be at the actual landmark (not a photograph of the landmark behind them) to qualify
- No photoshopping or digital photo alternation allowed
- Photos can be taken at ANY TIME throughout the year (not just on November 14, 2020)
- Deadline for photo submission is June 1, 2021
- Photos should be sent to Trish Ward via email to tbw_ksaux@yahoo.com



Please feel free to contact me with any questions you may have. Have a safe Halloween!

Yours in Service,

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