

**SPRINGFIELD AMERICAN LEGION AUXILIARY, UNIT 176
CONSTITUTION**

AMERICAN LEGION AUXILIARY 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 one hundred percent Americanism; to preserve the memories and incidents of our associations in 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 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 our devotion to mutual helpfulness.

AMERICAN LEGION AUXILIARY MISSION AND VISION

MISSION STATEMENT

In the spirit of Service, Not Self, the mission of the American Legion Auxiliary is to support The American Legion and to honor the sacrifice of those who serve by enhancing the lives of our veterans, military, and their families, both at home and abroad. For God and Country, we advocate for veterans, educate our citizens, mentor youth, and promote patriotism, good citizenship, peace and security.

VISION STATEMENT

The vision of the American Legion Auxiliary is to support The American Legion while becoming the premier service organization and foundation of every community providing support for our veterans, our military, and their families by shaping a positive future in an atmosphere of fellowship, patriotism, peace and security.

ARTICLE I

NAME

Section 1: The name of this organization shall be The American Legion Auxiliary, Springfield Unit No. 176 Department of Virginia Inc.

ARTICLE II

NATURE

Section 1: The American Legion Auxiliary, Springfield Unit No. 176, is a civilian patriotic service organization that supports the mission of The American Legion.

Section 2: The American Legion Auxiliary shall be absolutely nonpolitical and shall not be used for the dissemination of partisan principles nor for any promotion of the candidacy of any person seeking public office or preferment. (No candidate for nomination or election to, or no incumbent or, any remunerative elective office shall hold any elective office of any appointive remunerative office in Springfield Unit No. 176, provided that members of the Unit, Standing or Special Committees shall not be affected.

ARTICLE III

PURPOSES AND VALUES

In fulfillment of our Mission, the American Legion Auxiliary adheres to the following purposes:

- To support and advocate for veterans, active military and their families
- To support the initiatives and programs of The American Legion
- To foster patriotism and responsible citizenship
- To award scholarships and promote quality education and literacy
- To provide educational and leadership opportunities that uphold the ideals of freedom and democracy and encourage good citizenship and patriotism in government
- To increase our capacity to deliver our Mission by providing meaningful volunteer opportunities within our communities
- To empower our membership to achieve personal fulfillment through Service Not Self

Our statement of values is predicated on the founding purposes:

- Commitment to the four founding principles: Justice, Freedom, Democracy, Loyalty
- Service to God, our country, its veterans and their families
- Tradition of patriotism and citizenship
- Personal integrity and family values
- Respect for the uniqueness of individual members
- Truthful open communication in dealing with the public and our members
- Adherence to the adopted policies and rules

ARTICLE IV

ELIGIBILITY

Section 1: Membership in The American Legion Auxiliary, Springfield Unit No. 176, shall be limited to the:

- (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 periods: 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 any time 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 or after honorable discharge; and
 - (4) to those women who of their own right are eligible for membership in The American Legion. A woman who is eligible for American Legion membership is eligible to join the American Legion Auxiliary regardless of whether **the individual** is a member of The American Legion. However, eligibility of her relatives (spouse, sister, mother, grandmother, daughter, and granddaughter) to join the American Legion Auxiliary depends upon **the individual's** membership in The American Legion.

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

- a) Senior members are those who are age 18 or older and those under the age of 18 years and married. Junior members are defined in the ALA National Constitution as under the age of 18 years whose activities shall be supervised by the Senior membership. Upon reaching the age of 18 years, Junior members are automatically admitted into Senior membership with full privileges. Dues of both classes shall be paid annually or for life.

ARTICLE V

UNIT OFFICERS

Section 1: The Unit shall elect annually a President, Vice-President, Treasurer, Chaplain, Historian, Sergeant-at-Arms and Assistant Sergeant-at-Arms.

Section 2: The Unit Secretary shall be appointed by the Unit President.

ARTICLE VI

UNIT EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Section 1: Between regular meetings of this Unit, the administrative power shall be vested in a Unit Executive Committee (ExCom) which shall be composed of the Unit Officers, the Junior Past President, and the Chairs for active Committees including but not limited to Americanism, Children and Youth, Community Service, Legislative, Membership, National Security, Poppy, Veterans Affairs and Rehabilitation, and Ways and Means Committees.

Section 2: The term of office for members of the ExCom will be one year or until their successors are elected.

ARTICLE VII

FISCAL YEAR

Section 1: The Fiscal Year shall conform to the Department Fiscal Year of October 1 through September 30.

ARTICLE VIII

AMENDMENTS

Section 1: This Constitution may be amended:

- a) By two-thirds vote of the members present at any regular meeting, provided that all proposed amendments shall have been read and distributed at the previous meeting and that the membership shall have been notified in writing that such a vote is to be taken (i.e., in Post Scripts);
or
- b) By unanimous vote of the members present at any regular meeting, if the amendments have not been read or distributed at the previous meeting.

Section 2: Amendments shall become effective upon adjournment of the meeting at which they are adopted.

Section 3: This Constitution shall be automatically amended to conform to the Constitution, By-Laws and Standing Rules of The American Legion Auxiliary, Seventeenth District, Department of Virginia and National Organization.

Revised January 2, 2001

Revised November 6, 2012

Revised March 4, 2014

Revised July 7, 2024