

**DEPARTMENT OF SOUTH DAKOTA
DEPARTMENT CONSTITUTION**

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 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 our devotion to mutual helpfulness.

Article I. Name

Section 1. The American Legion Auxiliary shall be "American Legion Auxiliary of South Dakota."

Article II. Nature

Section 1. The American Legion Auxiliary is a civilian organization of women.

Section 2. The American Legion Auxiliary shall be absolutely non-political 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.

Article III. 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 direct 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: April 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; Persian Gulf War, August 2, 1990, to date of cessation all dates inclusive or who, being citizens 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 any of said periods, and died in the line of duty or after honorable discharge; and to those women who of their own right are eligible for membership in The American Legion.

Section 2. There shall be two classes of membership, senior and junior.

(a) Senior membership shall be composed of members age eighteen (18) older, provided, however, a member eligible under Section 1 article and who is under the age of eighteen (18) years and married shall be classified as a Senior member.

(b) Junior membership shall consist of that group under the age of eighteen (18) years, whose activities shall be supervised by the Senior membership. Upon reaching the age of eighteen (18) years, Junior members shall automatically be admitted into Senior membership with full privileges.

(c) Dues of both classes shall be paid annually or for life. A member failing to pay such annual dues by January thirty-first shall be classed as delinquent and shall be suspended from all membership privileges,

provided, however, such suspended member shall be notified in writing by the secretary of the unit of such suspension prior thereto. Payment of back dues, after suspension, shall reinstate such members to active membership. Any member delinquent to December thirty-first of the year of delinquency be dropped from the rolls and may not thereafter be reinstated without vote of the unit, where the Constitution of the unit requires a vote on application for membership, and the payment of all past dues, or by re-establishing eligibility and making application as a new member.

Article IV. Charters

Section 1. Applications for charter must be approved by the Post to which the unit wishes to become attached.

Article V. Executive Department

Section 1. The administrative and executive power shall be vested in the Department Executive Committee, which shall be composed of the President, National Committeewoman, two Vice Presidents, Junior Past President, Finance Chairman, and one District President from each District. **(Revised 6/28/2015)**

Section 2. The Department Executive Committee shall meet immediately preceding the Department Convention and within twenty-four hours after the close of the Convention, Midwinter Conference, and at the call of the President. The President will call a meeting upon the written request of five or more members. **(Revised 6/28/2015)**

Section 3. Seven members shall constitute a quorum of the Department Executive Committee.

Section 4. All Past Department Presidents and Past Department Secretaries (with Department Secretaries having served no less than five years in the office) and in good standing in local units, except the Junior Past Department President, shall be members for life of the Department Executive Committee, without vote and without expenses allowed. **(Revised 6/28/2015)**

The Department Secretary, Department Treasurer, Department Parliamentarian, Department Chaplain, Department Historian, and Department Poppy Chairman shall also be members of the Executive Committee without vote, with expenses allowed, as established by Executive Committee policy.

Section 5. Vacancies occurring in any office of the Department of South Dakota shall be filled by the Department Executive Committee.

Article VI. Officers

Section 1. This Department shall elect annually a President, two Vice Presidents, a Chaplain, and a Historian.

Section 2. National Executive Committeewoman would be an elected position (out of the pool of Departments Past Department Presidents) to be elected in even numbered years (2016, 2018, 2020 etc.) to hold a maximum of three - two year terms in a life time. The Jr. Past Department President will be the Alternate National Executive Committeewoman. **(Revised 6/28/2015)**

Section 3. The National Executive Committeewoman's term of office shall commence immediately following the adjournment of the National Convention next ensuing and shall end at the adjournment of the next succeeding National Convention.

Section 4. The official year shall be from Department Convention to Department Convention. **(Revised 6/28/2015)**

Section 5. The Executive Committee shall make the decision to hire a new Executive Secretary. The position will be advertised and applications taken from interested American Legion Auxiliary members for the position. The position will be advertised in the Legionette, Job Service and through notices sent by the Department Secretary to the Units. A hiring committee elected by the Executive Committee, consisting of two (2) District Presidents, two (2) Past Department Presidents, Department President, 1stVice President, and the Finance Chairman, will consider the applications, interview the candidates and refer their selection to the Executive Committee for approval. The Executive Secretary will be installed by the President; the Executive Committee may appoint a temporary Secretary to serve while the selection process is complete. There will be a two (2) year probation period, during which time a six (6) month and annual evaluation will be conducted by a review committee. A review committee consisting of Department President, 1st Vice President, 2nd Vice President, Finance Chairman and two (2) District Presidents (nominated and selected by the Executive Committee) will conduct the evaluation. The final review committee will report to the Pre-Convention Executive Committee Meeting with their recommendation. After, the probationary period an evaluation will be conducted at least once in a two (2) year period by at least two of the previous stated elected officers. After the completion of term of probation, the term of office for the Executive secretary shall be upon her resignation, or the Executive Committee determines she is negligent or is not fulfilling her duties, or twenty (20) percent of the units petition the Executive Committee, with reason stated, to hold a hearing to determine if she should be removed from office. The Executive Committee shall hold a hearing regarding any of these situations, and their decision will be final. **(Revised 6/28/2015)**

Section 6. The Executive Committee shall make the decision to hire a new Executive Treasurer. The position will be advertised and applications taken from interested American Legion Auxiliary members for the position. The position will be advertised in the Legionette, Job Service and through notices sent by the Department Secretary to the Units. A hiring committee elected by the Executive Committee, consisting of two (2) District Presidents, two (2) Past Department Presidents, Department President, 1stVice President, and the Finance Chairman, will consider the applications, interview the candidates and refer their recommended candidate to the Executive Committee for approval. Upon approval of the Executive Committee, the Treasurer will be installed by the President. If necessary the Executive Committee may appoint a temporary Treasurer to serve while the selection process is completed. There will be a two (2) year probation period, during which time a six (6) month and annual evaluation will be conducted by a review committee. A review committee consisting of Department President, 1st Vice President, 2nd Vice President, Finance Chairman and two (2) District Presidents (nominated and selected by the Executive Committee) will conduct the evaluation. The final review committee will report to the Pre-Convention Executive Committee Meeting with their recommendation. After, the probationary period an evaluation will be conducted at least once in a two (2) year period by at least two of the previous stated elected officers. After the completion of term of probation, the term of office for the Executive Treasurer shall be upon her resignation, or the Executive Committee determines she is negligent or is not fulfilling her duties, or twenty (20) percent of the units petition the Executive Committee, with reason stated, to hold a hearing to determine if she should be removed from office. The Executive Committee shall hold a hearing regarding any of these situations, and their decision will be final. **(Revised 6/28/2015)**

Section 7. The Department Executive Secretary and Department Treasurer shall take office immediately upon their selection and installation. Both officers shall be bonded under a fidelity-depository bond.

Article VII. Finances

Section 1. The revenue of this Department shall be derived from annual dues of members and by such means as may be determined by the Department Executive Committee. The annual dues of members to be remitted to the Department shall be \$9.00 for senior members and the amount of dues set by National. Junior members will remit \$1.75 for junior Department dues and the amount of dues set by National. Dues for senior members shall include subscription to the American Legion Auxiliary magazine. Permanent membership may be obtained through the National American Legion Auxiliary Paid Up for Life program with rates as established by the National program. This change will go into effect for the 2014 membership year. (6/17/2012)

Section 2. The annual National dues as determined by the National Convention each year shall be collected by the units and paid through Department Headquarters to the National Treasurer, whenever the same becomes due and payable.

Section 3. Annual dues shall be payable October 20th of each year.

Section 4. All Department bills or vouchers shall be presented to the Department President for her approval before check for payment of said bills is issued. Checks shall be signed by the Department Treasurer.

Article VIII. Department Convention

Section 1. The legislative body of this Department shall be a Department Convention to be held each year. This Convention shall be held at the same time and place as that of the annual Convention of The American Legion.

Section 2. Each unit shall be entitled to one delegate and one alternate, and to one additional delegate and alternate for each 30 members or major fraction thereof, whose current Department and National dues have been paid and received by the Department Secretary 15 days prior to the Department Convention. Each unit shall have as many votes as it is entitled to delegates and shall pay registration fee of five dollars (\$5.00) for each delegate to which the unit is entitled whether the full quota of delegates attends the Department Convention or not. Each unit is required to pay their registration fee even though not in attendance at Department Convention. The first \$1,000.00 of all registration fees received for delegates and alternates and visitors shall be paid to the unit of the city entertaining the Convention. All such registration fees in excess of \$1,000.00 shall be retained by the Department general fund to defray expenses incident to the Department Convention.

Section 3. All Past Department Presidents in good standing and acting Department Vice Presidents, District Presidents, and National Committeewoman shall be entitled to a vote at the Department Convention.

Section 4. A quorum of the Department Convention shall consist of the duly elected delegates and alternates of ten percent (10%) of the units of the Department. **(Revised 6/28/2015)**

Article IX. National Convention

Section 1. Department delegates to National Convention shall be elected annually by the Department Convention. Each Department shall be entitled to five delegates and one additional delegate for each 1,500 members or major fraction thereof whose current dues have been received by the National Treasurer thirty days prior to the meeting of said Convention, and to one alternate for each delegate.

Section 2. The following officers, to wit: President, Secretary and Incoming Executive Committeewoman

shall be sent to National Convention of the American Legion Auxiliary, and will receive round trip mileage to the airport, round trip airfare, meal allowance, and room allowance, as established by Executive Committee policy. District Presidents shall attend one National Convention with expenses allowed, as established by Executive Committee policy, during each two-year term of office.

Section 3. District Presidents from even numbered districts (i.e. 2, 4, etc.) will attend the National Convention in an even number year (i.e. 2012, 2014, etc.). District Presidents from odd numbered districts (i.e. 1, 3, etc.) will attend the National Convention in an odd number year. (i.e. 2013, 2015, etc.). (6/17/2012)

Section 4. In case of inability of any District President to attend the National Convention in the year assigned to her, the duly elected alternate District President shall be the delegate from such District, with expense allowed, as anyone provided in Section 2, Article IX of the Department Constitution.

Section 5. There shall be an annual assessment for expense of District Presidents to National Convention, amount of said assessment to be prepared to the Convention for approval.

Section 6. The Junior Past Department President shall act as chairman of the delegation and have charge of the organizational work of the National Convention. The Department Secretary shall act as secretary of the delegation.

Section 7. In case of the inability of the Department President to attend the National Convention, the First Vice President or the Second Vice President, in succession, shall be the alternate. In case of the inability of the Department Secretary to attend the National Convention, the Department Treasurer shall be the alternate.

Article X. District Organization

Section 1. The Department shall be divided into districts coinciding with the designated districts of the State Department of The American Legion, said districts to hold annual Conventions at the same time and place as annual District Conventions of The American Legion. There may be other district meetings at the call of the District President, with the approval of the Department President.

Section 2. Unit representation at District Conventions shall be on the same basis as provided for unit representation at a Department Convention.

Section 3. District Presidents shall be elected for a term of two years, even numbered Districts elect at spring meeting for a term beginning in even numbered years; odd numbered districts be elected at spring meeting in odd numbered years. One district president and two alternates shall be elected at each spring district convention. Their election shall be ratified at the close of district meeting and they shall assume their duties following installation at Department Convention. District Presidents shall be elected to not more than two consecutive terms. If, in the event there is a change in the number of districts by the South Dakota American Legion, an election will be held at the fall meeting of the affected district(s). One District President and two alternates will be elected to fulfill the term until the rotation of spring elections are held. (odd number districts in odd years, even number districts in even years). (6/17/2012)

Section 4. If a District President, during her term of office, shall resign or move from the state or in any way become incapacitated from acting, the first alternate District President shall automatically assume the work of the district, to complete the unexpired term thus created. Should the first alternate District President be unable to accept such office, and the second alternate District President be unable to accept such office, a

successor to the District President shall be chosen by the Department President from the district in which said vacancy occurs, subject to the subsequent approval of the Department Executive Committee, such appointee to serve until the next election of a District President at which time election of a District President shall take place to complete the term allotted to the officer originally elected, as provided in Section 3 of this article.

Article XI. Unit Organization

Section 1. The smallest administrative unit of the American Legion Auxiliary of this Department shall be termed the "Unit" which shall have a minimum membership of ten (10) senior members who are eligible according to the eligibility clause. No unit shall be received into this organization until it shall have received a charter. A unit desiring a charter shall apply to the Department headquarters and the charter shall be issued by the National President and Secretary, whenever recommended by the Department President or Department Executive Committee. All unit charters shall be counter-signed by the Department President and Secretary.

Section 2. The officers of the unit shall be a President, two Vice Presidents, Secretary, Treasurer, Historian, Sergeant-at-Arms, Chaplain, and Parliamentarian, and such officers and committees that may from time to time be authorized.

Section 3. Unit officers shall be elected at the first regular meeting of the Unit in May, and shall be installed at the first regular meeting of the unit in June, or may be elected and installed at the same meeting in May or June.

Section 4. All units shall adopt a constitution conforming to the Department and National Constitutions of the American Legion Auxiliary.

Section 5. Each unit of the American Legion Auxiliary shall be the judge of its own membership, subject to the restrictions of the Constitution and Bylaws, except that no person who is a member of an organization which has for its aim the overthrow of the United States Government by force or violence, or who subscribed to the principles of any group opposed to our form of government, shall be eligible to become or remain a member of the American Legion Auxiliary.

Section 6. Each unit shall make a report on finances and activities at the District meeting.

Section 7. Any member in good standing in a unit shall be entitled to transfer to another unit.

Section 8. Any member in good standing wishing to transfer to another unit must present to the new unit her current membership card. Upon acceptance of the transfer applicant by the new unit, the Unit Secretary will complete the certification of transfer. The member shall then be entitled to active membership in said unit. No dues shall be transferred.

Section 9. A unit member may withdraw providing her current dues are fully paid. Upon withdrawal, however, she shall be prohibited from joining any other unit as a new member during the remainder of the current year for which said dues are paid. In the event a member wishes to remove her membership from one unit to another during the current year, it shall be done by transfer and not by withdrawal.

Article XII. Amendments

Section 1. This Constitution may be amended at a Department Convention by two-thirds of a total authorized representation thereat, and become operative upon adoption provided that proposed amendment shall have been read at a regular session of the Convention at least twenty-four hours before the vote is taken thereon.

Section 2. Amendments to this Department Constitution adopted by National Convention action shall automatically become effective in this Department.

BYLAWS

Article I. Duties of Officers

Section 1. President: It shall be the duty of the President to preside at all meetings of the Department in Convention assembled and of the Department Executive Committee; to enforce strict observance of the Constitution and Bylaws; to appoint members of constituted committees and create such other committees and appoint members thereof as she deems advisable, subject to the approval of the Executive Committee, and perform such other duties as custom and parliamentary usage require.

Section 2. Vice Presidents: It shall be the duty of the Vice Presidents in their order to act for the President in her disability or absence. It shall also be the duty of the Vice Presidents to assist the President, when requested to do so in keeping in touch with the units and Districts, and to perform other duties as required by the Department President.

Section 3. Secretary: It shall be the duty of the Secretary to record the proceedings of the Department in Convention assembled, and of the Department Executive Committee meetings and to keep all books that are needed to successfully carry on the work of the office; to receive and answer all official mail under the direction of the Department President; to send and give due notice of all meetings, etc., act as Secretary of the Department Executive Committee, and to conduct her office in a business-like manner. She shall care for the archives of the Department and shall also keep a record of all money received from all Units for per capita assessments or other purposes. She is hereby vested with such authority as is necessary to carry out her duties successfully for the good of the American Legion Auxiliary. It shall be the duty of the Secretary to receive all monies belonging to the Department and to account for same. And she shall not keep on deposit in any one bank Department funds in excess of 12 percent of the capital and surplus of said bank unless said depository shall furnish security in the form of U.S. Savings Bonds or other sound securities; also issue bulletins with the approval of the Department President, stating the functioning of the Department, these to be sent to each unit in the Department. The records of the Department Secretary shall be reconciled by a qualified individual and a comparative statement of receipts and expenditures issued at least ten (10) days prior to the annual Convention.

Section 4. Treasurer: It shall be the duty of the Treasurer to give a bond in such amount as the Department Executive Committee may direct, the premium of the aforesaid bond to be paid by the Department. The Treasurer shall pay all orders signed by the Secretary and President and none other except in cases of special funds of standing Committees, which orders shall be signed by Chairman of same and shall retain the orders as her vouchers. She shall keep account of receipts as reported to her by the Secretary, and keep account of her expenditures, making annual report thereof and such other reports as may be deemed necessary by the Department Executive Committee. Her accounts shall be reconciled by a qualified individual and a comparative statement of receipts and expenditures issued at least one week before the annual Convention. She shall pay over and deliver to her successor all money, vouchers, books, and papers belonging to the Department (upon the approval of said successor's bond).

Section 5. Chaplain: It shall be the duty of the Chaplain to offer prayer at the opening of each day's business and such other duties as the President may direct.

Section 6. Historian: It shall be the duty of the Historian to prepare for posterity the records of the Department and to make a report to date at the Department Convention and file a complete annual report not later than September 1st.

Section 7. Parliamentarian: It shall be the duty of the Parliamentarian to decide all questions pertaining to law, order, and rules governing the organization. Questions for a higher decision shall be forwarded by the units to the Department Secretary, who shall, in turn, transmit same to the National Department for the Judge Advocate's final decision.

Section 8. Executive Committee: The Executive Committee is the Board of Administration between Conventions.

Section 9. The finance committee shall consist of four (4) elected members in good standing with the South Dakota American Legion Auxiliary, each to serve a three (3) year term and no more than two (2) consecutive terms. The NEC, Department President, 1st Vice President, Department Executive Secretary and Department Treasurer would also serve on the committee. The 2nd Vice President will be on the Finance Committee with a voice and no vote.

The finance committee will meet within twenty-four (24) hours after the close of the Department convention and before the post Executive committees to elect a chairman and exchange any necessary information and notify the Auxiliary Membership of this appointment; at the Mid-winter Conference; within 45 days; following the close of the fiscal year to establish a budget and make recommendations for any financial changes; at the Department Convention before the pre Executive Committee meeting for a total of four (4) times a year.

If the chairman is unable to present the information or present the budget at Department Convention she may appoint a member of the committee to present the budget. The four (4) elected Finance Committee members would receive expenses allowed, as established by Executive Committee policy for attending and participating as set up by the Department Executive Committee.

Resumes and applications must be received by Department Headquarters by May 1 of each affected year. A committee of two (2) Past Department Presidents, (nominated and selected by the Executive Committee) the Department President, Department 1st Vice President, Department Secretary, and Department Treasurer will be on the selection committee. This committee will meet at Department Convention before the Pre-Convention Executive Committee meeting to select two (2) members to be approved by the Executive Committee to serve during the affected year. **(Revised 6/28/2015)**

Section 10. It shall be the duty of a District President to represent her district on the Department Executive Committee. A District President shall complete all unit visitations once each term, allowing her to utilize two years instead of one year to carry out the Department mandates as prescribed by the Department President.

At the close of each National Convention, the District President in attendance shall transmit a written report of said Convention to the President of the alternate District and to the Presidents of the units in her District, within thirty days after the close of the National Convention. Each District President shall make a

financial report to her District each year at the District convention. She shall also submit to the Department Secretary a report of the District Convention to be placed on file at Department headquarters.

Article II. Committees

Section 1. The Department President with the consent of the Executive Committee may appoint such special or standing committees as may be necessary and shall authorize or approve all expenditures for the same.

Section 2. There shall be the following Standing Committees: Americanism, Auxiliary Emergency Fund, Children and Youth, Community Service, Constitution and Bylaws, Education, Finance, Foreign Relations, Girls' State, Junior Activities, Legislative, Membership, Music, National Security, Past Presidents Parley, Poppy, Public Relations, Legionette, Veterans Affairs and Rehabilitation.

Article III. Officers Expense

Section 1. All Department officers except Parliamentarian, Sergeant-at-Arms and the Assistant Sergeant-at-arms in attendance at Department Convention shall be allowed mileage, meal allowance, and room allowance as established by Executive Committee policy. Parliamentarian, Sergeant-at-arms, Assistant Sergeant-at-arms, District Presidents, District Presidents elect, Department Chairmen, Hospital Representatives, Deputy Hospital Representatives, Gift shop Chairman, and Christmas Party Chairman, in attendance shall receive a flat fee as established by Executive Committee policy. **(6/22/14)**

Section 2. Mileage, meal allowance and motel allowance, as established by Executive Committee policy and approved by the Executive Committee, shall be paid by the Department to members of the Executive Committee and Department Secretary in attendance at any special Executive Committee meeting.

Section 3. The National Committeewoman shall be the Department National Security Chairman and she shall annually attend the Awareness Assembly at Washington, D.C. with the following expenses paid in addition to the one day per diem and travel expenses allowed by the National organizations: out-of-state meal allowance and room allowance for four days as established by Executive Committee policy.

Section 4. The District Presidents shall submit bills to the State Department for their travel and other necessary expenses in connection with their office. They shall be allowed mileage as established by the Executive Committee when traveling in behalf of the American Legion Auxiliary, except when attending Department Convention and regularly called Committee meetings as provided in Sections 1 and 2 in Article III of the Bylaws.

Section 5. The Hospital Representatives and Deputy Hospital Representatives at the Hot Springs, Fort Meade and Sioux Falls Centers and the State Veterans Home shall each receive per annum travel expense when authorized by the Department Veterans Affairs Rehabilitation Chairman and approved by the Executive Committee.

Section 6. Department officers except Parliamentarian, Sergeant-at-Arms and the Assistant Sergeant-at-arms in attendance at the Midyear Conference shall be allowed mileage, meal allowance, and room allowance as established by Executive Committee policy. Parliamentarian, Sergeant at Arms, Assistant Sergeant at Arms, District Presidents, participating Department Chairmen, and participating Hospital Representatives shall be allowed a flat fee as established by Executive Committee policy. If the Hospital Representative cannot attend, the Deputy Representative may attend with the same flat fee as allowed by

Department Executive Committee. (6/22/14)

Section 7. The Department President, in addition to her airfare, shall be allowed a per diem for five days, as prescribed by the National organization when she attends the Awareness Assembly at Washington, D.C.

Article IV. Bonding Officers

Section 1. All members of this Department handling funds of the organization shall be bonded by the Department.

Article V. Poppy Proceeds

Section 1. Each unit shall remit 25 percent of the net proceeds of the sale of Poppies to the Department Headquarters immediately after the sale. The Department Secretary shall distribute this money as follows: 75 percent to Department Veterans and Affairs and Rehabilitation and 25 percent to the Children and Youth Fund.

Article VI. Elections

Section 1. A nominating committee will be comprised of the three (3) immediate Past Department Presidents. The Junior Past President will serve as committee chairman. They may have more than one (1) candidate for each office. The committee will have the list of candidates published in the June Legionette.

Section 2. The term or office for Department President of the South Dakota American Legion Auxiliary shall be one (1) year. No person shall be eligible to serve as Department President for more than one (1) term. This concurs with the National American Legion Auxiliary Constitution and Bylaws (Article II, Section 6).

Article VII. Parliamentary Rules

Section 1. The rules of procedure of a Department convention shall be those set forth in Roberts' Rules of Order, Newly Revised, in all points not covered by this Department Constitution and Bylaws.

Article VIII. Discipline

Section 1. The power to discipline units or members and to cancel or revoke a unit charter shall be in accordance with procedure specifically set forth in the National Constitution and Bylaws.

Article IX. Charters

Section 1. All charters granted by the American Legion Auxiliary are hereby ratified and confirmed.

Article X. Amendments

Section 1. These Bylaws may be amended at Department Convention by two-thirds vote of the total authorized representation thereat, and become operative upon adoption, provided that proposed amendments shall have been read at a regular session of the Convention at least twenty-four hours before the vote is taken thereon.

Section 2. These Bylaws are adopted by this Convention and in the event that any provisions herein contained shall conflict with such National Constitution, then such provision is hereby repealed. Amendments to Department Bylaws adopted by National Convention action shall automatically become effective in this Department. Section 1.

Article XI. Electronic Communication

Section 1. Notwithstanding anything elsewhere contained in these bylaws a ballot sent by mail or e-mail may be employed in matters of emergency regarding the following:

- (1) Appointments when a resignation or death leaves a chairmanship vacant.
- (2) Emergency financial considerations outside the budget.