CONSTITUTION, BYLAWS AND STANDING RULES
OF THE
AMERICAN LEGION AUXILIARY
DEPARTMENT OF CONNECTICUT, INC.

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 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 goodwill 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

Sec. 1.1 The name of this organization shall be the American Legion Auxiliary, Department of Connecticut, Inc.

ARTICLE II – NATURE

Sec. 2.1 The American Legion Auxiliary, Department of Connecticut, Inc. is a patriotic service civilian organization that supports the mission of The American Legion.

Sec. 2.2 The American Legion Auxiliary, Department of Connecticut, Inc. shall be absolutely non-political and shall not be used for the dissemination of partisan principles nor for the promotion of the candidacy of any person seeking public office or preferment.

ARTICLE III – MEMBERSHIP

Sec. 3.1 Membership in the American Legion Auxiliary shall be limited to the: (1) grandmothers, mothers, sisters, spouses and direct and adopted female descendants of members of The American Legion, and to (2) grandmothers, mothers, sisters, spouses and direct and adopted female descendants of all men and women who served in either of the following time 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 any 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 of the eligibility 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.

Sec. 3.2 There shall be two classes of Membership: Senior and Junior.

(a) Senior membership shall be composed of Members eighteen (18) years of age and over; provided, however, that a spouse under the age of eighteen years (18), who is eligible under Section 3.1 of this article, shall be classed as a Senior member.

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

(c) Dues from both classes shall be paid annually or for life.

ARTICLE IV – OFFICERS

Sec. 4.1 The Department of Connecticut shall have the following officers: President, Junior Past President, National Executive Committeeperson, Alternate Executive Committeeperson Senior Vice President, Vice Presidents (one from each District), Secretary, Treasurer, Chaplain, Historian, Sergeant-at-Arms, and Assistant Sergeant-at-Arms. The officers are Members of the Department Executive Committee.

Sec. 4.2 There shall be no Honorary Past Officers in the Department, District or Unit organizations in the American Legion Auxiliary, Department of Connecticut, Inc. (adopted at the Department Convention in 1946 and is not retroactive).

Sec. 4.3 Vacancies occurring in any of the elective offices of the American Legion Auxiliary, Department of Connecticut, Inc. with the exception of the Department President and the Department Senior Vice President shall be filled by the Department Executive Committee. A vacancy in the office of Department President shall be filled by the Department Senior Vice President. A vacancy in the office of Department Senior Vice President shall be filled by an election by the Department Executive Committee.

Sec.4.4 The Department Secretary and Department Treasurer may serve an unlimited number of terms and shall be confirmed annually by the Department Executive Committee at the Post Convention Meeting.

Sec. 4.5 The National Executive Committeeperson shall serve a length of term and number of terms as stated in the Standing Rules. The Alternate National Executive Committeeperson shall serve only in the absence of the National Executive Committeeperson.

Sec. 4.6 Elected and appointed members of the Department Executive Committee, with the exception of the National Executive Committeeperson and Alternate National Executive Committeeperson, shall serve one (1) term from the adjournment of the Department Convention and shall conclude at the adjournment of the next succeeding Department Convention.

Sec. 4.7 All questions affecting the eligibility, election and conduct of a Department Officer shall be referred to the Department Executive Committee where a decision by a two-thirds vote in said Committee shall be the final authority thereon.

ARTICLE V
DEPARTMENT EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Sec. 5.1 Between Department Conventions the Department Executive Committee shall serve as the governing body of the organization with fiduciary policy and strategic responsibility for the organization.

Sec. 5.2 The Department Executive Committee shall consist of the following officers: President, Junior Past President, National Executive Committeeperson, Alternate National Executive Committeeperson, Senior Vice President, Vice Presidents (one from each district), Secretary, Treasurer, Chaplain, Historian, Sergeant-at-Arms, and Assistant Sergeant-at-Arms.

Sec. 5.3 The Department Secretary and Department Treasurer shall be Members of the Department Executive Committee, and, when the positions are held by employees of Department Headquarters, the Department Secretary and Department Treasurer shall serve with all rights except the right to vote.

Sec. 5.4 The Past Department Presidents shall be Members of the Department Executive Committee with voice and vote. Past National Presidents shall have life privileges of voice and vote.

Sec. 5.5 The Department President and Department Senior Vice President shall serve as Chairman and Vice Chairman of the Department Executive Committee, respectively.

ARTICLE VI – CONVENTION

Sec. 6.1 The legislative body of this Department shall be a Department Convention, to be held each year for the purpose of electing officers, receiving reports and transacting such other business as shall properly come before it. The time and place of the Convention shall be the same as that of the American Legion if it is feasible.

Sec. 6.2 Representation at the Department Convention shall be by Units.

Sec.6. 3 Department President and Department Senior Vice President shall serve as Department Convention Chairman and Vice Chairman respectively.

Sec. 6.4 All Members of the Department Executive Committee, Past Department Presidents, the Department Chairmen of Standing Committees, and the Parliamentarian shall be Delegates-at-Large to the annual Department Convention and entitled to vote, if present

and whose current Department and National dues have been paid and received by the Department Office, thirty days prior to the holding of the Department Convention.

Sec. 6.5 Each Delegate shall be entitled to one vote. The vote of any Delegate absent and not represented by an Alternate shall be cast in agreement with the majority of the delegates present from the unit.

Sec. 6.6 Department Delegates and Alternates to the National Convention shall be elected at the Department Convention. The number of Delegates shall be on the basis of paid-up membership and in compliance with the National Constitution.

Sec. 6.**7** The quorum for Convention, as stated in the Standing Rules, can only be amended by a two-thirds vote of the authorized Delegates present and voting at a Department Convention.

ARTICLE VII – AMENDMENTS

Sec. 7.1 This Constitution may be amended at a Department Convention by a two-thirds (2/3) vote of the authorized delegates present and voting, provided that the proposed amendment(s) have been received into the Department Headquarters 60 days prior to the opening of the Department Convention. Amendments must be sent to Unit Presidents, Unit Secretaries, and the Department Executive Committee 45 days prior to the opening of the Department Convention.

Sec. 7.2 Amendments proposed after distribution as stated in Section **7.**1 may be adopted by a two-thirds vote provided they have been read at one meeting of the convention prior to taking the vote.

Sec 7.3 An Amendment not having been previously distributed or read as required in Section 7.1 may be adopted by the unanimous vote of the convention body.

Kimberly Post, Chairman, Constitution & Bylaws Committee
Margery Sunbury, Member, Constitution & Bylaws Committee
Barbara Pippin, Member, Constitution & Bylaws Committee
Lydia DeGumbia, Ex-officio
Sandra Cruz, Ex-officio
Sue Larsen, Parliamentarian

Adopted at the Department Convention, July 10, 2021

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Department President Department Constitution & Bylaws Chairman