

THE NATIONAL CONSTITUTION AND BY-LAWS

of the

POLISH LEGION OF AMERICAN VETERANS, U.S.A.

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This edition of the Constitution and By-Laws includes all amendments to and including 2008..

***OVER 3,000,000 AMERICANS OF POLISH DESCENT
SERVED IN THE UNITED STATES ARMED FORCES
DURING ALL WARS AND CONFLICTS INVOLVING
THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA***

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PREAMBLE
to the
POLISH LEGION OF AMERICAN VETERANS, U.S.A.
NATIONAL CONSTITUTION

As a living monument to over 3,000,000 Americans of Polish descent who served in the Armed Forces of the U.S.A. in all Wars and Conflicts of whom many thousands have made the supreme sacrifice for their country by giving their lives, we the Polish Legion of American Veterans, U.S.A. associate ourselves for the following purposes:

To uphold and defend the Constitution of the United States of America and all the principles for which it stands:

To encourage active interest in all manifestations and demonstrations of patriotic nature, that the glory and sanctity of America ideals may be forever preserved.

To protect the good name of Americans of Polish ancestry against unfriendly attacks and against attempts to belittle their contributions to the progress and development of the United States.

To insure that all individuals, especially those of Polish ancestry, shall not be alienated from, but receive positive support from curriculum and teaching considerations and from the textbooks and reference materials used in our schools, concerning Poles and Polish-Americans.

To combat the destructive propaganda of communism and other alien influences endeavoring to weaken or destroy our American institutions and democratic form of government.

To encourage all members to combat crime, terrorism and other undesirable acts against the government, on the local, State and National Levels.

And to maintain and preserve the true spirit of fraternity and patriotism arising from the sacrifices in the wars and conflicts of the United States of America and to perpetuate friendships and associations arising therefrom by mutual aid and cooperation in patriotic, charitable, educational, and civic activities.

To these principles the Polish Legion of American Veterans, U.S.A. is dedicated.

CONSTITUTION

POLISH LEGION OF AMERICAN VETERANS U.S.A.

ARTICLE I

Name of Organization

Sec.1. The name of this organization shall be "Polish Legion of American Veterans, U.S.A."

ARTICLE II MEMBERSHIP

Sec. 1. Par. 1. Any American Citizen, male or female, who has served in the Armed Forces of the United States, or, in its Auxiliary Units, after May 9, 1916, or thereafter, and whose service shall have been terminated by an Honorable Discharge, or, an honorable release from active duty, and, also, any American Citizen, male or female, who is recognized as a Veteran by the U.S. Congress, the U.S. Department of Defense and/or the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs, shall be eligible for membership in the Polish Legion of American Veterans, U.S.A.

Sec. 1. Par. 2. Career and Active Members of the Armed Forces of the United States shall be eligible for membership in the Polish Legion of American Veterans, U.S.A., provided, however, that their service in their respective branch of service is, at all times, in keeping with the Uniform Code of Military Justice, of the United States.

Sec. 1. Par. 3. Members of the National Guard or other U.S. Armed Forces Reserve Units shall be eligible for membership in the Polish Legion of American Veterans, U.S.A., if called to duty by the Federal Government for other than training purposes, and, provided, however, that such service shall have been terminated by an honorable discharge and documentation of said federal call to duty from the Department of Defense (Form DD-214), and/or having proof of veteran status from the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs, with these tenets also applying to members of the National Guard or other U.S. Armed Forces Reserve Units that re-enlist and remain honorable active in their respective units.

Sec. 1. Par. 4. American Citizens, who have provided military related service to the United States, and, have proof of such service, via certification by an honorable discharge, issued by the Secretary of Defense, shall be eligible for membership in the Polish Legion of American Veterans, U.S.A.

Sec. 1. Par. 5. Merchant Marine Seamen, who are recognized as Veterans, by Act of Congress, and/or, who possess an honorable discharge issued by the Department of Defense, along with DD Form 214, shall be eligible for membership in the Polish Legion of American Veterans, U.S.A.

Sec. 1. Par. 6. Any American Citizen, male or female, who served in the Armed Forces of our Allies, and, those members of the Armed Forces of our Allies, male or female, who following such service, emigrated to the United States and became naturalized American Citizens, that served between April 6, 1917, and, thereafter, in all wars, conflicts, peace keeping missions and police actions involving the United States, and, whose service is documented by an honorable release from duty by the Allied Forces in which he or she served, and/or, his or her service being granted veteran status by Act of Congress, shall be eligible for membership in the Polish Legion of American Veterans, U.S.A.

Sec. 1. Par. 7. No person who is a member of, or who advocates the principles of, any organization believing in, or working for, the overthrow of the United States Government by force, and no person who refuses to uphold and defend the Constitution of the United States, shall be privileged to become, or continue to be, a member of the Polish Legion of American Veterans, U.S.A.

Sec. 1. Par. 8. The terms of membership and the requirements for holding office in the Polish Legion of American Veterans, U.S.A., shall be in accordance with P.L. 98-372.

Sec. 2. Par. 1. There shall be but six (6) forms of membership. These shall be:

- a. - Active Membership
- b. - Active National Life Membership
- c. - Active State Department Life Membership
- d. - Active Post Life Membership
- e. - Honorary Membership
- f. - Distinguished Membership

Sec. 2. Par. 2. The criteria for Active National Life Membership shall be hereinafter provided:

a.- Past National Commanders, by virtue of their tenure in the highest office of the Polish Legion of American Veterans, U.S.A., for a full term, shall be granted Active National Life Membership in this organization, and, they shall be exempt from the payment of annual dues at the Post, State Department and National levels.

b.- Active National Life Membership shall be made available to any veteran, male or female, holding and maintaining good standing Active Membership in any Post, State Active Membership-at-Large, State Active Life Membership-at-Large or Post Active Life Membership in the Polish Legion of American Veterans, U.S.A., who submits a properly executed National Department Active National Life Membership Application, a copy of his or her Honorable Discharge, DD214, or other proof of an honorable separation from service in the Armed Forces of the United States; proof of age in the form of a Birth Certificate, and the full Actuarial Fee for said Active National Life Membership.

c. – Any former member, of the Polish Legion of American Veterans, U.S.A eligible for reinstatement, may make application for Active National Life Membership, after his or her reinstatement to Active Membership by a Post, or as a Member-at-Large in the National or State Department Member-at-Large Post. Such application shall be subject to his or her providing all of the documents called for in Paragraph b, along with the full Actuarial Fee for said Active National Life Membership.

d.– Any veteran, male or female, eligible for membership in the Polish Legion of American Veterans, U.S.A., but not previously a member may make application for Active National Life Membership after election to membership by a Post, or his or her acceptance into the organization as a Member-at-Large by the National or State Member-at-Large Post. Such application shall be subject to his or her providing all of the documents called for in Paragraph b, along with the full Actuarial Fee for said Active National Life Membership.

e- Living Medal of Honor Recipients shall be classified as Distinguished Membership and granted Active National Life Membership and such Active National Life membership be requested by the State Department in which the recipient resides and shall be exempt from the payment of annual dues at the Post. State Department and National levels.

A. – ADMINISTRATION OF THE ACTIVE NATIONAL LIFE MEMBERSHIP PROGRAM

- a.- The Active National Life Membership Program shall be controlled and administered by the National Department, under the direct supervision of the National Membership Director.
- b. – The National Membership Director shall be the Chairman of the Active National Life Membership Program Board of Trustees. Such Board of Trustees shall also include the National Membership Deputy Director, the First and Second National Vice-Commanders and the National Treasurer, who shall be the custodian of all funds deposited into the National Department’s National Life Membership Program Fund.
- c. - The Board of Trustees of the Active National Life Membership Program shall administer the National Department’s Active National Life Membership Program Fund, investing and re-investing its funds in the best interest of the Polish Legion of American Veterans U.S.A.
- d. - The meetings of the Board of Trustees of the Active National Life Membership Program shall be convened concurrently with the meetings of the National Executive Committee of the Polish Legion of American Veterans, U.S.A., and shall render full reports of its activities at those meetings and at the National Convention.
- e. - The Board of Trustees of the Active National Life Membership Program, taking into consideration that the Polish Legion of American Veterans, U.S.A. operates on a fiscal year basis, beginning with September 1st, of the current year and ending on August 31st of the following year, shall determine the amount of the rebate due to the National Department, each State Department and Post, based on the number of Active National Life Members on their rolls at the beginning of January of the current fiscal year and again, at the close of the current fiscal year August 31st. These payments shall be governed by the Actuarial Tables and the factors listed hereinafter.

B. ACTUARIAL TABLES OF THE ACTIVE NATIONAL LIFE MEMBERSHIP PROGRAM

<u>Age</u>	<u>21-25</u>	<u>26-30</u>	<u>31-35</u>	<u>36-40</u>	<u>41-45</u>	<u>46-50</u>	<u>51-55</u>	<u>56-60</u>	<u>61-65</u>	<u>66-70</u>	<u>71-75</u>	<u>76 Plus</u>
Cost	555	534	510	482	451	415	376	332	287	241	198	158

- a.- Any applicant, whose 26th, 31st, 36th, 41st, 46th, 51st, 56th, 61st, 66th, 71st, or 76th birthday, which will occur after the date of application, and on or before December 31st of the current year, shall pay the fee that would be required on his or her next birthday.
- b - In the event that sound business practices dictate a change in such payments, the Actuarial Tables may be modified by the National Executive Committee, of the Polish Legion of American Veterans, U.S.A., provided, however, any such change shall not affect any member, who prior to the adoption of such change, has become an Active National Life Member, or, to the annual rebates, of five (\$5.00) dollars to the National Department, five (\$5.00) dollars to the State Department, and, five (\$5.00) dollars to the Post, as adopted by the National Executive Committee at their meeting on October 10-12, 2008 in Naperville, Illinois.
- c.- Any changes in the Actuarial Tables shall require a two-thirds (2/3) majority vote of the National Executive Committee, provided, however, any such change shall take affect not less than sixty (60) days following the date of adoption, and, shall only affect Active Members or New Members, thereafter, applying for Active National Life Membership. The same shall apply to the annual per member rebate to the State Departments and Posts.

C.- RULES AND REGULATIONS OF THE ACTIVE NATIONAL LIFE MEMBERSHIP PROGRAM

- 1.- Applications for Active National Life Membership, as adopted by the 38th (2006) National Convention, shall be made available by, and, procured from the National Adjutant. Such Application, if necessary, may be amended at any time by a simple majority vote of the National Executive Committee.
- 2.- It shall be the responsibility of any applicant for Active National Life Membership to ensure that his or her Application is properly completed, bearing all necessary signatures, along with the required documents and fees, before it is directed, as hereinafter provided, to the proper quarters for processing and approval.
- 3.- Current Active Members and Active Life Members of the National Department Member-at-Large Post, shall direct their properly completed Active National Life Membership Applications, related documents and the proper fees to the National Membership Director.
- 4.- Current Active Members, Active State Department Life Members, Re-instated Members of a State Member-at-Large Post, or, New Members joining a State Member-at-Large Post shall direct their properly completed Active National Life Membership Applications, related documents and proper fees to the State Finance Officer, who shall have the responsibility of reviewing all accompanying fees and documents, affixing his or her certification signature and forwarding all to the National Membership Director.
- 5.- Current Active Members, Active Post Life Members, Re-instated Members or New Members of a local Post shall direct their properly completed Active National Life Membership Applications, related documents, and proper fees to the Post Finance Officer and State Finance Officer, both who after reviewing all documents and fees shall affix their certification signatures and forwarding all to the National Membership Director.
- 6.- The National Membership Director, upon receipt of properly executed Active National Life Membership Applications, accompanying documents and fees shall immediately direct said fees to the National Treasurer for deposit into the Active National Life Membership Fund. He or she shall then issue an Active National Life Membership Card and an Active National Life Membership Pin to each such member.
- 7.- An Active National Life Member shall not be subject to further membership levies of any nature and shall enjoy all of the benefits and privileges of membership at the National, State and Post levels during his or her lifetime.
- 8.- An Active National Life Member or Active State or Post Life Member, whose membership in the Polish Legion of American Veterans, U.S.A., is terminated for cause, in accordance with the provisions of this Constitution and By-Laws shall forfeit all privileges and shall not be entitled to any refund of his or her dues.
- 9.- The death of an Active National Life Member, following the issuance of his or her per capita dues to the National Department, the State Department or his or her Post shall not cause any refund of such funds to the National Department Active National Life

Membership Fund for that Polish Legion of American Veterans, U.S.A. fiscal year.
Sec. 2. Par. 3. The criteria for State Departments and Posts for Active Life Membership shall be as hereinafter provided:

- a.- State Departments having a Member-at-Large Post, and local Posts, at their discretion, with the approval of the State Department, may establish Active Life Membership Programs from within their own membership.
- b.- State Departments and Posts shall control and administer their respective Active Life Membership Programs.

Sec. 2. Par. 4. The establishment of such Active Life Membership by a Post with the approval of the State Department, shall not in any way affect the amount of annual dues payable to the National Department and the State Department for each such Active Life Member.

Sec. 2. Par. 5. Honorary Members may be admitted on the following basis:

A.- NATIONAL DEPARTMENT

- a. The President and the Vice President of the United States of America on assumption of their respective offices by vote of the National Executive Committee.
- b. The members of the President's Cabinet and National Legislative Body by vote of the National Executive Committee.
- c. Persons performing outstanding service in States in which the P.L.A.V. does not operate or service to veterans in such States, may be given Honorary Membership by vote of the National Executive Committee.
- d. An appropriate Honorary Membership Card shall be issued on an annual basis recognizing such person as an Honorary Member of the Organization.

B.- STATE DEPARTMENT

- a. Governors of the States in which the P.L.A.V. operates, by the State Executive Committee within such State.
- b. The members of the Governor's Cabinet and State Legislative Body, by vote of the State Executive Committee within such State.
- c. Persons performing outstanding service in the State or to veterans in the State, may be given Honorary Membership by vote of the State Executive Committee within such State.
- d. An appropriate Honorary Membership Card shall be issued on an annual basis recognizing such person as an Honorary Member of the Organization.

Sec. 2. Par. 6. The right to attend, to vote or the right of expression at any regular or special meeting or session of any Convention of any echelon within the Polish Legion of American Veterans, U.S.A., shall be exclusively limited to active, regular members, excepting, however, guests or public officials may, on proper invitation, appear at meetings or Conventions to address such groups.

Sec. 3. Par. 1. No person shall be a member of more than one Post at any one time.

Sec. 3. Par. 2. Any member in good standing may transfer from one Post to another, providing, said member obtain approval from the new Post to which he or she plan to transfer. Such member shall not be eligible for any elective office or for the privilege of representing the transferee Post at the State or National Conventions for a period of three (3) months from the date of transfer.

Sec. 3. Par. 3. An Active National Life Member may transfer from one Post to another, provided, however, he or she shall obtain approval to do so from the Post and State Department he or she is leaving and from the Post and State Department he or she is transferring.

Sec. 3. Par. 4. Newly admitted members shall not be eligible for any elective office or for the privilege of representing the Post at the State or National Conventions for a period of six months from the date of admission, but otherwise shall have the same rights and privileges as other members, provided, however, that this provision shall not be applicable to the newly organized Posts during the first year of their existence.

Sec. 4. All duly assessed dues shall be payable annually by every member of Polish Legion of American Veterans, U.S.A., provided, however, that Honorary Members shall not be required to pay any dues.

Sec. 5. Par. 1. The National Department shall maintain a Membership-at-Large Post, which shall be administered as herein provided.

Sec. 5. Par. 2. Membership of the Membership-at-Large Post shall be restricted to veterans who desire a membership in the P.L.A.V., U.S.A. and who reside in States where no State Departments and/or Posts exists.

Sec. 5. Par. 3. The prospective new members to the Membership-at-Large Post must have been sponsored by an active member of the P.L.A.V., U.S.A. and must submit a photo-static copy of their honorable discharge or separation from service to the National Adjutant.

Sec. 5. Par. 4. Annual dues to the National Membership-at-Large Post shall be established at a National Convention and shall be paid directly to the National Department.

Sec. 5. Par. 5. Such portion of dues of the Membership-at-Large Post in excess of the annual per capita due to the National Department, shall be maintained in a separate fund and expended solely for the purpose of establishing new Posts in States where no P.L.A.V., U.S.A. Posts exist.

Sec. 6. Par. 1. A State Department may, at its discretion, establish one (1) Membership-at-Large Post within the legal boundaries of its State. This Post, shall be administered by the State Executive Committee.

Sec. 6. Par. 2. Membership in the State Department Membership-at-Large Post shall be restricted to eligible veterans desiring membership in the Polish Legion of American Veterans, U.S.A., residing in the State, but living in Counties where no Post or Posts presently exist.

Sec. 6. Par. 3. Prospective members of the State Department Membership-at-Large Post shall be sponsored by an active member of the Polish Legion of American Veterans, U.S.A., and must submit a photo-static copy of their honorable discharge or honorable release from active duty to the State

Adjutant or to the officer designated by said State Department prior to being accepted and granted membership.

Sec. 6. Par. 4. Dues to the State Department Membership-at-Large Post shall be determined by the State Convention, provided, however, that the amount of annual dues which shall be due to the National Department for each member shall not in any manner be affected by the decision of the State Convention or the State Department.

Sec. 6. Par. 5. The State Department Membership-at-Large Post shall be bound by all existing provisions of this National Constitution and its By-Laws as relating to local Posts, excepting those provided for in this ARTICLE.

ARTICLE III ORGANIZATION

Sec. 1. The Polish Legion of American Veterans, U.S.A., shall be organized with a National Department, Zones, State Departments, and under these Departments, local Posts.

Sec. 2. The National Department shall be composed of officers, hereinafter, described, Directors, and such other members as the National Convention may specify.

Sec. 3. For administrative purposes there shall be three (3) Zones, as follows:

Zone I: Shall be comprised of all States east of the Ohio River and the Appalachian Mountains and the center time zone and shall include the State of Pennsylvania and North and Southern boundaries shall be from the Canadian border to the Gulf of Mexico.

Zone II: Shall be made up of all States east of the Mississippi and Ohio Rivers and shall include the States of Michigan, Indiana and Ohio, to the Gulf of Mexico and all States west of the Appalachian Mountains in the Central Time Zone.

Zone III: Shall include Wisconsin, Illinois and all States west of the Mississippi River between Canada and Mexico.

Sec. 4. The State Department shall be composed of officers elected at the State Convention and representatives selected by the Posts under its jurisdiction.

Sec. 5. Local Posts shall be chartered by the National Department and administered by the State Department, but shall be governed locally by their own officers chosen according to their Constitution and By-Laws.

ARTICLE IV NATIONAL CONVENTION

Sec. 1. A National Convention shall be held biennially (every two years) at a time and place determined by the Convention held no less than two years previously and shall constitute the supreme legislative body of the Polish Legion of American Veterans, U.S.A. The decisions and the enactment of the National Convention within the scope of this Constitution and By-Laws shall be the highest authority in the organization and shall be binding on all members. The National Convention shall, also, constitute the highest judicial tribunal over the controversies of serious nature that may arise within the organization.

Sec. 2. The members of the Convention shall consist of the following, to-wit:

a.- Delegates elected by the individual Posts. All Posts shall be entitled to representation in proportion to their membership. Each delegate or his duly qualified alternate shall have the right to vote.

b.- Past National Commanders, by virtue of their past high office, shall have the privilege of being delegates to all National Conventions with the right to vote.

c.- All elective National Officers and the appointed National Executive Officers, as listed in Sec. 3. Par. 1., A., of Article V, of this Constitution, by virtue of their offices shall be delegates to the National Convention, with the right of voice and vote

d.- All appointed National Operations Officers, as covered in Sec.3. Par. 1., B., Sec. 3. Par. 2., and, Sec. 3. Par. 3. of Article V, of this Constitution, may, of their own volition, attend the National Convention, provided, however, they shall have a voice, but no vote, unless they are elected delegates from their respective Posts. In addition, they shall not be entitled to any remuneration of expenses for travel, lodging or per diem, unless specifically being directed to attend said National Convention at the invitation of the National Commander or the National Executive Committee.

e.- Retiring State Commanders, by virtue of this past office, shall have the privilege of being delegates, with the right to vote, to the National Convention immediately following their term of office, excepting, however, where a State Department has a Biennial State Convention, then in that event the State Commander in office at the time of the National Convention shall be a delegate to the National Convention and with a right of vote.

Sec. 3. A majority of delegates entitled to vote shall constitute a quorum.

Sec. 4. A Special National Convention shall be called by the National Department upon written request of two-thirds (2/3) of all Posts. Time and place of the Special Convention shall be decided by the Posts by means of referendum. Duly elected delegates to the last regular Convention or their duly elected substitutes and all others enumerated in Section 2, above, shall constitute the membership of the Special Convention. Special Convention shall be called only on matters of extreme importance and only the matters for which the Special Convention is called shall be considered at such a Convention.

Sec. 5. Par. 1. No delegate of an accredited Post or Department shall be seated at the National Convention unless his respective Post or Department shall be fully paid up in all its accounts with the National Department and its accounts and membership shall be certified as of 30 days prior to the opening date of the National Convention. No Post or Department delegate or alternate shall be permitted to register as such delegate or alternate without a membership card or other satisfactory evidence identifying him as a member of the Post or Department from which he is registering.

Sec. 5. Par. 2. Mandates for Convention delegates may be forwarded directly to Posts by the National Department. In turn, mandates will be forwarded to their respective State Departments for certification of the current fiscal year. Mandates shall then be forwarded to the National Department. Delegate mandates shall not be deem valid at the National Convention, nor the delegate seated at the National Convention, unless such mandate shall bear certification of his State Department Finance Officer.

Sec. 6. Par. 1. The Polish Legion of American Veterans, U.S.A. recognizes a subsidiary organization known as the National Convention Corporation of the Polish Legion of American Veterans, U.S.A.

Sec. 6. Par. 2. The National Convention Corporation shall be governed by a Code of Regulations, which shall be enacted for it by the National Convention.

Sec. 6. Par. 3. Authority is hereby given to the State Departments to authorize and create subsidiary organizations of similar scope and nature of State Department Conventions.

ARTICLE V OFFICERS

Sec. 1. The National Convention shall elect a National Commander, National 1st Vice Commander, National 2nd Vice Commander, National Membership Director, National Treasurer, National Service Director, and one (1) Director of the National Convention Corporation.

Sec. 2. Par. 1. State Department Commanders shall act as National Directors and shall attend meetings of the National Executive Committee. The Department Commander in office at the time of the N.E.C. meeting shall be entitled to attend such N.E.C. meeting.

Sec. 2. Par. 2. State Department Commanders, who are unable to attend an N.E.C. Meeting, shall notify the National Commander in writing, prior to the date of said meeting, as to the individual that will represent him at that meeting. This Representative may be either the State Department First Vice Commander, the State Department Adjutant or the Immediate Past State Commander.

Sec. 3. Par. 1. The National Commander shall within thirty (30) days after the National Convention, and subject to concurrence by the National Executive Committee, appoint the following officers, to-wit:

A.- NATIONAL EXECUTIVE OFFICERS

- a.- National Judge Advocate
- b.- National Legislative Director
- c.- National Membership Deputy Director, with the advice and consent of the National Membership Director.
- d.- National P.L.A.V., U.S.A. News Editor
- e- National V.A.V.S. Director

B.- NATIONAL OPERATIONS OFFICERS

- a.- National Quartermaster, with the advice and consent of the National Treasurer.

Sec. 3. Par. 2. The National Commander may, at his discretion, subject to concurrence of the National Executive Committee, appoint the following National Operating Officers, to wit:

- a.- National Chaplain, who shall be a Clergyman of any faith.
- b.- National Sergeant-at-Arms
- c.- National Medical Officer
- d – National Public Relations Officer

Sec. 3. Par. 3. The National Commander, subject to concurrence by the National Executive Committee, shall, by appointment, fill the following positions, which shall not be considered to be National Officers, per say, to wit:

- a.- National V.A.V.S. Deputy Director, with the advice and consent
of the National V.A.V.S. Director
- b.- National Archives Director

Sec. 3 Par. 4- The National Adjutant, a National Executive Officer who's tenure in office shall be deemed permanent, as provided, hereafter, shall be selected from a list of Regular Active and Active Life Members, who shall have submitted their own written applications outlining their qualifications for said office, to the current National Adjutant, not less than ten(10) days prior to the start of a National Convention.

Sec. 3. Par. 5. Candidates for the Office of National Adjutant may meet the following requirements, to-wit: Have a knowledge of the Polish Legion of American, USA policies, programs, and procedures of the National and State Department levels and the ability to operate with minimal supervision from the National Commander and National Executive Committee. He or she should possess the ability to speak and write effectively, the knowledge of office management methods, which may include some computer skills and the principles of supervision, the capability to plan and organize the work of others, along with a temperament conducive to establishing and maintaining cordial and effective relationships with officers and members of the National and State Departments. Local Posts and Auxiliary Units, as well as Public Officials and the general public. Said candidate may have some knowledge in various matters pertaining to the veteran, excepting the specialized fields, such as Veterans affairs, Legislative and Rehabilitation.

Sec. 3. Par. 6. When a vacancy in the Office of National Adjutant occurs, the approved Job Description, the3 duties of said Office and the proper "Application for the Office of National Adjutant" as they appear in the Addenda in the National Constitution and By-Laws, shall be disseminated to all National Officers, Past National Commanders and State Departments to advise members who may seek the position , of its impending opening following the next National Convention.

Sec. 3. Par. 7 The National Adjutant shall be selected by a Special Committee comprised of the newly elected National Commander, National 1st Vice Commander and the National 2nd Vice Commander. This Special Committee shall have the sole responsibility of reviewing all properly submitted applications and make its designation as to the candidate that it deems qualified to fill the Office of National Adjutant, after which the National Commander shall within thirty (30) days after the National Convention submit the name of the designated individual to the National Executive Committee for its concurrence.

Sec. 3. Par. 8. The National Adjutant, selected by the Special Committee, subject to concurrence by the National Executive Committee, shall serve in that capacity from National Administration to National Administration, or until he or she resigns retires, passes away or is removed for cause.

Sec. 3. Par. 9. A National Adjutant who resigns, retires, passes away or is removed for cause shall be replaced by any qualified Active Member or Active Life Member appointed by the National Commander, subject to the concurrence of the National Executive Committee. Such appointee shall serve on an interim basis until the next National Convention, wherein, the provisions of Sec. 3. Par. 5, Sec. 3. Par. 6, and Sec. 3. Par. 7 of this Article shall be executed.

Sec. 4. Par. 1. The term of office of all National Elective Officers shall commence immediately upon adjournment of the National Convention and shall continue until new officers are elected and qualified at the next regular National Convention.

Sec. 4. Par. 2. Directors of the National Convention Corporation shall assume the duties of their office at the first National Executive Committee meeting following the convention at which they were elected.

Sec. 4. Par. 3. The term of Appointive Officers shall commence upon the concurrence of appointments by the National Executive Committee and will continue until removed from office for cause or new officers appointed by a new incoming administration.

Sec. 4. Par. 4. Elected and Appointed National Officers may render an oral report of their activities when present at an N.E.C. Meeting. They shall, however, have prepared said report in writing prior to such N.E.C. Meeting with sufficient copies for distribution to the National Adjutant, National P.L.A.V., U.S.A. News Editor and National Public Relations Officer. Should an Elected or Appointed National Officer be unable to be present at an N.E.C. Meeting, he or she shall provide the National Adjutant with a written report not less than twenty (20) days prior to the schedule date of that meeting.

Sec. 4. Par. 5. Should an Elected or Appointed National Officer be forced to cancel plans to be present at an N.E.C. Meeting due to unforeseen circumstances, he or she shall submit a written report to the National Adjutant not more than ten (10) days following the date of said meeting.

Sec. 5. Any National Officer may receive compensation for his activities on behalf of the organization. The amount of such compensation shall be determined at the National Convention.

Sec. 6. CHAPLAINS: Any State Department or Post may appoint a non-veteran, who shall be a Clergyman, of any faith, to serve as its Chaplain. Said Chaplain shall be an Honorary Member of said State Department or Post.

ARTICLE VI NATIONAL DEPARTMENT

Sec. 1. The administrative power between National Conventions shall be vested in the National Executive Committee, which shall constitute and be known as the National Department.

Sec. 2. Par. 1. The National Department shall be composed of the elective National Officers; the appointed National Executive Officers. The National Directors (State Commanders); Past National Commanders; and, such other members, if any, as the National Convention shall specify, all of whom, shall have the right of voice and vote on all matters coming before that body.

Sec. 2. Par. 2. The appointed National Operations Officers, may, of their own volition, attend National Executive Committee Meetings, and, when present, shall have both voice and vote on all matters coming before that body, provided, however, they shall not be eligible for any remuneration of expenses for travel, lodging and per diem, unless specifically, directed or invited to attend said N.E.C. Meeting or Meetings by the National Convention, the National Commander or the National Executive Committee.

Sec. 3. The National Commander shall preside over National Conventions and the National Executive Committee Meetings, but, shall vote only in the event of a tie, excepting, however, he may vote in the secret ballot elections of the National Officers, held at the National Convention or at an N.E.C. Meeting.

Sec. 4. The National Department shall be the official representative of the Polish Legion of American Veterans, U.S.A.

Sec. 5. It shall be the duty of the National Department to advance the cause of the Polish Legion of American Veterans, U.S.A., carry out its aims and purposes and carry out the national policies and plans of the entire organization, as established by the National Convention.

Sec. 6. The National Executive Committee shall meet four (4) times during the interval between National Conventions and on call of the National Commander whenever he deems such as necessary.

Sec. 6. Par. 1. When determining a site for an N.E.C. Meeting, the National Commander shall choose the site for the next N.E.C. meeting on a rotating basis so that no undue preference is shown to any particular State Department.

Sec. 6. Par. 2. Where in the judgement of the National Commander and confirmed by the N.E.C., the rotation may be suspended, for good cause shown

ARTICLE VII STATE DEPARTMENTS

Sec. 1. The State Departments shall be chartered by the National Department in accordance with provisions of the Constitution and By-Laws of the Polish Legion of American Veterans, U.S.A. It shall be the duty of State Departments to aid in organization and maintenance of local Posts and to carry out the policies and plans delegated to it by the National Department, and to adhere to the provisions of this Constitution and By-Laws and decisions of the National Convention.

Sec. 2. State Executive Committee shall be composed of such elective officers and elective representatives of local Posts under its jurisdiction as shall be provided for in the Constitution and By-Laws of the individual State Departments. The Executive Committee shall be the administrative body of the Department and shall be known as State Department of that particular State.

Sec. 3. The Elective Officers of the State Department shall be elected at the State Convention by the elected delegates, or their duly qualified alternates, of local Posts, belonging to the State Department. All Posts shall be entitled to representation in proportion to their membership.

Sec. 4. Post representatives in the State Department shall be elected by local Posts in accordance with the provisions of the Constitution and By-Laws of each State Department.

Sec. 5. Par. 1. State Conventions shall be held annually or biennially at time and place designated by the previous Convention. In the event such decisions were not made at the previous Convention, the State Department shall designate the time and place for the State Convention, provided, however, that no State Convention may be held within thirty (30) days of a National Convention.

Sec. 5. Par. 2. Quorum at State Conventions shall consist of delegates from a majority of the Posts under the jurisdiction of that State Department.

Sec. 6. State Conventions shall have the authority to determine the amount of dues to be paid by every member of the Posts under its jurisdiction for the purpose of maintenance of the individual State Departments, provided, however, that the amount of annual dues which shall be due to the National

Department for each member of this organization shall not be in any manner affected by the decisions of any State Convention.

ARTICLE VIII LOCAL POSTS

Sec. 1. Local Posts may be formed by any ten (10) eligible individuals by making application to the local State Department, and if there be no State Department, directly to the National Department. If the State Department approves, the application shall be forwarded to the National Department and a Charter shall be issued.

Sec. 2. Local Posts shall be subject to the jurisdiction of the National Department and the State Department, and any provisions of a State Department Constitution or a local Post Constitution conflicting with or contrary to the provisions of the National Constitution shall be null, void, and of no effect. The policies, activities and actions of the local Posts must never be at variance with those prescribed by the National Department.

Sec. 3. Election of officers in local Posts shall be held no later than September 30th, of the year in which the election is held.

Sec. 4. Par. 1. No Post shall disband or merge with another Post without proper authorization from its State Department or, if there be no State Department, from the National Department.

Sec. 4. Par. 2. In the event a Post is disbanded or its Charter duly revoked for cause, its Charter and such other official documents as the State or National Commander desires shall become the property of the State or National Department, whichever applies.

Sec. 4. Par. 3. If a Post becomes inactive, defined herein as not holding a Post meeting for six (6) successive months, the assets of said Post shall come under the control of the respective State Department. Said State Department shall then expeditiously determine whether said Post has been or should be disbanded.

Sec. 4. Par. 4. No Post shall dispose of any of its assets in contemplation of disbanding, burning or revocation of its charter. The respective State Department shall assume immediate control of said Post assets pending a State Department hearing regarding the intent of said Post. Any Post that disposes or contemplates disposing of a substantial part of its assets so as to materially weaken the existence of said Post for the purpose for which it was organized, immediately subjects said Post assets to the control of the State Department. The State Department shall hold a hearing in order to determine the intent of said Post, and all members of said Post shall be duly notified no later than 30 days prior of said hearing, the State Department may determine that said Post is to be disbanded or that its charter be duly revoked.

Sec. 4. Par. 5. The assets of a disbanded Post or a Post whose charter has been duly revoked shall become the property of the respective State Department, except that any money due the National Department shall first be paid from said assets, if any.

Sec. 5. Annual membership dues to local Posts shall be determined by the individual local Posts at the last meeting of the preceding fiscal year, provided, however, that the amount of annual dues which shall

be due to the National Department and State Department for each member of the subject Post may not in any manner be altered or otherwise modified by any action of the subject Post.

ARTICLE IX FINANCES

Sec. 1. Par. 1. All finances of the Polish Legion of American Veterans, U.S.A., shall be under the supervision of the National Treasurer. He or she shall be responsible for keeping all necessary and proper records of all income and expenditures of the National Department.

Sec. 1. Par. 2. The entire property of the Polish Legion of American Veterans, U.S.A., shall be under the supervision of the National Treasurer. He or she shall receive all proceeds from National dues directed to him by the National Membership Director, and upon receipt thereof, he or she shall deposit all such funds in such bank or banks as shall be designated by the National Executive Committee.

Sec. 1. Par. 3. All vouchers, checks, and money drafts, and other financial obligations of the Polish Legion of American Veterans, U.S.A., approved by the National Department, shall be signed by any two (2) of the following: the National Commander, the National Treasurer, or the National First Vice Commander, or, the National Quartermaster.

Sec. 1. Par. 4. Both the National Membership Director and the National Treasurer shall make their annual reports at the National Convention and shall render such other reports as may be required of them by the National Department.

Sec. 2. Revenue shall be derived from annual membership dues, as hereinafter provided, and from other sources approved by the National Department.

Sec. 3. Par. 1. Regulation of annual membership dues to National Department or special assessments on membership of this organization shall be by the National Convention, provided, however, that an affirmative vote of two-thirds (2/3) of all votes cast shall be necessary to change existing annual membership dues or special assessments; or to establish new dues or special assessments.

Sec. 3. Par. 2. A proposed change in annual membership dues shall have been submitted to the National Adjutant, via First Class Mail, postmarked not less than ninety (90) days prior to the convening of the next National Convention. The National Adjutant shall then submit such dues increase proposal to all National Officers, State Departments and local Posts, via First Class Mail, postmarked not less than sixty (60) days prior to the convening of such National Convention. A change in annual membership dues may, however, be implemented at any National Convention, without notice, by a unanimous vote of the delegates present and voting.

Sec. 3. Par. 3. A change in annual membership dues to the National Department shall not be implemented for a period of one hundred –eighty (180) days after approval or the next membership year.

Sec. 3. Par. 4. Regulation of annual membership dues to State Departments or special assessments shall be by State Conventions, provided, however, that an affirmative vote of two-thirds (2/3) of all votes cast shall be necessary to change existing dues or special assessments; or to establish new dues or special assessments.

Sec. 3. Par. 5. Annual dues to local Posts shall be determined by individual local Posts at their annual meeting provided, however, that an affirmative vote of two-thirds (2/3) of all votes cast shall be

necessary to change existing dues or special assessments, or to establish new dues or special assessments.

Sec. 4. The fiscal year of this organization shall commence on September 1st and end on August 31st of the following calendar year. The annual membership fee shall cover the fiscal year.

ARTICLE X ELECTIONS, VOTING AND VACANCIES

Sec. 1. Par. 1. Preceding the National Convention, the National Commander shall appoint the following officials:

a.- A Balloting Committee of three (3) persons who shall take charge of issuance of ballots as provided herein and collection of said ballots. Such Committee shall also officially tabulate results of voting by totaling the tally sheets returned from each State Department. Such Committee shall make its report without delay and shall turn over all ballots and tally sheets to the Convention officials for permanent record purposes.

b.- Balloting Inspectors in a number sufficient for assignment of one (1) Inspector for each voting State Department. The Balloting Inspectors shall be appointed from a State Department other than the one to which they are assigned as an Inspector. The Balloting Inspectors shall observe entirely the voting procedure within the voting State Department. They shall be fully authorized to invalidate ballots and shall be responsible for delivery of voted ballots and tally sheets to the Balloting Committee.

Sec. 2. Par. 1. At a time appointed in the Convention Order of Business and/or the Rules of Procedure, the Balloting Committee shall issue official ballots to all State Commanders representing State Departments at such National Conventions, by handing such official ballots to the Balloting Inspector assigned to such voting State Department for delivery to the State Commander. Such official ballots shall be issued in the number of delegates reported in the last report of the Mandate Committee, except that no more ballots may be issued than there are delegates present within such voting State Department delegation at the time balloting shall commence.

Sec. 2. Par. 2. Names of the candidates being voted upon shall appear printed legibly on a blackboard of sufficient size to be easily read by the seated delegates. Such blackboard shall be situated on the Chairman's platform or stage. Printed names of candidates shall be arranged in a single column and shall be consecutively numbered, beginning with number one (1).

Sec. 2. Par. 3. Ballots should be marked secretly by each delegate by writing the number of the candidate of his choice on the delegate's own ballot. No delegate may so mark more than his own ballot. Ballots marked contrary to any of the paragraphs herein shall be voided by the Balloting Inspectors without replacement.

Sec. 2. Par. 4. State Commanders shall appoint a committee of three (3) persons to collect ballots after a vote has been registered within the State Department delegation. Such State Department Committee shall without delay, tabulate the ballots of the subject State Department, record the vote on tally sheets provided and deliver all ballots and the tally sheets to the Balloting Inspector forthwith.

Sec. 3. Par. 1. Each Elective Office, of this organization, shall be filled by an Active or Active Life Member in good standing, beginning with the National Commander. When the balloting for that office

shall have been completed, then, the balloting for the next National Office shall commence, in like manner, following this prescribed order:

- a. National 1st Vice Commander
- b. National 2nd Vice Commander
- c. National Membership Director
- d. National Treasurer
- e. National Service Director
- f. One (1) National Convention Corporation Director

Sec. 3. Par. 2. The vote cast by a delegation leader may be challenged by a member of such delegation and the election in progress shall be suspended, until the members of such delegation are individually polled.

Sec. 4. Par. 1. A candidate for a National Elective Office must be present to accept nomination for such office or must have given his assent to such nomination in writing.

Sec. 4. Par. 2. A candidate for National Elective Office must have been an active paid-up member within his own State Department for at least three (3) immediately preceding years.

Sec. 4. Par. 3. No member shall hold two (2) elective offices at the same time, but he or she, may hold one (1) elective office and one (1) or more appointed offices.

Sec. 4. Par. 4. At their initial election, officers of National Department, State Department and local Posts shall be elected by the majority of all votes cast at such elections. In the event none of the candidates receives a majority vote on the first ballot, the voting shall be repeated and only the names of the two leading candidates shall be placed on the ballot.

Sec. 5. Par. 1. National Commanders and State Commanders may succeed themselves in the office, provided, however, that to be re-elected such candidate must receive two-thirds (2/3) vote of all votes cast and the candidates for Post Commander shall receive a simple majority of all votes cast at such election. If there be no such majority on the first ballot, the name of the unsuccessful candidate shall be eliminated from the ballot and the voting shall be repeated on the remaining candidates, and the election shall be conducted according with Sec. 2., above.

Sec. 5. Par. 2. State Commanders may succeed themselves in the office, providing, however, that to be re-elected such candidate must receive two-thirds (2/3) vote of all votes cast at such election. If there be no such majority on the first ballot, the name of the unsuccessful candidate shall be eliminated from the ballot and the voting shall be repeated on the remaining candidates, and the election shall be conducted according to Section 2, of this Article. If only one (1) candidate remains on the ballot after the first ballot, nominations for the office of State Commander may be re-opened by proper motion, which shall be subject to a simple majority of votes cast on the question.

Sec. 5. Par. 3. The incumbent National and State Commanders having been eliminated under the provisions of this Article, shall not be eligible for re-nomination for the offices of National Commander or State Commander, respectively, in this election.

Sec. 5. Par. 4. Post Commanders may succeed themselves in office by receiving a simple majority of all votes cast at such election.

Sec. 6. Par. 1. If vacancies shall exist in the office of the National Commander, the National 1st Vice Commander shall become the National Commander. If there be no National 1st Vice Commander, then the National 2nd Vice Commander shall become the National Commander. If there be no National 1st Vice Commander and 2nd Vice Commander, at that time, then a National Commander shall be elected by the National Executive Committee from its membership.

Sec. 6. Par. 2. Vacancies in any other National Office, of this organization, shall be filled by the National Department electing any Active or Active Life Member, in good standing within the organization, to such office.

Sec. 6. Par. 3. Same procedure as outlined in Par. 1 and 2 shall be followed in filling vacancies in the State Department and local Posts.

Sec. 7. Par. 1. The method by which a vote requiring ratification by a two-thirds (2/3) majority, of the delegates present and voting, shall be determined by the tellers, selected and appointed, from each side of the question being considered, to via a formal division of the National Convention Floor, to exact the tally of all votes cast, for and against said question. Each such teller shall take a separate and concurring count and shall report his or her count to the Credentials Committee, of said National Convention.

Sec. 7. Par. 2. The National Convention Credentials Committee shall determine the exact tally of all votes cast, for and against the question at hand, and shall then report the official count from the tellers to the National Convention Floor, after which, the Convention Chairman shall state whether or not the two-thirds (2/3) majority has been attained.

ARTICLE XI DISCIPLINE

Sec. 1. Par. 1. Members may be suspended or expelled from the Polish Legion of American Veterans, U.S.A. upon a proper showing of cause. Charges shall be based upon disloyalty, neglect of duty, dishonesty or conduct unbecoming a member of the Polish Legion of American Veterans, U.S.A.

Sec. 1. Par. 2. Each local Post shall be the judge of its own membership, subject to the provisions of the National Department Constitution and By-Laws, provided however, a local Post or its State Department, by a two-thirds (2/3) vote of its membership, present and voting, at a regular scheduled meeting, may reprimand, penalize, deny transfer, suspend or expel a member, using the following infractions as a guideline:

- a.- Flagrant and serious infractions of the statutes and rules of the Post and State Department.
- b.- Conduct contrary to the maintenance of proper order and decorum within the organization.
- c.- Failure to comply with lawful orders or to accept and carry out properly imposed penalties.
- d.- Resorting to or joining in civil court action against the National Department, the State Department, the local Post or any Auxiliary Units, without exhausting all available avenues and remedies within the Polish Legion of American Veterans, U.S.A.
- e.- Subjecting any officer of the National Department, the State Department, or any officer or member of the local Post to harassment, whether in writing, via the telephone or E-Mail and/or in person, where proof of such exists, either by civil complaint or a eye witnesses written statement.
- f.- Any infraction that necessitates removal from any facility or meeting of the Polish Legion of American Veterans, U.S.A. by civil law enforcement officers.
- g.- The failure to return any funds, properties and office paraphernalia to the Commander

as directed, an action, which in its self may also subject said member to pending criminal action.

h.- Adding to the existing problems by contributing to and/or supporting any offenses of an accused or discipline member.

Sec. 1. Par. 3. Any member subject to discipline under the guidelines of Sec. 1. Par. 2. of this ARTICLE may be denied a transfer from one Post to another. Information concerning the reason for such denial and the circumstances that precipitated it, shall be directed in writing, to other respective Posts and Auxiliary Units within the State Department. A copy of such shall be directed to the National Department, via the National Judge Advocate.

Sec. 1. Par. 4. Any member, expelled in accordance with the provisions of this ARTICLE and the guidelines of its Sec. 1. Par. 2., shall forfeit all rights and privileges, be permanently removed from the active membership rolls and be barred from any further associations of any nature within this organization to include the wearing, any logo, patch, pin, cap, or uniform of the Polish Legion of American Veterans, U.S.A.

Sec. 1. Par. 5. Any member who has been suspended or expelled has the right to appeal to his or her State Department or State Department Convention, according to the provisions in the Constitution or By-Laws of that particular State Department. The decision of the State Department shall be final.

Sec. 2. Disciplinary rules relating to local Posts shall be prescribed and administered by their State Department. Decisions of State Departments in this respect may be appealed by an affected Post, to the National Department. The decision of the National Department shall be final.

Sec. 3. The National Department, after notice and hearing before a sub-committee duly appointed for that purpose, may cancel, suspend or revoke the Charter of any State Department for good and sufficient cause to it appearing. In the event of such action the National Department is empowered to take over the operation of the Department, but is bound by the Constitution and By-Laws thereof, At the next Department Convention, new Department officers must be elected to carry on the work of that Department.

ARTICLE XII AUXILIARIES

Sec. 1. Par. 1. The Polish Legion of American Veterans, U.S.A. recognizes the organization known as Ladies Auxiliary of the Polish Legion of American Veterans, U.S.A.

Sec. 1. Par. 2. Membership in the Auxiliary is limited to the following, to-wit: Mothers, wives, widows, daughters, grand-daughters, sisters, and nieces of regular members of Polish Legion of American Veterans, U.S.A. and of veterans who are eligible to membership under Article II, Section 1 and 2.

Sec. 1. Par. 3. The Ladies Auxiliary shall be governed by such rules and regulations as shall be prescribed by the By-Laws of the Polish Legion of American Veterans, U.S.A.

Sec. 2. Par. 1. The Polish Legion of American Veterans, U.S.A. recognizes the organization known as Sons of the Polish Legion of American Veterans, U.S.A.

Sec. 2. Par. 2. Membership in the Sons Auxiliary of the Polish Legion of American Veterans, U.S.A., shall be limited to sons, grandsons, adopted sons and grandsons, stepsons and step grandsons of regular members of the Polish Legion of American Veterans, U.S.A., and such male descendants of veterans died in service, or, who died subsequent to their honorable discharge from such service.

Sec. 2. Par. 3. The Sons Auxiliary of the Polish Legion of American Veterans, U.S.A. shall be governed by such rules and regulations as shall be prescribed by the By-Laws of the Polish Legion of American Veterans, U.S.A.

Sec. 3. Par. 1. The Polish Legion of American Veterans, U.S.A. shall recognize the organization known as Gold Star Mothers Auxiliary solely as an honorary group.

Sec. 3. Par. 2. Members of the Gold Star Mothers Auxiliary shall be comprised of regular members of the Ladies Auxiliary of the Polish Legion of American Veterans, U.S.A.

Sec. 3. Par. 3. The Gold Star Mothers Auxiliary shall be governed by the rules and regulations prescribed by the Ladies Auxiliary or State Department of the Polish Legion of American Veterans, U.S.A. whichever is the governing body in the respective State.

Sec. 4. Par. 1. The Polish Legion of American Veterans, U.S.A. recognizes the organization known as the Daughters and Granddaughters of the Polish Legion of American Veterans, U.S.A.

Sec. 4. Par. 2. Membership in the Daughters and Granddaughters of the Polish Legion of American Veterans, U.S.A. shall be limited to daughters, granddaughters, adopted daughters and granddaughters, step daughters and step granddaughters of regular members of the Polish Legion of American Veterans, U.S.A. and such female descendants of veterans who died in service, or who died subsequent to their honorable discharge from such service.

Sec. 4. Par. 3. The Daughters and Granddaughters of the Polish Legion of American Veterans, U.S.A. shall be governed by such rules and regulations as shall be prescribed for it by the National Convention and the National By-Laws of the Ladies Auxiliary of the Polish Legion of American Veterans, U.S.A.

ARTICLE XIII AMENDMENTS TO CONSTITUTION

Sec. 1. This Constitution may be amended at any National Convention by a two-thirds majority vote of the total authorized delegates present, provided, that the proposed amendment shall have been submitted to the National Adjutant, postmarked at least ninety (90) days prior to the convening of the next National Convention, and shall have been submitted by the National Adjutant to all State Departments and members of the National Department by mail, postmarked at least sixty (60) days prior to such National Convention. This Constitution may, however, be amended by any National Convention without notice, by unanimous vote.

Sec. 2. No proposed amendment to this Constitution shall be considered by the National Convention, as provided in Sec. 1. of this Article, unless such proposed amendment shall have been submitted through the National Executive Committee to the National Judge Advocate, in triplicate form, by a Post at its respective State Convention, by a State Department in its State Convention or at its State Executive Committee meeting, or by the National Department at a National Executive Committee Meeting.

PART II

BY-LAWS

Polish Legion of American Veterans U.S.A.

ARTICLE I

Functions of the National Department

Sec. 1. The National Department shall hold the number of meetings as prescribed in Sec. 6. of Article VI, of the National Constitution, during the interval between National Conventions and such other special meetings as may be called by the National Commander, provided, however, that each member of the National Department shall be duly notified thereof in sufficient time to enable such member to attend such meeting.

Sec. 2. A majority of the members of the National Department shall constitute a quorum.

Sec. 3. The National Commander shall appoint, subject to approval by the National Department, such permanent National Committees as shall be hereinafter provided, and such other Committees as he shall deem necessary and proper for the good of the organization.

Sec. 4. The National Department shall have the authority to prescribe such administrative regulations for the entire organization as it shall deem necessary, and all State Departments and local Posts shall be obliged to comply therewith.

ARTICLE II

Duties of National Officers and Directors

Sec. 1. National Commander: The National Commander shall be the executive head of the Polish Legion of American Veterans, U.S.A., with full power to enforce the provisions of the National Constitution, National By-Laws, and the will of the National Convention. He or she shall be the Chairman of the National Convention and National Executive Committee. He or she shall, at least 90 days in advance thereof, issue an official proclamation of the National Convention, announcing the date and place thereof and directing the local Posts to elect proper delegates thereto. He or she shall, together with other officers provided for in the Constitution, sign all checks and vouchers disbursing the funds of the National Organization. He or she shall, during his or her term of office, hold in his or her possession a copy of the Organization's "Not For Profit Corporation Charter" and all surety bonds of National Officers who are required to post such bonds. He or she shall appoint all necessary Committees, where not otherwise provided, subject to the ratification of the National Executive Committee and shall perform such other duties as are usually incident to the office.

Sec. 2. National 1st Vice Commander: The National 1st Vice Commander shall act as representative of the National Commander in all matters referred to him or her by the Commander, and shall, upon the Commander's request, preside over the meetings of the National Convention or National Executive Committee, and perform such other duties as prescribed by the National Commander and which are usually incident to the office. He or she shall further, when directed to do so by the National Commander or the National Executive Committee, sign all checks and vouchers disbursing the funds of the National Organization.

Sec. 3. The National 2nd Vice Commander shall act as a representative of the National Commander in all matters referred to him or her by the National Commander and when called upon to do so, he or she

shall aid the National First Vice Commander. He or she shall be in charge of the Americanism and Youth Programs of the Polish Legion of American Veterans, U.S.A., and shall have the duty of promoting and advancing American ideals and programs of a civic and patriotic nature. He or she shall coordinate, promote and direct all athletic and sports programs within the Polish Legion of American Veterans, U.S.A., with particular attention to programs affecting State Department and Zones. He or she shall also formulate, promote and activate the National Youth Program of the Polish Legion of American Veterans, U.S.A. and perform such other duties as prescribed by the National Commander and which are usually incident to the office.

Sec. 4. National Membership Director. The National Membership Director shall have a basic knowledge of computers and of Data Base and Word Processing Programs. He or she shall have access to the Internet, so as to enable him or her to perform any duties that may be required to maintain the Website of the P.L.A.V., U.S.A. He or she shall work in concert with the National Membership Deputy Director to ensure that all P.L.A.V., U.S.A. Databases and other information has adequate backup, via disks or the Internet, so as to prevent its loss. He or she shall maintain correct records of all payments of annual dues of Active and Active Life Regular Members and Members-at-Large received from State Departments and Posts. He or she shall forward all funds received to the National Treasurer for proper deposit. He or she shall keep all official records of membership, as well as the correct addresses of all State Departments and local Posts. He or she shall prepare statistics of the organization's membership for the National Convention, the N.E.C. Meetings and The National P.L.A.V., U.S.A. News, and, such other reports as may be required of him or her by the National Commander or the N.E.C. He or she shall be Chairman of the National Membership Committee. He or she shall be responsible for control and record of the Membership Card Distribution and dues paid therefor, as well as maintaining a strict count of such membership cards, making regular reports of their status thereof to the N.E.C. He or she shall be in charge of the National Data Base for the Veterans and the Ladies Auxiliary. He or she shall be solely responsible for issuing Post numbers to new Posts, and, upon receipt of an Application for a new Charter and dues, shall perform such administrative duties as shall be required, forwarding the processed Application to the National Adjutant for the preparation of said Charter and to the National Commander for its presentation to the Post. He or she shall furnish a surety bond, as hereinafter specified, and shall perform such other duties as are prescribed by the National Constitution, or, are incident to the office.

Sec. 5. National Treasurer: The National Treasurer shall be the custodian of the funds and property of the National Organization, shall sign all checks and vouchers disbursing the funds of the National Organization, as provided in the Constitution, and shall make reports concerning the National Treasury to the National Convention and such other reports as may be requested by the National Commander or National Executive Committee. The National Treasurer shall furnish a surety bond as hereinafter specified; and shall perform such other duties as are usually incident to the office.

Sec. 6. National Service Director: It shall be his or her responsibility to direct and supervise the service activities of the Polish Legion of American Veterans, U.S.A., subject to the instructions of the National Convention, the

National Commander and the National Executive Committee. He or she shall advise and inform the State and Post Service Officers of existing veteran's benefits and rights, who in turn shall assist ill, disabled and needy veterans in obtaining them. He or she shall assist disabled and physically handicapped veterans, of all wars and conflicts, of the United States, in qualifying for compensation or pension; he or she shall assist widows and veteran's dependents in obtaining compensation or pension benefits, death and burial benefits, educational assistance and other miscellaneous benefits. He or she shall gather information as to the service activities and programs of the State Departments and Posts for inclusion into the Annual Report, of the P.L.A.V., U.S.A., required by the U.S. Congress under P.L. 98-372 and shall also perform any other duties as are incident to the office.

Sec. 7. National Directors (State Commanders): They shall be voting members of the National Executive Committee and it shall be their duty to take an active part in managing the affairs of the organization. It shall be the duty of the Directors to safeguard the finances and property of the organization; the Directors shall request financial reports at all N.E.C. Meetings from National Officers responsible for the finances of the organization and shall carefully scrutinize such reports. It shall be the duty of the Directors to use their best judgement in performance of their duties as Directors of this organization in all matters that come before them during their term of office, keeping always the best interest of this organization in mind. It shall be the duty of the Directors to attend regular and special meetings of the National Department and perform all duties delegated to them by the National Department. Duties of Directors assigned to the Audit Committee at the National Executive Committee Meetings shall be strictly limited to auditing books and such other members of this committee shall not be assigned any other items of business for their disposition, pending such audit of financial books. The National Commander with the advice of the Audit Committee Chairman may assign some of the State Commanders to other Committees at National Executive Committee meetings.

Sec. 8.- National Adjutant: The National Adjutant is an Executive Officer of the National Department. The National Adjutant duties include but are not limited to: Planning, organizing and directing the activities of the National Department Office with the advice and consent of the National Commander and National Executive Committee. Prepare and forward to the Budget and Audit Committee an annual budget for the National Adjutant Office. He or she shall keep the official records of all meetings of the National Department, shall conduct all official correspondence of the National Department and ,maintain proper records thereof; shall be the Secretary of the National Executive Committee Meetings and the national Convention, shall be the custodian of all official National Department records and other documents prior to sending them to the national Archives for safe storage. He or she shall, with the aid of the National Commander and other designated National Officers, prepare the Organization's Annual Report to Congress, forwarding same to the proper authorities prior to then deadline date for its submission. He or she shall maintain the list of Parent and Subsidiary Units of the PLAV,USA, as required by the United States Internal Revenue Service , so as to ensure that the Organization's Federal Income Tax Status is in full compliance with the provisions of the I.R.S. He or she shall inform all Posts of the number of delegates to the National Convention that they are entitled to, taking the figures from membership data supplied by the national Membership Director, in accordance with Sec. 1. Of ARTICLE IV, of the By-Laws. He or she shall maintain current Rosters of Officers, Directors, Committee Chairmen, as well as up to date mailing lists of all State Departments, local Posts and Auxiliary Units other than those of the Ladies Auxiliary. He or she shall act as the assembly and distribution point of various program material of the PLAV,USA. He or she shall maintain contact with all State Departments, Posts, Auxiliary Units within the organization to ensure dissemination of policy and program actions and to collect and distribute information requested by other offices. Her or she shall also perform such other duties as are usually incident to the office , or assigned to him or her by the National Commander or the national Executive Committee..

Sec. 9. National Judge Advocate: The Judge Advocate shall advise the National Officers and the National Executive Committee on all legal matters, including the construction and interpretation of the

National Constitution and By-Laws, and shall perform such other duties as are usually incident to the office.

Sec. 10. National Legislative Director: It shall be the duty of the National Legislative Director to be the advisor to the National Organization on all legislative matters pertaining to veterans and their dependents, on bills introduced in House and/or Senate Veterans' Affairs Committees. He or she may appear in Washington in support of organizational legislative proposals, or at Hearings, with the prior approval of the National Department, or when circumstances warrant, the National Commander. He or she shall have all Organizational Resolutions transposed into legislative proposals and cause to have them forwarded by the most expeditious means to the House and Senate Veterans' Affairs Committees. He or she shall correspond as required with both Houses of Congress to seek their support on all vital issues that pertain to the health and welfare of all veterans and their dependents. He or she shall be the Chairman of the Legislative Affairs Committee at all National Executive Committee meetings and the National Convention.

Sec. 11. National Membership Deputy Director: The National Membership Deputy Director, appointed by the National Commander, with the advice and consent of the National Membership Director, shall have a basic knowledge of computers and of Database and Word Processing Programs. He or she shall have access to the Internet, so as to permit him or her to work in concert with the National Membership Director in maintaining the Website of the Polish Legion of American Veterans, U.S.A. Under the direction of said National Membership Director, he or she shall be required to maintain back-up Database data, via disks or the Internet, thereby preventing its loss. All of the duties of this office shall be performed in the complete cooperation with the National Membership Director, with each such officer maintaining close contact at all times, so as to avoid the conflict or duplication of efforts. The National Membership Deputy Director shall develop the Website, of the Polish Legion of American Veterans, U.S.A. He or she shall be charged with maintaining the National Data Base of Honorary Members and the membership records of the various Auxiliaries recognized by the Polish Legion of American Veterans, U.S.A., with the Ladies Auxiliary having the sole and distinct responsibility for providing him and the National Membership Director with the correct and up-to-date names and addresses of its members, for inclusion into the National Data Base for mailing purposes. The National Membership Deputy Director shall maintain accurate records of the payments of National Dues from the Auxiliary Units, of the Polish Legion of American Veterans, U.S.A., with the exception of the Ladies Auxiliary. He or she shall forward all funds received, to the National Treasurer for proper deposit. He or she shall keep official records of the names and addresses of said Auxiliaries. He or she shall be responsible for control and record of the Membership Card Distribution and any National Dues paid thereof, as well as maintaining a strict count of the Membership Cards, making regular reports of their status to the National Convention and the National Executive Committee. Upon the receipt of an Application for a new Charter and dues, he or she shall process it and the new Charter. After completing these tasks (obtaining approval for this Auxiliary Unit), he or she shall forward the dues to the National Treasurer, send one copy of the Application for said Charter back to the originating State Department, retain one copy for his or her files, and, make arrangements to have the National Commander or his Representative present the new Charter and Application to the Auxiliary. The National Deputy Director shall be in charge of all forms, such as, Membership Forms, Financial Statements, Officers Reports, Data Base Membership Forms, Membership Applications and Brochures.

Sec. 12. National P.L.A.V., U.S.A. News Editor: The National P.L.A.V., U.S.A. News Editor shall manage and supervise all phases of the National P.L.A.V., U.S.A. News. He or she shall be responsible

for the gathering of material for publication, editing all incoming material and/or pictorial matter from the Departments, Posts, Auxiliary Chapters and other news sources and for the preparation of the lay-out of the publication to be used by the printer. He or she shall publish and distribute the number of issues as directed by the National Convention and be further responsible for the financial management of the publication, under the general supervision of the National Executive Committee. He or she shall also perform such other duties as are usually incident to the office.

Sec. 13. Par. 1. National V.A.V.S. Director: It shall be his or her responsibility to plan and coordinate the V.A.V.S. Programs of the Polish Legion of American Veterans, U.S.A., subject to the instructions of the National Convention, the National Commander and the National Executive Committee. He or she shall set forth the policies of the National V.A.V.S. Program, of the P.L.A.V., U.S.A., and, he or she shall instruct and assist the V.A.V.S. Officers of the State Departments and Posts in their implementation; he or she shall act as the representative of the P.L.A.V., U.S.A., at all meetings of the National V.A.V.S. Committee and shall certify all State and Post V.A.V.S. Representatives and Deputies to V.A. Medical Centers; he or she shall gather information as to the V.A.V.S. programs of the State Departments and Posts for inclusion in the Annual Report of the P.L.A.V., U.S.A., required by the U.S. Congress under P.L. 98-372 and shall perform any other duties as are usually incident to the office.

Sec. 13. Par. 2. The National Commander shall appoint a National V.A.V.S. Deputy Director with the advice and consent of the National V.A.V.S. Director to the National V.A.V.S. Committee. This position, which shall not be considered to be that of an officer, shall have duties and responsibilities as outlined by the National Convention, the National Commander and the National Executive Committee.

Sec. 14. National Public Relations Officer: The National Public Relations Officer a National Operations Officer, who may be appointed at the discretion of the National Commander, subject to concurrence of the National Executive Committee, shall be responsible for the preparation and dissemination of news releases to newspapers, radio, television and other publicity media for the purpose of publicizing the activities of the P.L.A.V., U.S.A. He or she shall work in close harmony with the National Commander and the National Executive Committee and shall issue no news releases without prior clearance from the National Commander and/or the National Executive Committee. He or she shall also perform such duties as are usually incident to the office. The duties of the National Public Relations Officer may be assigned to any Elected or Appointed National Officer or Director.

Sec. 15. National Quartermaster: The National Quartermaster, appointed by the National Commander, with the advice and consent of the National Treasurer shall be in charge of the emblems and supplies of the National Department. He or she shall prepare a catalog of all items for sale and distribution, under the direction of the National Executive Committee. He or she shall keep accurate accounts, books, vouchers and records according to the forms approved for use by the National Department. He or she shall keep a correct account of all monies due and payable to the organization from any source and give such written receipts therefor as may be required. He or she shall prepare both a financial and inventory report for the N.E.C. Meetings and National Convention and provide copies to the Treasurer and Chairman of the Budget and Audit Committee. This position shall not be considered to be that of a National Officer. The duties of the National Quartermaster may be assigned to any Elected or Appointed National Officer or Director.

Sec. 16. Par. 1. National Chaplain: The National Chaplain, a National Operations Officer, who may be appointed at the discretion of the National Commander, subject to the concurrence of the National

Executive Committee, shall be the spiritual advisor of the National Department and shall perform such divine services as may be necessary at the National Convention or, at such other events where the service may be deemed necessary by the National Commander or the National Executive Committee.

Sec. 16. Par. 2. The National Commander may call upon any elective or appointed National Officer or National Director to give the opening and closing prayers at the meetings of the National Executive Committee, if there be no duly appointed National Chaplain

Sec. 17. Par. 1. National Sergeant-at-Arms: The National Sergeant-at-Arms, a National Operations Officer, who may be appointed at the discretion of the National Commander, subject to the concurrence of the National Executive Committee, shall be the custodian of the National Colors and shall be in charge of the Color Detail during the presentation and retirement of the Colors. He or she shall maintain order at the meetings of the National Department.

Sec. 17. Par. 2. The National Commander, with the advice and consent of the National Executive Committee, may delegate the duties of the Office of National Sergeant-at-Arms to any elective or appointed National Officer or National Director.

Sec. 18. National Medical Officer: The National Medical Officer shall advise the National Department on medical matters for the purpose of more efficient performance of welfare work within this organization.

Sec. 19. Par. 1. National Archives Director: The National Archives Director shall not be considered to be an officer of the National Department or a member of the National Executive Committee, even when invited to its meetings by the National Commander or by said National Executive Committee, itself, provided, however, if invited to be present at such meetings, he or she shall be entitled to travel, lodging and per diem expenses as may be prescribed by the National Convention. He or she shall be responsible for locating and recommending to the National Executive Committee a suitable site for the storage and display of the National Department files, meeting minutes and other records of the organization, as well as, historic documents, photographs and the likes. He or she shall also participate in the receipt of, preservation and presentation of any and all of the foregoing for public view.

Sec. 19. Par. 2. The National Commander, with the advice and consent of the National Executive Committee, may delegate the duties of this appointed position, National Archives Director, to any elective or appointed National Officer or National Director.

Sec. 20. Par. 1. National V.A.V.S. Deputy Director: The National V.A.V.S. Deputy Director, who shall be appointed to this position by the National Commander, with the advice and consent of the National V.A.V.S. Director, subject to concurrence of the National Executive Committee, shall not be considered to be an officer of the National Department. He or she shall have duties and responsibilities as outlined by the National Convention, the National Commander and the National Executive Committee.

Sec. 20. Par. 2. The National Commander, with the advice and consent of the National V.A.V.S. Director, and, subject to concurrence of the National Executive Committee, may delegate the duties of this position, National V.A.V.S. Deputy Director, to the National Service Director or any appointed National Officer.

Sec. 21. Par. 1. Immediate Past National Commander: The Immediate Past National Commander shall be an advisor to the National Department and be Chairman of the Past National Advisory Committee. He or she shall be the sole Past National Commander to be reimbursed for travel, lodging, per diem and

other expenses for attendance at National Executive Committee Meetings during the two (2) years interval between his retirement and the next National Convention.

Sec. 21. Par. 2. In the event of the re-election of a National Commander, of the Polish Legion of American Veterans, U.S.A., per historic past practice, the position of Immediate Past National Commander shall be rendered vacant. In such case, the Past National Commanders Advisory Committee, meeting in accordance with the rules prescribed herein, at the National Executive Committee Meetings, during the two (2) year interval between National Conventions, shall elect a Chairman from within its membership. Such Chairman shall not be considered to be in the same vein as the Immediate Past National Commander as outlined in Sec. 21. Par. 1. Of these By-Laws.

Sec. 21. Par. 3. All other Past National Commanders, not holding an elective or appointed National Executive Office, shall be entitled to one (1) night lodging, and the per diem as established by the National Executive Committee while in attendance at an NEC meeting, in accordance with the provisions of ARTICLE VI, Sec. 2. Par. 1., of the National Constitution. The same remuneration shall be accorded to Past National Commanders attending the National Convention. While in attendance at such meetings and the National Convention all Past National Commanders shall be members of the Past National Commanders Advisory Committee.

ARTICLE III DISCIPLINE OF MEMBERS AND OFFICERS

Sec. 1. If a member's dues for the current fiscal year have not been paid by December 1, he or she shall be classed as delinquent. If his or her dues are paid on or before December 31, he or she may be reinstated on recommendation of the local executive body. If he or she is still delinquent on or after January 1, his or her membership in the Polish Legion of American Veterans, U.S.A. shall be forfeited. An individual whose membership has been so forfeited may be reinstated to active membership by a vote of the Post membership and payment of dues for the fiscal year in which reinstatement occurs.

Sec. 2. Any officer, of the National Department, a State Department or a local Post, who shall not be present for three (3) consecutive regular meetings, without good cause, shall forfeit his or her right to the office he or she holds, and to any remuneration that may be connected therewith. The existence "good cause" shall be determined by the Executive Board of the body in which he or she serves. The vacancy, caused by such forfeiture, shall be filled in accordance with the provisions of the Constitution.

Sec. 3. Any officer of the National Department, a State Department or a local Post, who is entrusted with handling of finances or property of the Polish Legion of American Veterans, U.S.A., cannot resign and his or her offered resignation shall not be valid and accepted until proper audit of his or her records are made, and until any funds or property of this organization in his or her possession have been properly returned to the organization.

Sec. 4. Officers of local Posts, State Departments or National Department shall, upon completion of their term of office, deliver to their successors in office all records, finances and property of the Polish Legion of American Veterans, U.S.A., as soon as possible, but not more than 30 days from the date of termination of their terms of office.

ARTICLE IV DELEGATES TO NATIONAL CONVENTION

Sec. 1. The number of delegates from local Posts to the National Convention shall be determined on the basis of membership in local Posts as registered with the National Department, sixty (60) days prior to the date of convening the National Convention.

Sec. 2. Local Posts shall be entitled to representation at the National Convention on following basis, to-wit:

1. Posts with twenty-five (25) members or less shall be entitled to three (3) delegates.
2. Posts with larger membership shall be entitled to three (3) delegates for the first twenty-five (25) members and one (1) delegate for each additional twenty-five (25) members or larger fraction thereof, that is, thirteen (13) or more, provided, however, that "larger fraction" provision shall apply only when the provision immediately preceding it, herein, shall be first fully complied with, when applicable.
3. New Posts, during the first year of their existence, shall each be entitled to three (3) delegates only, the number of their Post membership notwithstanding.

Sec. 3. Delegates to National Conventions shall be entitled to full or partial payment of travel expenses and per diem, if actually present at the Convention in the following manner, to-wit:

1. Delegates elected by local Posts shall be paid by their local Posts.
2. State Commanders and retiring State Commanders shall be paid by their respective State Departments.
3. All Elective National Officers and the appointed National Executive Officers as listed in ARTICLE IV, NATIONAL CONVENTION , Sec. 2. - c., and ARTICLE V, OFFICERS, Sec. 3. Par. 1., Sub Paragraph A. National Executive Officers, of the National Constitution, shall be paid by the National Department.

ARTICLE V NATIONAL CONVENTION CORPORATION

Sec. 1. The National Convention Corporation shall act on behalf of the National Department of the Polish Legion of American Veterans, U.S.A., within the scope of these By-Laws and Constitution.

Sec. 2. Par. 1. It shall be the duty of the National Convention Corporation to provide necessary funds to cover all expenses of the Convention, including the remuneration of the National and Convention officers.

Sec. 2. Par. 2. National Convention Corporation shall provide a suitable location for the Convention of the Polish Legion of American Veterans, U.S.A. and a separate location for the Convention of the Ladies Auxiliary, and report these arrangements to the National Department not less than six (6) months prior to the date of the National Convention.

Sec. 2. Par. 3. This Corporation shall arrange, at its own expense, Drum and Bugle Corps contests for the Polish Legion of American Veterans, U.S.A., or its Auxiliaries

CODE OF REGULATIONS of the NATIONAL CONVENTION CORPORATION

Polish Legion of American Veterans, U.S.A.

**CLAUSE I
PURPOSE**

The purpose of the Polish Legion of American Veterans, U.S.A. National Convention Corporation is to establish a corporate entity to arrange for the financing and the operation of the P.L.A.V., U.S.A., National Convention and to additionally provide continuity in planning such conventions. The National Convention Corporation although a legally separate entity, shall be under the jurisdiction of the National Department of the P.L.A.V., U.S.A. and shall generally adhere to the National Constitution and By-Laws.

**CLAUSE II
MEMBERS**

The membership of the National Convention Corporation shall be comprised of regular and active members of the Polish Legion of American Veterans, U.S.A., who shall be elected to its Board of Directors by the National Convention for a term of six (6) years.

**CLAUSE III
BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

Sec. 1. Par. 1. The Board of Directors shall consist of three (3) members who are in good standing in the P.L.A.V, U.S.A..

Sec. 2. In addition to the elected members, who shall serve on the Board of Directors, the National Commander of the Polish Legion of American Veterans, U.S.A. shall be ex-officio member of that Board. He or she shall at all times have the right to attend and participate in all meetings of the Board of Directors. He or she may defer action by the Board on a particular issue until it is resolved by the N.E.C.

Sec. 3. The Board of Directors shall hold annual meetings in conjunction with the meetings of the National Executive Committee. The first meeting shall be held in conjunction with the first regular meeting of the N.E.C. following a National Convention. The next meeting of the Board of Directors shall be held in the Convention "off year" and in conjunction with the first regular meeting of the N.E.C. in the new fiscal year. Special meetings of the Board of Directors may be called by the Chairman, or by the National Commander, provided that written notice of said meeting is sent to all members of that Board.

Sec. 4. The elected members of the Board of Directors, whenever requested to attend a meeting of the National Executive Committee by the National Commander and/or the N.E.C. shall attend such meeting as members of that body. Such Directors shall have a voice but no vote in matters pertaining to or pertinent to such N.E.C. Meetings.

Sec. 5. Any member of the Board of Directors may be removed from office upon two-thirds (2/3) vote of the National Executive Committee for such reasons as may be satisfactory to the N.E.C. Members being tried for removal from office shall have no vote. However, a Director being so tried may present evidence pertinent in his or her own defense.

Sec. 6. Whenever a vacancy shall occur in the Board of Directors by death, resignation, ineligibility or removal as provided in Sec. 5., or otherwise, the vacancy shall be filled by the N.E.C. The new member

shall serve until the next National Convention, at which time, a Director shall be elected to complete the term.

Sec. 7. Par. 1. Two (2) of the Directors shall constitute a quorum for all meetings of the Board. The vote of a quorum of said Directors shall be conclusive as to matters passed upon by said Board.

Sec. 7. Par. 2. Proposals which are submitted in writing to such Directors by its Chairman, Secretary, other Directors, National Commander, or the N.E.C. may be resolved by written reply.

Sec. 8. Par. 1. The members of the Board of Directors shall serve without compensation, however, the National Executive Committee may provide reasonable compensation, where an injustice may be evident. Members of the Board of Directors shall, however, be allowed their reasonable authorized expenses incurred in travel and otherwise in pursuit of N.C.C. business; and it shall be the duty of the Board of Directors to pass and approve or disapprove vouchers for payment of such expenses, according to such rules and procedures as it may have established.

Sec. 8. Par. 2. All compensation and/or expenses as provided for in these regulations shall be subject to review, approval or rejection by the National Executive Committee.

Sec. 9. Par. 1. Past National Commanders and Past National Presidents of the Ladies Auxiliary, if actually present at the National Convention, shall be entitled to payment of mandate fees, paid from the funds acquired by the National Convention Corporation.

CLAUSE IV OFFICERS

Sec. 1. The officers of the National Convention Corporation (N.C.C.) shall consist of a President, Secretary and Treasurer. Their term of office is two years. They shall be elected at the annual meeting of the Board of Directors next following a National Convention.

Sec. 2. In case of death, resignation, ineligibility or removal of any officer for cause, the Board of Directors shall elect his or her successor from amongst its members for the unexpired term.

Sec. 3. Par. 1. The President, as the Executive Officer of the National Convention Corporation, shall act as the Chairman of the Board of Directors with the usual duties, authority and responsibility of such office. His or her signature along with that of the Treasurer are required on each corporate check. He or she is the director and manager of the business and administrative affairs of the Corporation. He or she shall with the consent and approval of the Board of Directors have the following authority and duties: lease office space, purchase supplies, arrange for travel of Directors, employ and supervise required personnel, and arrange for such incidental services as may be deemed necessary to conduct the business affairs of the Corporation.

Sec. 3. Par. 2. The Treasurer shall maintain an accurate account of finances of the N.C.C. He or she shall be bonded by a good and solvent bonding company for twice the optimum amount of money that may be on deposit in the Corporate accounts. He or she shall be one of the signers of all checks drawn on all Corporate accounts. He or she shall prepare checks and vouchers on order of the President. He or she shall perform such other duties as are usual and incidental to such office.

Sec. 3. Par. 3. The Secretary shall keep a complete record of the minutes of all meetings of the Board of Directors.

Sec. 3. Par. 4. Under no circumstances shall any of the Corporate Officers sign any checks or vouchers in blank.

Sec. 4. The National Convention Corporation shall bond all its officers as named in Section 1 of this Article. Such bond shall be for a reasonable amount and be filed with the National Treasurer of the Polish Legion of American Veterans, U.S.A.

CLAUSE V AUTHORITY FOR CONTRACTS

Sec. 1. The making of all contracts for fund raising and for other purposes provided for in the Certificate of Incorporation of the National Convention Corporation of the Polish Legion of American Veterans, U.S.A. is in the discretion of the Board of Directors, provided that reasonable legal advice shall have been consulted concerning each transaction.

Sec. 2. All such contracts shall be entered into in the name of the National Convention Corporation of the Polish Legion of American Veterans, U.S.A. They shall be authenticated with the signature of the President of the Board of Directors, after having been duly approved by the said Board of Directors. Proposals and negotiations concerning proposed contracts, and copies of the said contracts shall be submitted to the Board of Directors by Certified Mail - Return Receipt Requested and their action thereon shall be transmitted to the Secretary in writing. Copies of Executed Contracts shall be forwarded to the National Commander, National Treasurer and National Membership Director within thirty (30) days of execution thereof.

Sec. 3. Contracts proposed to extend over more than one National Convention must have the approval of the National Executive Committee.

CLAUSE VI DUTIES OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Sec. 1. It shall be the duty of the Board of Directors:

1. To keep complete records of minutes of meetings and accounts in permanently bound record books. A written report of the minutes of all meetings of the Board of Directors shall be submitted to the National Commander immediately following all such meetings.
2. To supervise all officers and agents of the Corporation and to require proper performance of their duties.
3. To designate a depository, or depositories, for the funds and securities, and other properties of the Corporation. All such funds, securities and other properties of the N.C.C. shall be held in trust for and shall at all times be the property of the Polish Legion of American Veterans, U.S.A.
4. To transfer all surplus funds to the National Treasury of the Polish Legion of American Veterans, U.S.A. except as provided for in Article VII, Section 5, of this Code of Regulations.
5. The National Executive Committee shall determine the kinds and classes of securities and properties in which the funds of the Corporation shall be invested, provided said investment complies with the laws of the State in which such funds are located. It shall be the duty of the Board of Directors to

keep the National Executive Committee duly informed concerning the funds of the Corporation by submitting a written report thereon to the N.E.C. each time that body meets in regularly convened executive sessions.

6. To hold and exercise all the powers and rights conferred upon the Directors of a Corporation generally by the laws of the United States of America and the States in which such Corporations shall operate.
7. To enter into contracts directly related to the operation of a National Convention or other National Conferences as directed by the N.E.C.; to investigate and to recommend Convention sites; to arrange for the preparation and printing of Convention programs; and to purchase and conserve all materials as may be required by the National Convention and/or other National Conference. "Other National Conference" as stated herein shall not be construed to include National Executive Committee Meetings.
8. To make such expenditures and to enter into such agreements as may be necessary in its discretion to fulfill the purposes outlined in the Certificate of Incorporation.
9. To employ such persons as it deems necessary to carry out the purposes herein, and as set forth in the Certificate of Incorporation. Employment of all such persons and the salaries to be paid such persons shall be subject to the approval of the National Executive Committee.
10. To provide for adequate bonding of not only the Board of Directors, but also of such agents as necessary; to otherwise protect the funds of the Corporation.
11. To make written, full complete reports of its activities and accounts to the National Commander and the National Executive Committee as provided for in these regulations or as may be required by the National Executive Committee.
12. To advise in writing and orally, when convenient, the Commander of a Department hosting a National Convention, and/or the local Convention Committee in all matters pertinent to that forthcoming Convention.
13. To advise, in writing, the National Department of the Ladies Auxiliary, P.L.A.V., U.S.A. in all matters pertinent to the Ladies Auxiliary in regards to P.L.A.V., U.S.A. National Conventions.

Sec. 2. It shall be the duty of the National Executive Committee to suspend all payments of compensations and/or expenses to the Board of Directors or members thereof unless all the duties enumerated in Section 1 of this Article are satisfactorily performed.

Sec. 3. In the event the N.C.C. Board of Directors fails to carry out its duties and responsibilities in compliance with this Code of Regulations as determined by the National Executive Committee, it shall be mandatory for the National Commander and/or the N.E.C. to act at once to suspend the activities of such Board, and to carry out the duties herein described in place of such Board.

CLAUSE VII POLICY

Sec. 1. The P.L.A.V., U.S.A. National Convention Corporation, for all purposes of policy, shall be a subsidiary of the National Department of the P.L.A.V., U.S.A. as referred to in the National Constitution, P.L.A.V., U.S.A. - Article IV, Section 6, and shall be subject to the provisions of said Article.

Sec. 2. It shall be the policy of the Directors of the N.C.C. to limit their travel and expenses insofar as possible to one (1) visit to a convention site city prior to any National Convention. Inspection of premises, final negotiations, and executions of contracts shall be the purpose of such visit. Such visit shall be limited to one (1) authorized N.C.C. officer unless the urgency of the situation requires otherwise.

Sec. 3. It shall be the policy of the Directors of the N.C.C. to do all preliminary negotiating with hotels, suppliers, and other suppliers of required services through the United States Mails in an effort to minimize expenses. Telephone expenses should be minimal.

Sec. 4. In an effort to minimize costs to the P.L.A.V., U.S.A., the Board of Directors of the N.C.C. shall hold their annual meetings in conjunction with the meetings of the National Executive Committee, as set forth in this Code of Regulations.

Sec. 5. All funds acquired by the Convention Corporation shall be deposited to its account and expended or invested as directed by the National Executive Committee. The amount of operating funds for the National Convention Corporation shall be determined by the National Executive Committee.

Sec. 6. At the first regular National Executive Committee Meeting following a National Convention, the National Convention Corporation shall submit a budget covering N.C.C. operations for the ensuing two year period. Such budget shall take effect immediately upon approval by the National Executive Committee.

Sec. 7. All activities of the P.L.A.V., U.S.A. National Convention Corporation shall be under the supervision, direction and control of the Board of Directors except as herein otherwise provided.

Sec. 8. Reference herein to the masculine shall include the feminine.

CLAUSE VIII NATIONAL BY-LAWS

All provisions of this Code of Regulations for the National Convention Corporation of the Polish Legion of American Veterans, U.S.A. and amendments thereto, shall become an addenda to ARTICLE V, of the National By-Laws of the Polish Legion of American Veterans, U.S.A. and shall take effect immediately upon adoption by the National Convention.

CLAUSE IX STATE DEPARTMENTS

Authority is hereby given to the various State Departments of the Polish Legion of American Veterans, U.S.A. to authorize and create Convention Corporations of similar scope and nature to finance and to operate State Department Conventions. The National Department of the Polish Legion of American Veterans, U.S.A. shall in no way assume any responsibility or obligation for any State Department Convention Corporation.

CLAUSE X PROFITS

The State Department hosting a National Convention of the Polish Legion of American Veterans, U.S.A. shall receive thirty-five (35) per cent of the net profit of that National Convention, but shall not be obligated to contribute to any loss resulting from that convention.

CLAUSE XI AMENDMENTS

This Code of Regulations may be amended, added to, or altered by a National Convention - as prescribed by the National Constitution and By-Laws of the Polish Legion of American Veterans, U.S.A.

Adopted by the 1972 National Convention at Cleveland, Ohio and amended by subsequent National Conventions.

ARTICLE VI PERMANENT COMMITTEES

Sec. 1. Par. 1. The National Commander shall appoint, subject to approval of the National Executive Committee, the following permanent National Committees: Veterans Affairs Committee, Membership Committee, Committee on Regalia and Uniforms, Liaison Committee for Auxiliary Units of the Polish Legion of American Veterans, U.S.A., Data Base Committee, and, such other Committees as may be proper and necessary.

Sec. 1. Par. 2. The Past National Commander's Advisory Committee shall be a permanent committee, of the National Department, per the enactment of the 23rd National Convention. Its membership shall be limited to the Past National Commanders, of the Polish Legion of American Veterans, U.S.A.

Sec. 2. Duties of permanent National Committees shall be as follows:

a. The Veterans Affairs Committee shall advance the cause of veterans' welfare wherever possible; shall aid and assist veterans in obtaining all benefits due to them; and shall perform such duties that may be delegated to it by the National Commander and/or the National Convention.

b. The Membership Committee shall help to organize new Posts in States where there are no State Departments, and aid State Departments in recruiting new members, and shall perform such further duties that may be delegated to it by the National Commander and/or the National Convention.

c. The Regalia and Uniforms Committee shall supervise all organization regalia and supply State Departments and local Posts with same, upon request, and shall perform such further duties that may be delegated to it by the National Commander and/or the National Convention.

d. The Liaison Committee for Auxiliary Units of the Polish Legion of American Veterans, U.S.A., shall supervise and coordinate the activities of the Ladies Auxiliary, the Victory Fathers, and the Senior and Retired Citizens for the purpose of close cooperation with the Polish Legion of American Veterans, U.S.A. It shall further provide guardianship functions over the Sons and Grandsons of the Polish Legion of American Veterans, U.S.A. in accordance with the directives of the National Convention and/or National Executive Committee. In addition, this Committee shall perform such other duties that may be delegated to it by the National Commander and/or National Convention.

e. The Data Base Committee shall be headed by the National Membership Deputy Director. The Data Base Committee shall consist of representatives from the three Zones. The Data Base Committee shall meet biennially at the National Convention and determine the type of software to be used as well as such administrative regulations as shall be required for serving the needs of this Organization. The Data Base Committee shall prepare and recommend to the National Convention, budget requirements as well as annual maintenance fee payable per member, payable at the beginning of the new fiscal year, based on the previous fiscal year membership totals. The National Membership Director shall be invited to participate in the discussions and decisions of this Committee.

f. The Past National Commander's Advisory Committee shall meet concurrently with the National Convention and the National Executive Committee Meetings. It shall convene only if three (3) or more Past National Commanders are present at said National Convention, or at such National Executive Committee Meetings. It shall offer advice and counsel to the National Convention, the National Commander and the National Executive Committee as to the policies and programs of the National Department.

Sec. 3. The number of members to serve on any permanent National Committee shall be determined by the National Convention, or, in the event the said Convention fails to do so, by the National Department. It shall be the duty of each of the permanent National Committees to give a report of its activities and such recommendations as it sees fit to make to the National Convention and such other reports to the National Department as may be requested of such committee.

ARTICLE VII MONEYS AND COLLECTIONS

Sec. 1. All National Department, State Department and local Post officials handling money of the Polish Legion of American Veterans, U.S.A. shall be properly bonded with a good and solvent bonding and surety company as surety to cover double the average amount of money handled in a single year. In case of delinquencies in the payment of the amounts due the National Department or a State Department, action shall be taken at once by the proper officials to bring about an immediate and complete settlement.

Sec. 2. Par. 1. A membership fee consisting of National, State and local Post dues shall be paid annually by each member of this organization, to the Post Finance Officer or the authorized agent thereof who shall issue the annual membership card as evidence of such payment.

Sec. 2. Par. 2. Each local Post shall retain its portion of the annual dues for each member and shall promptly remit the balance to the State Department.

Sec. 2. Par. 3. Each State Department shall retain its annual dues for each member and shall promptly remit the national dues to the National Department.

Sec. 2. Par. 4. In States where there are no duly chartered State Departments, the local Posts shall remit the national dues directly to the National Membership Director.

Sec. 3. The National Department shall have authority, within the scope of this Constitution and By-Laws, to prescribe such regulations for uniform methods of collecting and remitting dues and other matters pertaining thereof, as it shall deem necessary.

ARTICLE VIII ORGANIZATION OF NEW STATE DEPARTMENTS

Sec. 1. A State Department shall be chartered when application has been made to the National Department by the joint committee of at least three (3) Posts and approved by the National Department, provided, however, that there shall be at least two hundred (200) members in good standing in the Posts of said State at the time the application for Charter is made.

Sec. 2. A Provisional State Department may be organized when application has been made to the National Department by one or more Posts and approved by the National Department, provided, however, that there shall be at least one hundred (100) members in good standing in the Post or Posts of said State at the time the application is made. When required, and preceding formation of a Provisional State Department, the National Department shall designate the Post most qualified to administer, promote and see to the welfare of such group of Posts.

ARTICLE IX ADMINISTRATION OF THE AUXILIARIES

Sec. 1. The Ladies Auxiliary shall be self-administered, but, nevertheless, shall be governed by the Constitution and By-Laws of the Polish Legion of American Veterans, U.S.A. and by such rules and regulations as may be prescribed for it by the National Convention of the Polish Legion of American Veterans, U.S.A.

Sec. 2. The Sons Auxiliary of the Polish Legion of American Veterans, U.S.A. shall be administered and governed in each State Department by such rules and regulations as may be prescribed for it by the National Convention of the Polish Legion of American Veterans, U.S.A.

Sec. 3. The Gold Star Mothers Auxiliary shall be of an honorary nature, for patriotic and civic manifestations. No separate accounts or financial encumbrances shall be obligated by the Gold Star Mothers Auxiliary and they shall be governed by the rules and regulations prescribed by the Ladies Auxiliary or a State Department, Polish Legion of American Veterans, U.S.A., whichever is the governing body in the respective State.

Sec. 4. The Daughters and Granddaughters of the Polish Legion of American Veterans, U.S.A. shall be governed in each State Department by the Ladies Auxiliary, acting under the rules and regulations as may be prescribed for it by the National Convention of the Polish Legion of American Veterans, U.S.A. and the National By-Laws of the Ladies Auxiliary of the Polish Legion of American Veterans, U.S.A.

Sec. 5. The National Department shall have supervisory authority over all above mentioned Auxiliaries and shall carry out and enforce such rules and regulations as may be prescribed by the National Convention for governing of said auxiliaries, and/or make such rules and regulations therefor as may be authorized by the National Convention.

**ARTICLE X
ORGANIZATIONAL COURTS**

Sec. 1. Charges against members shall be preferred and adjudged in the local Posts.

Sec. 2. Organizational courts of the local Post shall hear and determine the merits of such cases. The Organizational Court shall be composed of three members; one appointed by the accused, one by the accuser and one by the Post Commander.

Sec. 3. Persons against whom charges are preferred shall have a right and an opportunity to be fully heard and shall be presumed to be innocent until proved guilty by the preponderance of evidence.

**ARTICLE XI
AWARDS AND DECORATIONS**

Sec. 1. Awards and decorations established, from time to time, by the National Convention shall be awarded according to the procedures established for that purpose by the National Conventions or, in absence thereof, according to the procedures established for that purpose by the National Department.

Sec. 2. Par. 1. Hereby established are the following awards, which shall be the highest Non-Member and Member Awards of this organization:

- a.- The “AMERICAN WHITE EAGLE DISTINGUISHED AWARD” which shall be restricted to non-members of the POLISH LEGION OF AMERICAN VETERANS, U.S.A.
- b.- The “POLISH LEGION OF AMERICAN VETERANS, U.S.A. AMERICAN EAGLE AWARD” which shall be restricted to regular Active, Active Life Members and Active National Life Member of the P.L.A.V., U.S.A.

Sec. 2. Par. 2. The foregoing awards shall be described as follows:

- a.- The “AMERICAN WHITE EAGLE DISTINGUISHED AWARD” shall consist of a white eagle, approximately 12” high and mounted on a base. The base shall have a plate, approximately 4” square, fastened to it, upon which the P.L.A.V., U.S.A. emblem shall appear along with the recipient’s name and the pertinent details engraved thereon.
- b.- The “POLISH LEGION OF AMERICAN VETERANS, U.S.A. AMERICAN EAGLE AWARD” shall consist of a painted eagle, approximately 12” high and mounted on a base. The base shall have a plate, approximately 4” square, fastened to it, upon which the P.L.A.V., U.S.A. emblem shall appear, along with the recipient’s name and the pertinent details engraved thereon.

Sec. 2. Par. 3. The foregoing awards shall also consist of a certificate, upon which the circumstances entitling the recipient to such award, as well as the date and location of its presentment shall be inscribed.

Sec. 3. Par. 1.

- a.- Nominees for the “AMERICAN WHITE EAGLE DISTINGUISHED AWARD” may be nominated by the National Department or a State Department, however Nominating Petitions shall be made by using the prescribed form that appears in PART II of the ADDENDA, to

the National By-Laws. Such Petition Forms shall be available from the National Adjutant.

- b.- Nominees for the “POLISH LEGION OF AMERICAN VETERANS, U.S.A. AMERICAN EAGLE AWARD” may be made by the National Department or a State Department, however Nominating Petitions shall be made by using the prescribed form that appears in PART II of the ADDENDA, to the National By-Laws. Such Petition Forms shall be available from the National Adjutant. A processing fee, as established by the National Executive Committee, shall be paid by the sponsoring State Department, and shall accompany the Nominating Petition.
- c.- Upon completion of a National Commander’s term of office, the “POLISH LEGION OF AMERICAN VETERANS, U.S.A. AMERICAN EAGLE AWARD” shall be presented, to him or her, for outstanding service on behalf of the Polish Legion of American Veterans, U.S.A. or to the family of a departed Past National Commander. No processing fee shall be required to accompany the Nominating Petition for such award.

Sec. 3. Par. 2. The Nominating Petition, as specified herein, shall include the name; address, and phone number of the nominee as well as those of the Sponsoring State Department and its State Commander.

Sec. 3. Par. 3. Nominating Petitions shall be supplemented by a written essay of not less than two-hundred and fifty (250) words, except in the case of the presentation of the POLISH LEGION OF AMERICAN VETERANS, U.S.A. “AMERICAN EAGLE AWARD” to the National Commander or to the family of a departed Past National Commander. The essay shall detail specifically all the facts and circumstances upon which the nomination is based, and shall bear verbiage indicating that the Nominating Petition is being presented with the approval of the membership, present and voting, at a Convention, Special Conventions or a Regular Meeting of the National Department or the Sponsoring State Department.

Sec. 3. Par. 4. The approved Nominating Petition described herein, shall be forwarded to the National Executive Committee for consideration.

Sec. 4. Par. 1. Upon favorable approval, by a two-thirds (2/3) majority vote, of the members, present and voting, at a meeting of the National Executive Committee, the Nominating Petition, so approved shall be forwarded to the National Adjutant for processing, in accordance with the following tenets:

A. THE AMERICAN WHITE EAGLE DISTIGUISHED AWARD

After National Executive Committee approval, such award shall be presented to the recipient, as soon as convenient thereafter, by the National Commander, or by his or her duly designated Representative. Where, or whenever possible, a suitable presentation ceremony shall be convened at a P.L.A.V., U.S.A. facility.

B. THE POLISH LEGION OF AMERICAN VETERANS, U.S.A AMERICAN EAGLE AWARD

After National Executive Committee approval such award shall be presented to the recipient as soon as convenient. Such presentation shall be carried out by the duly designated Representative of the sponsoring National or State Department. When and wherever possible, a suitable presentation ceremony shall be convened at a P.L.A.V., U.S.A. facility.

ARTICLE XII MEETINGS

Sec. 1. All meetings of the Polish Legion of American Veterans, U.S.A., shall be conducted under Robert's Rules of Order, provided, however, that in the event certain special procedures are outlined by the National Convention, such procedure shall predominate.

Sec. 2. Rituals adopted by the Polish Legion of American Veterans, U.S.A., shall be followed at all meetings and ceremonies of this organization.

ARTICLE XIII OATHS

Sec. 1. Every member upon joining this organization and every officer upon assuming his office shall take such an oath as shall be prescribed for such occasions by the National Convention or National Department, when it is authorized to do so by the National Convention.

ARTICLE XIV AMENDMENTS

Sec. 1. These By-Laws may be amended at any National Convention by a majority vote of the total authorized delegates present, provided that the proposed amendment shall have been submitted to the National Adjutant, postmarked at least ninety (90) days prior to the convening of the next National Convention, and shall have been submitted by the National Adjutant to all State Departments and members of the National Department by mail, postmarked at least sixty (60) days prior to such National Convention. This Constitution may, however, be amended by any National Convention without notice, by unanimous vote.

Sec. 2. No proposed amendment to these By-Laws shall be considered by the National Convention as provided in Sec. 1 of this Article, unless such proposed amendment shall have been submitted through the National Executive Committee to the National Judge Advocate in triplicate form by a Post at its respective State Convention, or, by a State Department in its State Convention or at its State Executive Committee Meeting, or by the National Department at a National Executive Committee Meeting.

ORIGIN OF THE POLISH LEGION OF AMERICAN VETERANS, U.S.A.

The Polish Legion of American Veterans, U.S.A., was created by the Consolidation Convention of the Alliance of American Veterans of Polish Extraction of the State of Michigan, operating there from 1920-

1931. The Alliance of American Veterans of Polish Extraction, a Not-For-Profit Corporation, Chartered under the Laws of the State of Illinois, operating there, and, in Ohio and Wisconsin, from 1921 to 1931: and, The Polish Legion of The American Army, operating in New York and New Jersey, from 1927 to 1931, who convened on September 5, 6 and 7, 1931, with the intent of bonding into one organization of American Veterans of Polish Descent.

CONSTITUTION AND BY-LAWS: DATES OF ADOPTION

Originally adopted at the First Central Convention of the Alliance of Polish-American Veterans of the World War, at Chicago, Illinois, on November 12 and 13, 1921.

Revised at the Fourth Central Convention of the Alliance of Polish-American Veterans of the World War, at Chicago, Illinois, on September 5, 6 and 7, 1925, at which time the organization's name was changed to the Alliance of American Veterans of Polish Extraction.

Re-adopted, with revisions, at the Consolidation Convention, at Cleveland, Ohio, on September 5, 6 and 7, 1931, at which time, the three organizations, named in the opening paragraph, merged to form the Polish Legion of American Veterans, U.S.A.

AMENDED AT THE FOLLOWING NATIONAL CONVENTIONS

1932- Hamtramck, Michigan	1972- Cleveland, Ohio
1933- Cicero, Illinois	1974- Bal Harbour, Florida
1935- Milwaukee, Wisconsin	1976- Chicago, Illinois
1937- Cleveland, Ohio	1978- Las Vegas, Nevada
1939- Maspeth, New York	1980- Boston, Massachusetts
1941- Chicago, Illinois	1982- Hollywood, Florida
1944- Translated from Polish into English for the initial time	1984- Dearborn, Michigan
1946- Milwaukee, Wisconsin	1986- Rosemont, Illinois
1947- Detroit, Michigan	1988- Arlington, Virginia
1948- Syracuse, New York: Organizations name changed to: Polish Legion Of American Veterans, U.S.A.	1990- Milwaukee, Wisconsin
1950- Akron, Ohio	1992- Independence, Ohio
1952- Boston, Massachusetts	1994- Milwaukee, Wisconsin
1954- Buffalo, New York	1996- Orlando, Florida
1956- Detroit, Michigan	1998- Lansing, Michigan
1958- Hartford, Connecticut	2000- Tunica County, Mississippi
1960- Chicago, Illinois	2002- Farmington, Connecticut
1962- Cleveland, Ohio	2004- Naperville, Illinois
1964- Milwaukee, Wisconsin	2006- Tampa, Florida
1966- Miami Beach, Florida	2008- Independence, Ohio
1968- New York City, New York	
1970- Detroit, Michigan	

OATHS
(Oath Administered
to All Newly Accepted Members)

"I (candidates name), having familiarized myself with the aims and principles of the Polish Legion of American Veterans, U.S.A. promise to faithfully abide by the Constitution of the Polish Legion of American Veterans, U.S.A. and of (name)____Post No. ____ to conscientiously and willingly perform all orders of my officers. So help me God!

OATH OF ELECTED or APPOINTED OFFICERS

"I (officer's name), assuming the office of (name office), swear on my honor as a citizen of the United States and a Veteran that I shall faithfully and honestly fulfill the duties of my office in accordance with the letter of the Constitution and its By-Laws and all rulings of the National Administration. So help me God!"

OATH OF CONVENTION DELEGATES or ALTERNATES

"I (delegate's name) having been elected as representative to this Convention, solemnly swear that I shall conscientiously and willingly perform all the duties of offices entrusted to me and that I shall work for the good of the organization. So help me God!"

MEETINGS --PROCEDURE AND QUORUM

Quorum consists of at least half of the Board Members eligible to vote --simple majority of vote present constitutes rightful decision in all matters.

National Department and Post meetings shall be conducted to accepted parliamentary rules in following Order of Business:

1. Opening of meeting by Commander (or officer next in line) observing the prescribe ritual of the P.L.A.V., U.S.A.
2. Roll call of officers and reading minutes from previous meeting.
3. Reading of correspondence and its disposal.
4. Reports of officers and committees.
5. Membership report on new members.
6. Postponed, unfinished and deferred business.
7. New business and for the good of P.L.A.V., U.S.A.
8. Financial reports.
9. Adjournment.

Special meetings may be called if necessary to transact urgent or special matters requiring immediate attention and action.

PART II

ADDENDA TO THE NATIONAL CONSTITUTION

INTRODUCTION

The National Adjutant is responsible for the administration of policies and procedures of the National Department of the Polish Legion of American Veterans, U.S.A. as prescribed by the National Convention, the National Executive Committee and the National Commander. The National Adjutant will perform duties required of the office such as Secretary to various components, publication of various bulletins and reports as well as such other duties as may be directed by the National Convention, National Executive Committee and the National Commander.

REQUIREMENTS

Must be a member in good standing of the Polish Legion of American Veterans, U.S.A.

Have some knowledge of Polish Legion of American Veterans, U.S.A. policies, programs and procedures at National and State Departments levels.

Have the ability to operate with minimal supervision from the National Commander and the National Executive Committee.

Possess some knowledge of office management methods, which may include some computer skills and principles of supervision.

Have the ability to plan, organize and direct the work of others.

Have the ability to speak and write effectively.

Have the ability and temperament conducive to establishing and maintaining cordial and effective working relationships with officers and officials at National, local Posts and Auxiliary Units as well as public officials and the general public. Some knowledge in veterans matters except those specialized fields such as Veterans Affairs, Legislation and Rehabilitation.

DUTIES

See Sec. 8 of Article II, Duties of National Officers and Directors of the By-Laws

**POLISH LEGION OF AMERICAN VETERANS, U.S.A.
NATIONAL DEPARTMENT**

CHARTERED BY ACT OF CONGRESS

APPLICATION FOR OFFICE OF PERMANENT NATIONAL ADJUTANT

The establishment of the position of Permanent National Adjutant was approved at the 39th Biennial Convention on August 10, 2008. The compensation will be on the agenda at the 40th Biennial National Convention. A Special Committee consisting of the newly elected National Commander, National 1st Vice Commander and the National 2nd Vice Commander at the 40th Biennial National Convention will review all submitted Applications and make its designation as to the candidate that it deems qualified to fill the Office of National Adjutant. The National Commander shall within thirty (30) days after the National Convention submit the name of the designated individual to the National Executive Committee. for concurrence.

Please review the attached material and those interested submit this Application and outline your qualifications for said Office.

Name _____

Address _____

City-State _____ Zip _____

Telephone: (Home) _____ (Work) _____

E-Mail Address _____

Fax Number _____

Polish Legion American Veterans, U.S.A. Membership

Department _____

Post _____

Membership
Card Number
and Year _____

Continuous Years
Of Membership _____

PLEASE ATTACH RESUME OUTLINING YOUR QUALIFICATIONS

Applicant's Signature _____

ADDENDA TO THE NATIONAL BY-LAWS

ARTICLE XI, AWARDS AND DECORATIONS

To ensure that the 4” plates, covered in “a”, and “b”, of Sec. 2. Par. 2., the certificates mentioned in Sec. 2. Par. 3., of ARTICLE XI, AWARDS AND DECORATIONS, and both of the Nominating Petitions remain in the exact text adopted by the 37th National Convention, said National Convention mandated that the following five (5) pages become an ADDENDA to the National By-Laws:

ADDENDA TO THE NATIONAL BY-LAWS OF THE P.L.A.V., U.S.A.

SUGGESTED TEXT FOR 4” AWARD PLATES

A.-- “THE AMERICAN WHITE EAGLE DISTINGUISHED AWARD”

ORDER OF THE WHITE EAGLE AWARD

**FULL NAME
TITLE**

**IN RECOGNITION OF YOUR LEADERSHIP DEVOTION AND
DISTINGUISHED ROLE FOR IMPROVING THE DELIVERY OF
BENEFITS AND SERVICES DUE TO OUR NATION’S VETERANS AND
THEIR FAMILIES**

**POLISH LEGION OF AMERICAN VETERANS, U.S.A.
DATE**

**B.--“THE POLISH LEGION OF AMERICAN VETERANS, U.S.A. AMERICAN EAGLE
AWARD”**

AMERICAN EAGLE AWARD

**NAME
NATIONAL COMMANDER (YEARS IN OFFICE)**

IN APPRECIATION FOR OUTSTANDING SERVICE

**ON BEHALF OF THE
POLISH LEGION OF AMERICAN VETERANS, U.S.A.
DATE**

Polish Legion of
American Veterans
U.S.A.



*Order of The White Eagle
Award*

Is presented to



**POLISH LEGION OF AMERICAN VETERANS, U.S.A.
NATIONAL DEPARTMENT**

CHARTERED BY ACT OF CONGRESS

**NOMINATING PETITIONS FOR
AMERICAN WHITE EAGLE DISTINGUISHED AWARD**

The American White Eagle Distinguished Award as established by the National Convention shall be restricted to Non-Members of the Polish Legion of American Veterans, U.S.A.

Nominees for the American White Eagle Distinguished Award may be nominated by the State or National Departments using this Nominating Petition.

A written essay of at least 250 words providing biographical and employment history of the nominee as well as educational background must be submitted. The essay should detail specifically the facts and circumstances upon which the nomination is being based, and shall bear language specifying that the nomination was presented for approval at a regular meeting of the State or National Department, and was in fact approved by no less than 2/3 vote of the members attending.

NOMINEE

Name _____ Telephone _____

Address _____

City-State _____ Zip _____

SPONSOR

Name _____

Approved _____

DATE

COMMANDER

NATIONAL DEPARTMENT

Received _____

DATE

NATIONAL ADJUTANT

Approved _____

DATE

NATIONAL COMMANDER

Date for Presentation _____

Attach written essay to Nominating Petition and send to the National Adjutant for processing

Recorded Number _____ Date _____

POLISH LEGION OF AMERICAN VETERANS, U.S.A.

NATIONAL DEPARTMENT

CHARTERED BY ACT OF CONGRESS

**NOMINATING PETITION FOR
POLISH LEGION OF AMERICAN VETERANS, U.S.A.
AMERICAN EAGLE AWARD**

The Polish Legion of American Veterans, U.S.A. American Eagle Award as established by the National Convention shall be restricted to Active Members of the Polish Legion of American Veterans, U.S.A.

Nominees for the Polish Legion of American veterans, U.S.A. American Eagle Award may be nominated by the State or National Departments using this Nominating Petition.

A written essay of at least 250 words providing biographical and employment history of the nominee as well as educational background must be submitted. The essay should detail specifically the facts and circumstances upon which the nomination is being based and shall bear language specifying that the nomination was presented for approval at a regular meeting of the State or National Department., and was in fact approved by no less than 2/3 vote of the members attending.

NOMINEE

Name _____ Telephone _____

Address _____

SPONSOR

Name _____

Approved _____

DATE

COMMANDER

NATIONAL DEPARTMENT

Received _____

DATE

NATIONAL ADJUTANT

Approved _____

DATE

NATIONAL COMMANDER

Date for Presentation _____

Attach written essay to Nominating Petition and send to the National Adjutant for processing

Recorded Number _____ Date _____