

Constitution & Bylaws

The Constitution, Bylaws and Standing Rules (governing documents) are the guidebook for our organization on the National, Department, and Unit levels. They are the framework the organization works under. Each section has a different purpose. The Constitution is the top document; the Bylaws and Standing Rules cannot contradict the Constitution.

The Constitution establishes the structure, organization, and operation of the organization.

The Constitution should include:

- ★ Organization name
- ★ The purpose
- ★ Membership eligibility
- ★ Rules for meeting
- ★ Officers/ terms/ standing committees
- ★ Process for amending
- ★ Parliamentary authority used

The Bylaws give more details and spell out the procedures for conducting business. Bylaws define the rules, responsibilities, and the guidelines that govern how an organization operates. Determining how your unit will operate and documenting that with bylaws will help keep your unit running smoothly. Your unit's bylaws can provide the answers to many of your unit's questions.

Bylaws should include:

- Name of the organization
- Purpose
- Membership
- Officers
- Meetings
- Governing Board
- Committees
- Voting (rights of members, procedures, etc.)
- Fiscal Management
- Conflict of Interest
- Subsidiary Organizations
- Parliamentary Authority
- Amendment Process

Standing Rules are details about administrative policies, adding specifics on how things get done. They are more flexible and can change as the organization needs. They may be changed as the needs of the organization change: with prior notice to members, by a majority vote; by 2/3 majority without prior notice.

Standing Rules may include:

- Meeting information
- Dues information
- Election process
- Money handling
- Reports

All your governing documents should be reviewed regularly. Keeping your governing documents up-to-date and making them available to all members is key to a healthy organization that functions as a team to support our veterans, military, and their families.

As the Department Chairman, I would ask that each Unit review their governing documents to see that they are up-to-date and share a copy via email to the Department, so a record may be maintained on the Department level. Email to shareen.lander@gmail.com.

Legislative

Congress certified Donald J. Trump as President and JD Vance as Vice President of the United States, fulfilling the clear mandate from nearly 80 million Americans who placed their trust in their leadership. With President Trump at the helm, we should all be optimistic about the future of our nation.

As lawmakers settle into the 119th Congress and Washington prepares for a new administration to take over, national security-minded members are already facing a full slate of legislative issues to contend with that makes a busy winter and spring on Capitol Hill.

First, lawmakers will have to contend with fiscal 2025 defense spending, with the continuing resolution currently funding the government ([PL 118-158](#)) set to expire on March 14. That's in addition to a reconciliation package, including border security and defense provisions which they hope to pass in the early days of the new administration.

The Washington Conference in February is a great learning experience for members in bringing awareness to what our veterans are facing. I will have attended this conference and will have more info for the next Auxiliare. I also hope to have a tour of the White House to share with our members. Members are encouraged to sign up for the Grassroots newsletter and Voters Voice. I also encourage you to sign up for any newsletter for our local senators, John Barrasso and Cynthia Lummis and our representative Harriet Hageman

Remember reports are due May 1st. I hope to hear from all units within the state.

Vicki Paddock

Greetings, from Buffalo, where your **Wyoming Veterans Home and Wyoming Veterans Skilled Nursing Home** is located.

Your funds have been busy affording the residents a wonderful Christmas Party in December and we just had a pie social for Valentines Day! Had five kinds of fruit pies and a pecan pie! They loved it!

My new plan is working for the Skilled Nursing Facility! I am so pleased that I have gotten four new volunteers to go for activities there. Brittney, the activities director, wanted us to get away from bringing in sweets and just spend time interacting with the residents. We are playing bingo twice a month and playing cards once a month. So, members from Powder River Unit 13 have a presence there three times a month. The Veterans Home has visits four or five times a month from Powder River Unit! I feel our mission is being well carried out!

As always, thank you, thank you for your hard-earned funds sent to Department for our Veterans activities!

Respectively submitted

Edie Taffner, Dep. Veterans Home Rep.

Auxiliary Emergency Fund

Peg Sillivan, Chairman

Most of you know what the Auxiliary Emergency Fund (AEF) is and what it does for Auxiliary current members throughout our organization. The "Grant Process" has changed this year. Grants in the amount of \$3,000 and two (2) types of Grant Funds:

Disaster funds may be awarded for damage to the interior/exterior of the vital livable portion of the member's primary structure, contents and/or for essential emergency expenses after the disaster based on proper documentation provided.

Hardship funds may only be awarded for over/past due primary shelter expenses, basic household utilities and/or loss of income based on proper documentation provided.

\$1,365 has been collected in our Department so far this year. Ten Units from our smallest in membership to our largest have donated. Our BUNCO and other individual members have donated.

My own Unit is discussing having a Community BUNCO Night! How about your Unit?

Reports are due May 1, 2025 either email to deptaux@wylegionaux.org or mail to PO Box 186; Buffalo WY 82834.
Please answer the following:

1. Did you explain what AEF is at a Unit Meeting?
2. Does your Unit think AEF is a worthwhile program?
3. Did your Unit raise any money for AEF?