THE AMERICAN LEGION,
DEPARTMENT OF MICHIGAN

Resolution: **#26 - 19**

Submitted By: **Internal Affairs**

Subject: **Change Post & District Service Officer title to Resource Officer**

WHEREAS, The American Legion is an organization of veterans dedicated to the service of veterans, the community, State, and Nation; and

WHEREAS, The American Legion, Department of Michigan, affirmed that it has an extensive network of Post & District Service Officers and other volunteer service officers, the majority of whom are not accredited by the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) or the Office of General Counsel (OGC) for the purpose of providing representation to veterans and their families applying for VA benefits or disability compensation; and

WHEREAS, Accredited Service Officers receive specific training which qualifies them to provide free of charge, expert assistance to veterans and their families applying for VA disability benefits; and

WHEREAS, The American Legion non-accredited Post & District Service Officer is a volunteer position within an individual post and serves as a liaison for veterans and their families to assist accredited American Legion Service Officers; and

WHEREAS, Non-accredited Post & District Service Officers may provide local resource information, connect veterans and their family members with resources and other valuable information and guidance related to state services that may be eligible for veterans in their community; and

WHEREAS, The duties and responsibilities are addressed in more detail in the American Legion's officers guide and manual of ceremonies, and while the scope of duties and responsibilities carried out by non-accredited Post & District Service Officers has expanded exponentially, including but not limited to directing veterans to accredited service officers for claims assistance, providing information and guidance regarding State and National cemeteries, identifying State and local nursing facilities, connecting veterans with local food banks, referring veterans to agencies serving senior citizens and numerous other support functions; and

Approved

WHEREAS, To prevent confusion surrounding the distinction between the role and responsibilities of accredited Service Officers and those of volunteer Post & District Service Officers; now, therefore be it

RESOLVED, **By The American Legion, Department of Michigan at the Fall Conference assembled in Gaylord, Michigan, November 6–8, 2026, that the volunteer, non-accredited position known as the American Legion Post & District Service Officer shall be redesignated for clarity of function as the American Legion Post & District Resource Officer, recognizing that this title change does not confer accredited status, or any authority to provide representation or any other duties reserved for accredited service officers; and, be it further**

RESOLVED, **That the title Resource Officer be reflected in the Department, District and Post governing documents, all electronic media, and publications, and be further implemented through notification by electronic mail to all posts within the Department of Michigan; and, be it further**

RESOLVED, **That it be implemented in a reasonable and practical time frame without altering accreditation training requirements or other agreements; and, be it further**

RESOLVED, **The Department Adjutant shall make all of the changes required by this resolution; and, be it finally**

RESOLVED, **This action shall take place at the close of the Fall Conference November 6–8, 2026.**

Approved

APPROVED _____ REJECTED _____ REFERRED TO _____