Resolution

No: 26 - 14
Title: Amend the Constitution of The American Legion to include Male Family Members in the Auxiliary
Origin: Carl O. Weaver Post #194, Petoskey, MI & 19th District

---

WHEREAS, Article XV, Section 1 of the National Constitution of The American Legion states "The Constitution may be amended at any National Convention by a vote of two-thirds of the total authorized representation thereat, provided that the proposed amendment shall have been submitted through the National Adjutant to the several Departments and members of the National Executive Committee by mailing same to them at least twenty (20) days prior to the convening of the next National Convention; any such proposed amendment may be amended without further notice by a two-thirds vote of the total authorized representation thereat, provided it does not increase the modification proposed by the amendment and it has received the approval of the Convention Committee on Constitutional Amendments; and, provided further, it may be amended by unanimous vote at any National Convention without notice"; and

WHEREAS, Article XV, Section 2 of the National Constitution of The American Legion states " That no proposed amendment shall be submitted through the National Adjutant to the several Departments and members of the National Executive Committee, as provided in Section 1 of this article, unless said proposed amendment shall have been first submitted by a Department Convention, Department Executive Committee, or the National Executive Committee; and

WHEREAS, The American Legion, The American Legion Auxiliary, and The Sons of The American Legion are joined in service to our Country's veterans and communities under the banner of "The American Legion Family"; and

WHEREAS, The American Legion is a Veteran Service Organization chartered by the Congress of the United States whose membership is limited to veterans of service in the Armed Forces as defined in Article IV, Section 1, of the Constitution of The American Legion adopted as Resolution No. 1 by the National Convention assembled in Indianapolis, Indiana in 2019; and

WHEREAS, The American Legion Auxiliary is a separate and independent, but supportive organization and its membership, as delineated in Article XIII, Section 2 of the Constitution of The American Legion, is limited to the grandmother, mother, sister, spouse, and direct and adopted female descendants of eligible deceased veterans or an existing American Legion member, and female service veterans; and

WHEREAS, The Sons of The American Legion is a program of The American Legion with its own hierarchy, conventions and committees, and its membership is limited to all male descendants, adopted sons, and stepsons of eligible deceased veterans or an existing American Legion member; and

Obsolete

No: 2026-02
Short Title: Include Male Family in the Auxiliary

WHEREAS, The only members of a veteran's immediate family not eligible for membership in one of the above organizations are non-veteran male immediate relatives (parents, grandparents, and siblings); and

WHEREAS, Some male family members themselves have requested an avenue of membership to honor the service of their child, grandchild, or sibling; and

WHEREAS, The American Legion Auxiliary is a diverse and inclusive organization, whose mission promotes service and support to veterans, the U.S. Military, and their families; and

WHEREAS, The American Legion Auxiliary seeks to continue to be inclusive of anyone who supports veterans, the U.S. Military, and their families; and,

WHEREAS, The inclusion of male immediate relatives in The American Legion Family is not a question of increasing membership but of the creation of a true family organization; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, By The American Legion Department of Michigan in annual convention, held at the Double Tree by Hilton, Battle Creek June 25-28, 2026, that we recommend Article XIII, Section 2 of The National Constitution be amended to include male siblings, parents, and grandparents; and, be it further,

RESOLVED, that Article XIII, Section 2, of the Constitution of The American Legion which now reads,

"Membership in the American Legion Auxiliary shall be limited to the grandmothers, mothers, sisters, spouses, and direct and adopted female descendants of members of The American Legion, and to the grandmothers, mothers, sisters, wives spouses, and direct and adopted female descendants of all men and women who were in the Armed Forces of the United States during any of the following periods: April 6, 1917, to November 11, 1918; December 7, 1941 to the date of cessation of hostilities as determined by the Government of the United States; all dates inclusive, or who, being citizens of the United States at the time of their entry therein, served on active duty in the Armed Forces of any of the governments associated with the United States during any of said periods, and died in the line of duty or after honorable discharge; and to those women who of their own right are eligible for membership in The American Legion."

When amended shall read:

"Membership in the American Legion Auxiliary shall be limited to the grandparents, parents, siblings, spouses, children, and grandchildren of members of The American Legion, and to the grandparents, parents, siblings, spouses, children, and grandchildren of all men and

Obsolete

periods: April 6, 1917, to November 11, 1918; December 7, 1941 to the date of cessation of hostilities as determined by the Government of the United States; all dates inclusive, or who, being citizens of the United States at the time of their entry therein, served on active duty in the Armed Forces of any of the governments associated with the United States during any of said periods, and died in the line of duty or after honorable discharge; and to those women who of their own right are eligible for membership in The American Legion."; **and, be it finally**

Resolved, that the Department Executive Committee of The American Legion, Department of Michigan submit this proposed amendment to the National Constitution of The American Legion for action by the delegates at the 2026 National Convention of The American Legion, to be held at Louisville, Kentucky, August 28 through September 3, 2026

Obsolete

Resolution No: 2026-02
Short Title: Include Male Family in the Auxiliary
Origin: Carl O. Weaver Post #194, Petoskey, MI

NOTES:

American Legion Resolution 7 of 2022 designated the last Saturday in April of each year to be The American Legion Family Day as an annual event designed to encourage participation in American Legion programs, support Be The One Suicide Prevention efforts, and promote community engagement;

Resolutions on this topic have been submitted before. Notably, District 4 of The National American Legion College Class of 2022 had three (3) proposed resolutions on this topic submitted from among the 12 members of the District. Their final resolution was approved through the Department of Michigan but did not get to the floor of the NEC.

Members of The American Legion Auxiliary have discussed and considered their options in this regard. ALA 2025 Resolution Number 1 addressed this same topic from the Auxiliary side, but was not approved on the floor of convention. Concerns expressed concerned IRS regulations and the lack of real impact of the Auxiliary Resolution on the Legion Constitution.

The IRS "75-25" rule, often sited as a roadblock to this action, affects neither The American Legion or the American Legion Auxiliary as there is no eligibility for anyone who does not fit *exactly* the definition appropriate to a 501(c)(19) veterans' organization or auxiliary.

The IRS requirement for "two degrees of consanguinity" to be blood or adopted children and not include step children is not something that can be addressed by resolution through either The American Legion nor the American Legion Auxiliary. That would require an amendment to the IRS Regulations and would need to go through Congress. Future resolutions may request the IRS consider such an amendment, but would have no direct action.

Allowing for the male children and grandchildren to be included with eligibility for American Legion Auxiliary membership may be seen to conflict with the Sons of The American Legion, but eliminates any gender barriers at whatever level and simplifies the language of the Article. It may create a new "dual member" level with membership in both the SAL and ALA.

The Primary Author of this Resolution presents this on behalf of:

Mr. Jack Diener, whose son, PFC Jackie Diener, was KIA, 11/21/2011
Mr. John West, whose son, SSG Matt West was KIA 8/30/10 (and is a Life Member of the VFW Auxiliary.)
Mr. Douglas Hill and Mr. Samuel Hill, whose son and brother, SFC Thomas "Silent Bob" Hill, died by suicide 1/19/2022.

These men have no pathway within the structure of The American Legion Family to honor their loved one's service.

Obsolete