



SUCCEEDING WITH RESOLUTIONS

RESOLUTIONS

“Without the resolution process, our organization would not have guidance in developing programs, allocating funds to help veterans or targeting Congress with issues that affect you, me and the rest of this great country of ours.”

Past National Commander Ray G. Smith (NC), 2000-01



WHAT IS A RESOLUTION

A resolution is a formal expression of the official opinion or will of a post, district, department or national, either because of its importance or its length or complexity, resolving a particular problem and stating specifically what action is to take place.



WHY ARE RESOLUTIONS IMPORTANT

All policies, positions and actions of The American Legion are driven by resolutions, which provide a means of control in a direct way. Once received resolutions are:

- Logged
- Screened
- Assigned
- Vetted by commissions and committees
- Presented to NEC and/or the National Convention for a vote



WHY USE THE RESOLUTION PROCESS?

Resolutions provide the guidance to our organization at all levels, in developing programs, allocating funds to help veterans or targeting state and federal legislative bodies with issues that affect not only veterans but all Americans.

Types of Resolutions:

- Statement of position on veteran issues
- Create and support the organization's programs
- Authorize change within the organization



THE RESOLUTION PREAMBLE “WHEREAS”

A preamble provides little known information where the merits of a resolution would be at risk of being poorly interpreted or misunderstood.

The preamble is written in the form of a clause beginning with “*WHEREAS*,”



A preamble is an introduction.

EXAMPLE: “WHEREAS”

Title: Opposition to any initiative to establish a deductible for Priority Group 8 veterans as a provision to receive VA health care.

WHEREAS, Since the enactment of Public Law 104-262 a substantial percentage in growth in the number of veterans in VA health care have been among Priority Group 8; and

WHEREAS, VA has proposed to levy a \$1,500 deductible on Priority Group 8 veterans, and

WHEREAS, Uninsured Priority Group 8 veterans may not be able to afford the \$1,500 out-of-pocket deductible and could be driven from VA services with no treatment; and

WHEREAS, There are alternatives to a deductible as proposed in the GI Bill of Health, namely recognizing VA as a Medicare provider and establishing a VA health-care package on a premium basis for veterans with no health coverage; therefore be it

RESOLVED, That ...



THE RESOLVE CLAUSE

- The resolve clause defines the solution, policy or action or outcome you are seeking.
- May be necessary for more than one action to take place in order to complete the intent. (*Be it Further Resolved and Be it Finally Resolved*)

RESOLVED, By The American Legion Department of Wisconsin in Wausau, Wis., July 14-17, 2018 that the...



DRAFTING THE RESOLUTION

Resolve Clauses

- Draft your resolve first
- Identify the resolving authority (who)
- Clarify circumstances and places of action
- Provide clear and unmistakable intent
- Final clause ends with the only period (.) in the resolution

GERMANENESS OR RELEVANCY

- Is the resolution politically sensitive?
- Is the resolution written in proper format?
- Should The American Legion be involved?
- Does the resolution cover one subject?



GERMANENESS OR RELEVANCY OF SUBJECT MATTER

- Is the subject matter germane (pertinent) to the “Whereas” statements outlined in the Preamble?
- Does The American Legion already have a current position on the subject, and is there already a resolution in motion?
- Can the subject matter be addressed administratively without the need for a resolution?
- Is it reasonable that the intent of the resolution can realistically be attained?



EDITING FOR SUCCESS

- Proofread for grammar and spelling
- Have someone not involved with writing the resolution proofread it for clear understanding
- Check the formatting, punctuation and structure
- Keep copies for your own records

EDITING FOR SUCCESS

- Provide any supporting documentation, more than one set if possible.
- Be prepared to explain and clarify as needed.
- Upon turning the resolution in, obtain an assignment number.
- Keep track of the status at the county, district, department and national levels.



RESOLUTION ACTIONS

- Approved
- Rejected
- Consolidated
- Referred
- Held for study
- Received and recorded
- Disposed of administratively
- Tabled



You can write resolutions regarding finances and allocation of funds for your County Council, District, or Department. For example: Raise or limit the Post assessment for the County Council, or for your District etc.

WHY DO RESOLUTIONS FAIL?

- Resolutions requiring financial support or impact already start with an uphill battle.
- Resolutions are poorly written, or lack proper formatting
- Failure to advocate, network and negotiate the intent of the resolution with members, commissions and committees
- Timeliness are an issue for all resolutions. Inadequate time for the assigned Committees and Commissions to study and review a resolution prior to making a recommendation to the NEC.
- Resolutions are poorly researched, constructed, and fail to provide supporting documents



You can write resolutions regarding finances and allocation of funds for your County Council, District, or Department. For example: Raise or limit the Post assessment for the County Council, or for your District etc.

Questions?



This institution is an equal opportunity provider.

Thank you for your time and attention.

Are there any questions?

Thank you!