

**From:** Secretary Mail [mailto:natlsecy@legion-aux.org]

**Sent:** Thursday, September 10, 2015 3:22 PM

**To:** 2016 Dept NECS; 2016 Dept Presidents; 2016 Dept Secretaries; 2016 Natl Chairmen; 2016 Natl Officers; ALA Foundation Board; ALA Past National Presidents; 2016 Membership; Goal Champions/Strategy Captains; ALA NHQ Staff

**Subject:** 2015 Natl Convention adopted changes to governing documents\_updated NatlC&B&SRs coming soon

To: ALA department and national leadership

From: Dubbie Buckler, ALA National Secretary/ALA NHQ Executive Director

Re: 2015 National Convention - changes to ALA National C&B and SRs, including the 2013 ALA C&B Revision eligibility proviso wording adopted by TAL

Happy September! Here are the two things of ALA governance consequence that happened at the 2015 National Convention:

1. [Change to the American Legion Auxiliary Standing Rules adopted at the 2015 ALA National Convention:](#)

**Amended National Standing Rules, VI, Committees, Sections 1 and 6:**

The national Cavalcade of Memories Committee was renamed **national History Committee**, and **the National Historian was added as ex-officio member of the national History Committee.**

*[Note: Changes will be made as needed throughout the ALA National C&B and Standing Rules regarding the name change to History Committee. Adopted amendment attached]*

2. [The eligibility "direct descendants" proviso wording in the American Legion Auxiliary National Constitution, 2013 Revision was adopted by The American Legion 2015 National Convention, amending Constitution was amended to adopt](#)

You'll recall that the American Legion Auxiliary 2013 National Convention adopted a total revision of the American Legion Auxiliary National Constitution, Bylaws, and Standing Rules. The 2013 ALA National Constitution & Bylaws and Standing Rules Revision included the updated wording on membership eligibility, consistent with the "direct descendants thereof" wording, consistent with the updated wording used to describe membership eligibility in the Sons of The American Legion.

The Revision regarding eligibility adopted by the ALA amended the ALA National Constitution Article III, Section 1, replaced the old wording "...grand-daughters and great-granddaughters...." with "...direct descendants of ...."

The 2013 ALA C&B Revision was adopted with a proviso delaying official use of the new membership wording pending action by The American Legion to change its National Constitution accordingly.

The revised wording could not go into effect until after The American Legion adopted a corresponding change to its national Constitution re ALA membership eligibility to incorporate "direct descendants thereof" for wording consistency. The American Legion 2015 National Convention delegates adopted a change to the Legion's National Constitution that incorporates the ALA National Constitution's proviso wording about eligibility.

The proviso wording is now the official wording in the ALA National Constitution. The American Legion Auxiliary wording in The American Legion National Constitution & Bylaws replaced the section describing membership eligibility in the American Legion Auxiliary as follows:

**The following wording was stricken wherever incorporated in The American Legion national governing documents:**

**American Legion Auxiliary Constitution, ARTICLE III Eligibility**

~~Section 1. Membership in the American Legion Auxiliary shall be limited to the mothers, wives, daughters, sisters, granddaughters, great-granddaughters, and grandmothers of members of The American Legion, and to the mothers, wives, daughters, sisters, granddaughters, great-granddaughters, and grandmothers 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 December 31, 1946; June 25, 1950 to January 31, 1955; February 28, 1961 to May 7, 1975; August 24, 1982 to July 31, 1984; December 20, 1989 to January 31, 1990; August 2, 1990 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 line of duty or after honorable discharge; and to those women who of their own right are eligible for membership in The American Legion.

*[Note: The wording above for The American Legion Auxiliary Constitution, Article III, Section 1. was adopted at the August 2013 American Legion Auxiliary National Convention under a proviso that delays enactment upon The American Legion's adoption of corresponding changes to its governing documents. Now that The American Legion has enacted this wording, the previous wording cited above no longer remains in effect. The wording below is now in effect.]*

**The stricken wording was replaced with the new wording, as follows, bolded:**

**American Legion Auxiliary Constitution, ARTICLE III Eligibility**

**Section 1. Membership in the American Legion Auxiliary shall be limited to the grandmothers, mothers, sisters, wives, and direct and adopted female descendants of members of The American Legion, and to the grandmothers, mothers, sisters, wives, 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 December 31, 1946; June 25, 1950 to January 31, 1955; February 28, 1961 to May 7, 1975; August 24, 1982 to July 31, 1984; December 20, 1989 to January 31, 1990; August 2, 1990 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 line of duty or after honorable discharge; and to those women who of their own right are eligible for membership in The American Legion.

*[Please further note: there was not, is not, and won't be any mention of "step", as previously discussed in numerous meetings the past three years. Also, there cannot and will not be any other changes to membership eligibility, as explained in my email message sent Fri, Jul 31, 2015 6:26 pm under the subject line "ALA eligibility restrictions explained; circulating, posting info". That email is attached to this message for your reference.]*

The updated American Legion Auxiliary National Constitution & Bylaws and Standing Rules will be posted on the national website at [ALAFORVeterans.org](http://ALAFORVeterans.org), in the Members Section in the next few weeks and will then become available for purchase from Emblem Sales. The updated version will incorporate the changes referenced above. It will be in the same booklet format – and you will be able to tell at a glance that it is the new version because on the color cover the pictures will be different and the title will include "2015 Update".

Many thanks in advance to National Convention Parliamentarian Chris Dickey, ALA NHQ's Cathi Taylor and Aaron Meyer for their help in getting the updates accomplished. And thanks also in advance to ALA webmaster Travis Perkins who will post it online as soon as the updated version is completed.

Mary "Dubbie" Buckler | Executive Director/National Secretary | American Legion Auxiliary National Headquarters | Direct: 317-569-4506; Fax: 317-569-4502 | [DBuckler@ALAFORVeterans.org](mailto:DBuckler@ALAFORVeterans.org) | [www.ALAFORVeterans.org](http://www.ALAFORVeterans.org) | *In the Spirit of Service Not Self for Veterans, God and Country*