**Preamble**

For God and Country, we associate ourselves together for the following purposes: To uphold and defend the Constitution of the United States of America; To maintain law and order; To foster and perpetuate a one-hundred percent Americanism; To preserve the memories and [[1]](#footnote-2)incidents of our associations in all Wars; To inculcate a sense of individual obligation to the community, state and nation; To combat the autocracy of both the classes and the masses; To make right the master of might; To promote peace and good will on Earth; To safeguard and transmit to posterity the principles of justice, freedom, and democracy; To consecrate and sanctify our comradeship by our devotion to mutual helpfulness.

**Article I Name**

**Section 1**

The name of this organization shall be Forest Lake Post 225, The American Legion, Department of Minnesota.

**Section 2**

This Post shall be located in the City of Forest Lake, Washington County, Minnesota and the headquarters thereof shall be located within said city as determined by the organization from time to time.

**Article 11 0bjectives and Purposes**

**Section 1**

The objectives and purposes of this Post shall be to promote the principles and policies as set forth in the foregoing Preamble, and the National and Department Constitutions of the American Legion.

**Article 111 Nature**

**Section 1**

This Post is a civilian organization and the membership therein does not affect or increase liability for military or police service.

**Section 2**

This organization shall be absolutely nonpolitical and shall not be used for the dissemination of partisan principles nor for the promotion of the candidacy of any person seeking public office or preferment.

**Section 3**

Rank does not exist in the American Legion; No member shall be addressed by their military title in any meeting of this Post.

**Article IV Membership**

**Section 1**

Eligibility to membership in this Post shall be as prescribed by the National Constitution of the American Legion.

**Section 2**

Application for membership shall be made in writing under such regulations as may from time to time be prescribed by the Post Executive Board.

**Section ~~3~~**

Each candidate for membership must be proposed by a member of this Post and submit proper evidence of his or her eligibility to membership. If any elected candidate shall not, within thirty days, after his or her election, pay to the finance officer his or her dues, as prescribed by the Post, his or her election shall be void.

**Section ~~4~~**

Any member of this Post may be expelled for cause by two-thirds vote of the Executive Board after charges are preferred under oath in writing, and a fair trial had upon the same, or as otherwise directed by Department Constitution and By-Laws.

**Section ~~5~~**

A member who has been expelled or suspended from this Post for any cause may be reinstated to membership by two-thirds vote of the membership present in the Post meeting, and the payment of current dues for the year in which the reinstatement occurs.

**Section ~~6~~**

No person who has been expelled by a Post shall be admitted to membership in another Post, without the consent of the expelling Post, except that where such consent has been asked for and denied by such Post, they may then appeal to the State Executive Committee of the Department of the expelling Post for permission to apply for membership in another Post, and shall be eligible for membership until such permission is granted.

**Article V Officers**

**Section 1**

The administrative affairs of this Post of the American Legion shall, except as maybe otherwise provided by the By-Laws, be under the supervision of an Executive Board which shall consist of nine members. The term of office of the members of the Executive Board shall be for one year, or as directed elsewhere in this Constitution or the By-Laws of this Post. This Post, by its By-Laws, may provide for such other standing committees as the business of the organization may require.

**Section 2**

The Executive Board shall consist of the Commander, First Vice Commander, Second Vice Commander, Third Vice Commander, Adjutant, Finance Officer, Sergeant-At-Arms, Chaplain and the Immediate Past Commander, (whom shall be ex-officio member thereof), all of whom except the Adjutant and Immediate Past Commander, shall be elected at the annual meeting in April of the Post.

**Section 3**

The elected officers of this Post shall be a Commander, First Vice Commander, Second Vice Commander, Third Vice Commander, Finance Officer, Chaplain, Sergeant-At-Arms. The Adjutant and any other officers necessary to fill the obligations of this Post shall be appointed by the Commander Elect prior to installation of officers. The five active past Commanders shall make recommendations of candidates who have approved of their nominations, at the meeting preceding the annual meeting (ie.March). Open nomination of candidates will also be presented at the annual meeting of this Post (April).

**Section 4**

All officers and committee-persons will take office at the conclusion or adjournment of the State Convention each year; Installation date of officers to be with the approval and consent of the Commander and Commander Elect. Any officer or Executive Board member may be recommended for removal by a majority vote of the Executive Board. The next membership meeting will vote on the recommendation wherein a majority vote is necessary for the removal.

**Section 5**

Every member of this Post in good standing shall be eligible to hold office in this Post. " ... in Good Standing" is defined as a member of the American Legion (any Post) for at least 1 year prior and should have attended membership meetings, and have knowledge of this Post's operations. However, a member of this Post cannot be elected or appointed to any office of this Post if they are employed by or are a vendor to this Post. No member of this Post may hold more than one elected office.

**Article VI Finance**

**Section 1**

The revenue of this Post shall be derived from membership or initiation fees, from annual membership dues and from such other sources as may be approved by the Post Executive Board.

**Section 2**

The amount of such membership or initiation fees and the amount of such annual Post Dues shall be fixed and determined by this Post.

**Section 3**

The Post shall forward to Department Headquarters, the National Headquarters and the District annual membership dues for every member of the Post who is current on their membership.

**Article VII Charter Members**

**Section 1**

Those persons whose names appear upon the original application for the charter of this Post shall be known as the Charter Members.

**Article VIII American Legion Auxiliary,**

**Sons of the American Legion (SAL) and American Legion Riders** (ALR)

**Section 1**

This Post recognizes an Auxiliary organization to be known as the Auxiliary Unit of Forest Lake Post 225, Department of Minnesota, the American Legion.

**Section 2**

Membership in the Auxiliary shall be as prescribed by the National Constitution of the American Legion.

**Section 3**

This Post recognizes the Sons of the American Legion (SAL) organization to be known as the Sons of the American Legion (SAL) Squadron of Forest Lake Post 225, Department of Minnesota, the American Legion.

**Section 4**

Membership in the Sons of the American Legion (SAL) shall be as prescribed by the National Constitution of the American Legion.

**Section 5**

This Post recognizes the American Legion Riders (ALR) organization to be known as the American Legion Riders of Forest Lake Post 225, Department of Minnesota, the American Legion.

**Section 6**

Membership in the American Legion Riders shall be as prescribed by the National Constitution of the American Legion.

**Article IX Amendments**

**Section 1**

This Constitution is adopted subject to the provisions of the National Constitution of the American Legion and the Department Constitution of the Department of Minnesota, The American Legion. Any amendment to said National Constitution or Department Constitution which is in conflict with any provisions hereof shall be regarded as automatically repealing or modifying the provisions of this Constitution to the extent of such conflict.

**Section 2**

This Constitution may be amended at any regular or special Post meeting by vote of two-thirds votes of the members of said Post attending such meeting, providing that the proposed amendment(s) shall have been submitted in writing and read at the next preceding regular meeting of said Post; and providing further, that written notice is given to members 3 weeks in advance of the date when such amendment(s) is to be voted upon to amend the Constitution. Previous amendments to this Constitution were approved 10-10-22.

This draft amendment-was presented to the Executive Board on December 11th, 2023 and presented at the Membership Meeting on December 18th, 2023 and was presented and voted upon by membership on January 15th, 2024.

Pat Silovich, Commander Paul Siebert, Past Commander

Ashley Venburg, By-Laws Committee Terry Larson, By-Laws Committee

Ron Miller, By-Laws Committee Date: January 15th, 2024

1. [↑](#footnote-ref-2)