



CONSTITUTION
OF STAFFORD POST 290
DEPARTMENT OF VIRGINIA
THE AMERICAN LEGION

**CONSTITUTION
OF
STAFFORD Post No. 290
The American Legion
DEPARTMENT OF VIRGINIA, INC.**

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 per cent Americanism; to preserve the memories and incidents of our associations in the Great 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 Post shall be **STAFFORD AMERICAN LEGION POST 290 OF THE AMERICAN LEGION, DEPARTMENT OF VIRGINIA, INCORPORATED**, hereinafter referred to as **Stafford American Legion Post 290**.

Section 2.**Stafford American Legion Post 290**, shall be located at 1204 American Legion Road, Stafford Virginia 22554.

ARTICLE II.NATURE

NO MILITARY RANK IN AMERICAN LEGION

Section 1.**STAFFORD AMERICAN LEGION POST 290**, is a civilian organization; membership therein does not affect nor increase liability for military or police service. Rank shall not exist in the Legion; no member shall be addressed by his military or naval title in any meeting of the Post, unless he/she be at the time on duty with some branch of the military service. This restriction (on use of military title) does not apply to courtesies extended outside the said Legion meetings, including correspondence or introductions.

AMERICAN LEGION IS NON-POLITICAL

Section 2. **STAFFORD AMERICAN LEGION POST 290** 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.

ARTICLE III. ELIGIBILITY

Section 1. Eligibility for membership in **STAFFORD AMERICAN LEGION POST 290** shall be governed by the membership eligibility of the National Constitution of The American Legion.

NO "ASSOCIATE" MEMBERS

Section 2. There shall be no form or class of membership except an active membership and dues shall be paid annually or for life. There shall be no "associate" or "honorary" memberships nor any memberships by any other designation for anyone who does not meet the eligibility requirements of The American Legion.

DUAL MEMBERSHIP FORBIDDEN

Section 3. No person may be a member at any time of more than one Post. Should it become apparent that such "dual membership" exists, the offending Legionnaire shall be notified immediately and required to select the Post in which he wishes to remain.

ARTICLE IV MEMBERSHIP

Section 1. Application for membership shall be in writing under such regulations as may from time to time be prescribed by the Post Membership.

Section 2. All applications for membership will be turned into the membership committee for review of the applicants' qualifications. The committee will report the names of the applicants with their recommendations for membership or rejection at the next regular Post meeting. Applications will be voted on by the General Membership at that time. Three (3) no votes by oral or written ballot, if requested, will deny membership. A rejected applicant shall not be reconsidered upon subsequent application for membership until after the expiration of a six-month period- from the date of the previous rejection.

Section 3. Any member of **STAFFORD AMERICAN LEGION POST 290** may be expelled for cause and/or restored to membership, and any former member of any other Post may be admitted to

membership in this Post, in accordance with the procedures and under the provisions of the By-Laws of the Department of Virginia and the National By-Laws of the American Legion.

Section 4.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, he may then appeal to the Department Executive Committee to be admitted to membership in another Post, and shall be ineligible for membership until such permission is granted.

TRANSFERS

Section 6.Transfers of membership from another Post shall be upon application of the members to, and acceptance by the **STAFFORD AMERICAN LEGION POST 290**. No dues shall be transferred and a member transferring shall be entitled to voting membership including the holding of office in **STAFFORD AMERICAN LEGION POST 290**. For purposes of calculating membership standings, a transferee shall be credited to the Post to which he has paid dues only.

ARTICLE V-CHARTER MEMBERS

Section 1.Persons who joined **STAFFORD AMERICAN LEGION POST 290** on or before _____ shall be known as Charter Members of the Post.

ARTICLE VI RULES

PROCEDURAL RULES

Section 1.The rules of procedure of the **STAFFORD AMERICAN LEGION POST 290** shall be those set forth in Robert's Rules of Order and the Uniform Code of Procedure for the Department of Virginia with such modification as may be adopted by the Post.

ARTICLE VII-DUTIES OF OFFICERS

Section 1.The administrative affairs of **STAFFORD AMERICAN LEGION POST 290** shall be under the supervision of an Executive Committee hereinafter provided for, which shall consist of six (6) members (in addition to the immediate Past Commander) and the following elected officers of the Post: Commander, First, Second, and Third Vice Commanders, Adjutant, Finance Officer, Judge Advocate, Service Officer, Chaplain, Historian and Sergeant-at-Arms. The term of office of the officers of the Executive committee shall be for one (1) year, except the six (6) elected members, two of whom shall be elected for terms of one (1) year each,

two for two (2) years each and two for three (3) years each. This post by its By-Laws, may provide for such committees as the business of the organization may require.

Section 2.All past Commanders of **STAFFORD AMERICAN LEGION POST 290**, in good standing, shall be members of the Executive Committee without vote.

Section 3.The elected officers of **STAFFORD AMERICAN LEGION POST 290** shall include a Commander, a First, Second and Third Vice Commander, Finance Officer, Judge Advocate, Service Officer, Adjutant, Chaplain, Historian and Sergeant-at-Arms.

Section 4.The six (6) Executive Committeemen shall be nominated from the floor and elected; two annually, two for terms of two years and two for a term of three years and shall take office as herein provided for the officers.

Section 5.A Vice-Adjutant, Supply Officer, Assistant Sergeant-at-Arms, Athletic Officer and Assistant Finance Officer may be appointed by the Executive Committee upon nomination by the Commander and may be removed from office by a two-thirds majority vote of the members of the Executive Committee.

Section 6.Every member of **STAFFORD AMERICAN LEGION POST 290** shall be eligible to hold office in this Post, except as otherwise provided herein.

Section 7.The duties of the Officers and the Executive Committee shall be those usually pertaining to such offices and Executive Committeemen and as further provided in the By-Laws.

Section 8.**STAFFORD AMERICAN LEGION POST 290, Incorporated, DEPARTMENT OF VIRGINIA**, is an incorporated entity and operates as a corporate entity. The Corporation is controlled by a Board of Directors, consisting of five (5) members of the Post, elected at a corporate meeting. All real estate transactions pertaining to the Post shall be conducted by the Board of Directors, provided that no real property shall be acquired, encumbered, and/or disposed of by this post except upon a majority vote of the members of the post authorizing such action or actions by the Directors and provided further, that written notice of any proposed acquisition, encumbrance, and/or disposition of

real property by the Post shall be given to all members thereof at least twenty (20) days prior to the regular meeting at which vote is to be taken on the proposed course of action. Each Director heretofore or hereafter elected shall hold office at the pleasure of the Post. **STAFFORD AMERICAN LEGION POST 290, INCORPORATED**, shall hold title to all real property.

Section 9.No officer or elected member of the Executive Committee of **STAFFORD AMERICAN LEGION POST 290** shall hold office in any other veteran's organization during such person's term of office.

ARTICLE VIII-FINANCE

Section 1.The revenue of **STAFFORD AMERICAN LEGION POST 290** shall be derived from membership or initiation fees from annual membership dues and from other such sources as may be approved by the Executive Committee.

Section 2.The amount of such membership or initiation fees and the amount of such annual dues shall be fixed by this Post.

ARTICLE IX.AMERICAN LEGION AUXILIARY

Section 1. **STAFFORD AMERICAN LEGION POST 290** recognizes an Auxiliary Organization to be known as "American Legion Auxiliary, UNIT 290" of the American Legion, and a Sons of the American Legion to be known as "S.A.L. Squadron 290" to be part of this Post.

ELIGIBILITY

Section 2.Membership in the Auxiliary shall be limited to the mothers, wives, daughters, sisters, granddaughters and great-grand daughters of members of The American Legion, and to the mothers, wives, daughters, sisters, granddaughters and great-granddaughters of those who would have been eligible for membership in The American Legion, but who have died, and to those women who are of their own right eligible for membership in The American Legion.

Section 3.The Auxiliary shall be absolutely non-political 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.

ARTICLE X-AMENDMENTS

Section 1.This constitution may be amended at any regular

meeting of **STAFFORD AMERICAN LEGION POST 290** by a two-thirds (2/3) majority vote of members of the Post attending such regular meeting; provided, that the proposed amendment shall have been submitted in writing and read at the next preceding regular meeting of the Post; and provided further, that written notice, with the proposed amendment, shall have been given to all members, of the Post at least twenty (20) days in advance of the date when such amendment is to be voted upon, informing said members that at such meeting a proposal to amend this constitution is to be voted on.

Section 2. This Constitution is adopted subject to the provisions of the National Constitution of The American Legion and of the Department of Virginia, The American Legion. Any amendments 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.