

**BOLINGBROOK AMERICAN LEGION
POST No. 1288**

CONSTITUTION

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 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 organization shall be Bolingbrook Post No. 1288 of Bolingbrook, Illinois, The American Legion, Department of Illinois.

ARTICLE II - OBJECTS

Section 1. The objects 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 III - NATURE

Section 1. This Post is a civilian organization and membership therein does not affect or increase liability for military or police service.

Section 2. Rank does not exist in The American Legion: no member shall be required to be addressed by his Military or Naval 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 on the form provided, it is accompanied by the necessary fees herein described.

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Section 3. Any applicant receiving the affirmative vote of at least two-thirds of all members present shall be considered as elected to membership.

Section 4. Any member of this Post desiring to transfer to another Post shall upon application to the Adjutant, be furnished with a transfer card, provided all dues and assessments shall have been paid to date. Any member desiring to transfer to this Post from another Post shall be presented with a transfer card by the Post from which he desires to transfer from and may be admitted to membership in the same manner as prescribed for the new members in Section 3 above.

Section 5. The eligibility of members shall be confined to the classes fixed by the National Constitution of The American Legion and the election of any person to membership outside of such classes shall be null and void; provided, that such person may apply to the Post Executive Board for a hearing upon his eligibility and in the event such Executive Board adheres to the judgment of exclusion, said applicant may appeal to the Department Executive Committee transferring with his said appeal all the records in this matter.

Section 6. Charges against members shall be presented in writing to the Executive Board, which shall set a time for a hearing thereon; and the person against whom the charge is made shall be furnished with a copy thereof, and shall be given adequate opportunity to be heard thereon. Any member against whom a judgment of expulsion has been rendered by the Executive Board may appeal to the Department Executive Committee, transmitting with said appeal a copy of the charges and findings.

ARTICLE V - OFFICERS

Section 1. The elected Officers of this Post shall be: Commander, Senior Vice-Commander, Junior Vice-Commander, Finance Officer, Judge Advocate, Chaplain and Sergeant at Arms. Other Officers may be authorized by the Post.

Section 2. The Commander shall appoint the following Officers: Adjutant, Service Officer and Historian. The Commander shall have the authority to appoint such other Officers of the Post as he may deem necessary.

Section 3. All Officers and Executive Committeemen shall be elected and appointed annually. They shall assume their duties at the first meeting following the annual Department Convention, and shall hold Office for one year or until their successors are duly elected. Election to Office requires a majority.

Section 4. Every member of this Post in good standing shall be eligible to hold Office in the Post.

Section 5. Whenever any elected Officer shall, without good and sufficient reason, be absent from three consecutive meetings: said Office may be declared vacant by the Post membership. The following shall be considered good or sufficient reason for absence of an Officer: Absence from the city, sickness, welfare work or business engagements. All excuses may be investigated prior to being accepted. Other excuses, not named, will be subject, to approval by majority vote of the Post membership present at a meeting.

Section 6. The fiscal year begins with the first meeting following the close of the Department Convention.

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ARTICLE VI - FINANCE

Section 1. Each member shall pay as dues to this Post annually the sum as set forth by the Post membership. Dues are payable in advance. Legion membership is annual, the Legion year being from January 1, to December 31. If dues are not paid in advance by January 1 of each Calendar year, the member continues to be a member in good standing until February 1; and thereafter, for two months (February and March) the member is classified as delinquent. If dues have not been paid by April 1, members are suspended, but never-the-less members with no privilege except that of reinstatement by vote of the Post and payment of dues: and dues not being paid, such membership continues for a period of nine months, to December 31. at which time the member is dropped from the roll of Constitutional mandate and the membership is forfeited.

ARTICLE VII - CHARTER MEMBERS

Section 1. Members who joined the Post prior to January 1, 1972 shall be known as charter members.

ARTICLE VIII - AMERICAN LEGION AUXILIARY

Section 1. The Post recognizes an Auxiliary Organization to be known as the Auxiliary Unit of Bolingbrook Post No. 1288, The American Legion.

Section 2. Membership in the Auxiliary shall be prescribed by the National Constitution of The American Legion Auxiliary.

ARTICLE IX - AMENDMENTS

Section 1. This Constitution is adopted subject to the provisions of the National Constitution of The American Legion and of the Department Constitution of the Department of Illinois, 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 Post meeting by a vote of two-thirds of said Post members attending such regular meeting, providing that the proposed amendment shall have been submitted in writing and read at the next preceding regular meeting of said Post, and providing further, that written notice shall have been given too all members at least five (5) days in advance of the date when such amendment is to be voted upon, notifying said members that at such meeting a proposal to amend the constitution is to be voted upon.