

# CONSTITUTION

## **PREAMBLE**

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 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 goodwill 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 The Ladewig-Zinkgraf Post No. 243, The American Legion Department of Wisconsin

## **ARTICLE II OBJECTS**

Section 1. The objects and purposes of this Post shall be to promote the principles set forth in the fore-going preamble, and the National and Departmental constitution of the American Legion.

## **ARTICLE III NATURE**

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

Section 2. This Post shall be absolutely non-political and non-sectarian and shall not be used for the dissemination of partisan principles nor for the promotion of the candidacy of any person seeking office or preferment.

Section 3. Rank does not exist in the American Legion, and no member shall be addressed by military or Naval title in any meeting of the 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. Any member of this Post may be expelled for cause by two-thirds vote of the Executive Committee after charges are preferred under oath, made in triplicate and sent to the State American Legion Department. The appeal process is handled by the State American Legion Department.

Section 3. A member who has been expelled or suspended from this Post may be re-instated to membership by a two-thirds vote of the Executive Committee; provided, however, that he shall make payment of any arrears in his dues at the time of his expulsion or suspension, and such other regular dues which have been payable in the interval between his expulsion or suspension and his reinstatement.

This has to be done within a year of expulsion or suspension.

Section 4. No person who has been expelled or suspended by a Post shall be admitted to this Post without the consent of that other Post or the consent of the Department Executive Committee.

Section 5. membership dues shall be payable on July 1<sup>st</sup> for the succeeding calendar year or at such time as shall be determined by the National Executive Committee. If unpaid on January 1<sup>st</sup>, the member shall be classed delinquent and shall be denied all privileges of membership.

## **ARTICLE V OFFICERS**

Section 1. The administrative affairs of this Post shall, except as otherwise provided by the by-laws, be under the supervision of an Executive Committee which shall consist of three members in addition to the officers of the Post. The term of office of members of the Executive Committee shall be one year. These Post, by-laws, may provide for such other standing committees as the business of the Post requires.

Section 2. The officers of the Post shall be a Commander, a Vice-Commander, an Adjutant, a Finance Officer, a Historian, a Chaplain, a Service Officer, a Sergeant at Arms and such other officers as may be deemed necessary. Candidates for those of the above named offices which are to be filled by election shall be nominated

from the floor at the meeting preceding the annual election.

Section 3. All officers and Executive Committeemen who are elected annually shall hold office until their successors are duly installed, or as otherwise provided. Any officer or Executive Committeeman may be removed for inefficiency by the Executive Committee, a two thirds vote of such committee being necessary for such removal.

Section 4. Any member of this Post in good standing shall be eligible to hold office, unless otherwise provided.

Section 5. The duties of the officers and the Executive Committee shall be those usually appertaining to such officers or Committeemen and as provided in the bylaws.

## **ARTICLE VI FINANCE**

Section 1. The revenue of this Post shall be derived from membership or initiation fees, from membership dues, and from other sources as may be approved by the Executive Committee.

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

Section 3. The Post shall pay to Department Headquarters the annual Departmental and National, District and County dues for every member of the Post.

## **ARTICLE VII CHARTER MEMBERS**

Section 1. Members who joined this Post prior to March 16, 1920, shall be known as Charter members.

## **ARTICLE VIII AUXILIARIES**

Section 1. This Post recognizes the following organizations:

1. American Legion Auxiliary, Unit of Ladewig-Zinkgraf Post 243 of the American Legion
2. Squadron No. 243 of the Sons 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 of the Department Constitution of the Department of Wisconsin, the American Legion. Any amendment to said National 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. The membership will be made aware of any automatic changes.

Section 2. This Constitution may be amended at any regular Post meeting by a two thirds majority of the members attending that meeting, provided that such proposed regular meeting and provided further that written notice shall have been given to all members at least five days in advance of the date when such meeting of a proposal to amend the Constitution is to be voted on.

## **ARTICLE X ADOPTION**

Section 1. The adoption of this Constitution, and any amendments added thereto, shall automatically repeal any Constitution adopted by the Post prior to January 10, 1939. **This date will change upon adoption by the Post**