

CONSTITUTION AND BYLAWS
RITA WAGNER
PO Box 346, Elgin, NE 68636
rwagner@gpcom.net

There is much work to be done this year as many of the Units will have to update their Constitution, Bylaws, or Standing Rules because of the dues increase for the Department. All Units are encouraged to review the Constitution to see if changes in dues need to be made and if there are any other changes that should be made. Please make these changes and send your new document to Department Headquarters. You can use the uniform Constitution available from Department Headquarters to help you make things easier.

Goals for the 2009 - 2010 year:

1. All members will memorize and recite the words of the Preamble to the Constitution of the American Legion Auxiliary.
2. All Units will increase the knowledge of the members by a study of the Constitution. Games, puzzles, and skits can be a way of making learning more fun.
3. The Unit Handbook has information about the American Legion Auxiliary and its programs, Unit operations and procedures, membership eligibility and prescribed ceremonies. There is a newly revised Unit Handbook and all Units should order a new one.
4. All Units will review their Constitution, Bylaws, and Standing Rules, update as necessary and send a copy to Department Headquarters.
 - a. The Constitution is the general document of our organization that explains our structure.
 - b. The Bylaws govern our activities and deals with our organization such as election of officers, duties and powers of the officers, how vacancies are filled, and frequency of Unit meetings.
 - c. Standing Rules are rules which relate to the administration of a Unit rather than to parliamentary procedure.

The following items are available from American Legion Emblem Sales, PO Box 1050, Indianapolis, IN 46206-1050. Toll free number is 1-888-453-4466, or order online at <http://emblem.legion.org>.

1. National Constitution Bylaws and Standing Rules (355.202)
2. Policies and Procedures manual (item 355.204)
3. Unit Handbook (item 355.200)
4. Parliamentary Procedure (item 755.203)
5. Roberts Rules of Order Newly Revised - Hardback 855.300)
6. Roberts Rules of Order Newly Revised - Paperback 855.301)

I will give a personal gift to each Unit that sends me a copy of how they made a study of the Constitution and Bylaws - skit, puzzle, whatever you did.

CITATION POINTS - 10 points assigned

5 pts... Unit has 2009 - 2010 Constitution and Bylaws on file at Department Headquarters

5 pts... Unit devoted a program to study Unit, County, District and/or Department Constitution, Bylaws, and Standing Rules
