

**AMERICAN LEGION AUXILIARY DEPARTMENT OF
ARIZONA CONVENTION JUNE 25-28, 2026
RESOLUTION**

SUBMITTED BY: Dolores Chavez, Rose Ficklin

SUBJECT: Membership Eligibility

DATE: April 16, 2026

Resolution No. R13

(Assigned by Resolutions Committee)

DO NOT TRY TO SQUEEZE THE RESOLUTION INTO THIS SPACE. PLEASE ATTACH TEXT OF RESOLUTION AS A SEPARATE PAGE

Routing: _____

Submitted by: Name and Signature _____

Submitted by: Name and Signature _____

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_____ Approved _____ Rejected _____ Revised _____

_____ Approved _____ Rejected _____ Revised _____

_____ Approved _____ Rejected _____ Revised _____

Convention Action: Approved _____ Rejected _____ Date _____

RESOLUTION NO. R13

SUBJECT: Resolution asking the American Legion to change eligibility requirements for the American Legion Auxiliary

Submitted by: American Legion Auxiliary Department of Arizona

WHEREAS; The mission of the American Legion Auxiliary is to support The American Legion and to honor the sacrifice of those that serve by enhancing the lives of our veterans, active-duty military and their families; and

WHEREAS; The American Legion National Constitution establishes eligibility for membership in the American Legion Auxiliary in Article XIII, Section 2; and

WHEREAS; The American Legion Auxiliary Constitution, Article III, Eligibility, Section 1, states that eligibility for membership in the American Legion Auxiliary is determined by The American Legion; and

WHEREAS; The American Legion and the American Legion Auxiliary has historically evolved its membership eligibility to reflect the full diversity of military families, including the change of “wife” to “spouse” adopted at the 2019 National Convention; and

WHEREAS; There are not only members of veteran and active-duty military families, but also members of Gold Star families that have no eligibility in the American Legion Family; and

WHEREAS; These family members want to work the mission of the American Legion Auxiliary in honor of their loved one who has served, currently serving, or gave the ultimate sacrifice; and

WHEREAS; The Internal Revenue Code Section 501(c)19, auxiliaries affiliated with veterans organizations may include members who are spouses or relatives within two degrees of consanguinity of eligible veterans; and

WHEREAS; The American Legion has the constitutional authority to define and amend eligibility for membership in the American Legion Auxiliary; now, be it

RESOLVED; the American Legion Auxiliary National Convention delegates assembled in Louisville, Kentucky August 28th through September 3rd, 2026, humbly requests that the American Legion amend Article XIII, Section 2 of the American Legion National Constitution to expand membership in the American Legion Auxiliary; and be it further

RESOLVED; That The American Legion changes grandmothers, mothers, sisters, spouses, and direct and adopted female descendants of members of the American Legion to now read grandparents, parents, siblings, spouses and direct and adopted descendants of members of The American Legion; and be it further

RESOLVED; that this action will ensure that the American Legion Auxiliary continues their mission to support our veterans and active-duty military and their families.

Rationale: The 2019 change in language from wife to spouse has been positive for the ALA. However, being three generations removed since the last military draft, we now have grandfathers, fathers, and brothers with no eligibility to join The American Legion Family. A unit President in Arizona had to tell a Gold Star Father, that wanted to join and work the ALA mission in honor of his son, who gave the last full measure of devotion, that he could not join the ALA because we didn't accept fathers. We speak of inclusion, yet we do not practice it.

Even though some will argue that the ALA does not accept stepchildren or great grandchildren, that IS NOT AN American Legion or American Legion Auxiliary rule, it is an Internal Revenue Service directive for Veteran Service Organizations non-profit status.