

Constitution

Bernard A. Bendle Post

Department of Michigan

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 **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 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 Bernard A. Bendle Post of the Department of Michigan

Article II - Nature

Section 1. The objects and purposes of this organization 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.

Section 2. This Post is a civilian organization and membership therein does not affect or increase liability for military or police service.

Section 3. This organization shall be **non – political** and shall not be used for the dissemination of partisan principles nor for promotion of the candidacy of any person seeking public office or preferment.

Section 4. Rank does not exist in the American Legion: No member shall be addressed by their Military or Naval title in any meeting of this post.

Article III Membership

Section 1. Eligibility for membership in this post shall be as prescribed by the National Constitution of The American Legion.

Sections 2. All applications for membership shall be made in writing, using the American Legion Application form. The form when presented, should be signed by applicant. The applicant **MUST** provide one of the following for verification of service to a **POST OFFICER**. Discharge Certificate, Form DD214, or a certified or photocopied of either one of them, or Active Duty ID, **as proof of honorable service.**

Section 3. All applications for membership shall be acted upon at the next Post meeting following the making of such application and shall, at such meeting, be accepted, rejected or referred for further investigation and consideration. The application will be accepted by a majority of those present. A rejected application shall not again be considered until after the expiration of **six months** from date of rejection.

Section 4. Any member of this Post may be expelled for cause by a two – thirds vote of the Executive Committee after charges are preferred under Oath, in writing and a fair trial is had upon the same.

Section 5. A member who has been expelled or suspended from this Post for any cause, may be reinstated to membership by a **two – thirds vote of the membership present**, at the Post Meeting where it is addressed and payment of current dues for the year in which the reinstatement occurs.

Section 6. No person who has been **expelled** by a Post shall not be **admitted to membership** in this Post, **Without consent** of the expelling Post, with the exception, where such consent has been asked for or denied, by such Post, they may then appeal to the State Executive Committee, Department of Michigan or the **original expelling Post** for permission to apply for membership in this Post and shall be **ineligible** for membership until such permission is granted.

Article IV Officers

Section 1. The Administrative affairs of this Post of the American Legion shall, except as be otherwise provided by the by-laws, be under the supervision of the Executive Committee **which shall consist of the Commander, 1st Vice Commander, 2nd Vice Commander, Adjutant, Finance Officer and two members at Large.** Their term of office as members of the executive committee shall be one year. This post, by its By-Laws, may provide for such other standing committees as the business of the organization may require.

Section 2. The officers of this post shall be a Commander, 1st Vice Commander, 2nd Vice Commander, Adjutant, Finance Officer, Post Historian, Post chaplain, Post Service Officer, Post Sergeant – at – Arms, and such officers that may be deemed necessary by this organization. They shall be nominated from the floor at the meeting preceding the annual meeting and nominations will also be accepted at annual meeting.

Section 3. If the nominee cannot be present at the annual meeting, a signed letter of acceptance from the nominee will be required.

Section 4. All officers and **executive members at large**, shall be elected annually, and they shall hold office until their successors are duly installed or otherwise provided. Any officer or executive member may be removed for dereliction of duty by the executive committee, by two - thirds vote of said committee being necessary to effect such removal.

Section 5. Every member of the post in good standing shall be eligible to hold office in this post.

Section 6. The duties of officers and executive board members shall be those usually appertaining to such officers or executive board members and as further provided in the by-laws.

Article VI – Finance

Section 1. The revenue of this post shall be derived from annual membership dues and from such other sources as may be approved by the membership of the post.

Section 2. The amount of such annual dues, shall, be fixed and determined by the post.

Section 3. The post shall pay to the National and State Headquarters, an annual membership fee for every member of the post.

Article VII – Charter members

Sections 1. Members who joined this post prior to November 11th, 1919 or members who joined this post prior to the issuance of the charter, shall be known as charter members.

Section 2. The matter of charter members for the permanent charter is left to the decision of the post members.

Article VIII – American Legion Auxiliary

Sections 1. This post recognizes an Auxiliary organization to be known as the Auxiliary Unit of Benard A Bendle Post 294, of the American Legion.

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

