

## Unit Meetings

The manner in which a unit meeting is conducted has a great bearing on its success or failure. Unless a meeting is well planned, intelligently conducted, and subjects are presented and discussed interestingly, members cannot be expected to be faithful in attendance. Routine business should be transacted in an efficient manner, yet the opportunity should be presented for active participation of members in the program. It is most important that unit elections and all unit business be conducted in accordance with unit bylaws, the current edition of *Robert's Rules of Order, Newly Revised*, and department and national Constitution & Bylaws. All unit presidents must remember to be impartial while presiding and not participate in discussion. The majority vote rules, but the minority has the right to be heard. Committee members and officers may transact detailed business and should bring only important matters before the unit for decision. Special monthly activities should be stressed, and district and department officers as well as local speakers should be asked to add interest to the programs. Variety should be introduced in music and entertainment.

### The President as Presiding Officer

- Calls the meeting to order at the designated time, and, if a quorum is present, proceeds with necessary business.
- Preserves order throughout the meeting.
- Follows the accepted order of business.
- Refers to himself as "the Chair."
- Decides parliamentary questions. The president states the motion clearly after it has been seconded and before allowing discussion.
- Takes no part in any discussion while presiding; refrains from expressing a personal opinion on questions before the house; avoids all personal bias when giving information to the organization.
- Calls upon the vice president to preside if they wish to speak on a motion or leave the chair. Remains out of chair until the vote on the pending motion is taken.
- May vote according to local bylaws.
- Recognizes a member who has not spoken previously on the question in preference to one who has spoken.

## **Suggested Order of Business**

While this suggested order of business for unit meetings includes items that will not be used at every meeting throughout the year, this may be of some assistance to presidents of new units and to others who are not entirely familiar with the business to be transacted. The order should be modified to fit the circumstances of the particular occasion.

- Call to Order
- Advancement of Colors (optional) Salute to the colors if colors are not advanced
- Prayer
- Pledge of Allegiance to Flag
- National Anthem or other patriotic song
- Preamble to the Constitution of the American Legion Auxiliary
- Roll call of officers
- Reading and approval of minutes of previous meeting
- Treasurer's Financial Report
- Initiation of candidates (quarterly, biannually, or annually, as is the unit custom)
- Reports of: president, secretary, unit officers, Executive Committee, Membership Committee, standing committees, special committees
- Reading of communications, including those from national, department and district officers
- Unfinished business
- New business
- Election and installation of officers
- Announcements
- Program - educational and entertaining (optional)
- Adjournment of business meeting
- Closing prayer
- Retirement of Colors (optional) The American flag and the banner of the American Legion Auxiliary in miniature and in a small stand should not be used for the advancement or retirement of colors, as the stand of colors was not intended to be used for this purpose.

## Unit Meeting Terminology

- Call to Order: The presiding officer first calls the meeting to order.
- Reading of the Minutes: The president asks the secretary to read the minutes of the previous regular meeting. If special meetings have been held, these minutes should be acted upon after the regular ones. The presiding officer asks for any corrections or additions to the minutes, then declares the minutes “approved as read” or “approved as corrected” if any corrections have been made.
- Statement of the Treasurer: After the reading of the report by the treasurer, the report is entered into the minutes and filed for audit. At the annual meeting the annual report is read; the auditor’s report is read. The report of the auditor including the treasurer’s report is accepted.
- Reading of Communications: The secretary reads all communications from department and National Headquarters, local organization notices and matters of general interest. Any action, which may arise from the reading, is deferred until unfinished business or new business is considered.
- Unfinished Business: Any business postponed from the previous meeting or any matter introduced at the meeting on which action of the unit was deferred is unfinished business. The secretary from the minutes of the last meeting prepares a list of such unfinished business for the presiding officer. Only when the unfinished business has been disposed of may new business be brought forward, unless the regular order of business has been modified by vote of the members present.
- New Business: Any business brought forward for the first time.
- Announcements: The date of the next meeting or special event is announced. If a social hour is to follow, this should be announced at this time.
- Program: The president asks the program chairman to take charge.
- Closing Prayer: The president asks the chaplain to offer the closing prayer.
- Charge: The president states, “Till we meet again let us remember that our obligation to our country can be fulfilled only by the faithful performance of all duties of citizenship. Let service to the community, state and nation be ever a main objective of the American Legion Auxiliary and its members. Let us ever be watchful of our organization and ourselves, that nothing shall swerve us from the path of Justice, Freedom, Loyalty and Democracy.”
- Adjournment: The president states, “If there is no further business to come before this meeting, the meeting is adjourned.”
- Retirement of the Colors: The color bearers will retire the Colors. (Optional) If colors are not retired, the president should say, “Colors in place, hand salute.”

## President's Script

- (one rap of gavel)
- The meeting will now come to order.
- (three raps of gavel) Members shall now stand
- The color bearers will advance the colors.
- The Chaplain will offer prayer.
- You will join me in Pledging Allegiance to the Flag.
- You will join me in repeating the Preamble to the Constitution of the American Legion Auxiliary
- (one rap of gavel) Member shall be seated
- I now declare Unit Name Unit Unit Number, American Legion Auxiliary, Department of Arizona regularly convened.
- Secretary shall call roll of officers.
- Secretary shall read the minutes of the Date meeting.
- Are there any corrections? Hearing none the minutes are approved as read.
- We will now have the report of the Treasurer.
- Are there any questions? The Treasurer's report is accepted and will be placed on file subject to audit.
- The Secretary shall read the recommendations of the Date meeting of the Executive committee.(At this time the membership should take action on any recommendations that were made by the Executive committee)
- At this time we will hear the committee reports. Are there any Officers or chairmen who wish to report on their activities?
- Madam Secretary, will you please read communications.
- Do we have any unfinished business?
- Is there any new business?
- I have the following announcements to make
- Is there any further business to come before this meeting? If not, the Chaplain will lead us in prayer. (three raps of the gavel)
- Til we meet again, let us remember that our obligation to our Country can only be fulfilled by the faithful performance of all duties of citizenship. Let service to the community, State and Nation be ever a main objective of the ALA and its members. Let us ever be watchful of our Organization and ourselves, that nothing shall swerve us from the path of Justice, Freedom and Democracy. The color bearers will retire the colors. I now declare this meeting of Unit Name Unit Unit Number, American Legion Auxiliary, Department of Arizona, adjourned. (one rap of gavel)