



## **CONSTITUTION OF HIGHLANDS POST 69, DEPARTMENT OF FLORIDA**

### **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 association in great 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**

**The name of this organization shall be Highlands Post No. 69, The American Legion, Department of Florida.**

### **ARTICLE II - OBJECTS**

**Section 1. The objects and purposes of this post shall be to promote the principles and policies as set forth in the foregoing preamble, and the national and departmental Constitutions of The American Legion.**

### **ARTICLE III - NATURE**

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

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

**Section 3. Rank does not exist in The American Legion; no member shall be addressed by his military or naval title in any meeting of this 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. An application for membership to Post 69 shall be made in writing and submitted to the Screening Committee who shall verify the applicant's eligibility.**

**(A) Should the Screening Committee find any applicant to appear to be undesirable for membership in Post 69, they will submit his name to the Post Adjutant who will present the applicant's name to the Executive Committee for their consideration. The Executive Committee may elect to accept or reject the applicant by a two-thirds majority of the Executive Committee.**

**(B) Should the Screening Committee find the applicant to be desirable for membership, the applicant's name shall be placed on the agenda for the next post meeting following their receipt, and shall at such meeting, be accepted, rejected, or referred for further investigation and consideration.**

**(C) If a majority of members present cast their votes against the acceptance of any application, such application shall be recorded as rejected. A rejected application shall not again be considered until after the expiration of 6 months from the date of rejection.**

**Section 3. No person shall be a member of Post 69 who is, at the same time, a member of any other post of the American Legion.**

**Section 4. Non-residents of the State or Town, otherwise eligible, may be admitted for membership on the same basis as residents.**

**Section 5. Any member of Post 69 may be suspended or expelled from the Post for proper cause. Such cause may include disloyalty, neglect of duty, dishonesty, or conduct unbecoming a member of the American Legion. All charges must be made under oath, in writing, by the accuser. No action will be taken against an accused member until he has been given a fair trial by the Executive Committee of Post 69. Action by the Executive Committee shall require a two-thirds vote.**

**Section 6. Any member who has been suspended or expelled shall have the right to appeal such action to the Department Executive Committee or the Department Convention. The Decision of the Department shall then be final.**

**Section 7. Any member in good standing may transfer to another Post willing to accept him, subject to the provisions of the National Constitution. Such member shall be entitled to a Certificate of Membership from Post 69 upon transfer and acceptance by another Post. The transfer shall be effective**

upon notice sent to the Department Adjutant.

**Section 8.** Post 69 shall have full power and authority to drop from the membership rolls the name of any member for non-payment of his annual dues.

**Section 9.** A member whose dues for the current year are unpaid on January 1st, shall be classed as delinquent. If said dues are still unpaid on February 1st, the member shall be under suspension of all privileges. If his dues are paid by February 1st, he shall be automatically reinstated. A member who is under suspension on June 30th, shall forfeit his membership in the American Legion. A member so suspended or whose membership has been forfeited may be reinstated to active membership in good standing by the vote of the Post members and payment of dues for the current year.

## ARTICLE V – OFFICERS

**Section 1.** The administrative affairs of this post of the American Legion shall, except as may be otherwise provided by the By-Laws, be under the supervision of an Executive Committee which shall consist of three (3) members in addition to the officers of the post. The term of office of members of the Executive Committee shall be for 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, a vice commander, an adjutant judge advocate a finance officer, a post historian, a post chaplain, post service officer and a sergeant-at-arms, and such other officers as may be deemed necessary by this organization, who shall be nominated from the floor at the meeting preceding the annual election with the exception of the adjutant, judge advocate and service officer who shall be appointed by the commander.

**Section 3.** All officers and executive committee-men shall be elected annually and they shall hold office until their successors are duly installed or as otherwise provided. Any officer or executive committee-man may removed for inefficiency by the Executive Committee, a two-thirds vote of said committee being necessary to effect such removal.

**Section 4.** Every member of this post in good standing shall be eligible to hold office in this post with the exception of the commander. Nominations for Commander shall be accepted for all who have served at least one year as an officer of Post 69.

**Section 5.** The duties of officers and the executive committee-men shall be those usually pertaining to such officers or committee-men and as further provided in the By-Laws.

## **ARTICLE VI – FINANCE**

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

**Section 2.** The amount of such membership or initiation fees and the amount of such annual post dues shall be fixed and determined by this post.

**Section 3.** The post shall pay to departmental headquarters the national and departmental membership dues for every member of the post.

## **ARTICLE VII - CHARTER MEMBERS**

**Section 1.** Members who joined this post prior to the issuance of charter shall be known as charter members.

## **ARTICLE VIII - AMERICAN LEGION AUXILIARY**

**Section 1.** This post recognizes an auxiliary organization to be known as the Auxiliary Unit of Highlands Post 69, The American Legion.

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

## **ARTICLE IX – AMENDMENTS**

**Section 1.** This Constitution is adopted subject to the provisions of the national Constitution of the Department of Florida, The American Legion. Any amendment to said national Constitution 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.

**Section 2.** This Constitution may be amended at any regular post meeting by a vote of two-thirds of the members of said post attending such regular meeting providing that the proposed amendment shall have been submitted in writing and read at the next preceding regular meeting of said post, and providing, further, that written notice shall have been given to all members at least thirty (30) days in advance of the date when such amendment is to be voted upon, notifying said members that at such meeting a proposal to amend the Constitution is to be voted upon.