

RESOLUTION

Resolution No. 2613

Subject Sons of The American Legion as a Society

- WHEREAS The American Legion seeks to preserve and honor service and legacy to our nation and to celebrate the contributions of veterans and their families to promote ongoing comradery, membership and charitable service across all affiliated programs of The American Legion Family; and
- WHEREAS The Sons of The American Legion (SAL) program was authorized by the 14th National Convention of The American Legion on September 15, 1932, in Portland, Oregon as a children and youth program of The American Legion to foster and preserve the heritage and service of American veterans; and
- WHEREAS The Sons of The American Legion has evolved into a bona fide and robust society with its own National, Department and Detachment structures operating with a level of complexity that exceeds standard children and youth and/or Americanism programs; and
- WHEREAS it is in the best interest of The American Legion to affiliate the membership of the Sons of The American Legion program under the cohesive “American Legion Family” framework that emphasizes service and legacy with continuity of organizational membership established through USC 26 CFR §501(c)19 and IRC §501(c)(19) congressional charter criteria; and
- WHEREAS the governing bodies recognize the need to incorporate membership attrition practices to reflect two degrees of consanguinity as a basis for eligibility, while preserving the values of service and legacy central to The American Legion Family; Now, Therefore, Be It

1. Reorganization and Name Change

- RESOLVED, that effective upon adoption and the applicable transition period, the SAL shall be reorganized from a program of The American Legion into an auxiliary (Service And Legacy) society of The American Legion, to be named the "Sons of the American Legion, an Auxiliary (Service And Legacy) Society of The American Legion" (SAL), herein referred to as the SAL, and be it further
- RESOLVED, that the SAL shall operate under and in conformity with The American Legion constitution, bylaws, and all applicable policies as a subordinate auxiliary society, with authority and duties as directed by The American Legion’s national and department leadership, and be it further

2. Foundational Principles

- RESOLVED, that the SAL shall be founded upon the principles of:
 - Service: promoting charitable, community, and veterans-focused service throughout the duration of membership maintaining fidelity to The American Legion's mission, ethics, and governance, And
 - Legacy: honoring veterans, preserving the memory and values of those who served, and sustaining the heritage of The American Legion, and be it further
- RESOLVED, that the SAL shall maintain alignment with The American Legion's motto, colors, and symbols as prescribed by The American Legion's national standards, and be it further

3. Membership Eligibility and Attrition

- RESOLVED, that membership in the SAL shall be open to individuals eligible under two degrees of consanguinity with a veteran member or with direct lineage to eligible veterans, as defined by The American Legion governance, subject to the confirmation of eligibility by the appropriate post, department or national authority, and be it further
- RESOLVED, that this transition shall include a “grandfathering” provision, similar to the American Legion Auxiliary precedent established in 2019, whereby all current SAL members in good standing as of the effective date of the transition or date determined by the National Executive Committee, whose eligibility is based on currently existing SAL program guidelines shall be permitted to maintain their active membership contingent upon the member maintaining continuous, uninterrupted membership and remain current with all annual dues, and be it further
- RESOLVED, that a grandfathered member who fails to renew membership shall be granted a one-time grace period consistent with applicable rules as prescribed by the national By-Laws of The American Legion, Article IV, section 4, regarding delinquent, suspension and forfeiture of membership status, and be it further

4. Governance and Organization

- RESOLVED, that the governance structure of the SAL shall be defined by the national By-Laws and shall include an elected leadership team (e.g., Commander, Vice Commanders, Adjutant, Treasurer, and other officers as deemed appropriate) and a governing council or board that reports to The American Legion's National Executive Committee, and be it further
- RESOLVED, that the SAL shall be established as an Auxiliary Society consistent with existing American Legion structures, with clear lines of accountability, reporting, and coordination with local squadrons and department detachments, and be it further

5. Integration with The American Legion

- RESOLVED, that the SAL operate in full coordination with The American Legion, sharing resources, programs, and charitable initiatives as approved by the National Executive Committee, and be it further
- RESOLVED, that all SAL programs, activities, and fundraising efforts be conducted in a manner that reflects the standards, ethics, and public governance expectations of The American Legion, and be it further

6. Transitional Provisions

- RESOLVED, that the transition of the SAL from a program to an Auxiliary Service And Legacy Society of The American Legion shall be implemented according to a timeline approved by The American Legion's National Executive Committee, including:
 - Education and communication plan for current SAL affiliates and members.
 - Revision of internal Constitution, Bylaws, and governing documents to reflect the new Auxiliary Service And Legacy Society structure.
 - Migration of records, funds, property, and contractual obligations in a manner that preserves rights and obligations, and be it further
- RESOLVED, that transitional measures shall include safeguards to protect existing SAL members' service history and entitlements during the transition, and be it further

7. Effective Date and Authorization

- RESOLVED, that this resolution shall become effective upon approval by the National Executive Committee of The American Legion and, where required, by the conventions or congresses responsible for authorization, and be it further
- RESOLVED, that the National Adjutant and the appropriate Department Adjutants are authorized to implement and oversee the transition plan, provide clarifying guidance, and publish the final revised By-Laws and governance documents for the SAL, and be it further

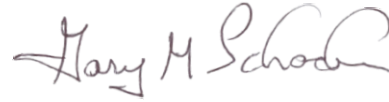
8. Revisions and Supersession

- RESOLVED, that all previous resolutions or provisions inconsistent with this resolution are hereby superseded to the extent of such inconsistency, with the understanding that any existing legal or contractual obligations will be honored in accordance with transition agreements and applicable laws, and be it finally

9.

RESOLVED, that if adopted, this resolution be sent to the National Organization in convention assembled in Louisville, Kentucky, from August 28th-September 3rd, 2026.

American Legion Department of New York FOR CONVENTION COMMITTEE USE Approved _____ Rejected _____ Approved with Amendments __X_____ Consolidated with _____ Referred to Standing Committee on _____
<u>Received and Recorded: July 15th, 2026</u> <u>Other Action:</u> <u>Signature: Frank J. Peters</u> (Chairman)



Adjutant Signature

Department Adjutant

Title

Below section to be completed when resolution is submitted from another authorized source.

Frank J. Peters, Chairman

Name

Department Resolutions Committee

Title