

MEMBERSHIP

Membership is the lifeblood of our organization. The purpose of the Membership Committee is to retain and recruit members. It is tasked with promoting the benefits of ALA membership such that existing members renew, lapsed members rejoin, and new members join us to deliver our mission to our veterans, military, their families, and our communities.

Responsibilities of the Membership Committee

Be familiar with eligibility requirements. These are set by Congress. They are not open to interpretation. As of the 2026 Convention, eligibility criteria have changed to allow more family members to join the ALA. The updated eligibility is available at <https://www.legion-aux.org/Blog/New-eligibility-resolution-expands-ALA-membership> and is included at the end of this document.

Always have a Legion Family membership application on hand.

Make certain that all members are aware of membership eligibility criteria.

Members should consult the Department Membership Chair if they have questions about eligibility, or the process of applying for ALA membership (including transfers) when recruiting members.

Know the difference between *Honorary Life Membership* and *Paid Up for Life Membership (PUFL)*.

The DD-214 of the veteran through whom a member is eligible is the most common document used to verify eligibility to join the ALA. These additional official military documents are acceptable:

- Official military orders
- Official military service citations or awards
- Letters on official government letterhead related to the veteran's military service
- Certificate from the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs records center in St. Louis
- Data from older discharge documents that pre-date the use of form DD-214

All new member applications must be reviewed and signed by the Post Adjutant or designated Post officer. Applications should be accompanied by the appropriate documentation of eligibility to join the ALA. *Note: It is not the responsibility of the Post to retain ALA membership documents; it is the sole responsibility of the ALA Unit.*

Process all membership including transfers in a timely manner. It is the responsibility of the membership chair to verify that a member wishing to transfer is a member in good standing in the unit from which they wish to transfer. A member is not in good standing if dues are not current, or if the individual is subject to suspension or membership revocation.

Join the ALA Membership Facebook group and check the National ALA website frequently for updates.

Excerpted from the ALA Unit Guide (2024, pp. 19-22, p. 63, p. 82), the Department C&B, and the Department Operations Guide Chapter 8 (https://www.legion-aux.org/cmsdesk/ALA/media/PDF/Guides/dog/Chapter_08_Membership.pdf)

From <https://www.legion-aux.org/Blog/New-eligibility-resolution-expands-ALA-membership>

New eligibility resolution expands ALA membership

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At the 2026 American Legion National Convention, delegates adopted new membership eligibility language for the American Legion Auxiliary – expanding eligibility and allowing more family members to join the ALA.

The Legion has authority over the ALA's membership eligibility; this gender-neutral language change allows more people into our organization – strengthening our ability to better serve our veterans, military, and their families.

Following is the updated text from The American Legion that reflects the updated eligibility provisions for membership in the American Legion Auxiliary:

OFFICIAL LANGUAGE:

Section 2. Membership in the American Legion Auxiliary shall be limited to:

(1) grandparents, parents, siblings, spouses, and direct or adopted descendants within two degrees of consanguinity of members of The American Legion; and

(2) grandparents, parents, siblings, spouses, and direct or adopted descendants within two degrees of consanguinity of all servicemembers who served in either of the following periods: April 6, 1917, to November 11, 1918, and any time after December 7, 1941, who, being a citizen of the United States at the time of their entry therein served on active duty in the Armed Forces of any of the governments associated with the United States during either eligibility periods and died in the line of duty or after honorable discharge;

(3) grandparents, parents, siblings, spouses, and direct or adopted descendants within two degrees of consanguinity of all servicemembers who were in the Armed Forces of the United States during either of the following periods: April 6, 1917, to November 11, 1918; and any time after December 7, 1941, who served on active duty in the Armed Forces of the United States during either eligibility period and died in the line of duty or after honorable discharge; and

(4) to those women who of their own right are eligible for membership in The American Legion.

The revisions to the ALA's eligibility mentioned above allow individuals the potential to be members of both the Sons of The American Legion and the American Legion Auxiliary. The Legion's national judge advocate has confirmed that this dual membership does not constitute a conflict of interest with The American Legion.

The eligibility changes are effective immediately. Updated membership applications, brochures, and additional membership resources are available at www.ALAforVeterans.org.