

THE CONSTITUTION OF RIO RANCHO POST 118 INC.
OF THE AMERICAN LEGION, DEPT. OF NEW MEXICO

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 the 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 right to promote peace and good will on earth; to safe-guard 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 Rio Rancho Post 118 Incorporated, of The American Legion, Department of New Mexico, Sandoval County.

Article II

Nature

Section 1. This Post is a civilian organization; membership therein does not affect nor increase liability for military or police service. Rank does not exist in the Legion; no member shall be addressed by his military or naval title in any convention or meeting of the Legion.

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

Article III

Objects

Section 1. The objects and purposes of this Post shall be the promotion of it's principles as set forth in the Preamble of the Post, Department and National Constitutions.

Article IV

Membership – Eligibility

Section 1. Membership and eligibility shall be prescribed by the National Constitution of The American Legion.

Section 2. There shall be no form or class or membership except an active membership, and dues shall be paid annually or for life.

Section 3. No person may be a member of this Post and at the same time a member of any other Post.

Section 4. No person who has been expelled by any Post, shall be admitted to membership in this Post, without the consent of the expelling Post, except that where such consent has been asked for and denied by such Post, he may then appeal to the Dept. Executive Committee of the Department of the expelling Post for permission to apply for membership in this Post and shall be ineligible for membership until permission is granted.

Section 5. All applications for membership shall be made in writing and shall be accompanied by the membership fee. Applications shall be referred to the membership committee for examination of the applicant and verification of discharge. The membership committee shall present all such applications as are bonafide and eligible to the Post for action at the next regular meeting.

Section 6. Applicants for membership shall not be present at the meeting during the balloting or applications.

Section 7. Voting of applications may be by secret ballot and a majority vote of those present shall elect a applicant to membership.

Article V

Officers - Elections – Removal

Section 1. The members shall elect a Post Commander, First Vice Commander, Second Vice Commander, Finance Officer, Chaplain, Sergeant-at-Arms, Service Officer, Historian, and five (5) Trustees. All Officers may be re-elected.

Section 2. No member shall be permitted to hold more than one elected office during a fiscal year.

Section 3. Such officers shall take office upon being installed and shall serve for a one-year term and may be re-elected, provided that such term of office for any officer or officer may be terminated by resignation or by removal for causes hereinafter provided.

Article V, cont.

Section 4. Such officers shall be installed with appropriate ceremonies on or before the June meeting. Such installation shall be conducted by the District Installing Officer, the Department Installing Officer, or in the event neither of these officials find it possible to install at that time, the installation shall be conducted by a committee consisting of the Post Commanders of the Rio Rancho Post 118, Incorporated, American Legion.

Section 5. Any vacancy occurring in the office of the Commander shall be filled by the First Vice Commander, who shall automatically become Commander. Vacancies in any other elective office or newly created office(s) shall be filled by special elections within two meetings after such vacancies occur.

Section 6. Surrender of membership in this Post shall automatically remove an officer from office.

Section 7. The willful absence of any officer or committee member from three consecutive meetings for any cause other than illness or death in the family or leave of absence granted by a vote of the members in regular meeting shall automatically cause a vacancy to exist.

Section 8. Impeachment proceedings tending to cause involuntary vacancies for malfeasance or conduct unbecoming to an officer shall be instituted by the Executive Committee upon receipt of charges in writing signed and sworn to by a member in good standing. The procedure outlined for expulsion of a member by the Department of the State of New Mexico, shall be followed in dealing with such charges. If the charges refer to any or all members of the Executive Committee, a special Executive Committee shall be elected for the purpose of hearing charges.

Article VI

Finance

Section 1. The revenue of this Post shall be derived from the payment of dues and from other such sources as are recommended by the Executive Committee and approved by a majority of such members present at any regular meeting.

Section 2. This Post shall pay the National, Departmental and District dues for all members.

Article VII

The American Legion Auxiliary Organizations

Section 1. Rio Rancho Post 118, Inc. of The American Legion, recognizes an auxiliary organization, known as "The American Legion Auxiliary Unit or Rio Rancho Post 118, Inc., American Legion".

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

Section 3. Rio Rancho Post 118, Inc., of The American Legion, recognizes an auxiliary organization, known as "The Sons of The American Legion Detachment or Rio Rancho Post 118, Inc., American Legion".

Section 4. Membership in the Detachment shall be as prescribed by the National Constitution of the Sons of The American Legion,

Article IX

Amendments

Section 1. This Constitution is adopted subject to the Constitution of the National Organization and the Constitution of the Department of New Mexico.

Section 2. Any amendments to the National or New Mexico Department Constitution shall automatically cause this Constitution to be amended to conform thereto. Such amendments shall be made by the Executive Committee.

Section 3. This Constitution and By-Laws accompanying the same, may be amended at any regular or special meeting by a vote of two thirds of the members, in good standing, attending such regular or special meeting; provided that the proposed amendment shall have been submitted in writing and read at the previous regular meeting of the Post and provided further that the written notice shall have been given to all members at least fifteen days (post marked) in advance of the date, time and place when such amendment is to be voted upon, notifying said members that at such meetings a proposal to amend this Constitution is to be voted upon. The Post Bugler is accepted as a form of notice.