

# BY-LAWS <br> of <br> Nelsan-Horton American Legion Post \#104 Litchfield Minnesota 

## ARTICLE I

Section 1. The American Legion Post existing under these by-laws is known as Nelsan-Horton Post No. 104, The American Legion, Department of Minnesota.

Section 2. The objectives of this Post are set forth in the Post Constitution.
Section 3._Should this Post organize or operate as a corporation, it shall be under the laws of the State of Minnesota.

## ARTICLE II - MANAGEMENT

## Section 1. The government and management of the Post is entrusted to a committee of eleven (11) members, to be known as the "Executive Committee".

Section 1.1 The Executive Committee is charged with insuring compliance with any and all applicable laws and is authorized to take any actions required to remain in good standing under any law applicable to the Post's form of organization.

Section 1.2 The minutes of the Executive Committee shall be read or provided in written form at the next regular monthly Post membership meeting. The membership may, by line item, approve or disapprove pending action taken by the Executive Committee. Such approval or disapproval shall be by a simple majority vote of the members present.

Section 2. The Executive Committee is comprised of the Post Commander, First Vice Commander, Second Vice Commander, Post Adjutant, Finance Officer, Post Service Officer, Post Historian, Post Chaplain, Sergeant-at-Arms, Post Committee person and the Immediate Past Commander.

Section 2.1 Post Executive Committee Officers shall not be employees of the Post.

Section 3. All vacancies existing in the Executive Committee, or in any office of the Post, for any cause other than the expiration of term shall be filled by Post Commander appointment, subject to Executive Committee approval, by simple majority vote of the remaining members of the Committee. A person so appointed
shall hold office, for the remainder of the term to which appointed. The Executive Committee may declare a vacancy to exist when a member or officer is absent from his office for a continuous period considered by the Executive Committee to be detrimental to the interest of the Post.

Section 4. The Executive Committee elect shall meet, for organization and such other business as may come before it, at the call of the Post Commander. Thereafter, the Executive Committee shall meet at the call of the Commander, at some time prior to the Post meeting as often as the Commander deems necessary. The Commander shall also call a special meeting, of the Executive Committee, upon the joint written request of three or more members of the Executive Committee; five (5) members of the Committee shall constitute a quorum. Executive Committee meetings may be held with an annual agreed to format electronically or by phone conference call provided proper notice is given to all members prior to the meetings and that all members have proper access to the internet or phone when used..

Section 5. Officers are to be elected for a term of one (1) year (except as otherwise provided here in). Officer elections are to be held annually at the May regular Post meeting. Election shall be by ballot, with the candidate receiving the highest number of votes elected to the office sought. Officers-elect will assume their duties following installation at the June Post meeting.

Section 5.1 The Post Adjutant shall be appointed by the Post Commander, said appointment to be ratified by a simple majority vote of the Executive Committee. The Post Adjutant shall be a voting member of the Executive Committee and afforded all rights and privileges of any elected Officer and shall be subject to all responsibilities and liabilities of any elected officer.

Section 5.2 The Post Judge Advocate-shall be appointed by the Post Commander, said appointment to be ratified by a simple majority vote of the Executive Committee. The Post Judge Advocate shall not be a member of the Executive Committee.

Section 5.3 (Deleted May 2014)

## ARTICLE III <br> DUTIES \& AUTHORITY OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Section 1._The Executive Committee shall have charge of the government and management of the Post and shall direct and control such subcommittees as may be appointed or elected. When committee chairpersons, appointed in accordance with
these by-laws, attends an Executive Committee meeting to report, those chairpersons shall be afforded all parliamentary rights and privileges during debate or discussion of questions relative to the committee they chair.

Section 1.1 The Executive Committee shall inform the Post Membership of any and all qualified applicants for membership at the next Post Membership meeting. Post membership shall be granted by a majority vote of the membership present.

Section 1.2 The Executive Committee may recommend, through it's minutes, expulsion or suspension of any member of the Post, by a vote or not less than eight (8) of its' members, for any material violation of the Constitution, rules or by-laws of Nelsan-Horton Post \#104 of the American Legion.

Section 2. The Executive Committee shall prescribe rules for the use of the Post headquarters and other buildings or premises used by the Post and may modify, amend, or revoke such rules as may be deemed necessary. The Executive Committee shall prescribe procedures and policies for administration of Post \#104 Programs and projects. These procedures and policies shall not conflict with any part of the Post Constitution or these Post By-Laws furthermore these procedures and policies shall be approved, each year, by majority vote at the June Post Membership meeting.

Section 3. The Commander and the Vice-Commanders of the Post shall be the Chair respectively of the Executive Committee; the Adjutant shall be the secretary thereof.

Section 4. The Executive Committee shall approve the hiring and discharge of such employees as may be necessary.

Section 5. The Executive Committee shall direct an annual audit of all Post financial records at the first meeting of the fiscal year. At the direction of the Executive Committee the committee chairs of committees with reports, pertinent to the annual audit, must submit those reports by August $31^{\text {st }}$. Cost of all audits shall be borne by the Post. Following completion of such audit, a report is to be made at the next regular business meeting of the Post. The Executive Committee may request that the Post Commander appoint a four non-office holding member, Post Financial Audit Committee which can conduct an audit of all Post financial records at the direction of the Executive Committee.

Section 6. - Dissolution Clause - In the event the Post is to be dissolved, any assets remaining following the payment of debts and satisfaction of all liabilities shall be turned over to the Department of Minnesota American Legion Office. This evolution shall be under the direction of the Post Executive Committee by and at
the direction of Post membership approval, said approval shall be by simple majority vote of members present at a properly noticed Post meeting.

## Article III Section 6 added as amendment 1, March 26, 2018

## ARTICLE IV -OFFICERS

## Section 1. Duties of the Commander:

It shall be the duty of the Post Commander to preside at all meetings of the Post and report to the Post on the activities of the Executive Committee. He shall have the general supervision over the business and affairs of the Post and such officer shall be the Chief Executive Officer of the Post. After election and before taking office, he shall appoint an Adjutant to serve the post. The Commander shall present to the Executive Committee his committee appointments for Executive Committee approval, such approval to be a simple majority vote.

## Section 2. Duties of the Vice Commanders:

There shall be a First Vice Commander and a Second Vice Commander. The Vice Commanders, in order of rank, shall assume and discharge the duties of the Office of the Commander in the absence or disability of the Commander, or when called upon by the Commander. They shall perform such other duties as directed by the Post Commander.

Section 2.1 The First Vice Commander: Shall be charged with the Internal Affairs of the Post and as such, be the Chairperson of the membership committee.

Section 2.2 The Second Vice Commander: shall be charged with the External Activities of the Post and among other duties, shall serve as the Chair of the House/ Lounge Committee.

## Section 3. Duties of the Post Adjutant:

The Adjutant shall have charge of, and keep, a full and correct record of all proceedings of all meetings. The Adjutant shall keep such records as the Department and National organizations may require, render reports of membership annually, or more often when needed, and under the direction of the Commander handle all correspondence of the Post. He/she shall serve as a member of the Gambling Committee.

## Section 4. Duties of the Finance Officer:

The Finance Officer of the Post, under the direction of the Executive Committee, shall:
A. Oversee all finances and see that they are safely deposited in a local
bank or banks
B. Report once a month to the Executive Committee the condition of the Post finances.
C. Sign all checks disbursing the monies of the Post other than those specifically designated by the Executive Committee for special activities.
D. Furnish such surety bonds in such sums as shall be fixed by the Post Executive Committee.
E. Serve as the Chairman of the Administration, Finance and Budget Committee.

## Section 5. Duties of the Post Service Officer:

The Post Service Officer shall:
A. Chair the Rehabilitation/Legislation/National Defense Committee.
B. Have knowledge regarding the availability of medical assist equipment.
C. Be in charge or assist in hospital visitations.
D. Be knowledgeable regarding the availability of benefits and services for veterans and their dependents.
E. Represent Post\#104 at the Meeker County Veterans Council.

## Section 6. Duties of the Post Historian:

The Post Historian shall:
A. Be charged with individual records and incidents of the Post and members.
B. Be in charge of Chair the-Post \#104 Publicity and Public Relations.-
C. Perform such other duties that may properly pertain to the office, as may be determined by the Post Commander and/or the Executive Committee.

## Section 7. Duties of the Post Chaplain:

The Post Chaplain shall:
A. Be charged with the spiritual welfare of the Post members and offer divine, but non-sectarian service, at the post meetings, dedications, funerals, public functions and ceremonies.
B. Be knowledgeable of such rituals as are recommended by the National or Department Headquarters.
C. Serve as chairman of the Community Concern Committee. and serve on the Gambling Committee.

## Section 8. Duties of the Sergeant-at-Arms:

The Sergeant-At-Arms shall:
A. Preserve order of the Post at all meetings.
B. Perform such duties as assigned by the Post Executive Committee.
C. Chair-the Ritual and Ceremonial Committee

Section 9. Duties of the Chair of the Post Activities (Ways \& Means) Committee: The Post Activities Ways and Means Committee Chairman shall:
A. Shall perform such duties as may be assigned by the Commander or Executive Committee related to fund raising, post activities and special events.

## Section 10. Duties of the Immediate Past Commander:

The Immediate Past Commander shall:
A. Chair the Post Nominating Committee.
B. Serve as a member of the Executive Committee and the House Committee.
C. Perform those duties befitting a Past Commander, as requested by the Commander and Executive Committee

## Section 11. Duties of the Post Judge Advocate:

The Post Judge Advocate shall:
A. Supply professional legal advice to Post, or if not a licensed attorney-at-law, contract with appropriate outside legal counsel when required and authorized by the Executive Committee, to insure the proper conduct of Post business.
B. Be the guardian of the constitutional form of Post government and serve in such other capacity as required by the Post, Department, or National Committee.

## ARTICLE V-DELEGATES

Section 1._Delegates and alternates to the District, Department and National Conventions and Conferences shall be approved by the Post membership at the April Post Meeting. Priority shall be given to Post Commander followed by current Post Officers.

## ARTICLE VI - APPOINTMENTS

Section 1. The newly elected Post Commander in conjunction with First Vice Commander and Second Vice Commander, within (10) (30) days following elections, shall appoint the standing committee chairpersons as listed in this Article and such other committees and chairpersons as may be necessary, subject to the approval of the Membership, by a simple majority vote.
A. The Commander shall be a ex officio voting member of all Post \#104 committees when present. The $1^{\text {st }}$ Vice Commander shall be an ex officio voting member of all Internal Post \#104 committees when
present. The 2nd Vice Commander shall be an ex officio voting member of all External Post \#104 committees when present.
B. All assigned Standing Committee chairperson's listed in the following By-laws may be reassigned upon agreement and Executive Board approval in order to make better use of individual skills and interest for the betterment of the Post.

## Section 2. Administrative, FINANCE \& BUDGET COMMITTEE -Internal

 The Finance \& Budget Committee shall:A. Consist of five (5) members, two of which shall be the Post Finance Officer and Gambling Manager. The Post Commander shall appoint three (3) additional committeemen subject to the approval of the Executive Committee by simple majority vote. The Post Finance Officer will be the chairperson of the Committee and shall report to the Executive Committee as necessary.
B. Prepare and present a budget for the Post at the February September meeting of the Executive Committee. Said budget shall be presented to the Membership for approval at the April Qetober Post Membership meeting and go in to effect on-July $1^{\text {st }}$ Janmary $1^{\text {st }}$-of the Post fiscal year.
C. Handle all insurance for the Post. Shall see that all necessary property deeds and legal matters concerning the Post are in order. They shall be placed in a secure location or institution such as a bank safety deposit box.
D. Any proposal in excess of the approved annual budget shall be submitted to the Executive Committee with justification, by the requesting committee chair. The Executive Committee shall approve or disapprove request, by simple majority vote of members present. In an emergency the Post Commander shall take action required to resolve issues and report actions and results to the Executive Committee as soon as possible.
E. Committee shall make recommendations for investing available funds of the Post. As well as monitor investments and follow their performance and report to Executive Board and membership as necessary and requested.
F. The committee shall monitor and keep current Post \#104 Executive Board adopted policies and operating procedures.
G. The Administrative Committee on the recommendation of the Commander shall hire Post support staff (ie; Administrative Secretary) setting wages, hours of works etc. and thus following Employee employment policies.

## Section 3. House/Lounge Committee $\backslash$ External

The House/Lounge Committee shall consist of the current Second Vice Commander serving as committee chairperson the Post Finance Officer, the Post Adjutant, and four (4) additional committee persons. The Post Commander shall appoint Two (2) committee persons each year subject to the approval of the Executive Committee by simple majority vote. Appointed committee persons shall serve a two (2) year term. The terms shall be staggered, and no House Committee appointee shall serve more than two (2) consecutive terms.

Section 3.1 The House/Lounge Committee shall be responsible for all matters pertaining to the normal care, maintenance and insurance of the Post Quarters and routine club room operations. The House Committee shall meet prior to the Executive Committee meeting and report meeting proceedings to the Executive Committee at the next monthly Executive Committee meeting, in the form of meeting minutes. The House/Lounge Committee shall submit to the Executive Committee for their approval.
A. All Expenditures exceeding routine operating expenses.
B. The hiring or discharge of the club employees.
C. Recommendations for changes to current House Committee policies and procedures.
D. Shall develop and maintain House policies and provide copies for all House committee members and Executive Board.

## Section 4. MEMBERSHIP-Internal

A. The First Vice Commander shall be the Membership Chairperson.
B. The Chairperson shall be in charge of all matters pertaining to the membership of the Post including the procuring of new members, reinstatements of members and eligibility of members.
C. The Committee shall investigate new members to determine eligiblility,
D. The Chairperson shall be responsible for membership Activities such as the membership dinner, promotion of the Post, meeting-meals etc.
E. Upon request of the Chairperson, the Post Commander shall appoint additional personnel as required to assist the Chairperson.

Section 5: AMERICANISM / Children \& Youth - External
A. The Post Commander shall appoint the Americanism Chairperson.
B. The Chairperson shall work to inspire patriotism and good citizenship through patriotic observances, patriotic and civil instruction in schools.
C. The Chairperson shall support Americanization of aliens and keep informed on anti-American propaganda.
D. The Chairperson shall support youth activities such as Boys State, Boy Scouts, Oratorical Contest, School awards, Flag etiquette and other similar community services.
E. The Chairperson shall work to insure that any child of a veteran will receive the service and aid needed.
F. The Chairperson shall work to organize the Legion's strength in the community in the interest of children in general and to assist the community to reduce juvenile delinquency and to live up to the Legion saying of "A square deal for every child".
G. The Americanism Chairperson shall report to the Executive Committee and Post membership monthly.
H. When needed or upon request of the Chairperson, the Post Commander shall appoint personnel as required to assist the Chairperson in task performance.

## Section 6. REHABILITATION \LEGISLATION \NATIONAL DEFENSE/Internal

A. The REHABILITATION $\backslash$ LEGISLATION $\backslash$ NATIONAL DEFENSE chairperson shall be the Post Service Officer and shall report to the Executive committee monthly.
B. The Post Service Officer shall assist Veterans in all matters pertaining to service to comrades in the prosecution of all just claims against the United States or any states government, in matters of employment and relief. The Chairperson shall represent Post \#104 as a member of the Meeker County Veterans Council. The Commander with Executive Board approval shall appoint an alternate committee member to also serve on the Meeker County Veterans Council.
C. The Post Service Officer needs to have knowledge of what Legislation is currently being considered in the U.S. Congress and State Legislature and what the desires and needs be of the Post. The Chairperson shall be ready to initiate action in support of Post 104' s position when requested by National, Department and Post organizations.
D. The Chairperson shall be concerned with National Defense and other related issues.
E. When needed or upon request of the Rehabilitation \Legislation \National Defense Chairperson the Post Commander shall appoint personnel as required to assist the Chair in task performance.

## Sections 7: RITUAL \& CEREMONIAL COMMITTEE I External

The Post Sergeant at Arms shall be the Chairperson of Ritual and Ceremony and shall be charged with:
A. The proper presentation of rituals and ceremonies outlined in the Manual of Ceremonies and will conduct the introduction and initiation of new members.
B. The education and enforcement of the proper wearing of the Legion regalia.
C. The Burial Rituals of Comrades and parades when necessary.
D. The organization and instruction of Honor and Color Guards in proper Uniform, ceremony and ritual when necessary.
E. The proper care of cemeteries and the honoring of Veterans Memorials.
F. When needed or upon request of the Post Sergeant at Arms the Post Commander shall appoint personnel as required to assist the Chair in task performance.

## Section 8: PUBLICITY / Internal

The Post Historian shall be Chairperson of Publicity and Public Relations and shall be charged with:
A. The promotion of public support of the Legion's programs by the establishment of proper contact will all the news media. (News releases, etc.)
B. Publishing a bimonthly newsletter, (six times a year) to be sent to all Post \#104 members and interested parties.
C. When needed or upon request of the Post Historian the Post Commander shall appoint personnel as required to assist the Chair in task performance.

## Section 9. ATHLETIC COMMITTEE / External

The Commander shall appoint the Athletic Chairperson. The Athletic Chairperson shall be charged with:
A. The promotion of physical development and sporting activity by the Post and Community.
B. The support of athletic teams, recreation programs of the community and the Post.
C. The organization and support of the Post \# 104 American Legion Baseball Team and all Post \#104 sponsored athletic activities.
D. The submission of a budget to the Post \& Gambling Committee even though all expenditures must be line item approved by membership in a responsible manner.
E. When needed or upon request of the Chairperson the Post Commander shall appoint personnel as required to assist the Chair in task performance.

## Section 10. NOMINATING / Internal

A. The Post \#104 Immediate Past Commander shall be the chairperson of the Nominating Committee. The committee chairperson shall recruit additional members as needed to assist.
B. The Nominating Committee shall nominate a slate of candidates for the various offices of the Executive Board. The committee shall contact all prospective candidates to solicit a commitment from each to serve if elected.
C. The list of candidates nominated by the committee shall be read at the regular meeting preceding the annual election, when nominations for the election of officers is opened. Nominations of additional candidates from the floor will be excepted each time nominations are open.
D. The committee shall submit to the post annually a list of candidates to represent Post \#104 as Delegates and Alternates at all District, Department and National events. Priority will be Post Officers.

## Section 11. COMMUNITY CONCERN COMMITTEE / External

A. The Post Chaplain shall be chairperson of the Community Concern Committee.
B. This Committee will be charged with the responsibility of assisting the community in its activities.
C. Activities such as Memorial Day, Watercade, Antique Car Rally etc anything of a community nature.
D. This Committee shall be charged with the upkeep of the Legion Memorial Park making recommendations for its improvement.
E. When needed or upon request of the Chairperson the Post Commander shall appoint personnel as required to assist the Chair in task performance.

## Section 12. POST ACTIVITIES COMMITTEE (Ways \& Means) - Internal

A. The Chairperson of this committee shall be elected by Post \#104 membership.
B. The Committee shall oversee all Post fundraisers, such as smelt fries andbingo.
C. When needed or upon request of the Chairperson the Post Commander shall appoint personnel as required to assist the Chair in task performance.

## Section 13. BY-LAWS \& CONSTITUTION / Internal

A. The Post Adjutant shall be the Chairperson of the By-Laws and Constitution Committee. The Post Commander shall appoint ene (1) up to four (4) additional members to assist the Post Adjutant. The Committee shall meet annually or more often if needed to review the By-Laws and Constitution of the Post. They shall make recommendations to the Post concerning the ByLaws and Constitution.
B. These recommendations should be made before the April Post Meeting.

## Section 14. GAMBLING COMMITTEE- Internal

A. The Gambling Committee shall be chaired by the Commander and consist of five (5) members. The Post Commander, Gambling Manager, Finance Officer $1^{\text {st }}$ Vice Commander, Adjutant Chaplain, and two (2) elected at large members. The Gambling manager shall be hired and appointed by the Post Commander subject to the approval of the Executive Committee by simple majority vote.
B. The Committee shall meet monthly prior to the Executive Committee meeting or more often if deemed necessary by the Post Commander The Committee is charged with the operation of all gambling activities of the Post. They shall inform themselves and keep the Executive Committee and Post membership informed of past and future gambling activities.
C. The Committee shall submit their recommendations for donations and other expenditures at the monthly Post \#104 Membership meeting.
D. All items paid with gambling funds must be line item approved for payment by Post \# 104 Membership, even if the item was included as part of an existing committee budget.
E. The committee shall develop and maintain Gambling Committee policies and provide copies to the Executive Committee for annual approval.
F. The committee shall recommend the hiring of the Gambling Manager and Assistants, set wages and conduct reviews annually.

## Section 15. GENERAL

A. All standing and appointed committees shall report to the Executive Committee.
B. All committees shall keep a written record of action taken by the committee, these records shall be the property of the Post.
C. All committees shall submit meeting \& all reports to the Adjutant. The Adjutant shall oversee all committee records and assure they are filed in the office.
D. The Commander shall be an ex-officio member of all committees.
E. All committee meeting dates shall be posted on the Post Bulletin Board and whenever possible in the Post news-letter All committee meeting shall be open to all Post \#104 members.

## ARTICLE VII - RESOLUTIONS

## Section 1.

A. The resolutions of District, Department and National scope presented to this Post by a member or reported to this Post by a Committee shall merely
embody the opinion of this post on the subject. A copy of same shall be forwarded to the District Convention for approval before any publicity is given or action other than mere passage by the Post is taken.

## ARTICLE VIII - DUES

## Section 1.

A. Dues increases shall be recommended by the Finance \& Budget Committee, and established by a simple majority vote of the membership present at the meeting for which proper notice of a vote for dues increase is given.
B. Notification of a request of increase in dues must be given to the membership in the Newsletter at least thirty (30) days prior to a vote of an increase in dues.

## ARTICLE IX - MEETINGS

## Section 1.

A. The Regular meeting of the Post membership shall be held at the Post Home on the last Monday of each month, at which time business may be transacted.
B. Regular meeting dates may be changed by Post action due to conflicts with holidays and community events.
C. The Post Commander or a majority of the Executive Committee shall have the authority to call a special meeting of the Post at any time.
D. Upon written request of $45 \quad 1 / 2$ half of Executive Board members, the Executive Committee shall call a special meeting of the Post.
E. The membership shall be notified by news-letter or postcard mailing prior to all special Post meetings.
F. Nine (9) members shall constitute a quorum for a Post meeting.
G. The Post Commander shall appoint a parliamentarian for regular meetings.

## ARTICLE X - NOTICES

## Section 1.

A. Every member shall furnish the Post Adjutant with his or her address for notice purposes.
B. The Post Adjutant shall cause notice of the annual election to be given at least two weeks prior thereof. (Newsletter, etc)

## ARTICLE XI - RULES OF ORDER

## Section 1.

A. All proceeding of this Post shall be conducted under and pursuant to Roberts Rules of Order, except as herein otherwise provided.

## ARTICLE XII - AMENDMENTS

## Section 1.

A. Amendments to these by - laws must be submitted in writing and presented at the next regular Post Meeting.
B. Notice of any purposed amendment shall be given to all members at least five (5) days in advance of the date when such amendment is to be voted upon. Notification shall be by publishing notice in a Post Newsletter or by notifying all members in a special mailing.
C. A two-thirds majority vote of the members present at the regular or special Post Meeting designated for the amendment vote is required for passage of the purposed amendments.

Proposed Amended, this date: _November 07, 2018

Certified: $\qquad$

Post Commander Mark Schumann

