



## AMERICAN LEGION AUXILIARY • DEPARTMENT OF NORTH DAKOTA

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Dear Unit Presidents, Unit Membership Chairman and Auxiliary Members,

Recently the Department Office received questions regarding the 'SLM' State Life Member status shown on the unit rosters. I think it's always good to clarify these programs because of turnover in unit membership officers and chairmanships.

**Question:** What is the significance of the 'SLM', 'VIM', 'HLM', PUFL behind a member's name on the roster?

**Answer:** The significance of the letters means the following:

- **'SLM'** stands for 'State Life Member' – Life membership was bestowed by the Department of North Dakota upon receiving a significant, non-refundable, payment from the individual member to pay future dues. Although this program was offered to members for several years, it is no longer an option.
- The **'SLM'** or State Life Member status is like the **'PUFL'**/Paid Up for Life Member offered at the National Level. It is a paid-up-for-life status at the state/department level. The member no longer pays dues at any level because of their substantial one-time payment to pay future dues.
- If an **'SLM'** member chooses to transfer to another unit within the Department of North Dakota or the original unit disbands, the member maintains her status as an **'SLM'**.
- If an **'SLM'** member chooses to transfer to a unit outside the Department of North Dakota, she loses her status as a North Dakota State Life Member and will be required to pay Unit, Department and National dues. The Department of North Dakota does not refund **'SLM'** funds to the member and does not transfer funds to the new Department.
- **'VIM'** is a Very Important Member or (Royal Member) – This was a life member program offered to members by the Department of North Dakota prior to the **'SLM'** program being offered. This program is no longer an option for members. The only difference between the SLM and the VIM is the time-period in which life membership was purchased.
- **'HLM'** signifies a member as being an Honored Life Member. This distinction is bestowed on a Unit member the unit has been deemed by their Unit to be honored either by age, condition, or length of membership for Honorary Life Membership.
- This status is strictly a Unit decision and the honor is bestowed on chosen unit members. Because this status is strictly a Unit decision, payment of Department and National Dues becomes the responsibility of the individual unit. In other words, if a Unit decides to make a unit member an **'HLM'** (Honored Life Member), the unit must pay all department and national dues just as if the member had paid them.
- The **'HLM'** distinction is Unit specific and does not transfer if the member chooses to join another Unit or Department.
- The payment of Department and National dues is the Unit's responsibility. If a Unit no longer wishes to pay **'HLM'** dues for a specific member or members, the Department Office must receive the minutes of the Unit Meeting in which that decision/vote was made along with a letter from the Unit President indicating that direction. Unit Membership Chairmen and/or Unit Treasurers cannot unilaterally make that decision for the Unit.



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- **'PUFL'** or Paid UP for Life Member is an ongoing National program offered to unit members who wish to become Life Members. The member no longer pays dues at the Unit, Department or National level. Although the funds paid to the National organization is non-refundable, PUFL status is permanent and a member is free to transfer to any unit in any Department if she chooses to do so. The National organization is responsible to pay Department dues on behalf of the PUFL members. Depending on the original application for PUFL membership some Unit dues are paid through the Department.

**Question:** Does the Department still offer 'life membership' to its members?

**Answer:** No. The Department no longer offers life membership at the state level.

**Question:** Where are the funds held for paying dues to the National Organization?

**Answer:** The SLM, VIM (Royal) dues funds are held by the Department in a financial institution. Dues are paid by the Department of North Dakota to National for those 'life members' on an annual basis.

**Question:** Do Units receive dues from the Department based on their SLM population?

**Answer:** No. Several years ago, the Department Executive Committee approved a motion that funds from the SLM/Royal account would no longer be issued to Units. This means that Units no longer benefit from dues of SLM members. Many SLM members are aware of that change and simply choose to donate funds to their Units.

***Marcy J Schmidt,*** Department Secretary