

CONSTITUTION AND BYLAWS CHAIRMAN

I have really enjoyed working on this chairmanship. I have been a member of the American Legion Auxiliary since 1959. This means a lot to me because of my late father, a World War II veteran and my late husband, a Vietnam veteran. I have served as Unit Secretary, Unit President, District Vice President, District President for 4 years. I then became Department Vice President, President Elect and Department President. I served as Department Parliamentarian for four years and have been Constitution and Bylaws Chairman for years 2020-2021 and now for 2025-2026. I finally agreed after a month of consideration to accept this chairmanship because we needed some upgrades to our documents.

I formed a working group to go over the changes we tried to make in 2024 and 2025. There were a lot of disagreements with both years, and we never voted on either one.

I formed a working group made up of our Unit President, one new member who wanted to learn more about the Auxiliary and our governing documents. She thanked me for asking her and said she had learned a lot that she had no ideas about. They wanted me to join them to make sure they were following proper procedures. They started working on the 2023, 2024 documents that could not be agreed to at our convention in 2025. We also included the letters I received from five units with recommendations for changes. We spent approximately 15 hours. When the governing documents were finished and typed, I contacted the Department President, and she selected the Amendment Committee to go through the changes that were needed to be made.

The Amendment Committee consisted of one Past Department President, a current District President, an Auxiliary member, Parliamentarian, Department President, and me. We did a total review, and all agreed with the changes with two conference calls. The documents have been corrected, typed, and mailed to all our Unit Presidents so they can review with their members, so they are ready to vote on the changes at our Department Convention in June.

I presented ideas in unit mailings and in our section of the Legion Newspaper and asked if they had question to contact me and I would give them the answer they need. I received about seven calls. Several questions came from new members who did not understand the issues from previous years. I personally talked to each of them and tried to explain the issues about which they were concerned. I told them we had two committees that reviewed our governing documents and after discussion at convention and vote we should have good governing documents. They each sent thank you notes for helping them to understand the issues.

DIANE KRAEMER

Synopsis of Report: The chair highlights *decades of service in the American Legion Auxiliary and a strong personal commitment to improving the organization's governing documents. A working group reviewed unresolved bylaw changes from prior years, incorporated recommendations from five units, and spent considerable time refining the documents. Amendment Committee completed a full review and approved the revisions after discussion and conference calls. The updated documents were distributed to Unit Presidents so members can review them before a vote at the June 2026 Department Convention. The chair also answered members' questions directly, helping newer members understand past issues and building support for clearer, stronger governing documents.*