

MINI LEADERSHIP-WORKSHOP # 5

Requirements for Membership

The Auxiliary Member:

Membership in the auxiliary is limited to women who have direct personal connection with service in World War I and II, the Korean or Vietnam War, or conflicts in Grenada, Lebanon, Panama or the Persian Gulf War. This service is through a member of one's own immediate family who served in the Armed Forces during those wars or conflicts, or through one's own service with the Armed Forces. Upon establishment of eligibility, such women may become members of a local Unit of the Auxiliary. A member of a local Unit is also a member of the Department and the National Organization. By payment of dues in the local Unit, a member also contributes to the support of the Department and National Organization.

Basis for Membership:

All women who are eligible for membership in the Auxiliary fall into one of the following categories:

- (1) The mothers, wives, daughters, sisters, granddaughters, great-granddaughters and grandmothers of members of The American Legion.
- (2) The mothers, wives, daughters, sisters, granddaughters, great-granddaughters and grandmothers of those who served in the Armed Forces of the United States during any of the eligibility periods listed below and who died in the line of duty during such service, or who, having received an Honorable Discharge, died after such service.
- (3) The mothers, wives, daughters, sisters, granddaughters, great-granddaughters and grandmothers of those who were citizens of the United States and who served during any of the eligibility periods listed below in the Armed forces of any of the governments who were allies of the United States and who died in the line of duty during such service, or who having received an Honorable Discharge, died after such service.
- (4) Women who are eligible for membership in the American Legion in their own right.

This eligibility includes step-relatives.

ELIGIBILITY PERIODS:

World War I April 6, 1917 to November 11, 1918	World War II December 7, 1941 to December 31, 1946
Merchant Marines December 7, 1941 to August 15, 1945 only)	Korean War June 25, 1950 to Jan. 31, 1955
Vietnam War February 28, 1961 to May 7, 1975	Lebanon/Grenada August 24, 1982 to July 31, 1984
Panama December 20, 1989 to January 31, 1990	Persian Gulf August 2, 1990 to date of cessation

Information on a veteran's service record can be obtained by writing to:

National Personnel Records Center
Military Personnel Records
9700 Page Avenue
St. Louis, MO 63132-5100

General information and forms for requesting a veteran's service record can be obtained by calling the National Personnel Records Center at (314) 801-0800 or online at www.nara.gov.

The only authorized form of membership is active membership, of which there are two classes—Senior and Junior. Granting special or honorary membership for any purpose or reason whatsoever is prohibited.

Junior members are defined as that group under the age of eighteen years. Upon reaching eighteen years of age, Junior members shall automatically be admitted into senior membership with full privileges. However, a member under the age of eighteen years who is married shall be classified as a Senior member.

Once accepted as Auxiliary members, women eligible under classification (1) may continue their membership from year to year whether or not their veteran relatives continue membership in The American Legion. The fact that a member's service relative is no longer a member of The American Legion does not compel the Auxiliary member to lose her Auxiliary membership.

The phrase "died in the line of duty," applies to all those persons who were killed in action, died of wounds or disease, were killed by accident or otherwise came to their death other than as a result of their own misconduct. In case of doubt, The Adjutant General of the Army, or the Navy Department, Washington, D.C., can advise if the person was considered to have died in the line of duty.

The term "wife," as used in the eligibility clause, does not necessarily mean the wife occupied that status at the time her husband was in war service. Any woman who marries a member of The American Legion at any time is eligible for membership in the Auxiliary. The term "wife" also includes widows.

By becoming a member of the American Legion Auxiliary, you will join hands with nearly one million women who are members of over 10,000 units throughout the United States and around the world. As an auxiliary member, you will make a difference in the lives of veterans, their families and their communities.

You will have the opportunity to educate children, organize community events and help our nation's veterans through legislative action and volunteerism.

You will nurture tradition and foster change for the benefit of others. There is no greater gift than service to others by sharing the gift of service through the American Legion Auxiliary.