

Polish Legion of American Veterans, U.S.A.



Internal Operations

Section 1

Organizational Charters and History

OBJECTIVES

- It is the Objective of the Polish Legion of American Veterans, U.S.A. National Department to:
 - Publish an Operational Manual which can be used to clarify organizational procedures
 - Explain in easy to understand terms, the internal operations of the National Department

REFERENCES

- Constitution and By-laws of the Polish Legion of American Veterans, U.S.A. with amendments to and including the year 1996
- Manual, Internal Operations, Polish Legion of American Veterans, U.S.A., 1980 to 1982
- Manual, Internal Operations, Polish Legion of American Veterans, U.S.A., 1985 to 1986
- Manual, Internal Operations, Polish Legion of American Veterans, U.S.A., 1988 to 1990
- National Membership Database Manual, Polish Legion of American Veterans, U.S.A., 1998

NATIONAL CHARTER BY CONGRESS

• Certificate of Incorporation	April 14, 1921	S1-2
• PL 98-372	July 23, 1984	S1-3
• H.R. 29	January 3, 1983	S1-6
• H.R. 1049	January 27, 1983	S1-9
• H.R. 1085	March 17, 1997	S1-13
Motto “Unity with Heritage”		S1-15
PLAV Emblem		S1-16
Poppy		S1-17

STATE OF ILLINOIS

OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY OF STATE



To all to whom these Presents Shall Come, Greeting:

Whereas, a CERTIFICATE, duly signed and acknowledged, has been filed in the Office of the Secretary of State, on the 14th day of April A.D. 1921 for the organization of the

ALLIANCE OF THE POLISH-AMERICAN

VETERANS OF THE WORLD WAR

under and in accordance with the provisions of "AN ACT CONCERNING CORPORATIONS" approved April 18, 1872, and in force July 1, 1872, and all acts amendatory thereof, a copy of which certificate is hereto attached;

Now Therefore, I, LOUIS L. EMMERSON, Secretary of State of the State of Illinois, by virtue of the powers and duties vested in me by law, do hereby certify that the said

ALLIANCE OF THE POLISH-AMERICAN

VETERANS OF THE WORLD WAR

is a legally organized Corporation under the laws of this State.

In Testimony Whereof, I thereto set my hand and cause to

be affixed the Great Seal of the State of Illinois,

Done at the City of Springfield this 14th

day of April A.D. 1921 and

of the Independence of the United States

the one hundred and 45th.

SEAL

LOUIS L. EMMERSON

SECRETARY OF STATE

CHARTERED BY CONGRESS

PL 98-372

July 23, 1984

Polish Legion of American Veterans

Public Law 98-372

98th Congress

An Act

To recognize the organization known as the Polish Legion of American Veterans U.S.A.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

Charter

Section 1. The Polish Legion of American Veterans, U.S.A., a nonprofit corporation organized under the laws of the State of Illinois, is hereby recognized as such and is granted a charter.

Powers

Section 2. The Polish Legion of American Veterans, U.S.A. (herein-after referred to as the "corporation"), shall have only those powers granted to it through its bylaws and articles of incorporation filed in the State or States in which it is incorporated and subject to the laws of such State or States.

Objects and Purposes of Corporation

Section 3. The objects and purposes of the corporation are those provided in its articles on incorporation. The corporation shall function as a veterans' and patriotic organization as authorized by the laws of the State or States where it is incorporated.

Service of Process

Section 4. With respect to service of process, the corporation shall comply with the laws of the States in which it is incorporated and those States in which it carries on its activities in furtherance of its corporate purposes.

Membership

Section 5. Eligibility for membership in the corporation and the rights and privileges of members shall, except as provided in this Act, be as provided in the constitution and bylaws of the corporation, and terms of membership and requirements for holding office within the corporation shall not be discriminatory on the basis of race, color, religion, or National origin.

Board of Directors: Composition: Responsibilities

Section 6. The board of directors of the corporation and the responsibilities thereof shall be as provided in the articles of incorporation of the corporation and in conformity with the laws of the State or States in which it is incorporated.

Officers of Corporation

Section 7. The Officers of the corporation, and the election of such officers shall be as is provided in the articles of incorporation of the corporation and in conformity with the laws of the State or States wherein it is incorporated.

Restrictions

Section 8. (a) No part of the income or assets of the corporation shall inure to any member, officer, or director of the corporation or be distributed to any such person during the life of this charter. Nothing in this subsection shall be construed to prevent the payment of reasonable compensation to the officers of the corporation or reimbursement for actual necessary expenses in amounts approved by the board of directors.

(b) The corporation shall not make any loan to any officer, directors, or employee of the corporation.

(c) The corporation and any officer and director of the corporation, acting as such officer or director, shall not contribute to, support or otherwise participate in any political activity or in any manner attempt to influence legislation.

(d) The corporation shall have no power to issue any shares of stock nor to declare or pay any dividends.

(e) The corporation shall not claim congressional approval or Federal government authority for any of its activities.

Liability

Section 9. The corporation shall be liable for the acts of its officers and agents when acting within the scope of their authority.

Books and Records: Inspection

Section 10. The corporation shall keep correct and complete books and records of account and shall keep minutes of any proceeding of the corporation involving any of its members, the board of directors, or any committee having authority under the board of directors. The corporation shall keep at its principal office a record of the names and addresses of all members having the right to vote. All books and records of such corporation may be inspected by a member having the right to vote or by any agent or attorney of such member, for any proper purpose, at any reasonable time. Nothing in this section shall be construed to contravene any applicable State law.

Audit of Financial Transactions

Section 11. The first section of the Act entitled “An Act to provide for audit of accounts of private corporations established under the Federal law”, approved August 30, 1964 (36 U.S.C. 1101), is amended by adding at the end thereof the following:

“(58) Polish Legion of American Veterans, U.S.A.”.

Annual Report

Section 12. The corporation shall report annually to the Congress concerning the activities of the corporation during the preceding fiscal year. Such annual report shall be submitted at the same time as is the report of the audit required by section 11 of this Act. The report shall not be printed as a public document.

Reservation of Right to Amend or Repeal Charter

Section 13. The right to alter, amend, or repeal this Act is expressly reserved to the Congress.

Definition of State

Section 14. For purposes of this Act, the term “State” includes the District of Columbia, the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico, and the territories and possessions of the United States

Tax Exempt Status

Section 15. The corporation shall maintain its status as an organization exempt from taxation as provided in the Internal Revenue Code. If the corporation fails to maintain such status, the charter granted hereby shall expire.

Section 16. If the corporation shall fail to comply with any of the restrictions or provisions of this Act, the charter granted hereby shall expire.

Approved July 23, 1984

98th CONGRESS
1ST Session

H.R. 29

To recognize the organization known as the Polish Legion of American Veterans, U.S.A.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

January 3, 1983

Mr. Annunzio introduced the following bill: which was referred to the committee on the
Judiciary

A BILL

To recognize the organization known as the Polish Legion of American Veterans, U.S.A.

*Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America
in Congress assembled,*

CHARTER

SECTION 1. The Polish Legion of American Veterans, U.S.A., a nonprofit corporation organized under the laws of the State of Illinois, is hereby recognized as such and is granted a charter.

POWERS

SECTION 2. The Polish Legion of American Veterans, U.S.A. (hereinafter referred to as the "corporation"), shall have only those powers granted to it through its bylaws and articles of incorporation filed in the State or States in which it is incorporated and subject to the laws of such State or States.

OBJECTS AND PURPOSES OF CORPORATION

SECTION 3. The objects and purposes of the corporation are those provided in its articles of incorporation. The corporation shall function as a veterans' and patriotic organization as authorized by the laws of the State or States where is incorporated.

SERVICE OF PROCESS

SECTION 4. With respect to service of process, the corporation shall comply with the laws of the States in which it is incorporated and those States in which it carries on its activities in furtherance of its corporate purposes.

MEMBERSHIP

SECTION 5. Eligibility for membership in the corporation and the rights and privileges of members shall, except as provided in this Act, be as provided in the constitution and bylaws of the corporation, and terms of membership and requirements for holding office within the corporation shall not be discriminatory on the basis of race, color, religion, or national origin.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS; COMPOSTION; RESPONSIBILITIES

SECTION 6 The board of directors of the corporation and the responsibilities thereof shall be as provided in the articles of incorporation and in conformity with the laws of the State or States in which it is incorporated.

OFFICERS OF CORPORATION

SECTION 7. The officers of the corporation and the election of such officers shall be as is provided in the articles of incorporation of the corporation and in conformity with the laws of the State or States wherein it is incorporated.

RESTRICTIONS

SECTION 8. (a) No part of the income or assets of the corporation shall inure to any member, officer, or director of the corporation or be distributed to any such person during the life of this charter. Nothing in this subsection shall be construed to prevent the payment of reasonable compensation to the officers of the corporation or reimbursement for actual necessary expenses in amounts approved by the board of directors.

(b) The corporation shall not make any loan to any officers, director, or employee of the corporation.

(c) The corporation and any officer and director of the corporation, acting as such officer or director, shall not contributed to, support or otherwise participate in any political activity or in any manner attempt to influence legislation.

(d) The corporation shall have no power to issue shares of stock nor to declare or pay any dividends.

(e) The corporation shall not claim congressional approval of Federal Government authority of any of its activities.

LIABILITY

SECTION 9. The Corporation shall be liable for the acts of its officers and agents when acting within the scope of their authority.

BOOKS AND RECORDS; INSPECTION

SECTION 10. The corporation shall keep correct and complete books and records of account and shall keep minutes of any providing of the corporation involving any of its members, the board of directors, or any committee having authority under the board of directors. The corporation shall keep at its principal office a records of the names and addresses of all members having the right to vote. All books and records of such corporation may be inspected by any member having the right to vote, or by any agent or attorney of such member, for any proper purpose, at a reasonable time. Nothing in this section shall be construed to contravene any applicable State law.

AUDIT OF FINANCIAL TRANSACTIONS

SECTION 11. The first section of the Act entitled “An Act to provide for audit of accounts of private corporations established under the Federal law”, approved August 30, 1964 (36 U.S.C.1101), is amended by adding at the end thereof the following:

“(56) Polish Legion of American Veterans, U.S.A.”.

ANNUAL REPORT

SECTION 12. The corporation shall report annually to the Congress concerning the activities of the corporation during the preceding fiscal year. Such annual report shall be submitted at the same time as is the report of the audit required by section 11 of this Act. The report shall not be reprinted as a public document

RESERVATION OF RIGHT TO AMEND OR REPEAL CHARTER

SECTION 13. The right to alter, amend, or repeal this Act is expressly reserved to the Congress.

DEFINITION OF STATE

SECTION 14. For purposes of this Act, the term “State” includes the District of Columbia, the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico, and the territories and possession of the United States.

TAX EXEMPTS STATUS

SECTION 15. The corporation shall maintain its status as an organization exempt from taxation as provided in the Internal Revenue Code. If the corporation fails to maintain such status, the charter granted hereby shall expire.

SECTION 16. If the corporation shall fail to comply with any of the restrictions or provisions of this Act, the charter granted hereby shall expire.

98th Congress
1st Session

H.R. 1049

To recognize the organization known as the Polish Legion of American Veterans.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

January 27, 1983

Mr. Rostenkowski introduced the following bill: which was referred to the Committee on the Judiciary.

A BILL

To recognize the organization known as the Polish Legion of American Veterans.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of American in Congress assembled,

CHARTER

SECTION 1. The Polish Legion of American Veterans, a nonprofit corporation organized under the laws of the State of Illinois, is recognized as such and is granted a Federal charter.

POWERS

SECTION 2 The Polish Legion of American Veterans (hereinafter in this Act referred to as the "corporation") shall have only those powers granted to it through its bylaws and articles of incorporation filed in the State or States in which it is incorporated and subject to the laws of such State or States.

OBJECTS AND PURPOSES OF CORPORATION

SECTION 3. The objects and purposes of the corporation are those provided in its articles of incorporation and shall include the following:

- (1) Uphold and defend the Constitution of the United States of America and the principles for which it stands.
- (2) Encourage the study of the history of the United States and its democratic institutions to combat the destructive propaganda of communism and other alien influences which seek to weaken such institutions.
- (3) Stimulate patriotism in the minds of all Americans and encourage Americans to demonstrate their love for their country.

- (4) Foster public awareness of the contributions made by Poles and Polish Americans to the progress and development of the United States and combat bigotry directed against Americans of Polish ancestry.

- (5) Maintain and preserve the patriotic and fraternal spirit shared by the veterans of all wars and conflicts of the United States and cooperate with veterans and other organizations in patriotic, charitable, educational, and civic activities.

The corporation shall function as a veterans' and patriotic organization as authorized by the laws of the State or States in which it is incorporated.

SERVICE OF PROCESS

SECTION 4. With respect to service of process, the corporation shall comply with the laws of the States in which it is incorporated and those states in which it carries on its activities in furtherance of its corporate purposes.

MEMBERSHIP

SECTION 5. Eligibility for membership in the corporation and the rights and privileges of members of the corporation shall be as provided in the constitution and bylaws of the corporation.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS; COMPOSITION; RESPONSIBILITIES

SECTION 6. The composition of the board of directors of the corporation and the responsibilities of such board shall be as provided in the articles of incorporation of the corporation and in conformity with the laws of the State or States in which it is incorporated.

OFFICERS OF CORPORTION

SECTION 7. The positions of officers of the corporation and the election of members to such positions shall be provided in the articles in incorporation of the corporation and in conformity with the laws of the State or States in which it is incorporated.

RESTRICTIONS

SECTION 8.

(a) No part of the income of assets of the corporation may inure to the benefit of any member, officer, or director of the corporation or be distributed to any such individual during the life of this charter. Nothing in this subsection shall be construed to prevent the payment of reasonable compensation to the officers of the corporation or reimbursement for actual and necessary expenses in amounts approved by the board of directors.

(b) The corporation may not make any loan to any officer, director, or employee of the corporation.

(c) (1) The Corporation may not contribute to, support, or otherwise participate in any political activity or attempt in any manner to influence legislation.

(2) No officer or director of the corporation, acting as such officer or director, may commit any act prohibited under paragraph (1) of this subsection.

(d) The Corporation shall have no power to issue any shares of stock nor to declare or pay any dividends.

(e) The corporation shall not claim congressional approval or the authorization of the Federal government for any of its activities.

LIABILITY

SECTION 9. The corporation shall be liable for the acts of its officers and agents whenever such officers and agents have acted within the scope of their authority.

BOOKS AND RECORDS; INSPECTION

SECTION 10. The corporation shall keep correct and complete books and records of account and minutes of any proceeding of the corporation involving any of its members, the board of directors, or any committee having authority under the board of directors. The corporation shall keep, at its principal office, a record of the names and addresses of all members having the right to vote in any proceeding of the corporation. All books and records of such corporation may be inspected by any member having the right to vote in any corporation proceeding, or by any agent or attorney of such member, for any proper purpose at any reasonable time. Nothing in this section shall be construed to contravene any applicable State law.

AUDIT OF FINANCIAL TRANSACTIONS

SECTION 11. The first section of the Act entitled “An Act to provide for audit of accounts of private corporations established under Federal law”, approved August 30, 1964 (36 U.S.C. 1101), is amended by adding at the end thereof the following: ‘(56) Polish Legion of American Veterans’.

ANNUAL REPORT

SECTION 12. The corporation shall report annually to the Congress concerning the activities of the corporation during the preceding fiscal year. Such annual report shall be submitted at the same time as the report of the audit required by section 11 of this Act. The report shall not be printed as a public document.

RESERVATION OF RIGHT TO AMEND OR REPEAL CHARTER

SECTION 13. The right to alter, amend, or repeal this Act is expressly reserved to the Congress.

DEFINITION OF “STATE”

SECTION 14. For purposes of this Act, the term “State” includes the District of Columbia, the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico, the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, and the territories and possessions of the United States.

TAX-EXEMPT STATUS

SECTION 15. The corporation shall maintain its status as an organization exempt from taxation as provided in the Internal Revenue Code of 1954. If the corporation fails to maintain such status, the charter granted by this Act shall expire.

TERMINATION

SECTION 16. If the corporation shall fail to comply with any of the restrictions or provisions of this Act, the charter granted by this Act shall expire.

105th Congress
1st Session

H.R. 1085

To revise, codify, and enact without substantive change certain general and permanent laws, related to patriotic and national observances, ceremonies, and organizations, as title 36, United States Code, “Patriotic and National Observances, Ceremonies, and Organizations”.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

March 17, 1997

Mr. Hyde introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on the Judiciary

A BILL

To revise, codify, and enact without substantive change certain general and permanent laws, related to patriotic and national observances, ceremonies, and organizations, as title 36, United States Code, “Patriotic and National Observances, Ceremonies, and Organizations”.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,
Section 1, Title 36, United States Code.

Certain general and permanent laws of the United States, related to patriotic and national observances, ceremonies, and organization, are revised, codified, and enacted as title 36, United States Code, “Patriotic and National Observances, Ceremonies, and Organizations”, as follows:

170501. Definition

For purposes of this chapter, “State” include the District of Columbia and the territories and possessions of the United States.

170502. Organization

(a) Federal Charter.--Polish Legion of American Veterans, U.S.A. (in this chapter, the “corporation”), a nonprofit corporation incorporated in Illinois, is a federally chartered corporation.

(b) Expiration of Charter.--If the corporation does not comply with any provision of this chapter, the charter granted by this chapter expires.

170503. Purposes

The purposes of the corporation are as provided in its articles of incorporation. The corporation shall function as veterans' and patriotic organization as authorized by the laws of each State in which it is incorporated.

170504. Membership

(a) Eligibility. -- Except as provided in this chapter, eligibility for membership in the corporation and the rights and privileges of members are as provided in the constitution and bylaws of the corporation.

(b) Nondiscrimination. -- The terms of membership may not discriminate on the basis of race, color, religion, or national origin.

170505. Governing body

(a) Board of Directors. -- The board of directors and the responsibilities of the board are as provided in the articles of incorporation.

(b) Officers. -- The officers and the election of officers are as provided in the articles of incorporation.

(c) Nondiscrimination. -- The requirements for holding office in the corporation may not discriminate on the basis of race, color, religion, or national origin.

170506. Powers

The corporation has only the powers provided in its bylaws and articles of incorporation filed in each State in which it is incorporated.

170507. Restrictions

(a) Stock and Dividends. -- The Corporation may not issue stock or declare or pay a dividend.

(b) Political Activities. -- The corporation or a director or officer as such may not contribute to, support, or participate in any political activity or in any manner attempt to influence legislation.

(c) Distribution of Income or Assets.-- The income or assets of the corporation may not inure to the benefit of, or be distributed to, a director, officer, or member during the life of the charter granted by this chapter. This subsection does not prevent the payment of reasonable compensation to an officer or reimbursement for actual necessary expenses in amounts approved by the board of directors.

(d) Loans. -- The corporation may not make a loan to a director, officer, or employee.

(e) Claim of Governmental Approval or Authorization. -- The corporation may not claim congressional approval or the authority of the United States Government for any of its activities.

170508. Duty to maintain tax-exempt status

The corporation shall maintain its status as an organization exempt from taxation under the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 (26 U.S.C. 1 et seq.).

170509. Records and inspection

- (a) Records. -- The corporation shall keep--
- (1) correct and complete records of account;
 - (2) minutes of the proceeding of its members, board of directors, and committees, and
 - (3) at its principal office, a record of the names and addresses of its members entitled to vote.
- (b) Inspection.--A member entitle to vote, or an agent or attorney of the member, may inspect the records of the corporation for any proper purpose, at any reasonable time.

170510. Service of process

The corporation shall comply with the law on service of process of each State in which it is incorporated and each State in which it carries on activities.

170511. Liability for acts of officers and agents

The corporation is liable for the acts of its officers and agents acting within the scope of their authority.

170512. Annual report

The corporation shall submit an annual report to Congress on the activities of the corporation during the prior fiscal year. The report shall be submitted at the same time as the report of the audit required by section 10101 of this title. The report may not be printed as a public document.

Unity with Heritage

At a National Executive Committee (NEC) meeting in 1974, a contest was conducted to establish a motto for the Polish Legion of American Veterans, U.S.A.

At the final National Executive Committee (NEC) meeting in 1974 the members selected the motto "Unity with Heritage" which was submitted by LaVerne Wozniak, Past National President, and Ladies Auxiliary.

Polish Legion of American Veterans, U.S.A. Emblem



- The Wreath -** Memory of the brave comrades who gave their lives in the service of our beloved country, that we may enjoy the liberty.
- The Star -** Symbol of 300,000 Americans of Polish descent who served in the Armed Forces of the United States in World War I.
- The Blue Arc -** One of the cardinal purposes of the Polish Legion of Americans, U.S.A. in rehabilitation of our disabled comrades.
- The Red Arc -** Denotes the care of the widows and children of our deceased comrades.
- The American Flag -** Our membership will safeguard the honor of the Flag of our Country under which we have proudly served.
- The Polish Flag -** Remembering the cultural heritage, tradition and achievements four forefathers and their contribution to the American way of life.
- The Ruptured Duck -** Symbol of the 900,000 Americans of Polish descent who served in the Armed Forces of the United States in the battles all over the world.
- The Shield -** Denotes the devotion and loyalty and a true conception of Americanism.
- The Words -** Polish Legion of American Veterans bands the membership to devote their efforts as a living monument to over 3,000,000 Americans of Polish descent who served in all of the wars and conflicts of the United States since the Revolutionary War, of whom many thousands shave made the supreme sacrifice for their country by giving their lives.

Poppy Day Buddy Poppy

“Honor the Dead by Helping the Living”

Millions of these blood-red artificial flowers are made in this country each year by disabled veterans – disabled on the same battlefields on which their buddies were killed. Many will spend the rest of their lives bedridden in VA hospitals. Others have adjusted to the challenges of the civilian world – regaining their health and earning power diminished by service related disabilities.

But these veterans have two things in common: They are paid for their work and the Poppies they create will eventually benefit needy veterans.

In 1915, a World War I Canadian veteran, Col. John McCrae, wrote a poem entitled “In Flanders Field” It presented a striking image of the bright red flowers blooming among rows of white crosses marking graves of war dead in Belgium.

McCrae, who died of pneumonia and meningitis in a British Officers Hospital in 1918, wrote that soldiers must carry on the fight against the enemy after their comrades had fallen in battle. In a figurative sense, most readers recognized a plea for succeeding generations to build upon the sacrifices made by the courageous veterans. McCrae believed the ideals and causes for which these men were fighting and dying must always be remembered.

“If ye break faith with us who die” he wrote, “we shall not sleep”

In 1922 The VFW set up the first poppy distribution. In February 1924 the VFW registered the name “Buddy Poppy” with the U.S. Patent Office. The term “Buddy” was coined by the poppy makers themselves as a tribute to veterans who didn’t come home and those crippled or scarred for life. Since May 1924, when the trademark was granted, VFW has owned all rights to the Poppy.

Today all veterans, veteran groups and the community recognize “Poppy Day” as a way to assist our disabled veterans, veterans in our VA hospitals and their families.

Information for this article was perceived from the VFW magazine honoring their 75th anniversary