



**Attention all Unit Presidents & Constitution & Bylaws Committee**

May 08, 2026

At National ALA Convention held in Tampa August 2025 a By-Law change was read stating that **ALL** new membership applications must be presented at the unit meeting for acceptance and require two-thirds majority vote of members in attendance to pass. There were many members who spoke against it, but it was passed by executive decision. **However**, National cannot mandate how each Unit Bylaws for membership acceptance are written. Therefore, **EVERY UNIT in New York State needs to decide (by majority vote at your unit meeting) how you process new membership. Once passed it MUST be added to your unit Bylaws.** (Here are three examples below. You may develop one of your own. Remember if you Vote to accept members YOU MUST VOTE ON ALL MEMBERS)

Once your rule is passed at Unit Meeting: update your Unit C & Bylaws:

**Under Bylaws Article II Powers - Section I**

(Choose 1 of these suggested by the National Parliamentarian or draft your own rule)

1 This Unit will present all applications for (new or transfers) membership for consideration at the next regularly scheduled unit meeting, once the members applicant meets requirements established by the American Legion for membership. A two-thirds affirmative vote of members in attendance is required.

**OR** This Units membership chairman shall have full power to accept new members or transfer applications who meet the eligibility criteria as established by the American Legion for membership.

**OR\*** This Units President shall appoint a committee consisting of (*specify number of members on committee*) members, who with a majority vote of this committee shall have full power to accept new members or transfers, who meet the eligibility criteria as established by the American Legion for membership.

*(Note \*When selecting committees its best pick an odd number like 3 or 5)*

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**NOTE \*\* You may accept whichever method your unit chooses it do. Once Voted and accepted at your unit meeting Update your current unit Bylaws YOU DO NOT have to send it to the Department Constitution & Bylaw Chair (or the Department office) for approval.**

Respectfully submitted: May 8, 2026  
Karen St. Hilaire, Chairman Constitution & ByLaws  
American Legion Auxiliary, Department of New York