



MEMO

SUBJECT: Standing Rule Change - Eligibility Verification

DATE: 6/17/2026

TO: Members of the Department of New York

FROM: The Department Office

On Wednesday, June 3rd the NEC voted on a change to Standing Rule XI. Units, the standing rule is now as follows:

Section 6. Membership eligibility through the service of a living veteran may be established by presentation of a current The American Legion membership card. Membership eligibility through the service of a deceased veteran may be established by certification of the deceased veteran's proof of military service by the post adjutant or other post officer or by the unit secretary or other unit officer. Joining online requires an affidavit of eligibility; the Unit may request a copy of the veteran's proof of military service.

This change is anticipated to be reflected in the online National Constitution & Bylaws by mid to late June.

What does this change mean? The unit secretary or other unit officer may verify the eligibility of a potential member and sign the application. By expanding the options for who may review and sign membership applications, we are removing barriers and allowing the processing of membership to be more efficient. It is not a requirement that the unit review eligibility, if a unit wishes to continue to work with their legion post, they may do so.