

## ETHICS & PROFESSIONAL CONDUCT

Policy No.: 16-9-006

Date: 4-13-2025

Applicable to: All Legionnaires

Responsible Officer: Department Judge Advocate

Review Date: Bi-Annually

### Introduction:

American Legion members are expected to comply with the American Legion's governing documents and comport themselves accordingly.

As officers and members of the American Legion for the Department of Oregon, we are committed to doing what is right and honorable. We set high standards for ourselves and we aspire to meet these standards in all aspects of our lives — at work, at home, and in service to our communities.

This Code of Professional Conduct describes the expectations that we have of ourselves. It articulates the ideals to which we aspire as well as the behaviors that are mandatory in our roles.

The purpose of this Code is to instill confidence in our dealings with others and amongst us and to help an individual become a better Legionnaire. We do this by establishing and understanding of appropriate behavior. We believe that the credibility and reputation of The American Legion is shaped by the collective conduct of individual members of the Legion family.

We believe that we can advance our work, both individually and collectively, by embracing this Code of Ethics and Professional Conduct. We also believe that this Code will assist us in making wise decisions, particularly when faced with difficult situations wherein we may be asked to compromise our integrity or our values.

Our hope that this Code of Ethics and Professional Conduct will serve as a catalyst for others to study, deliberate, and act appropriately about ethics and values. Further, we hope that this Code will ultimately be used to build upon and evolve across The American Legion.

### Policy:

#### 1. Responsibility

Responsibility is our duty to take ownership for the decisions we make or fail to make, the actions we take or fail to take, and the consequences that result.

#### 2. Respect

Respect is our duty to show a high regard for ourselves, others, and the resources entrusted to us. Resources entrusted to us may include people, money, reputation, the safety of others, and natural or environmental resources.

#### 3. Fairness

Fairness is our duty to make decisions and act impartially and objectively. Our conduct must be free from compelling self-interest, prejudice, and favoritism.

a. Conflict of Interest — all District and Department Officers will submit a signed copy of the Department of Oregon Conflict of Interest form within seven (7) days of installation of office occurs. Any possible Conflict needs to be addressed to ensure openness and transparency.<sup>1</sup>

b. Favoritism & Discrimination — Favoritism and or Discrimination will not be tolerated by the Department of Oregon. This includes anything that would benefit an individual Legionnaire over other Legionnaires. Discrimination due to race, ethnicity, sex, or religion will not be condoned.

4. Honesty

Honesty is our duty to understand the truth and act in a truthful manner both in our communications and in our conduct.

5. *Commitment*

*All District Commanders, District Vice Commanders, and Department Officers will submit a signed copy of this Ethics and Professional Conduct Policy within seven (7) days of installation of office occurs.*

Revised:

Department Executive Committee \_\_\_\_\_

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Signature of Member

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date