

DRAFT CBL AMENDMENT CBL 26-01

SUBJECT: Change Department of Florida Bylaws, Article VI, Section 5.

SOURCE: Department Finance Committee

**WHEREAS**, the Department of Florida Bylaws, Article VI, Section 5 states, “The revenue of this Department shall be derived from the membership fees and dues of the members of the Posts in the Department, and such other sources consistent with the provisions of the National Constitution and Bylaws. AMVETS dues (annual membership) in any Post within the Florida AMVETS shall be thirty-five dollars (\$35.00), of which fifteen dollars (\$15.00) shall be forwarded to the National Organization, ten dollars (\$10.00) remains with this Department and ten dollars (\$10.00) stays at the Post. MAL dues shall be thirty-five dollars (\$35.00), of which fifteen dollars (\$15.00) shall be forwarded to the National Organization, five dollars (\$5.00) placed in an advertisement fund for the Department, and the remaining fifteen dollars (\$15.00) remains with this Department. In the case of life membership, the minimum rate shall be established by the National Constitution and Bylaws”, and

**WHEREAS**, the Department of Florida is the only department with standardized dues, which have remained unchanged for over 12 years, and

**WHEREAS**, a review of our finances indicates that operating expenses have surpassed revenues for the second consecutive year, resulting in an operating deficit. To continue serving our members and fulfilling our mission effectively, a careful review of our revenue structure is necessary.

Membership dues are our primary source of income, representing 75% of total revenue. This highlights our dependence on member contributions to fund all operations.

Operating Deficit (2023-2024): Monthly expenses averaged \$5,732.85 while revenue averaged \$5,185.75, creating a monthly shortfall of \$547.10. This means expenses were 9.5% higher than income.

Operating Deficit (2024-2025): Monthly expenses increased significantly to an average of \$23,858.21 while revenue averaged \$21,832.46. This resulted in a monthly shortfall of \$2,025.75, with expenses exceeding income by 8.5%.

While both revenue and expenses grew substantially from the prior year, we have continued to operate at a deficit, and

**WHEREAS**, two key factors contribute to the current financial strain: our membership structure and the economic impact of inflation. As of September 25, 2025, our total membership is 16,993. 4,002 Annual Members (23.5%) – This segment provides 100% of our membership dues revenue. 12,991 Life Members (76.5%) – These valued, long-standing members contribute no annual dues.

The financial responsibility of funding rests on less than one-quarter of our total membership. This revenue structure is unsustainable and places an inequitable burden on our annual members while limiting the resources available to serve all 16,993 members. The financial strain is exacerbated by the fact that membership dues have not been adjusted since 2012.

Using data from the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, the average annual inflation rate of 2.66% from 2012 to 2025 has compounded to a cumulative inflation rate of over 40%. In practical terms, the \$10.00 dues set in 2012 now possess the purchasing power of less than \$7.00 today. This significant erosion of real-dollar value directly impacts our ability to cover operational costs that have risen with inflation.

The combination of a revenue model dependent on just 23.5% of the membership and the 40%+ decline in the real value of our dues since 2012 has created recurring deficits that threaten our organization's mission. Now, therefore,

**BE IT RESOLVED**, that Article VI, Section 5, be changed to read **starting September 01, 2026**: The revenue of this Department shall be derived from the membership fees and dues of the members of the Posts in the Department, and such other sources consistent with the provisions of the National Constitution and Bylaws. AMVETS dues (annual membership) in any Post within the Florida AMVETS shall be **forty-five dollars (\$45.00)**, of which fifteen dollars (\$15.00) shall be forwarded to the National Organization, **fifteen dollars (\$15.00)** remain with this Department, and **fifteen dollars (\$15.00)** stays at the Post. MAL dues shall be **forty-five dollars (\$45.00)**, of which **fifteen dollars (\$15.00)** shall be forwarded to the National Organization, **five dollars (\$5.00)** placed in an advertisement fund for the Department, and the remaining **twenty-five dollars (\$25.00)** remains with this Department. In the case of life membership, the minimum rate shall be established by the National Constitution and Bylaws, and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that Article VI, Section 5, be changed to read **starting September 01, 2027**: The revenue of this Department shall be derived from the membership fees and dues of the members of the Posts in the Department, and such other sources consistent with the provisions of the National Constitution and Bylaws. AMVETS dues (annual membership) in any Post within the Florida AMVETS shall be **fifty dollars (\$50.00)**, of which fifteen dollars (\$15.00) shall be forwarded to the National Organization, **twenty dollars (\$20.00)** remain with this Department, and fifteen dollars (\$15.00) stays at the Post. MAL dues shall be **fifty dollars (\$50.00)**, of which fifteen dollars (\$15.00) shall be forwarded to the National Organization, **five dollars (\$5.00)** placed in an advertisement fund for the Department, and the remaining **thirty dollars (\$30.00)** remains with this Department. In the case of life membership, the minimum rate shall be established by the National Constitution and Bylaws.

COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATIONS:

CBL COMMITTEE	<input type="checkbox"/> ADOPT	<input type="checkbox"/> AMEND	<input type="checkbox"/> REJECT	<input type="checkbox"/> NONE
FINANCE COMMITTEE	<input type="checkbox"/> ADOPT	<input type="checkbox"/> AMEND	<input type="checkbox"/> REJECT	<input type="checkbox"/> NONE
FLOOR VOTE	<input type="checkbox"/> ADOPT	<input type="checkbox"/> AMEND	<input type="checkbox"/> REJECT	<input type="checkbox"/> NONE