Article I - NAME

Section 1. The name of this organization shall be FODPAL, which stands for “Foreign and Outlying Departments and Posts of The American Legion”.

Section 2. The Headquarters of FODPAL shall be under the charge of and at the same address as that of the FODPAL Secretary.

Article II - PURPOSE AND OBJECTIVE

Section 1. To promote the policies and programs of The American Legion.

Section 2. To advocate a closer spirit of cooperation among and between FODPAL member organizations and the National Headquarters Components of The American Legion, and the mainland Departments and Posts.

Section 3. To improve and maintain open communication channels, using modern equipment and technology, to keep FODPAL member organizations and individuals better informed about national and international policy changes which are germane to the overall service mission of The American Legion.

Article III - ELIGIBILITY

Section 1. Any Department or Post of The American Legion in good standing, which is outside the continental borders of Mainland United States.

Section 2. Present members include of the Departments of Alaska, Hawaii, France, Mexico, Philippines, and Puerto Rico. The Posts are China Post 1 and 9 Posts from Canada, Montreal Post 1, Winnipeg Post 3, Toronto Post 5, Fort Pepperrell Post 9, Ottawa Post 16, Tony Matthews Post 18, Calgary Alberta Post 20, The American Legion of Toronto Post 21, and Charles A. Dunn Post 75.

Article IV - OFFICERS

Section 1. FODPAL shall, during the Annual FODPAL National Convention Meeting, elect a new slate of officer for the coming year.

Section 2. Officer to be elected will be a President, 3 Vice Presidents, 1 Judge Advocate, 2 Asst Judge Advocates, 1 Historian, 2 Asst Historians, 1 Chaplain, 1 Sgt At Arms, 3 Asst Sgt At Arms, 1 Secretary, 1 Treasurer, 1 Asst Treasurer.
Section 3. In case of death, disability or resignation of the President of FODPAL, the First Vice President shall assume the duties of FODPAL President for the remainder of the President’s term.

Section 4. The Secretary shall function as the Chief Administrative Officer of FODPAL with responsibility for:

1) Maintaining a permanent record of all official FODPAL meetings enumerated in article V.
2) In coordination with the FODPAL President, issue due notice of the time and meeting place of the annual meeting as well as fall and spring meeting.
3) Maintaining a correct, up to date, record of all FODPAL elected officers, and member Department and Posts, including mailing address, e-mail address (if available), and name and address of key officers(such as Commander, Adjutant, National Executive Committee member, or other key contact).
4) Undertake such duties as may be assigned by the President.

Section 5. A vacancy in any office other than that of the President shall be filled by appointment by the President.

Article V - MEETINGS

Section 1. Meetings shall be held at Indianapolis Indiana, in the National Headquarters Offices, on Wednesday morning during the Fall Meeting and Spring Meeting, of The American Legion National Executive Committee.

Section 2. An annual meeting will be held in the Convention City during the National Convention of The American Legion, at a time, date, and location, as announced by the FODPAL President.

Section 3. The President will be the presiding officer over all meetings. In the absence of the President the next senior ranking Vice President present will preside.

Article VI - APPOINTMENT

Section 1. The newly elected President shall appoint a Breakfast Chairman, and Nominating Committee Chairman before the end of the Annual Meeting.

Section 2. The President may establish other committees, as deemed necessary, throughout the year; to assist in carrying out his or her mission related programs.

Article VII - FINANCE

Section 1. Each Department and Post as a membership of FODPAL shall be required to pay annual dues to help defray some of the organization’s operating costs. The amount of dues, which were set several years ago, is twenty five dollars ($25.00) and fifteen dollars ($15.00) for Posts. Such dues shall be due and payable immediately after the close of the Annual Meeting and must be paid by the close of the Fall Meeting in order to remain a “member in good standing” with a right to vote on matters that come before meetings.

Section 2. FODPAL may accept contributions from any Department, any Post, or individual for any special purpose or general use and such contributions shall not be expended for any purpose not authorized by the contributor.

Section 3. Other income may include any profit from the sale of patches, pins, or other merchandise that may be offered by FODPAL for the use and benefit of its members.

Section 4. The Treasurer or Asst Treasurer shall be empowered to draw checks against the FODPAL funds to meet bills. All expenditures in excess of one hundred ($100.00) will require approval from either a formal meeting or by the FODPAL President.
Section 5. The treasurer or Assistant Treasurer shall present a written financial report at each Annual Meeting. Such report shall be in Balance Sheet Format and include, as a minimum, the year’s financial picture, including Opening Balance (as of the opening day of the previous Annual Meeting), Income (by source), Expense (by category) and Ending Balance (as of the day prior to the opening of the current Annual Meeting) together with supporting bank statements or other funds records.

Article VIII - RULES

Section 1. The rules of procedure at the Annual Meeting and the Fall and Spring Meetings of FODPAL shall be those set forth in Robert’s Rules of Order, Newly Revised, except as hereinbefore provided in this Constitution and By-Laws.

Article IX - EFFECTIVE DATE

Section 1. Adoption of this Constitution and By-Laws will require a vote of two-thirds (2/3) of the voting members present at the 2002 Annual Meeting.

Section 2. Upon approval, this Constitution and By-Laws shall take effect immediately upon the conclusion of the 2002 Annual Meeting.

Article X - AMENDMENTS

Section 1. Proposed amendments to this Constitution and By-Laws must be submitted in writing and first presented during the Spring Meeting. This is to allow voting members minimum of thirty-days (30) advance notice of said change prior to be considered at the Annual Meeting.

Section 2. All amendments to the Constitution and By-Laws shall be voted on at the Annual Meeting. Passage of an amendment will require a majority vote (1 vote over 50% in attendance) of total representation thereat.

Section 3. Amendments adopted at the Annual Meeting shall take effect immediately upon the conclusion of the Annual Meeting at which it is voted on.

Orland Taylor
FODPAL President

Douglas Haggan
FODPAL Secretary

Clarence Bacon
Past National Commander

Date of Acceptance
FODPAL Advisor