



American Legion
Frank Spickelmire Post #60
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Memorandum

To: Post 60 Members

From: Post 60 Executive Committee

Subj: Post 60 Policy Verifying Membership Eligibility

Date: 30 June 2010

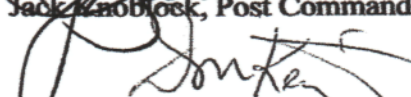
The purpose of this policy letter is to clarify exactly those conditions which a prospective applicant must meet in order to join and become a member in good standing of the American Legion, Post 60, Cascade, Idaho. Furthermore, it provides guidance regarding actions to be taken by the Executive Committee when a current member's eligibility is in question.

Eligibility to join the American Legion: All servicemen or servicewomen who served on active duty for at least one day, during one of the eligibility periods listed on the Membership Application, and who were honorably discharged, retired or on active duty at the time of applying are eligible to seek membership in the American Legion. Proof of service overseas in a combat theater is not a requirement for membership in the American Legion; that applies only to Veterans seeking membership in the Veterans of Foreign Wars.

Verification of eligibility: [The Executive Committee made queries at the National, State and District levels to seek clarification on this point. Currently, there is not a requirement at any of the above levels of command that requires a Post to have an applicant provide proof of honorable service via a document like a DD 214. If the Post Commander, the First Vice-Commander and the Adjutant believe the applicant is in fact a bona fide Veteran then that persons' application is processed for membership. Post 60's requirements for proof of eligibility will remain as we have been doing it, we will not require a DD 214, the applicant's signature on the Membership Application certifying their periods of honorable active duty service is deemed sufficient to apply for membership.]

Fraudulent misrepresentation of eligibility by an applicant: At the bottom of the "American Legion Membership Application" form there is the following certification, "I certify that I served at least one day of active military duty during the dates marked above and was honorably discharged or am still serving honorably." The applicant then signs below this certification and if the applicant has done this with fraudulent intent they are then subject to being stripped of their membership and not allowed to reapply in the future. If in the event a properly enrolled member of our Post becomes suspect of misrepresenting their actual service and there is strong reason to suspect their truthfulness the Executive Committee will take the following action. First, the Executive Committee during one of their monthly meetings must be briefed on the facts and circumstances surrounding the alleged misconduct. If there is sufficient reason to believe a member has committed fraud, and a majority of the Executive Committee members vote to request proof of service; the Post Commander and the First Vice-Commander will then tactfully broach this question to the member in question and request that they provide them with a copy of their DD 214. If the member does so and the DD 214 shows proof of eligibility the issue is closed. If the member can't provide a DD 214, they will be given a Standard Form 180 to send to Military Personnel Records or the e-mail address to request a copy of their DD 214. The member will be given a reasonable period of time (three months) to obtain their DD 214. If the member has his DD 214, or requests and receives his DD 214, but then refuses to produce his DD 214 as proof and refuses to voluntarily resign his membership then the Executive Committee will follow the American Legion's procedural instructions to remove that member from our membership rolls and revoke that person's membership from the American Legion, Post 60. It goes without saying that this is a very sensitive issue and must be handled with firm fairness and tact.


Jack Knoblock, Post Commander


Mike Keithly, First Vice Commander


John Pearson, Second Vice Commander


Ken Charles, Adjutant

Wes Hardin, Finance Officer

