

Proposal #SR21 and Location in Constitution/Bylaws/ Standing Rule Standing Rule Article XXI Section 2 Dues and Assessments		This will be voted on by the membership
Current Wording	Proposed Amendment	If Adopted, Will Read
The annual dues of senior members to be remitted to the Department shall be \$12.00 and the amount of dues set by National. Junior members will remit \$2.50 for Junior Department dues and the amount of dues set by National. Dues for Senior members shall include a subscription to the American Legion Auxiliary magazine. Modification of the Department dues for Senior and Junior members shall require a two-thirds vote in the affirmative by the Department Convention delegates. (N2021)	The annual dues of senior members to be remitted to the Department shall be \$12.00 <i>\$17.00</i> and the amount of dues set by National. Junior members will remit \$2.50 for Junior Department dues and the amount of dues set by National. Dues for Senior members shall include a subscription to the American Legion Auxiliary magazine. Modification of the Department dues for Senior and Junior members shall require a two-thirds vote in the affirmative by the Department Convention delegates. (N2021) <i>If passed, it will not go into effect until the 2027-2028 membership year</i>	The annual dues of senior members to be remitted to the Department shall be \$17.00 and the amount of dues set by National. Dues for Senior members shall include a subscription to the American Legion Auxiliary magazine. Modification of the Department dues for Senior members shall require a two-thirds vote in the affirmative by the Department Convention delegates. If passed, it will not go into effect until the 2027-2028 membership year

Proposed by: Finance Committee

Rationale: According to the Department Convention books, we have been paying \$12.00 Department Dues since 2015. We set our annual budget based on revenue from members' dues. Over the course of those ten years, the price of virtually everything has gone up, except the South Dakota American Legion Auxiliary's dues, while our membership continues to decline. Our budget is based on the previous year's membership, and we typically apply a 3% discount to that membership (factoring in the decline), then multiply by \$12 to arrive at our starting budget. The budget is based on the department's monthly bills (office rent, telephone, internet, computer programs), supplies for the office, officers' and chairman's expenses, the Secretary's and Treasurer's salaries, the Mid-Winter Conference, Department Convention, National convention expenses, the Girls State program, stipends, National guests' visits, Auditors, and any unexpected expenses that may come up. Keeping this in mind, if we do not raise the organization's dues, we will have to start cashing in some of the department's CDs or drawing on its savings accounts, and eventually they will be depleted. We also need to consider that the salaries we pay our Secretary and Treasurer are well below what they could earn in the private sector, and, as of now, it appears we are not in compliance with South Dakota wage laws. A \$5 dues increase would raise dues to \$35, plus your Unit dues. You will find that, even with these dues increases, we remain among the lowest dues for non-profit organizations.