

## Overview

The Minnesota American Legion Hospital Association was organized as a result of action taken by its fourth annual department convention in 1922 to provide financial assistance to World War I veterans requiring specialized medical care, but lacking funds to pay for such care. Following World War II, the services of the association were re-appropriated to veterans of that conflict, and subsequently to veterans of the Korean War, Vietnam, etc.

In 1961, The Department Commander, Auxiliary President and Department Legion Finance Chairman were added to the board.

In 1979, the rules were amended to extend eligibility to Auxiliary members. At that time, the name was changed to the American Legion and American Legion Auxiliary Hospital Association.

In 1993, at the annual meeting of the association at the department convention in Bloomington, Minnesota it was voted to limit assistance to members of the American Legion Hospital Association. It was also voted to provide for the payment of hospital and doctor bills incurred during hospitalization (in-patient or out-patient) at any duly licensed hospital within or adjacent to the State of Minnesota. Now doctor bills previously not included would be included, not just those for specialized care at certain medical centers.

In 1999, action was taken to add the Sons of the American Legion into the association with their financial contribution the same as the American Legion and the American Legion Auxiliary. It was also voted to include one S.A.L. member to the board. The name of the association was again changed to the American Legion Family Hospital Association.

In 2004, the membership voted to add the Sons of the American Legion Detachment Commander to the board and remove the American Legion Finance Chairman. The fiscal year of the Association was changed to end each year on July 31. The annual meeting of the Association was changed from the Department Convention to the Department Fall Conference. This change began in 2005.

### ***Who is a member?***

Today, the association is officially incorporated as The American Legion Family Hospital Association. All members of The Minnesota American Legion, Minnesota American Legion Auxiliary and The Sons of The American Legion, are members of the association.

### ***Funding***

Revenue for carrying on the work of the association consists of donations received from Posts, Squadrons, and Units, memorial and personal donations. Additionally, the American Legion Family Hospital Association receives twenty five cents from membership dues from the three organizations. The American Legion Family Hospital Association is a 501(c)3 charitable organization which allows gambling funds to be used for donations.

## ***Eligibility***

All members of the association and their dependents, regardless of their place of residence, are eligible for benefits provided by the association, provided (a) they have been a member in good standing for 36 months prior to application for assistance and (b) they have not received financial aid from the association during the prior three years. A dependent is defined as one who receives his or her entire support from the member and is not eligible to belong to the American Legion, Auxiliary or The Sons of the American Legion.

## ***Financial Aid***

Financial aid is available to all eligible members of the association for payment of medical bills incurred for services provided by a duly licensed medical facility and provided the need for financial assistance has been determined. Before applying to the association for aid, veterans should take advantage of the services offered to them by the government veterans' hospitals. The member's dependents should make all possible use of other available medical assistance programs.

### ***The Association does not pay for the following:***

- Transportation to and from the hospital (unless by ambulance)
- Hotel-Motel bills for anyone accompanying a patient unless an attendant is deemed necessary and authorized by the association
- Telephone bills incurred by the patient
- Personal services
- Hearing Aids
- Eyewear (i.e. prescription glasses or contacts)
- Chiropractic services
- Dental work – (that is not the result of an accident or illness)
- Medical supplies or prosthetics
- Prescriptions

### ***How do I apply?***

Obtain an application one of 3 ways:

1. Print the application from the website or
2. Call the Department Headquarters at (866) 259-9163 or
3. Contact your Post or County Veterans Service Officer

### ***How do I know if I have completed all the required paperwork?***

Ensure that you have completed items 1-4 below:

1. Filled out the application completely
2. Included copies of your current medical bills
3. Signed the bottom of the application, granting permission to your provider to discuss your medical bills with the association.
4. Mailed the application and copies of the medical bills to the address on the application.