



*Jewish War Veterans of the United States of America  
1811 R Street NW, Washington, DC 20009  
www.jwv.org*

## **Organizing a New JWV Post**

JWV is only as strong as its membership. Connecting on a local level creates stronger ties and helps fulfill our mission to preserve the Jewish American military legacy. If you have the time and interest, we will work with you to organize a new Post in your area.

It does not matter if the Post is brand-new or reemerging (as long as it dissolved under good standing), you simply need ten interested members/applicants and at least one individual who can volunteer hours and effort to grow the Post in its first year.

### **The Rules**

*From JWV Constitution, Article X:*

*Section 1.* Applications for Post charters, consisting of **at least ten (10) eligible members (PATRONS ARE NOT ELIGIBLE)**, shall be directed to the National Headquarters, accompanied by a nonrefundable charter fee of twenty dollars **(\$20.00)**, and shall contain **the proposed name of the Post and its location**, and, where applicable, together with **the approval of the District or County Council and the Department, where they exist**. The Post will then be approved/denied at the next meeting of the National Executive Committee.

*Section 1(b).* No Post shall be named for any living person, or any industrial, economic, union, business, fraternal, religious, or political group or employ the use of ideological reference, or the name of any other national or local organization.

### **The Guiding Principles**

- Your first step is to speak with the Department and/or Council Commander(s) to get their take on recruitment, Post location, etc. Speak with the Membership Department at National HQ and they will connect you to the correct officer.
- We strongly urge a new Post to recruit 10 NEW members rather than poach members from existing Posts.
- The new member applications should be mailed along with the charter application as one complete package. If some members are transferring from another Post, include their Transfer Request forms in the package.
- In general, a new Post will set the dues at either \$50 for the first year, which is the cost of general At-Large membership, or a dues amount similar to other Posts in the Department.
- Recruit new Members and Patrons throughout both your local Jewish and veteran communities. Consider:
  - Jewish Day School family events
  - Synagogues
  - Jewish Community Centers
  - Local coffee shop, deli, or market
  - Retirement and Assisted Living Communities



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- Sports events, from little league to major league
- Local colleges and any Jewish fraternities on campus
- Local library or historical society
- Museums
- Large community events or parades such as 4<sup>th</sup> of July or Fall Festival
- Work with other local community groups, whether military or civilian. Cultivate a relationship with them and complete a community project together. This expands your network, increases your visibility and hopefully leads to recruitment opportunities.
- Provide Patriotic support at community events, such as leading the pledge or presenting the Colors. The exposure may lead to recruitment.

### The Process

1. Get approval from the Department (and Council, if applicable) for your new Post.
2. Recruit at least 10 new members.
3. Complete the Charter application and mail, along with \$20 application fee, to National HQ. Include the new member applications and dues payments in the package.
4. Gain approval for Post establishment at a National Executive Committee (NEC) meeting. NEC meets in Feb/Mar and at National Convention (Aug).
5. Apply for EIN from the IRS. Establish a Post bank account.
6. Secure a meeting location. Hold elections.
7. Plan a community project, identify veteran events in the area, participate in Jewish veteran cemetery clean-ups, etc.
8. Record Post members' war stories. Submit them to local historical societies, as well as our sister organization, The National Museum of American Jewish Military History.
9. Share your Post activities and work on behalf of veterans through your local media, Facebook, Post website and our quarterly magazine, *The Jewish Veteran*.
10. Keep recruiting. Keep educating the public. Keep helping veterans. Keep the Jewish voice alive in military service!

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