



## WHY IS POST 117 GOING TO NON-SMOKING?

**Formation of a Home Association:** This action was triggered by the National and Dept of PA in response to the IRS as related to moving from a "House Committee," to a "Home Association." According to recent IRS actions, *only Veteran members have Canteen (bar) privileges* – not the Sons of the American Legion [SAL] or the Auxiliary [ALA]. They could only enter if a **Veteran member signs them in, as a Guest** and guests cannot purchase alcohol. Forming the Home Association allows for them to be card carrying "social members," and as such, they do not have to be signed in as a Guest, and they can purchase alcohol.

**The no smoking issue** was triggered by a Liquor Control Enforcement audit. In short, and in accordance with the Clean Air Act, if smoking would continue to be permitted, *ONLY VETERAN members* could be present - no guests or even SAL or ALA members could be present. Therefore, the entire building would have to be non-smoking. Otherwise, all the Post activities (children's Easter and Christmas parties, bingo, bands, parties, public events, and more) could not continue. Those are important sources of income for the Post, as are the patronage of SAL and ALA members. This was all addressed at the announced, scheduled Special Meeting on 25 February 2026, and LEGIONNAIRE (Veteran) members voted overwhelmingly, to implement no smoking, and to form a Home Association so that SAL, ALA members AND guests can continue being in the post.

**Re: Clean Air Act.**

**According to the National, Department of PA and Post 117 By-Laws, only Veteran members** can vote on Post related issues, so only Veteran members received a mailed announcement of the meeting. However, SAL and ALA members were permitted to attend the meeting and to voice their opinion on both actions; otherwise, they had no standing and no vote. To allow SAL and ALA members to enter the Post Canteen (bar), those Veteran members voted overwhelmingly to form a Home Association, and considering the Liquor Control Enforcement audit, and restrictions of the Clean Air Act, they also voted overwhelmingly to have a No-Smoking establishment. Both actions were each voted on by ballots, openly tallied with Veteran member witnesses, and duly memorialized in the meeting minutes.

Thank you for your interest.  
For God and country,

Bill McCoy  
Judge Advocate