CHAPTER 188
FRATERNAL SOCIETIES

188.01 Election of trustees. The members of any grand lodge or division or of any subordinate lodge or division acting under the authority of any grand lodge or division of Free Masons, Odd Fellows, Hermann’s Sons, or Sons of Temperance, Grand Army of the Republic, or of the State Grange, or any subordinate grange of the order of Patrons of Husbandry acting under the authority of a state or national grange, or of the State Woman’s Christian Temperance Union, or any county, district or local Woman’s Christian Temperance Union, or of any other society constituted in a manner generally similar to either of the foregoing, whether acting under the jurisdiction of a grand lodge or division or not, may assemble at their usual place of meeting and, in pursuance of the rules of their society, elect not less than 3 nor more than 9 of their number trustees to take care of the property, real and personal, belonging to the society and transact all the business relative to the investment and disposal of the society’s property.

History: 1997 a. 254.

188.02 Powers of trustees. The trustees of a society that is subject to this chapter:

(1) May have a common seal that may be altered at the trustee’s pleasure.
(2) Shall be considered a corporation for all purposes for which they are authorized to act.
(3) In pursuance of the rules and regulations of the society and in conformity with the rules and regulations of the grand lodge, division or society from which they derive their charter, may take possession of, manage, control, purchase, lease, receive, recover, hold, sell, convey, mortgage, demise and improve all of the property thereof or necessary therefor, real and personal, including all burial places belonging to the society, and may erect and keep in repair all buildings necessary therefor.
(4) May sue and be sued in all matters pertaining to the property and the debts, claims, demands and liabilities of the society, and the name in which they shall sue or be sued shall be “The trustees of ... (insert name of the grand lodge, lodge, division, grange or society of which they are trustees)”.  

History: 1997 a. 254.

188.03 In whom property to vest. All of the real and personal property that shall have been conveyed by devise, gift, grant, purchase or otherwise to any society that is subject to this chapter or to any person as trustee for the use of the society shall vest in the society’s trustees and their successors in office as fully as if originally conveyed to them, and shall be held by them and by their successors in trust for the society in the manner aforesaid.

History: 1997 a. 254.

188.04 Election, term and removal of trustees. (1) The trustees of a society that is subject to this chapter shall be elected annually at the time and place and in the manner prescribed by the rules or bylaws of the society. The trustees shall severally hold their offices for one year and until their successors are elected.

(2) Any society, at the first or any subsequent election, may classify its trustees so that the term of office for one-third of them shall expire each year. When so classified, the term of office of the trustees thereafter elected shall be 3 years and until their successors are elected. Any trustee may be removed in accordance with the rules or bylaws of the society, and all vacancies may be filled for the residue of the term.

(3) Any 2 trustees may call a meeting of the society, and a majority of them being convened may transact any business authorized to be done by them.

(4) Whenever any subordinate grange of the Patrons of Husbandry shall from any cause cease to exist, the trustees then in office shall immediately sell the property of the grange and divide the proceeds proportionally among its members.

History: 1979 c. 110 s. 60 (12); 1997 a. 254.

188.05 Council of granges. Any members of subordinate granges of the Patrons of Husbandry, not less than 5, located in any county or in adjoining counties may unite and be known and designated by some especial name as a council of granges of the Patrons of Husbandry, and may, as such, elect trustees as provided in this chapter. The trustees shall have all of the powers and privileges in respect to the property of the council of granges that are conferred by this chapter upon the trustees of a subordinate grange.

History: 1997 a. 254.

188.06 Powers of trustees. The powers conferred by this chapter upon the trustees of a subordinate grange or council of granges of the Patrons of Husbandry shall not be exercised until the chief officers of such grange or council of granges shall make and sign a certificate setting forth the name, number and date of organization of such grange or council and the number and names of its trustees first elected, and record the same in the office of the register of deeds in the county in which such grange or council is located; nor, in case of the state grange, until the like officers thereof shall have made, signed and filed a like certificate with the department of financial institutions.

History: 1993 a. 301; 1995 a. 27.

188.08 Corporate powers of American Legion. (1) Any post, county or district council or department of the American Legion organized in this state pursuant to the acts of congress passed September 16, 1919, and the acts amendatory thereto, and
any unit, county or district council, or department of the auxiliary of the American Legion organized in this state, shall have full corpora-
tive power to transact business in this state and to take over the
assets and liabilities of the existing posts, units, county or district
councils, or departments upon filing with the department of finan-
cial institutions a statement of its intent so to do and a full and com-
plete list of its duly elected officers, and shall by so doing become
a body corporate. No filing fee shall be charged by the department
department of financial institutions for so doing.

(2) All acts done by any post, unit, county or district council,
or department, so incorporated, or its constituted authorities, shall
be considered acts of said post, unit, county or district council, or
department, as a body corporate, and no personal liability shall be
attached to any member therefor.

(3) Sections 180.0203 and 181.0203 shall not apply to corpo-
ations organized under s. 188.08. In the execution of any convey-
ance or encumbrance by such corporations, the post, county or
district, or department commander, and any of similar officers, shall
have the powers and duties granted to presidents and secretaries
respectively under s. 706.03 (2) and (3). The provisions of this
section shall apply to all corporations incorporated hereunder
whether incorporated before or after May 14, 1937.

History: 1989 a. 303; 1995 a. 27; 1997 a. 79.

188.085 Changing names and dissolving units of the American Legion. Any post, county, district council, department or other unit of the American Legion or of the auxiliary of the American Legion which has become a body corporate under the provisions of s. 188.08 may change its name or dissolve by the adoption of a written resolution to that effect, by a vote of a majority of its members present at a meeting called for that purpose and by filing the same as herein provided. Such resolution, with a certificate thereto affixed, signed by the commander and adjutant, or like or similar officers, stating the facts, including the date of the adoption of such resolution, the number of members present at such meeting, and the number of members who voted for the adoption of the resolution, shall be forwarded to and filed with the department of financial institutions, and thereupon the name of such corporation shall be changed or the corporation shall cease to exist, as the case may be. In lieu of the foregoing method of dissolution, any corporation formed under s. 188.08 may be dissolved by the filing of a certificate with the department of financial institutions reciting that such corporation has ceased to be a unit of the American Legion or its auxiliary. Such certificate shall be signed by the national commander and national adjutant of the American Legion or by the state commander and state adjutant of the American Legion, department of Wisconsin. In the case of units of the auxiliary the certificates shall be signed by the national president and national secretary or the department president and department secretary. Corporations dissolved under this section shall continue to have corporate existence, subject to the limita-
tions on their activities under s. 181.1405. No fee shall be charged
by the department of financial institutions for such filing.

History: 1995 a. 27; 1997 a. 79.

188.09 Corporate powers of the Disabled American Veterans and affiliates. (1) Any chapter, county or district council, or department of the Disabled American Veterans, orga-
nized in this state pursuant to an act of congress of the United States, known as Public No. 186, seventy−second congress (H.R. 4738), and the acts amendatory thereto, any unit or department of
the auxiliary of the Disabled American Veterans in this state and
any dugout or state department of the National Order of Trench
Rats, their auxiliaries and affiliated organizations, or any depart-
ment thereof, organized in this state, shall have full corporate
power to transact business in this state and to take over the assets
and liabilities of the existing chapters, county or district councils,
department of Wisconsin, their auxiliaries and affiliated organiza-
tions, or any department thereof, upon filing with the department of
financial institutions a statement of its intent so to do, and a full
and complete list of its duly elected officers, and shall by so doing
become a body corporate. No filing fee shall be charged by the
department of financial institutions for so doing.

(2) All acts done by any department, chapter, county or district
council, unit, dugout and state department thereof, their auxili-
aries or affiliated organizations so incorporated, or its constituted
authorities, shall be considered acts of said department, chapter,
county or district council, unit, dugout or department thereof, their
auxiliaries or affiliated organizations, as a body corporate, and no
personal liability shall be attached to any member thereof.

(3) Sections 180.0203 and 181.0203 shall not apply to corpo-
ations organized under s. 188.09. In the execution of any convey-
ance or encumbrance by such corporations, the chapter or depart-
ment commander and the chapter or department adjutant, or like
or similar officers of any of the affiliated or auxiliary organiza-
tions, shall have the powers and duties granted to presidents and
secretaries respectively under s. 706.03 (2) and (3). The provi-
sions of this section shall apply to all corporations incorporated
hereunder whether incorporated before or after May 14, 1937.

History: 1989 a. 303; 1995 a. 27; 1997 a. 79.

188.095 Changing names and dissolving units of the Disabled American Veterans. Any chapter, county or district council, or department of the Disabled American Veterans, or other unit of the Disabled American Veterans, or of the auxiliaries of the Disabled American Veterans, which has become a body cor-
porate under s. 188.09, may, whenever its articles do not provide
the manner in which its name shall be changed or of its dissolution,
change its name or dissolve by the adoption of a written resolution
to that effect, by a vote of the majority of its members present at
a meeting called for that purpose, and by filing the same as herein
provided. A certificate thereto affixed, signed by the commander
and adjutant, or like or similar officers, stating the facts, including
the date of adoption of such resolution, the number of members
present at such meeting, and the number of members who voted for
the adoption of the resolution, shall be forwarded to and filed with
the department of financial institutions, and thereupon, the
name of such corporation shall be changed or the corporation shall
cease to exist as the case may be, except that in case of dissolution,
it shall continue to exist for the purpose of winding up its affairs.
No fee shall be charged by the department of financial institutions
for such filing.

History: 1995 a. 27.

188.10 Corporate powers of the Wisconsin Veterans Council. The Wisconsin Veterans Council shall have full corporate
power to transact business in this state upon filing with the
department of financial institutions a full and complete list of its
duly elected officers. The Wisconsin Veterans Council shall dur-
ing each succeeding year of its existence file with the department
of financial institutions on or before the first day of January of
each succeeding year thereafter a like list of its duly elected
officers. No filing fees shall be charged by the department of financial
institutions for so doing.

History: 1995 a. 27.

188.11 Corporate powers of the Veterans of Foreign Wars and affiliates. (1) Any post, county or district council, or department of the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States, organized in this state pursuant to an act of the seventy−fourth Congress of the United States, and the acts amendatory thereto, any unit or department of the Auxiliary of the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States in this state and any Pup−Tent
or Grand Pup−Tent of the Military Order of the Cooties, their aux-
ilaries and affiliated organizations, or any department thereof,
orGANIZED in this state, shall have full corporate power to transact
business in this state and to take over the assets and liabilities of
the existing posts, county or district councils, department of Wis-
consin, their auxiliaries and affiliated organizations, or any depart-
ment thereof, upon filing with the department of financial
institutions a statement of its intent so to do, and a full and com-
plete list of its duly elected officers, and shall by so doing
become a body corporate. No filing fee shall be charged by the
department of financial institutions for so doing.

History: 1995 a. 27.
officers, and shall by so doing become a body corporate. Provided, a duplicate of such statement and certificate of the department of financial institutions, showing the date when such statement was filed by the department of financial institutions, shall within 30 days of such filing be recorded by the register of deeds of the county in which such organization or its principal office is located, and until such recording no such organization shall have legal corporate existence. Notwithstanding such recording requirement any organization having acquired corporate existence prior to July 4, 1945, shall continue to have such corporate existence if it shall within 90 days after such date cause a duplicate or certified copy of its statement of intent and such certificate of the department of financial institutions to be recorded with the register of deeds of the county where it or its principal office is located. No filing fee shall be charged by the department of financial institutions for so doing.

(2) All acts done by any department, post, county or district council, unit, pup-tent, grand pup-tent, their auxiliaries or affiliated organizations so incorporated, or its constituted authorities, shall be considered acts of said department, post, county or district council, unit, pup-tent, grand pup-tent, their auxiliaries or affiliated organizations, as a body corporate, and no personal liability shall be attached to any member thereof.

(3) Sections 180.0203 and 181.0203 shall not apply to corporations organized under s. 188.11. In the execution of any conveyance or encumbrance by such corporations, the post or department commander and the post or department adjutant, or like or similar officers, shall have the powers and duties granted to presidents and secretaries respectively under s. 706.03 (2) and (3). The provisions of this section shall apply to all corporations incorporated hereunder whether incorporated before or after May 14, 1937.

History: 1989 a. 303; 1995 a. 27; 1997 a. 79.

188.15 Corporate powers of 32nd Division Red Arrow Clubs. (1) Any Red Arrow Club organized in this state and composed of members of the 32nd Division who served at any time from World War I or II, who served in the 32nd Division in the United States Army, or who served with the 32nd Infantry Brigade or the 32nd Infantry Brigade Combat Team, Wisconsin army national guard, in any conflict, deployment, peacekeeping operation, or domestic response if the member was deployed in a federal or state status or conducted training to carry out such missions, shall have full corporate power to transact business in this state and to take over the assets and liabilities of the existing clubs in this state, upon filing with the department of financial institutions a statement of its intent so to do, and a full and complete list of its duly elected officers, and shall by so doing become a body corporate. No filing fee shall be charged by the department of financial institutions for so doing.

(2) All acts done by any club, so incorporated, or its constituted authorities, shall be considered acts of such club, as a body corporate, and no personal liability shall be attached to any member thereof.

(3) Sections 180.0203 and 181.0203 shall not apply to corporations organized under s. 188.13. The provisions of this section shall apply to all corporations incorporated hereunder whether incorporated before or after March 28, 1939.


188.16 Corporate powers of the Military Order of the World Wars. Any chapter of the Military Order of the World Wars in this state shall have full corporate power to transact business in this state upon filing with the department of financial institutions a full and complete list of its duly elected officers, and shall by so doing become a body corporate. No filing fees shall be charged by the department of financial institutions for so doing.

History: 1995 a. 27.

188.17 Corporate powers of Marine Corps League and affiliates. (1) Any detachment or state department of the Marine Corps League, organized and existing in this state pursuant to the acts of congress passed August 4, 1937, and the acts amendatory thereto, and any unit of the auxiliary of the Marine Corps League organized in this state and recognized by the local detachment, shall have full corporate power to transact business in this state, to take over the assets and liabilities of the existing detachments, units or departments, upon filing with the department of financial institutions a statement of its intent so to do and a full and complete list of its duly elected officers, and shall by so doing become a body corporate. No filing fee shall be charged by the department of financial institutions for so doing.

(2) All acts done by any department, detachment, unit, their auxiliaries or affiliated organizations so incorporated, or its constituted authorities, shall be considered acts of said department, detachment, unit, their auxiliaries or affiliated organizations, as a body corporate, and no personal liability shall be attached to any member thereof.

(3) Sections 180.0203 and 181.0203 shall not apply to corporations organized under s. 188.15. In the execution of any conveyance or encumbrance by such corporations, the detachment or department commandant and the detachment or department adjutant or senior vice commandant, or like or similar officers, shall have the powers and duties granted to presidents and secretaries, respectively, under s. 706.03 (2) and (3). The provisions of this
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section shall apply to all corporations incorporated hereunder whether incorporated before or after June 4, 1941.

(4) Any department or detachment of the Marine Corps League in this state shall be incorporated under this section. Any corporation organized under this section is subordinate to the national Marine Corps League and is a corporation described under section 501 (c) (4) of the Internal Revenue Code that is exempt from taxation under section 501 (a) of the Internal Revenue Code.

(5) (a) By October 1 of each year, each detachment of the Marine Corps League in this state that is incorporated under this section, including any unit, auxiliary, or affiliate of such a detachment, shall file an annual report with the Marine Corps League, department of Wisconsin, as incorporated under this section, showing the elected officers of the detachment.

(b) The Marine Corps League, department of Wisconsin, shall file a consolidated annual report under s. 188.25 that includes information of the department and of each detachment that files a report under par. (a).


188.16 Corporate powers of the Military Order of the Purple Heart. (1) Any chapter, county or district council or department composed exclusively of persons who were awarded the medal known as the Purple Heart organized in this state pursuant to the constitution and bylaws of the national organization of the Military Order of the Purple Heart and any unit, county or district council or department of the auxiliary of the Military Order of the Purple Heart organized in this state shall have full corporate power to transact business in this state and to take over the assets and liabilities of the existing chapters, units, county or district councils, or departments upon filing with the department of financial institutions a statement of its intent so to do and a full and complete list of its duly elected officers and thereafter it shall become a body corporate. No filing fee shall be charged by the department of financial institutions for so doing.

(2) All acts done by any chapter, unit, county or district council or department, so incorporated, or its constituted authorities, shall be considered acts of such chapter, unit, county or district council or department, as a corporate body, and no personal liability shall be attached to any member thereof.

(3) Sections 180.0203 and 181.0203 shall not apply to corporations organized under this section. In the execution of any conveyance or encumbrance by such corporations, the chapter, county or district council, or department commander, and the chapter, county or district council, or department adjutant, or like or similar officers, shall have the powers and duties granted to presidents and secretaries respectively under s. 706.03 (2) and (3). The provisions of subs. (1) and (2) shall apply to all corporations incorporated hereunder whether incorporated before or after March 28, 1943.

(4) Any chapter, county, district council, department or other unit of the Military Order of the Purple Heart or of the auxiliary of the Military Order of the Purple Heart which has become a body corporate under the provisions of this section may change its name or dissolve by the adoption of a written resolution to that effect, by a vote of a majority of its members present at a meeting called for that purpose and by filing the same as herein provided. Such resolution, with a certificate thereto affixed, signed by the commander and adjutant, or like or similar officers, stating the facts, including the date of the adoption of such resolution, the number of members present at such meeting, and the number of members who voted for the adoption of the resolution, shall be forwarded to and filed with the department of financial institutions, and thereupon the name of such corporation shall be changed or the corporation shall cease to exist, as the case may be, except that in case of dissolution it shall continue to exist for the purpose of winding up its affairs. No fee shall be charged by the department of financial institutions for such filing.

History: 1989 a. 303; 1995 a. 27; 1997 a. 79.

188.17 Corporate powers of Navy Club. (1) Any unit, department or auxiliary of the Navy Club of the United States of America organized in this state under 36 USC 140 to 140c shall have full corporate power to transact business in this state and to take over the assets and liabilities of existing navy clubs and navy club auxiliaries upon filing with the department of financial institutions a statement of its intent so to do and a full and complete list of its duly elected officers and shall by so doing become a body corporate. No filing fee shall be charged by the department of financial institutions for so doing.

(2) All acts done by any such corporation or its constituted authorities shall be considered acts of said corporation as a body corporate and no personal liability shall be attached to any member thereof.

(3) Sections 180.0203 and 181.0203 shall not apply to corporations organized under s. 188.17. In the execution of any conveyance or encumbrance by such corporation the commandant and the ship’s writer, or like or similar officers, shall have the powers and duties granted to presidents and secretaries respectively under s. 706.03 (2) and (3). The provisions of this section shall apply to all corporations incorporated hereunder whether incorporated before or after April 8, 1943.


188.18 Corporate powers of Reserve Officers Association. (1) The department of Wisconsin and any chapter or unit of the Reserve Officers Association of the United States, organized in this state pursuant to the constitution, bylaws and regulations of such association or such department, shall have full corporate power to transact business in this state and to take over the assets and liabilities of the existing department, chapters or other units upon filing with the department of financial institutions, a statement of its intention so to do, its name, location and a full and complete list of its duly elected officers, and by so doing shall become a body corporate. No filing fees shall be charged by the department of financial institutions for so doing.

(2) All acts done by the department or any chapter or other unit so incorporated or its constituted authorities shall be considered acts of such department, chapter or other unit as a body corporate and no personal liability shall be attached to any member thereof. The provisions of ss. 180.0203 and 181.0203 shall not apply to corporations organized under this section.

(3) Any department, chapter or other unit which has become a body corporate under the provisions of this section, whenever its constitution or bylaws do not provide the manner in which its name shall be changed or the dissolution effected, may change its name or dissolve by a majority vote of its members at a meeting called for that purpose. A certificate signed by the president and secretary stating the facts shall be filed with the department of financial institutions, and thereupon the name shall be changed or the corporation shall cease to exist except for the purpose of winding up its affairs. No filing fee shall be charged for such filing.

History: 1989 a. 303; 1995 a. 27; 1997 a. 79.

188.19 Corporate powers of American Veterans of World War II (AMVETS). (1) Any post, county, district council, and department of the American Veterans of World War II (AMVETS) organized in this state pursuant to the acts of congress passed July 23, 1947 and the acts amendatory thereto, and any unit, county or district council, and department of the auxiliary of the American Veterans of World War II (AMVETS) organized in this state, shall have full corporate power to transact business in this state and to take over the assets and liabilities of the existing posts, units, county or district councils, or departments upon filing with the department of financial institutions a statement of its intent so to do, and a full and complete list of its duly elected officers, and shall by so doing become a body corporate. No filing fee shall be charged by the department of financial institutions.

(2) All acts done by any post, unit, county or district council, or department so incorporated, or its constituted authorities, shall be considered acts of said post, unit, county or district council, or...
department, as a body corporate, and no personal liability shall be
attached to any member thereof.
(3) Sections 180.0203 and 181.0203 shall not apply to corpo-
5 ratsions organized under s. 188.19. In the execution of any convey-
ance or encumbrance by such corporations, the post, county or
district, or department commander, or the post, county or district
council, or department adjutant or like or similar officers, shall
have the powers and duties granted to presidents and secretaries
respectively under s. 706.03 (2) and (3).

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188.20 Changing names and dissolving units. Any
post, county, district council, department or other unit of the
American Veterans of World War II (AMVETS) or of the auxil-
iary of the American Veterans of World War II (AMVETS) which
has become a body corporate under the provisions of s. 188.19
may change its name or dissolve by the adoption of a written reso-
lution to that effect by a vote of a majority of its members present
at a meeting called for that purpose and by filing the same as herein
provided. Such resolution, with a certificate thereto affixed,
signed by the commander and adjutant, or like or similar officers,
stating the fact, including the date of the adoption of such resolu-
tion, the number of members present at such meeting, and the
number of members who voted for the adoption of the resolution,
shall be forwarded to and filed with the department of financial
institutions, and thereupon the name of such corporation shall be
changed or the corporation shall cease to exist, as the case may be.
Or any corporation formed under s. 188.19 may be dissolved by the
filing of a certificate in the office of the department of financial
institutions reciting that such corporation has ceased to be a unit
of the American Veterans of World War II (AMVETS) auxiliary.
Such certificate shall be signed by the national commander and
national adjutant of the American Veterans of World War II
(AMVETS) or by the state commander and state adjutant of the
American Veterans of World War II (AMVETS) department of
Wisconsin. In the case of units of an auxiliary the certificate
shall be signed by the national president and national secretary or
the department president and department secretary. Corporations
dissolved under this section shall continue to have corporate exis-
tence, subject to the limitations on their activities under s.
181.1405. No fee shall be charged by the department of financial
institutions for such filing.
History: 1995 a. 27, 1997 a. 79.

188.21 Corporate powers of the Veterans of World
War I of the U.S.A., Inc. (1) The department of Wisconsin and any
post, unit, barracks, department or auxiliary of the American Vet-
erans of World War I of the U.S.A., Inc. organized in this state pur-
suant to the acts of congress passed July 18, 1958 (P.L. 85—530)
(72 Stats. at Large pp. 370—375) and the acts amendatory thereto,
shall have full corporate power to transact business in this state
and to take over the assets and liabilities of the existing department
of Wisconsin, posts, barracks, units, departments or auxiliaries of the
Veterans of World War I of the U.S.A., Inc. upon filing with the
department of financial institutions a statement of its intent so
to do, and a full and complete list of its duly elected officers, and
shall by so doing become a body corporate. No filing fee shall be
charged by the department of financial institutions.
(2) All acts done by the department of Wisconsin or by any
post, barracks, unit, department or auxiliary so incorporated, or its
constituted authorities, shall be considered acts of said department
of Wisconsin, post, unit, department or auxiliary, as a body corpo-
rate, and no personal liability shall be attached to any member
thereof.
(3) Sections 180.0203 and 181.0203 shall not apply to corpo-

188.22 Corporate powers of the Jewish War Veterans.
(1) Any post, county or district council or department of the Jew-
ish War Veterans organized in this state pursuant to the constitu-
tion, bylaws and rules and regulations of said organization shall
have full corporate powers to transact business in this state and to
take over the assets and liabilities of the existing posts, units,
county or district councils or departments upon filing with the
department of financial institutions a statement of its intent to do
so and a full and complete list of its duly elected officers. By so
doing such organization shall become a body corporate. No filing
fee shall be charged by the department of financial institutions.
(2) All acts done by any post, unit, county or district council
or department so incorporated or its constituted authorities shall
be considered acts of said post, unit, county or district council or
department as a body corporate and no personal liability shall
attach to any member thereof.
(3) Sections 180.0203 and 181.0203 shall not apply to corpo-

188.23 Corporate powers of the Polish Legion of
American Veterans. (1) Any post, county or district council or
department of the Polish Legion of American Veterans
(P.L.A.V.) organized in this state pursuant to the constitution,
bylaws and rules and regulations of said organization, and any
unit, county or district council or department of the auxiliary of the
Polish Legion of American Veterans, shall have full corporate
powers to transact business in this state and to take over the assets
and liabilities of the existing posts, units, county or district coun-
cils or departments upon filing with the department of financial
institutions a statement of its intent to do so and a full and complete
list of its duly elected officers. By so doing such organization shall
become a body corporate. No filing fee shall be charged by the
department of financial institutions.
(2) All acts done by any post, unit, county or district council
or department so incorporated or its constituted authorities shall
be considered acts of said post, unit, county or district council or
department as a body corporate and no personal liability shall
attach to any member thereof.
(3) Sections 180.0203 and 181.0203 shall not apply to corpo-

188.235 Corporate powers of the Army and Navy
Union of the U.S.A. (1) Any post, county or district council or
department of the Army and Navy Union of the U.S.A. orga-
nized in this state pursuant to the constitution, bylaws and rules
and regulations of said organization shall have full corporate pow-
ers to transact business in this state and to take over the assets
and liabilities of the existing posts, units, county or district councils
or departments upon filing with the department of financial institu-
tions a statement of its intent to do so and a full and complete list
of its duly elected officers. By so doing such organization shall
become a body corporate. No filing fee shall be charged by the
department of financial institutions.

(2) All acts done by any post, unit, county or district council
or department so incorporated or its constituted authorities shall
be considered acts of said post, unit, county or district council
or department as a body corporate and no personal liability shall
attach to any member thereof.

(3) Sections 180.0203 and 181.0203 shall not apply to corpo-
rations organized under this section. In the execution of any con-
voyance or encumbrance by such corporation the post, county or
district or department commander and the post, county or district
council or department adjutant, or like or similar officers, shall
have the powers and duties granted to presidents and secretaries
respectively under s. 706.03 (2) and (3). This section shall apply
to all corporations incorporated hereunder whether incorporated
before or after May 14, 1937.

History: 1989 a. 303; 1995 a. 27; 1997 a. 79.

188.25 Annual reports of veterans’ organizations.
Subject to s. 188.15 (5), the state organization of any veterans’
society or society affiliate which has a unit incorporated under this
chapter shall file with the department of financial institutions on
or before January 1 an annual report showing the elected officers
of the state organization. No filing fee shall be charged. The secre-
tary of any such state organization shall on request furnish the
department of financial institutions information about subordi-
nate units. Subject to s. 188.15 (5), if any veterans’ society or soci-
ety affiliate has no state organization each unit incorporated under
this chapter shall file an annual report of the elected officers with
the department of financial institutions on or before January 1.

History: 1995 a. 27; 2013 a. 102.

188.26 Veterans; corporations.
Whenever any corpora-
tion is formed under ch. 180 or 181 or this chapter for the purpose
of assisting any veteran, as defined in s. 45.01 (12), or a person
under s. 45.51 (2) (a) 2., or operating social clubs in which the
name “veteran” appears, the department of financial institutions
shall investigate the same to ascertain the character thereof, and
whether or not the same has been procured by fraudulent represen-
tation or concealment of any material fact relating to such veter-
an’s name, purpose, membership, organization, management or
control or other material fact. If the department of financial insti-
tutions so finds, such findings, misrepresentation or concealment
shall be reported to the attorney general, and the attorney general
shall bring an action to vacate or annul the corporate charter.

History: 1979 c. 32 s. 92 (6); 1983 a. 430; 1995 a. 27, 400; 2005 a. 22.