

TAX GUIDE

# Veterans'

*Organizations*



Department of the Treasury  
**Internal Revenue Service**

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## PREFACE

THIS TAX GUIDE FOR VETERANS' ORGANIZATIONS IS INTENDED TO HELP VETERANS' ORGANIZATIONS THAT ARE RECOGNIZED AS TAX-EXEMPT UNDER SECTION 501(C) OF THE INTERNAL REVENUE CODE OR THAT ARE CONSIDERING APPLYING FOR RECOGNITION OF TAX-EXEMPTION. THE PUBLICATION IS INTENDED TO ASSIST IN HELPING VETERANS' ORGANIZATIONS UNDERSTAND AND MEET THEIR TAX RESPONSIBILITIES.

IF YOU HAVE QUESTIONS ABOUT ISSUES RAISED IN THIS PUBLICATION OR ABOUT TAX-EXEMPTION IN GENERAL, PLEASE CONTACT US AT OUR TOLL-FREE CUSTOMER SERVICE NUMBER - 877-829-5500.

TO ASSIST US IN OUR GOAL OF PROVIDING EFFECTIVE, QUALITY, AND CURRENT INFORMATION, WE WOULD APPRECIATE YOUR INPUT, COMMENTS, AND SUGGESTIONS ON THIS PUBLICATION. YOUR WRITTEN COMMENTS MAY BE SENT TO:

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**TAX GUIDE**

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# Veterans'

*Organizations*

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## INTRODUCTION

Veterans' organizations occupy a special place in the world of exempt organizations. Not only are most veterans' organizations exempt from tax, contributions to them may be deductible, and some are permitted to set aside amounts that are used to provide insurance benefits for members. This combination - tax-exempt status, deductibility of contributions and the ability to pay benefits to members - is relatively rare and is evidence of Congress's intent to provide special tax treatment for veterans' organizations. When coupled with the ability to engage in both lobbying activities and political activities, it is fair to say that veterans' organizations are unique in

the tax-exempt sector.

Many questions arise in connection with the tax status of veterans' organizations. This publication provides general information relating to the federal tax rules and Internal Revenue Service ("IRS") procedures to help veterans' organizations understand their responsibilities within the federal tax system.

This publication contains no new rules or regulations. It is simply a convenient "one-stop" collection of existing provisions of tax law that may relate to, or impact on, veterans' organizations.

## BACKGROUND

Before the enactment of IRC 501(c)(19) on August 29, 1972 (Public Law 92-418, 86 Stat. 656, reproduced in 1972-2 C.B. 675), war veterans' organizations were grouped together with all other veterans' organizations and recognized as exempt under IRC 501(c)(4) as social welfare organizations. Their subsidiaries, which were formed to maintain and operate their social facilities, were often recognized as exempt social clubs under IRC 501(c)(7). In addition to their other activities, some veterans' organizations provided one or more types of insurance for their members and their members' dependents.

The insurance activity of veterans' organizations was not taxed before passage of the Tax Reform Act of 1969. The unrelated business income tax ("UBIT") did not apply to social welfare organizations and social clubs. The 1969 Act extended UBIT to all exempt organizations. To prevent taxation of the insurance activities, IRC 501(c)(19) and 512(a)(4) were enacted in 1972. An IRC 501(c)(19) organization's purposes could include programs involving Americanism, youth activities, community activities and information, and educational programs relating to national security and foreign affairs. The Act also exempted from tax income received by war

veterans' organizations from providing certain insurance benefits for their members or the dependents of their members.

Because the ranks of war veterans were thinning, and many organizations were at risk of losing their tax-exempt status due to waning membership, Congress amended IRC 501(c)(19) on September 3, 1982 (Public Law 97-248, 96 Stat. 640), by deleting the requirement that 75 percent of the members be war veterans. War veterans' organizations are described in IRC 170(c)(3) and are discussed in the chapter on contributions in this publication. The current requirement (that 75 percent of the members be veterans) is much broader.

Today, depending on their organization and purposes, veterans' organizations may be recognized as tax-exempt under the following sections of the Internal Revenue Code:

501(c)(19)  
501(c)(4)  
501(c)(7)  
501(c)(8)  
501(c)(10)  
501(c)(23)  
501(c)(2)



**IRC 501(c)(19)**  
**VETERANS' ORGANIZATIONS**

*IRC 501(c)(19) applies only to veterans' organizations and their related auxiliaries. These organizations may conduct a broad range of activities without jeopardizing their tax-exempt status. This chapter provides answers to the questions most often asked regarding membership, exempt activities, auxiliaries, and trusts/foundations.*

## **A. MEMBERSHIP REQUIREMENTS**

At least 75% of the members must be past or present members of the Armed Forces of the United States (veterans). Substantially all of the other members must be:

- A. cadets or
- B. spouses, widows, or widowers of veterans or cadets.

### **What does “substantially all” mean?**

“Substantially all” means 90%. Of the 25% of the members that do not have to be veterans, 90% have to be cadets, or spouses, etc. **Only 2.5% of the organization's total membership may consist of individuals who are not veterans, cadets, or spouses, widows, or widowers of these individuals.**

**Example:** Post A has 1,000 members - 750 veterans, 225 spouses, and 25 members of the general public. Post A satisfies the membership requirements of IRC 501(c)(19) because at least 75% of its membership consists of veterans (750 of the 1,000 members), and substantially all of its other members are cadets or spouses, widows or widowers of members or cadets (225). Only 2.5% of Post A's membership is made up of members of the general public.

### **Who are considered past or present “members of the Armed Forces?”**

Veterans are defined as present or former members of the United States Armed Forces. The term “military or naval forces of the United States” and the term “Armed Forces of the United States” each includes all regular and reserve components of the uniformed services which are subject to the jurisdiction of the Secretary of Defense, the Secretary of the Army, the Secretary of the Navy, or the Secretary of the Air Force. Each term also includes the Coast Guard.

Members who are on active duty or are honorably separated from the National Guard and the Reserve Forces are also considered veterans.

### **Will a post jeopardize its tax-exempt status by establishing a class of membership for “social members” or “friends of a veterans' post?”**

A post may permit “social members” or “friends” full membership privileges without jeopardizing its exempt status only if it limits the number of such members to **no more than 2.5%** of its total membership. If the post fails to meet the membership requirements contained in IRC 501(c)(19), it will no longer qualify for exemption.

**Will a post jeopardize its tax-exempt status by issuing memberships to sons, daughters and other related individuals (non-veterans) of member-veterans?**

The post may include non-veteran sons, daughters and other related individuals as part of its membership, so long as they, along with any other non-veteran class of membership, make up **no more than 2.5%** of the post's total membership. A post exceeding this percentage might consider forming an auxiliary unit.

## **B. AUXILIARIES**

Auxiliary units or societies may also qualify for exemption under IRC 501(c)(19). An auxiliary must be separately organized and have a separate Employer Identification Number (EIN) or its members will be considered members of the post. These units are formed to support a post already recognized as tax-exempt under IRC 501(c)(19).

If the post is not exempt under IRC 501(c)(19), the auxiliary cannot qualify for tax-exemption under IRC 501(c)(19).

**What are the exemption requirements for auxiliaries?**

An auxiliary unit or society must:

- A. be affiliated with, and organized in accordance with the bylaws and regulations of a veterans' organization already exempt under IRC 501(c)(19);
- B. be organized in the United States or any of its possessions;
- C. **have members that are either members of the IRC 501(c)(19) organization, spouses of those members, or related to those members within two degrees of consanguinity. This includes parents, grandparents, brothers, sisters and grandchildren, but does not include nieces or nephews of the member; and**
- D. no part of the net earnings may inure to the benefit of any private shareholder or individual.

**Do auxiliaries have to apply for tax-exempt status under IRC 501(c)(19)?**

**YES.** An auxiliary unit or society, if it satisfies the exemption requirements listed above, may apply for recognition of exemption by submitting Application Form 1024.

**Do auxiliaries have to be incorporated?**

**NO.** IRC 501(c)(19) requires that the unit or society be organized in the United States or any of its possessions. Auxiliaries may be organized as unincorporated associations or as corporations.

**Can a youth organization sponsored by an exempt post and whose participants are all under the age of eighteen, qualify for exemption under IRC 501(c)(19)?**

If the youth unit is a separate legal entity, meets the requirements for an auxiliary unit under the Code and regulations, and submits an exemption application, it may qualify for recognition of exemption. If the unit does not meet the membership requirements for an auxiliary, it cannot qualify for exemption under IRC 501(c)(19) unless it is an organization of cadets. Youth units may qualify for exemption under other sections of the Code.

**May an auxiliary be recognized as tax-exempt under a Code section other than IRC 501(c)(19)?**

**YES.** An auxiliary may qualify for recognition of exemption under IRC 501(c)(3), (4), (7), (8), or (10). A determination can be made only by considering all of the organization's operations and activities.

**Is there any action an auxiliary should take before applying for recognition of exemption?**

**YES.** An auxiliary should contact its central organization to determine if it has received a group ruling covering its subordinate auxiliaries. If the auxiliary has already been included in the group ruling or the central organization is willing to include it in the future, there may be no need for a separate application.





## C. TRUST OR FOUNDATION ISSUES

Congress originally enacted IRC 501(c)(19) to allow war veterans' organizations to continue providing life, sick, accident, or health insurance benefits for their members and their members' dependents. All IRC 501(c)(19) organizations are now permitted to provide these benefits. Most veterans' organizations do not provide these benefits directly; they contract out to existing public insurance companies. The administration of the insurance programs are often conducted by trusts or foundations created for this specific purpose. These organizations may also qualify for exemption under IRC 501(c)(19). Should a veterans' organization wish to provide the insurance benefits directly, it may do so through the creation of insurance set-asides.

### **What are the requirements for a trust or foundation to be exempt under IRC 501(c)(19)?**

A trust or foundation must have a legal existence and be organized exclusively for IRC 501(c)(19) purposes. Its income must be used only to fund a veterans' organization, the charitable purposes listed in IRC 170(c)(4), or for an insurance set-aside. If its funds are used for charitable purposes, the trust or foundation must provide in its organizing document that upon dissolution its funds will continue to be dedicated to charity. A trust or foundation cannot unreasonably accumulate income. Unless the trust or foundation is an insurance set-aside, a substantial portion of the income must actually be distributed each year.

### **What is an insurance set-aside?**

An IRC 501(c)(19) organization may create an insurance set-aside without creating a separate trust or foundation. A restricted fund can be created, if adequate records are kept describing the amounts and designated purposes of the funds set aside.

Amounts paid by members for insurance benefits and set aside are not subject to tax as unrelated business income. To be considered set aside, the funds must be kept separate from the organization's general funds and accounts. A set-aside is limited to amounts reasonably necessary to provide insurance benefits which are, in fact, provided, and must be used solely

for paying those benefits to the members or for administering the insurance program. Excess trust funds from an experience gain may be used for IRC 170(c)(4) purposes or for the reasonable costs of distributing funds for such purposes.

## D. EXEMPT ACTIVITIES

IRC 501(c)(19) veterans' organizations have been permitted broad purposes by Congress. They promote Americanism, sponsor youth activities, provide color guards, conduct patriotic ceremonies and functions, and conduct community activities. Many also conduct social activities among their members. The following questions and answers provide guidance to help you determine what activities are appropriate for your organization.

### **Are the following activities consistent with the requirements for exemption:**

- A. reviewing proposed legislation that may affect veterans, at both the federal and state levels,
- B. testifying before a governmental body with respect to such legislation, and
- C. informing members about the proposed legislation?

**YES.** Representing veterans before legislative bodies concerning legislation that affects veterans as a class has historically been a function of veterans' organizations. Such organizations are uniquely positioned to provide information regarding proposed legislation to both veterans and the legislature.

### **What types of activities would be considered promoting social welfare of the community for purposes of IRC 501(c)(19)?**

The following are examples of some of the activities conducted by veterans' organizations that are promoting social welfare:

**Example 1:** Sponsoring youth activities whether or not the activity is limited to the members' children. Buying equipment and uniforms for a youth athletic team is an appropriate post activity.

**Example 2:** Allowing other community organizations such as the Lions Club, a public school organization, or a community group to use the post facility without charge.

**Example 3:** Sponsoring the Boy Scouts, Girl Scouts, or other youth units of the post, and providing scholarships for students.

**Example 4:** Making donations to charities described in IRC 501(c)(3), such as hospitals, the Red Cross, and the local Community Chest.

**Example 5:** Visiting sick or hospitalized members, veterans and their families.

**When a post sponsors a Boy or Girl Scout or other youth troop, must the Scoutmaster or youth leader be a member of the post?**

**NO.**

**What types of social activities are appropriate for an IRC 501(c)(19) organization?**

Social and recreational activities are exempt activities if conducted among post members. Such activities may include:

- the operation of a bar and/or restaurant,
- gambling, and
- dinners and dances.

**Is it appropriate for a post to sponsor joint social and recreational activities with its officially recognized auxiliary?**

**YES.** The auxiliary units and societies that have been recognized as tax-exempt under IRC 501(c)(19) support the purposes and activities of the post. Including their members in the social and recreational activities of the post also furthers the purposes of the post.

# What are IRC 501(c)(19) purposes?

IRC 501(c)(19) purposes are broad, but not unlimited. Appropriate purposes are:

- A. promoting the social welfare of the community,
- B. assisting needy and disabled veterans, widows, or orphans of deceased veterans,
- C. providing entertainment, care and assistance to hospitalized veterans or members of the Armed Forces of the United States,
- D. perpetuating the memory of veterans and comforting their survivors,
- E. conducting programs for religious, charitable, scientific, literary, or educational purposes,
- F. sponsoring or participating in patriotic activities,
- G. providing insurance benefits to members or members' dependents, and
- H. providing social and recreational activities for members.

***If each post member must sell ten tickets to a post's weekly dance and/or dinner to non-members, would the event be an exempt activity?***

**NO.** Recreational activities open to the general public do not further IRC 501(c)(19) purposes. When dinner/dances, coupled with other nonexempt activities, are the primary activities of the post, they adversely affect exemption. Income from activities open to the general public may be taxable. [See Chapter 7 on UBIT ]

***Can the post operate bingo, pull-tabs, and slot machines for its own members and guests without jeopardizing its tax- exempt status?***

**YES.** Gambling provides recreation for many people. If the gambling is limited to members of the post and their guests (guests must not only be invited by a member, but must have all of their expenses paid by the member), it is an acceptable activity for an IRC 501(c)(19) organization. If the gambling activity is open to the general public, such activity might jeopardize the organization's exempt status or result in the income being taxable as unrelated business income.

[See Chapter 7 on UBIT and Publication 3079, *Gaming Publication for Tax-Exempt Organizations.*]

***Can a post operate a bar and/or restaurant in its facility?***

**YES.** A bar and restaurant provide a setting for social and recreational activities permissible under IRC 501(c)(19). The use of a bar and/or restaurant must be limited to members of the organization and members of the auxiliary units and their guests (guests must be invited by the member and all expenses must be paid by the member). If these facilities are open to the general public, the income may be subject to tax and/or affect exempt status. See Chapter 7 on UBIT ]

*Prior to the enactment of IRC 501(c)(19), veterans' organizations were generally recognized as tax-exempt under IRC 501(c)(4) because their primary activities promoted the social welfare of the community. There are no membership requirements under IRC 501(c)(4). Exemption is based solely on the type of activities conducted. Contributions to an IRC 501(c)(4) organization are generally not tax deductible. [See Chapter 8 on Contributions] This Chapter answers frequently asked questions about tax-exempt status under IRC 501(c)(4).*

## A. EXEMPT STATUS

An IRC 501(c)(4) veterans' organization must be organized as a not-for-profit organization and operated exclusively for social welfare purposes. Its primary activities must promote the common good and general welfare of the people of the community. Social welfare activities do not include social, political, or business activities. The net earnings of an IRC 501(c)(4) organization may not be used for private purposes or to benefit private individuals.

### **Should an IRC 501(c)(4) veterans' organization ask to be reclassified under IRC 501(c)(19)?**

It depends. An organization that satisfies the membership requirements under IRC 501(c)(19) should consider asking to be classified under that section since it permits a broader range of activities. For example, operating a bar and dining facility for members are activities that do not directly promote the social welfare of the community because they are social and recreational in nature but are permissible activities under IRC 501(c)(19). An organization that does not engage in social activities need not seek a reclassification. An organization is well advised to consider the extent of its social and business activities when initially applying for tax-exemption.

### **Will adding a new category of members (social or friends of the post) adversely affect exemption?**

**NO.** Generally, the number or type of members will not affect exemption under IRC 501(c)(4). Exemption under IRC 501(c)(4) is based solely on the type of activities conducted. Membership requirements can be set by the post or its central organization and include any category of members that is allowed by its Charter.

### **May a central veterans' organization exempt under IRC 501(c)(19) have subordinate posts exempt under IRC 501(c)(4)?**

**YES, AND VICE VERSA.** All subordinates under a group ruling, however, must be exempt under the same section of the Code. For example, the parent may be exempt under IRC 501(c)(4) and list all of its IRC 501(c)(19) subordinate posts on its group ruling. The group ruling may not include subordinate organizations exempt under any other section of the Code. Such organizations may apply for tax-exemption on their own.

**May a central veterans' organization have subordinates that are not tax-exempt?**

**YES.**

**May an auxiliary unit be exempt under IRC 501(c)(19) if it supports a post that is exempt under IRC 501(c)(4)?**

**NO.** IRC 501(c)(19) provides exemption only for auxiliary units that support IRC 501(c)(19) posts. Auxiliary units supporting an IRC 501(c)(4) post may qualify for exemption under IRC 501(c)(4) by engaging primarily in activities that directly promote the social welfare of the people of the community.

**Are the auxiliary's members considered post members under IRC 501(c)(4) if the auxiliary is separately chartered but uses the post's Employer Identification Number (EIN)?**

**YES.** When the auxiliary is using the post EIN, it is acting as an integral part of the post and its members are considered members of the post. Exemption under IRC 501(c)(4) is based on an organization's primary activity, not the make-up of its membership. Auxiliary membership, when considered part of the post, could adversely affect deductibility of contributions. [See Chapter 8 on Contributions]

## **B. EXEMPT ACTIVITIES**

**What type of activities are appropriate under IRC 501(c)(4)?**

Social welfare activities include promoting, sponsoring and participating in patriotic activities such as Fourth of July parades, school Flag Day ceremonies and Junior ROTC groups. Assisting needy and disabled veterans, widows, or orphans of deceased veterans as well as conducting hospital visits, driving the sick and disabled to the hospital or to medical facilities, recycling, adopting a road for clean up purposes, and sponsoring a youth baseball team, or other youth groups, are also social welfare activities. The social welfare activities listed above are not exclusive.

Social welfare activities do not include social, business or political activities.

**Is operating a bar, restaurant, or game room for members an exempt activity?**

**NO.** Operating a bar, restaurant or game room is not a social welfare purpose. Such activities are social and recreational and may be considered business activities. They do not benefit the community as a whole. If activities that do not further social welfare become an organization's primary activities, they may jeopardize tax-exemption.

*IRC 501(c)(4) Exemption is based  
on Activity not Membership*



***If a post has “bar and grill members” who are not veterans, would the bar and grill operation have an adverse impact on exempt status?***

Membership is not a factor under IRC 501(c)(4). The operation of the bar is a business activity. The income from this activity may be subject to the tax on unrelated business income. [See Chapter 7 on UBIT] If this activity is the primary activity, the organization will not qualify for exemption under IRC 501(c)(4).

***If each post member sells 10 tickets to a weekly dance and/or dinner, would the dance and/or dinner be an exempt activity?***

**NO.** Social dinners and dances, whether limited to members or open to the public for a fee, are not exempt activities under IRC 501(c)(4). Such activities will preclude exemption if they are the post’s primary activities. The income may also be taxable. [See Chapter 7 on UBIT]

***Must participants in post sponsored activities, such as a post baseball team, be members of the post?***

**NO.** There is no requirement that only members of a post participate in a post sponsored activity as long as the activity promotes social welfare. The main issue is whether the activity is one that is appropriate for an organization described in IRC 501(c)(4).

*Example:* sponsoring an adult recreational baseball team open to the community and on which some of the post members play would further the exempt purposes of an IRC 501(c)(4) post. So would sponsoring a 4th of July parade for the benefit of the community.

***Is there any difference in the treatment by the IRS of the following youth programs sponsored by a national IRC 501(c)(4) veterans’ organization and/or its posts: (A) post baseball teams; (B) Boy Scout Troops; (C) Boys’ and Girls’ State and Nation; and (D) youth units?***

**NO.** Providing educational and recreational activities for youth are permissible social welfare activities.

***Would allowing other organizations such as Lions Clubs, school organizations, or community groups to use the post facility without charge be an exempt activity?***

**YES.** Providing the use of the facility without charge or for actual cost to other community organizations would be a social welfare activity. Charging commercial rents or providing commercial services, such as food and beverage service, might result in the income being subject to the unrelated business income tax. [See Chapter 7 on UBIT]

***Is the operation of a thrift store an exempt activity?***

**NO.** This would be an unrelated activity and subject to UBIT unless it meets one of the UBIT exceptions such as volunteer labor or donated merchandise. [See Chapter 7 on UBIT] If operating a thrift shop is an organization’s primary activity, it will not qualify for exemption under IRC 501(c)(4).

***Is reviewing proposed legislation that may affect veterans, at both the federal and state levels, and testifying before a governmental body as to the legislation and also informing members about the proposed legislation an exempt activity under IRC 501(c)(4)?***

**YES.** Representing veterans before legislative bodies concerning legislation that affects veterans as a class is considered a social welfare activity under IRC 501(c)(4).

***May an IRC 501(c)(4) veterans’ organization rate candidates for public office and inform its members as to how the candidates voted on veterans’ issues?***

Rating candidates in this manner is participating in a political campaign on behalf of or in opposition to a political candidate. This type of political activity does not promote social welfare. An IRC 501(c)(4) organization may engage in political activity so long as, when coupled with any other nonexempt activities, it is not the organization’s primary activity.

If the organization does intervene in a political campaign, certain political expenditures may be taxable.



**May an IRC 501(c)(4) veterans' organization encourage greater participation in governmental and political affairs by its members?**

**YES.** For example, developing and distributing educational material designed to create greater interest in government and politics and conducting workshops and seminars on the technical aspects of the political system is a permissible activity. Promoting fair campaign practices through nonpartisan analysis, study, or research and making the results available to the public is also promoting social welfare.

**Will receiving substantial funding from bingo games open to the general public adversely affect exemption under IRC 501(c)(4)?**

It depends. Sponsoring bingo games open to the general public is a commercial activity and does not promote social welfare. However, an organization whose primary activities do promote social welfare may sponsor bingo games, or other charitable gaming, as a way of raising funds. The IRS will look at all the facts and circumstances when determining what activities are primary. The amount of support raised from an activity is not the only factor considered. [See Publication 3079 for additional information regarding gambling.]

# What can an IRC 501(c)(4) veterans' organization do to show that its primary activities promote social welfare?

The best way to establish an organization's primary activities is through its books and records. Keep adequate records of each activity.

Recording the amount of time, money, and manpower spent in each activity, including fund raising activities, will help the organization and the IRS identify the organization's primary activities.



## IRC 501(C)(7) SOCIAL CLUBS

*Veterans' organizations whose activities are social and recreational, such as operating a bar, restaurant, canteen or casino for members, may be recognized as tax-exempt under IRC 501(c)(7). These clubs are often operated in conjunction with IRC 501(c)(4) veterans' organizations. Social clubs may have different categories of members and are not required to have a specific percentage of veteran members. Contributions to a social club are not deductible. This chapter discusses the requirements for tax-exempt status under IRC 501(c)(7).*

### A. EXEMPT STATUS

IRC 501(c)(7) exempts from tax social clubs that are organized and operated primarily for pleasure, recreation, and similar nonprofitable purposes. The exemption is based on the logic of allowing members to pool their funds for recreational purposes without being subject to tax, rather than by any compelling public benefit conferred by social clubs. In keeping with this purpose, nonmember income from all sources is limited and taxed as unrelated business income. [See Chapter 7 on UBIT]

To satisfy the organizational requirements for exemption, a club's charter, bylaws or other governing instrument must not include purposes that are not directed toward pleasure and recreation. In addition, an organization will not qualify for exemption if its creating documents or any written policy statement contains a provision which provides for discrimination on the basis of race, color, or religion.

A club's members must share common goals and interests that are furthered through its social and recreational activities. The fellowship among members that grows through such participation is considered a key component of a social club. For example, by operating a bar, restaurant, bingo nights and similar recreational facilities and activities for its members and bona fide guests, a veterans' organization is promoting the

fellowship and common interests of its members. Clubs that do not engage in activities where its members meet, such as automobile clubs or discount buying clubs, do not have this essential element and do not qualify for exemption.

A club is not exempt under IRC 501(c)(7) if it provides commercial services, such as the sale of package liquor or carry out food. Such activities are not traditionally engaged in by social clubs.

#### **May an IRC 501(c)(7) veterans' organization have several types of memberships?**

**YES.** Clubs may establish several types of memberships, such as veterans, auxiliary, and friends. The club may specify voting and non-voting members and may choose to limit member benefits, such as the use of the club facilities, based on membership categories. Eligibility requirements, formal admittance procedures and a dues structure are internal matters to be decided in accordance with the club's charter and by-laws. IRC 501(c)(7) does not require that a specific percentage of members be veterans. However, the membership must have shared goals and interests or it may fail to qualify for exemption. A club whose membership categories serve as a way to permit the general public to use the facilities will fail to qualify for this reason.

To determine whether an organization is a club or a business open to the general public the IRS considers all the facts and circumstances. Questions may be raised when -

- (A) membership requirements are broad or vaguely stated;
- (B) the initiation charges or dues are so low that one-time or transient use of the facilities by the general public is encouraged;
- (C) there is an unlimited second category of members who have no voice in the management, pay minimal annual dues and whose only rights are to use the club's facilities upon payment for the services;
- (D) management is strenuously engaged in expanding club membership; or
- (E) managers have close physical and financial ties to club activities or facilities that allow them to retain control.

**May an IRC 501(c)(7) veterans' organization be composed of a number of veterans' organizations?**

**NO.** The word "club" applies only to individuals, not to associations composed of artificial persons or member clubs.

**May a home association be recognized as tax-exempt?**

**YES.** A home association has a membership structure that provides for veteran members and a second category of "friends" that is related to the post. This is permissible under IRC 501(c)(7).

**May an IRC 501(c)(7) veterans' organization provide its members sickness, death and/or similar benefits?**

**NO.** These types of benefits are not considered social or recreational in nature and are not permitted under IRC 501(c)(7).

**Will the receipt of a substantial amount of nonmember income adversely affect exempt?**

**YES.** As a general rule, an IRC 501(c)(7) club may receive up to 35% of its gross receipts from sources outside its membership. This includes investment income. Within the 35% limitation, no more than 15% of the gross receipts may

be derived from the use of a club's facilities or services by the general public. Gross receipts are receipts from the normal and usual activities of the club.

**Are membership dues and/or assessments tax deductible?**

**NO.** In fact, any solicitation for membership dues and/or assessments should include a disclaimer statement that the dues are not tax deductible.

## **B. EXEMPT ACTIVITIES**

**Will conducting joint activities with local veterans' posts jeopardize exemption?**

Probably not, if such joint activities do not become primary. However, the income received by the IRC 501(c)(7) club from nonmembers would be subject to UBIT. In the event such amounts exceed 15% of gross income, exemption could be jeopardized.

**If a member hosts a luncheon for his garden club at the IRC 501(c)(7) club, would the garden club members be considered bona fide guests?**

It depends. Amounts paid to a social club by visiting members of another social club, such as the garden club, are usually considered amounts from nonmembers.

Income paid by members for bona fide guests, however, is treated as member income. There are some circumstances under which nonmembers who use a club's facility will be assumed to be bona fide guests. For instance, when there is a group of eight or fewer persons, at least one of whom is a member who pays the entire bill, the nonmembers are generally considered bona fide guests. In larger groups where 75 percent or more of the group are members and payment is from the members, the nonmembers are considered bona fide guests. There are instances, however, where the use of the club facilities is so divorced from any member purpose that it would be highly improbable that the member incurred the cost of the use of the facilities for personal reasons.

**Example:** If an outside group arranges for the use of the facilities through a club member and agrees to reimburse the member for the cost, the IRS would question whether those individuals were bona fide guests.

***Is sponsoring bingo games, casino nights, and other types of games of chance, for members and their bona fide guests, a permissible activity?***

**YES.** Club members may engage in any number of recreational activities including bingo nights, casino nights and other games of chance without jeopardizing the exempt status of the club. Income from such activities is considered member income and is not taxable under IRC 511.

*Opening the activities of the club to nonmembers is not an exempt purpose. Income generated from gaming from nonmembers is subject to UBIT and may jeopardize exemption if the amount exceeds 15% of the club's gross income.*



## IRC 501(C)(8) AND 501(C)(10) FRATERNAL ORGANIZATIONS

*This chapter discusses fraternal beneficiary organizations recognized as tax-exempt under IRC 501(c)(8) and 501(c)(10).*

### A. EXEMPT STATUS

To qualify for exemption under IRC 501(c)(8), an organization must:

- (A) be fraternal in nature,
- (B) operate under the lodge system, and
- (C) provide for the payment of life, sick, accident, or other benefits to its members.

An IRC 501(c)(8) organization may create a separate insurance subsidiary to provide benefits to its members. These subsidiary organizations may also qualify for exemption under IRC 501(c)(8).

A fraternal organization exempt under IRC 501(c)(10) is one that is described in IRC 501(c)(8) except that it does not provide benefits to its members. The net earnings of IRC 501(c)(10) organizations must be devoted to charitable, religious, scientific, literary, educational or fraternal purposes.

#### **What does it mean to be fraternal in nature?**

“Fraternal” means brotherly or friendly. The members of an IRC 501(c)(8) or IRC 501(c)(10) organization must share common ties and come together to pursue common goals. An organization whose members share nothing other than membership or a desire to participate in member benefits is not fraternal in nature and will not qualify for exemption.

An organization whose members are mostly veterans who have joined together to pursue common goals is fraternal in nature.

#### **Would an organization composed only of veterans of the United States Armed Forces qualify for exemption under IRC 501(c)(8) and 501(c)(10)?**

**YES.** Provided the organization satisfies the other requirements for exemption, the shared experience of serving in the Armed Forces is sufficient to establish that the members share a common bond.

#### **What does “operating under the lodge system” mean?**

Operating under the lodge system means carrying on activities under a form of organization that is comprised of local branches chartered by a parent organization. The local branches, called lodges or chapters, must be separately organized and self-governing but operated under the general control and supervision of the parent



*Through shared activities in pursuit of these common goals, member friendships are strengthened and veterans as a class are strengthened.*

lodge and subject to its rules, laws and edicts. Both the parent and local organizations must be active. This means that each organization holds regular meetings at a designated place, adopts a representative form of government, and performs its work according to a set ritual.

**What type of benefits must an IRC 501(c)(8) organization provide?**

To qualify for exemption, an IRC 501(c)(8) organization must offer some type of insurance benefits. Life insurance, accidental death and dismemberment insurance and health insurance are some types of appropriate benefits. Benefits need not be limited to insuring members against personal risk, but may also include insurance against property loss. An organization is not required to offer all types of insurance benefits.

**Must every member of an IRC 501(c)(8) organization subscribe to the benefits offered?**

**NO.** It is not required that all members be covered by the benefits program or that all eligible members purchase policies for the benefits offered. Organizations may have two classes of members (beneficial and non-beneficial). Most of the members must, however, be entitled to participate in the benefits program.

**Can an organization formed to provide life, sick, accident, or other benefits to its members who are veterans qualify for exemption under IRC 501(c)(8)?**

An organization formed to provide benefits to its members will qualify for exemption if it is fraternal in nature and operated under the lodge system. It is not necessary that any one feature predominate; however, all features must be present.

**4A-8. May an IRC 501(c)(10) organization whose members are veterans spend its net earnings solely for the operation of a bar, grill and casino for members of the lodge?**

**YES.** Fraternal activities include social and recreational activities for members of the lodge. IRC 501(c)(10) permits a lodge to use its net earnings for fraternal and charitable purposes but does not require that a lodge use any of its funds for charity. Opening these activities to nonmembers may, if

extensive, jeopardize exemption or cause the income to be taxed as UBIT. [See Chapter 7 on UBIT]

## B. EXEMPT ACTIVITIES

**What type of activities are permissible?**

Veterans' organizations exempt under IRC 501(c)(8) and IRC 501(c)(10) may conduct a wide array of activities. Such activities are often the same as those conducted by IRC 501(c)(19) organizations and may include:

- A. promoting the social welfare of the community,
- B. assisting needy and disabled veterans, widows, or orphans of deceased veterans,
- C. providing entertainment, care and assistance to hospitalized veterans or members of the Armed Forces of the United States,
- D. perpetuating the memory of veterans and comforting their survivors,
- E. conducting programs for religious, charitable, scientific, literary, or educational purposes,
- F. sponsoring or participating in patriotic activities,
- G. providing social and recreational activities for members, and
- H. if exempt under IRC 501(c)(8), providing insurance benefits to members.

**May a fraternal organization provide assistance to its own members who are sick and disabled or provide aid to their families without adversely affecting its tax-exempt status?**

**YES.** Assisting sick and disabled members is a beneficial fraternal activity. Providing assistance to members when it is needed improves conditions for a class of persons who are engaged in a common pursuit, and tends to unite them by creating a stronger bond of sympathy and interest.

**May a fraternal organization operate an orphanage for children of its members and their families or a home for elderly members?**

**YES.** These are traditional fraternal activities that strengthen the common bond among members.



**Will providing educational loans and scholarships for members and their families jeopardize exemption?**

**NO.** The provision of loans and scholarships to members and their families is a fraternal benefit and strengthens the common bond between members.

# Who are bona fide guests?

*A bona fide guest is one that is invited by a member to participate in an activity and whose expenses are paid for by the member. If the guest pays for his own recreation or food, the guest is not a bona fide guest.*

**May fraternal organizations operate a bar and/or a restaurant for its members and their bona fide guests?**

**YES.** Operating such facilities for members is a fraternal activity and will not jeopardize exemption under IRC 501(c)(8) or IRC 501(c)(10). Allowing nonmember use may result in the income from nonmembers being taxable as UBTI. [See Chapter 7 on UBIT]

*Income generated by nonmember participation in the organization's activities is considered unrelated business income and is ordinarily taxable under IRC 511.*

[See Chapter 7 on UBIT]



It is the responsibility of the exempt organization to demonstrate that a nonmember is a bona fide guest so that the income is not taxable. The organization should maintain adequate books and records to identify members and their bona fide guests and distinguish them from nonmembers.

***May fraternal organizations receive substantial investment income without adversely affecting exemption?***

**YES.** There are no income limits. Keep in mind that IRC 501(c)(10) organizations must spend their net earnings solely for charitable and fraternal purposes.

***May fraternal organizations rent facilities to nonmembers without adversely affecting exempt status?***

Use of the lodge facilities by nonmembers does not further the exempt purposes of the lodge. This includes rental of banquet rooms and purchase of catering services for private parties as well as use of the bar and restaurant by nonmembers. Such activities are not ordinarily so substantial as to affect exempt status. However, the income generated by such activities is generally subject to UBIT. [See Chapter 7 on UBIT]

***Does an IRC 501(c)(8) organization jeopardize its exempt status if it continues to collect premiums on insurance policies sold to members who have been expelled, suspended, or have withdrawn?***

**NO.** An owner of an insurance policy has the right to keep the policy in effect. This right is not affected by expulsion, suspension or withdrawal from the sponsoring organization.

***Does an IRC 501(c)(8) organization jeopardize its exempt status if it contracts to sell additional insurance to individuals who are no longer members because they have been expelled, suspended, or have withdrawn, or to nonmembers?***

**MAYBE.** The sale of additional insurance policies to terminated members or to nonmembers is not an exempt activity for an IRC 501(c)(8) organization. The income generated by sales of policies to nonmembers is subject to UBIT. [See Chapter 7 on UBIT] If the sale of insurance to nonmembers is substantial, the IRS may question whether the organization is an insurance company and no longer exempt under IRC 501(c)(8).

*Veterans' organizations exempt under IRC 501(c)(19), 501(c)(4), 501(c)(7), 501(c)(8) and 501(c)(10) may form separate title holding organizations, recognized as exempt under IRC 501(c)(2), to hold title to their facilities. This may be necessary in states where non-incorporated entities cannot hold title to real property. It may also be a useful device to limit liability, facilitate administration, and increase borrowing power. This Chapter discusses exemption requirements and activities of title holding corporations.*

An IRC 501(c)(2) organization must be organized for the exclusive purpose of holding title to property, collecting income from that property, and turning that income over to the exempt organization that controls it. This type of organization should not engage in any unrelated trade or business. Certain UBIT exceptions exist for debt-financed income, interest, annuities, royalties and/or rents. [See Chapter 7 on UBIT]

**Does a title holding corporation have to incorporate under state law?**

**NO.** The term “corporation” as used in IRC 501(c)(2) includes associations and business or commercial trusts. The purpose for creating the organization will often dictate the organizational form chosen.

**May a corporation whose purposes are identical to the veterans' organization it supports, but whose only activity is holding title to the post, lodge or clubhouse, collecting rent from the supported organization, and using the rent to pay for the upkeep of the facility qualify for exemption under IRC 501(c)(2)?**

**YES.**

**May a title holding organization operate “video poker machines” or other forms of gambling for members of the veterans' organization that forms it?**

**NO.** The operation of casino nights, video poker machines or other forms of gambling are considered recreational activities and are outside the scope of IRC 501(c)(2).

**May an IRC 501(c)(2) organization receive an incidental amount of its income from the operation of vending machines, such as a soft drink machine, located on its property without jeopardizing its exemption?**

**YES.** A small amount of income generated from an unrelated trade or business, such as the operation of a vending machine, will not cause an IRC 501(c)(2) organization to lose its exemption. To be considered incidental, the amount of income generated by all unrelated activities must not exceed 10% of the organization's gross receipts. Income generated from any unrelated trade or business is subject to tax under IRC 511. [See Chapter 7 on UBIT]

**May a title holding organization lease “video poker machines” or other gambling devices to the veterans' organization that forms it?**

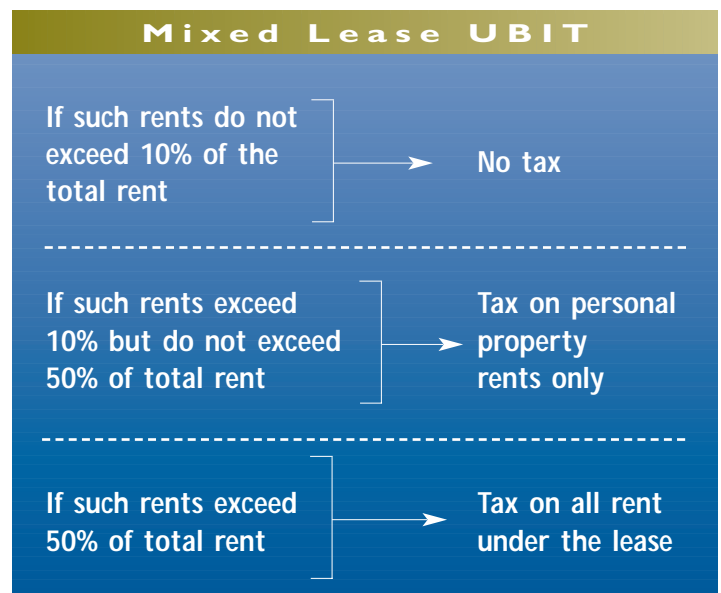
Video poker machines and other gaming devices are personal property. If an IRC 501(c)(2) organization's income from the rental of such personal property, when added to the receipts from any other unrelated business activities, exceeds 10% of gross receipts, it will not qualify for exemption.

May a title holding corporation operate a bar and restaurant for the members of a veterans' organization in its facility?

**NO.** The operation of a bar and restaurant, as well as other social and recreational uses, is outside the scope of IRC 501(c)(2).

**Will income from the rental of personal property, such as chairs and tables, adversely affect exemption or result in UBIT?**

The rental of personal property is considered the conduct of a trade or business and may jeopardize exemption under IRC 501(c)(2) if, along with other unrelated receipts, the income generated exceeds 10% of gross receipts. There is an exception, however, for personal property that is leased with real property. The rental of personal property as part of a mixed lease will not affect exemption but may result in some or all of the income generated from the lease being taxed under IRC 511. The receipt of rent from personal property in a mixed lease has the following UBIT consequences:



*A central organization may apply for a group ruling for itself and all of its affiliated organizations. Subordinates covered by a group ruling do not have to file an application for recognition of tax-exemption. The procedures for obtaining a group ruling are set forth in Rev. Proc. 80-27, 1980-1 C.B. 677.*

**If a subordinate post, exempt under IRC 501(c)(19), doesn't meet the membership requirements because of declining membership, can it still be listed on the group ruling?**

**NO.** When a post fails to meet the membership requirements, it is obligated to notify its parent and the IRS that it does not qualify for tax-exemption and should not be listed in the group exemption roster. The post may continue to maintain its affiliation with the parent, but it may not maintain exemption as a subordinate post under the parent's group ruling.

**May auxiliary units be included in a parent's group ruling under IRC 501(c)(19)?**

**YES.** As long as the auxiliaries meet the criteria for exemption under IRC 501(c)(19), they may be included in the group ruling. All members of auxiliaries listed in the group ruling are considered members of the parent organization for purposes of meeting the IRC 501(c)(19) membership requirements. Members of the auxiliaries are also considered members of the parent organization for purposes of determining whether contributions are deductible under IRC 170(c)(3). [See Chapter 8 on Contributions]

**May members of one subordinate post use the facilities of another subordinate post without jeopardizing exemption of the host post?**

**YES.** Members of the various posts exempt under the same group ruling may use the facilities of and participate in activities of the other posts.

**May a central veterans' organization exempt under IRC 501(c)(19) have subordinate posts exempt under IRC 501(c)(4)?**

**YES, AND VICE VERSA.** However, all subordinates under a group ruling must be exempt under the same section of the Code. For example, the parent may be exempt under IRC 501(c)(4) and all of its subordinate posts exempt under IRC 501(c)(19). The group ruling may not include subordinate organizations exempt under other sections of the Code. Those subordinate organizations may apply for tax-exemption on their own.

**May a central veterans' organization have subordinates that are not tax-exempt?**

**YES.**

**What effect will adding new posts or dropping non-qualifying posts from a group ruling have on the parent's exempt status?**

As long as the parent organization continues to satisfy the legal requirements for exemption, neither adding new posts or dropping non-qualifying posts from the group ruling will affect that status.

**May a subordinate post be included in the parent organization's consolidated information return?**

**YES.** A subordinate must have the same fiscal year as the parent organization to be included in the return.



## UNRELATED BUSINESS INCOME TAX (UBIT)

*Almost all exempt organizations must pay tax on income earned in an unrelated trade or business. To be considered unrelated, a trade or business must be regularly carried on and not substantially related to the performance of an organization's exempt purposes other than its need to raise money to carry on its programs.*

The term “trade or business” includes any activity carried on for the production of income whether from selling goods or performing services. Business activities are regularly carried on if they are conducted frequently or continually, and are pursued in a manner similar to comparable commercial activities of nonexempt organizations. Unless the business activities, apart from the income generated, contribute importantly to the accomplishment of the organization's exempt purposes, they are not substantially related.

Certain activities have been specifically excluded from the definition of unrelated trade or business by Congress. The exclusions that apply to veterans' organizations include:

- (A) **Volunteer Labor:** any business in which substantially all of the work is performed by volunteers without compensation. Compensation may include tips and non-cash benefits. For example, if your members volunteer to sell tickets to the general public for your sponsored dances, and substantially all the work in organizing and conducting the event is done by volunteers without compensation, the activity is not an unrelated trade or business.
- (B) **Selling Donated Merchandise:** a business that consists of selling goods substantially all of which have been received as gifts or contributions. For example, the income generated from a thrift shop selling donated goods, with the proceeds going to the exempt organization, is not an unrelated trade or business.

(c) **Certain Bingo Games:** To qualify for this exclusion, the bingo game must be legal and must be conducted in a jurisdiction that does not permit commercial bingo. The game must be one in which wagers are placed, the winners determined, and prizes are distributed in the presence of all persons placing wagers in that game. The definition of bingo does not include the sale of pull-tabs, instant bingo or similar raffles. Bingo also does not include any other gambling activities.

(d) **Low Cost Articles:** For organizations eligible to solicit charitable contributions, the distribution of low cost articles, such as stationary or candies, incidental to the solicitation is not an unrelated trade or business.

(e) **Exchange or Rental of Member Lists:** The exchange or rental of member or donor lists between posts of war veterans eligible to receive tax deductible contributions is not considered an unrelated trade or business.

Once it has been determined that a business activity is unrelated, there are several special rules that apply to computing the amount of the income that will be taxable. Certain dividends, interest, annuities, royalties and rents may be excluded in whole or in part. The expenses, depreciation, and similar items *directly connected* with the conduct of the unrelated business may also be deducted. For example, the salaries of full-time employees conducting the business and depreciation of a building used entirely in the conduct of the business are deductible. There are special rules for determining

the amount of taxable income generated from debt-financed property. For further information regarding the computation of UBIT, please request Pub. 598.

Whether a specific activity is taxable often depends on the section of the Code under which a veterans' organization is exempt. This Chapter provides answers to general UBIT questions, as well as to questions relating specifically to IRC 501(c)(19), (4), (7), (8) and (10).

## A. GENERAL UBIT QUESTIONS

***A post hires employees to operate its bar and dining facility that is open to the public on a limited basis. Will the income from these facilities be subject to UBIT?***

**YES.** How much of the income is taxable depends on the section of the Code under which the veterans' organization is exempt.

The operation of a bar and restaurant for use by members or the general public is not an exempt activity for an IRC 501(c)(4) organization. Because this activity is a trade or business, regularly carried on, and not substantially related to exempt purposes, all of the income is taxable. If the bar and restaurant is the primary activity, exemption may be lost.

Social activities, such as the operation of the bar and restaurant, are appropriate for veterans' organizations exempt under IRC 501(c)(19), 501(c)(7), 501(c)(8) and 501(c)(10), as long as the activities are limited to members and their bona fide guests. Permitting nonmember use of these facilities is not related to the accomplishment of exempt purposes and will result in the income from the nonmembers being taxable. For an IRC 501(c)(7) organization, nonmember income that exceeds 15% of gross receipts will jeopardize exemption.

***Are weekly fundraisers that are open to the general public, such as spaghetti dinners, breakfasts and dances, subject to UBIT?***

**YES.** Charging admission for fundraising activities, such as dinners, breakfasts and dances, is a trade or business. [Admissions paid by members may be considered related

income if social or recreational activities further exempt purposes.] Because the activity is conducted on a weekly basis, it is "regularly carried on," and because the activity is open to nonmembers, it is not "substantially related" to the exempt purposes of a veterans' organization under any Code section. Unless one of the exceptions, such as the volunteer labor exception, applies, the income from these activities is taxable.

***Can a member of a post sell tickets to a social function to nonmembers without generating Unrelated Business Taxable Income (UBTI)?***

**MAYBE.** Selling tickets to social functions to nonmembers is an unrelated activity for all veterans' organizations. If this activity only occurs occasionally, it may not be considered "regularly carried on" and will not be taxable. If the activity is regularly carried on, the income may still be excluded from tax under the "volunteer labor exception."

*Example:* A post member who is a volunteer sells his neighbor tickets to the post's weekly shrimp dinner. The dinner is prepared and served, and the facility is cleaned by volunteers. This activity would meet the volunteer labor exception.

***Is income from the sale of advertising in flyers, newsletters, and programs taxable as Unrelated Business Income (UBI)?***

**YES.** Income generated from the sale of advertising in a post's flyers, newsletters, programs, and bulletins, is unrelated to the exempt purposes of veterans' organizations under any section of the Code. Unless one of the exceptions applies, the income from this source is taxable.

***Does advertising a social function to the public by "word of mouth" affect whether the social function generates UBTI?***

**NO.** The method of advertising does not change the nature of the activity.



**How should a post treat the income from the rental of its banquet hall to members and nonmembers for weddings and similar functions? How should it treat income from the rental of its facilities to other exempt or community organizations?**

Whether the rental of banquet facilities on a regular basis is an unrelated trade or business depends on the Code section under which the organization is exempt. The rental of such facilities to members may be related to the permissible purposes of organizations exempt under IRC 501(c)(19), 501(c)(7) and 501(c)(8) and (10). The rental of the facilities to nonmembers is always considered unrelated to the exempt purposes of such organizations. An IRC 501(c)(4) organization may rent its facilities to community organizations in furtherance of its social welfare purposes.

If the rental of the facility is unrelated to the organizations exempt purposes, the rental income may or may not be taxable. The rents from real property are excluded in computing the tax. If the rent includes personal services, such as catering or decorating, it is not considered rent from real property and would be taxed. Rents from personal property rented with the real property [mixed lease] may also be excluded if the rents attributable to the personal property do not exceed 10% of the total rent. The rental exclusion does not apply to the rental of personal property or to the rental of debt-financed property.

**If a post sponsors a baseball team [with member and nonmember players] and hosts the games, may all the players purchase food and beverages at the post snack bar without generating UBI?**

**NO.** The unrestricted use of post facilities by nonmembers is not related to the exempt purposes of the post. The sale of food and drinks to nonmembers may result in the income being taxed unless the volunteer labor exception applies. The operation of a snack bar is not an exempt activity for an IRC 501(c)(4) organization and all of the income generated from this business would be taxable.

**Would income from selling liquor or food to members or the public for consumption off the premises be subject to UBIT?**

**YES.** Selling liquor and food for consumption off the premises does not further the exempt purposes of a veterans' organization. All income from off-premises sales is subject to UBIT, unless a specific exception applies.

**Is income from the operation of a thrift shop subject to UBIT?**

**NO.** Generally, operating a thrift shop is not considered an unrelated business because substantially all of the merchandise has been donated. The volunteer labor exception may also apply if the shop is operated by volunteers.

**Is the income from a post's golf course, swimming pool, and snack bar that is open to the public on a regular basis subject to UBIT?**

**YES.** Recreational facilities open to the public for a fee do not further the exempt purposes of veterans' organizations. Because these facilities are operated in a commercial manner, the income is taxable.



***Under a reciprocal agreement, is income from veterans belonging to unrelated veterans' organizations subject to UBIT?***

**YES.** Income received under reciprocal agreements allowing members of unrelated veterans' groups to use post facilities is subject to UBIT.

***Is income from the canteen from members of an unrelated veterans' organization co-sponsoring a patriotic event, such as a parade, and meeting before and after at your post subject to UBIT?***

**NO.** The sale of food and beverages to members of unrelated veterans' organizations co-sponsoring a parade and assembling at one or the other's canteen either before or after the event is substantially related to the exempt purposes of either organization.

***Is income from the sale of souvenir liquor bottles bearing the organization's emblem subject to UBIT?***

**YES.** The sale of souvenir liquor bottles is not substantially related to any exempt purpose of a veterans' organization. If the sales are regularly carried on and no exceptions apply, all income from this source is taxable.

***Is income from poker machines in a post's bar and from monthly "Las Vegas Nights" subject to UBIT?***

Gambling among members is considered a recreational activity rather than an unrelated trade or business for posts exempt under IRC 501(c)(19), 501(c)(7), 501(c)(8) and 501(c)(10). Income from members and bona fide guests is not subject to tax. Allowing members of the general public to use post facilities to gamble or engage in other recreational activities is not a related activity. Income from nonmember sources is subject to tax. Nonmember income in excess of 15% may jeopardize exemption under IRC 501(c)(7).

Gambling and recreational activities are not exempt activities under IRC 501(c)(4) and, if primary, may jeopardize exemption. Income from these sources is taxable unless a specific exception applies.

***Is the income from weekly bingo games subject to UBIT if the games are open to the general public?***

**NO.** Bingo is not treated as an unrelated trade or business. Bingo is considered a business activity, however, and may

jeopardize exemption under IRC 501(c)(4). If conducted by an IRC 501(C)(7) organization, all receipts from bingo are considered non-member income and if in excess of 15% will jeopardize exemption.

## **B. IRC 501(c)(19)**

***May members of a parent organization and its subordinate posts be granted reciprocal privileges to participate in social and recreational activities and use the facilities of related posts without generating UBTI for those posts of which they are not members?***

**YES.** Permitting members of the related posts to participate in the social and recreational activities of each post furthers exempt purposes.

***May members of the auxiliary be granted privileges by the post it is affiliated with to use the post's facilities and participate in its social and recreational activities without generating UBTI?***

**YES.** If the auxiliary unit is exempt under IRC 501(c)(19), its members' participation in the social and recreational activities of the post is substantially related to the post's exempt purposes.

***May members of a parent organization's auxiliary be granted reciprocal privileges to participate in social and recreational activities and use the facilities of related posts without generating UBTI?***

**YES.** If the auxiliary unit is exempt under IRC 501(c)(19), its members' reciprocal participation in the social and recreational activities of related posts furthers exempt purposes.

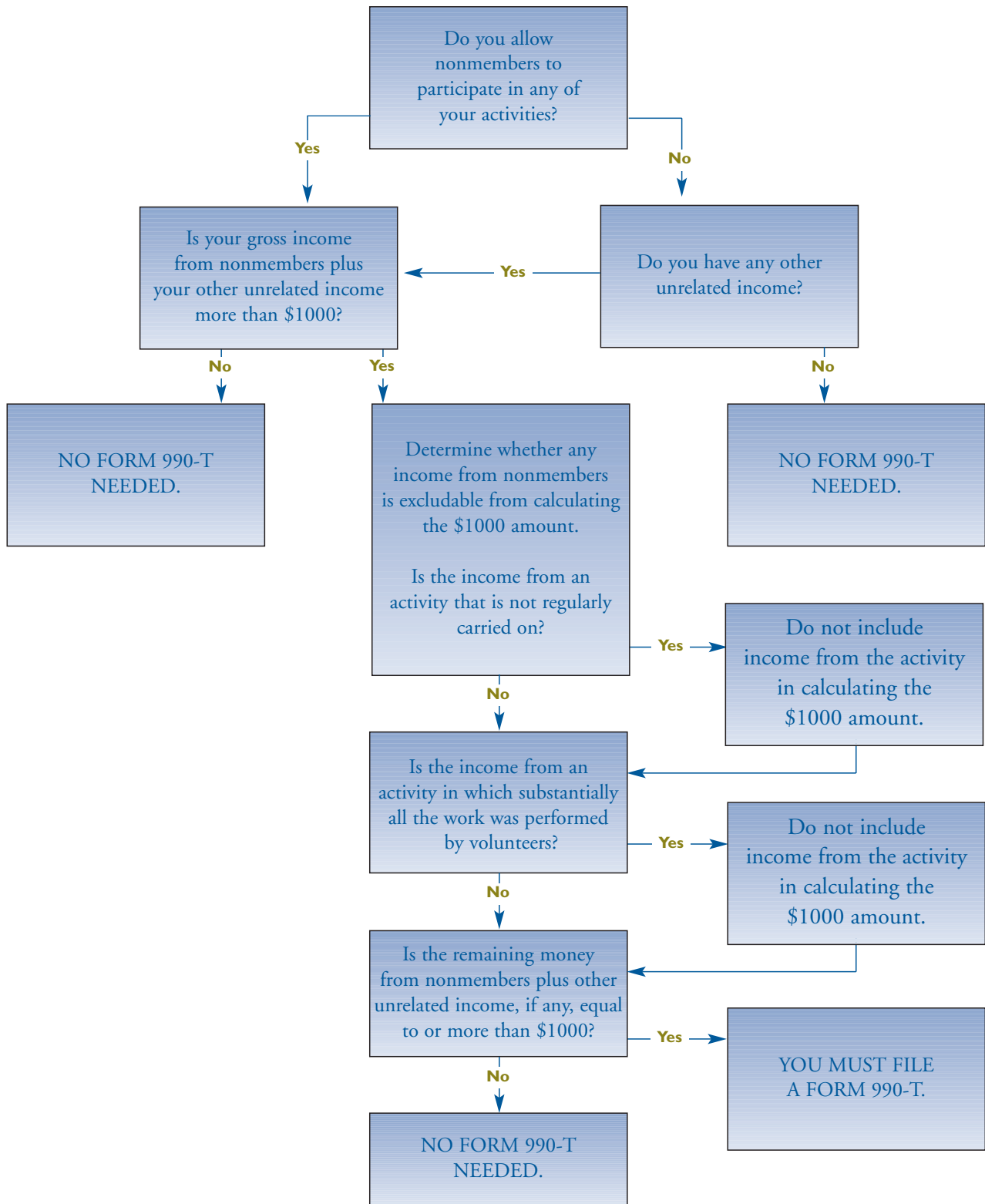
***Can a member of a post bring his or her family to the post's weekly social function without generating UBTI?***

**YES.** Family participation in weekly social functions furthers the IRC 501(c)(19) purpose of providing social activities for the members.

***Are social functions, such as spaghetti dinners, breakfasts and dances, for members and their bona fide guests subject to UBIT?***

**NO.** One of the purposes of an IRC 501(c)(19) organization is to provide social and recreational activities for its members.

# IRC 501(c)(19) & FRATERNAL ORGANIZATION UBI REPORTING REQUIREMENTS



**Is UBI generated when access to the bar and dining facilities is restricted by use of a key card system, or the doorman checks membership cards upon entry? Members of the general public unaccompanied by a member are not admitted, nor are guests allowed to pay their bills separately.**

**NO.** Social and recreational activities for members and their bona fide guests further exempt purposes. In a key card situation, no one is admitted unless they are members or bona fide guests of members.

**Is income generated by the non-veteran members of the post from use of the bar subject to UBIT?**

**NO.** Provided the non-veterans are a class of bona fide members described in the post's creating document or by-laws and are within the percentage allowable for exemption, they would be considered members for UBIT purposes.

**Is income from the use of a post's bar and restaurant on a regular basis by active duty military personnel who are not members subject to UBIT?**

**YES.** Active duty military personnel are eligible to be post members. However, if they choose not to join, they are treated as nonmembers.

**Is income from the operation of a hotel facility for nonmember active duty military personnel subject to UBIT?**

**YES.** Unless the hotel is being used by active duty military personnel during a national emergency or armed conflict, the income from nonmembers is subject to tax.

A hotel with a bar, restaurant, and meeting rooms operated for use of the members is substantially related, as it provides a place for the members, including those from out of town, to gather for social and recreational activities.

**Are membership dues from posts that are not recognized as exempt under IRC 501(c)(19) taxable to the state or national parent as UBIT?**

**NO.** Dues income is considered related to exempt purposes.

## C. IRC 501(c)(4)

**One of the activities of a post is the operation of a canteen (bar and restaurant) that is open to the public. The primary use is by the veteran members and their guests. Is income from the veteran members and their guests subject to UBIT?**

**YES.** Income from the operation of a canteen (bar and restaurant) by an IRC 501(c)(4) organization is subject to UBIT, whether the income is from members or nonmembers unless one of the exceptions to UBIT applies. The bar and dining activities do not further a social welfare purpose under IRC 501(c)(4).

**Is the income from weekly bingo games conducted by a veterans' organization exempt under IRC 501(c)(4) subject to UBIT?**

**NO.** Bingo is not treated as an unrelated trade or business for purposes of UBIT. It is, however, a business activity that is not an exempt activity under IRC 501(c)(4). If business activities, along with all other nonexempt activities, are the primary activities, the organization will not qualify for tax-exemption.

## D. IRC 501(c)(7)

**Is an IRC 501(c)(7) veterans' organization subject to UBIT on its investment income?**

**YES.** All income from nonmember sources, including investment income, is taxable as UBTI.

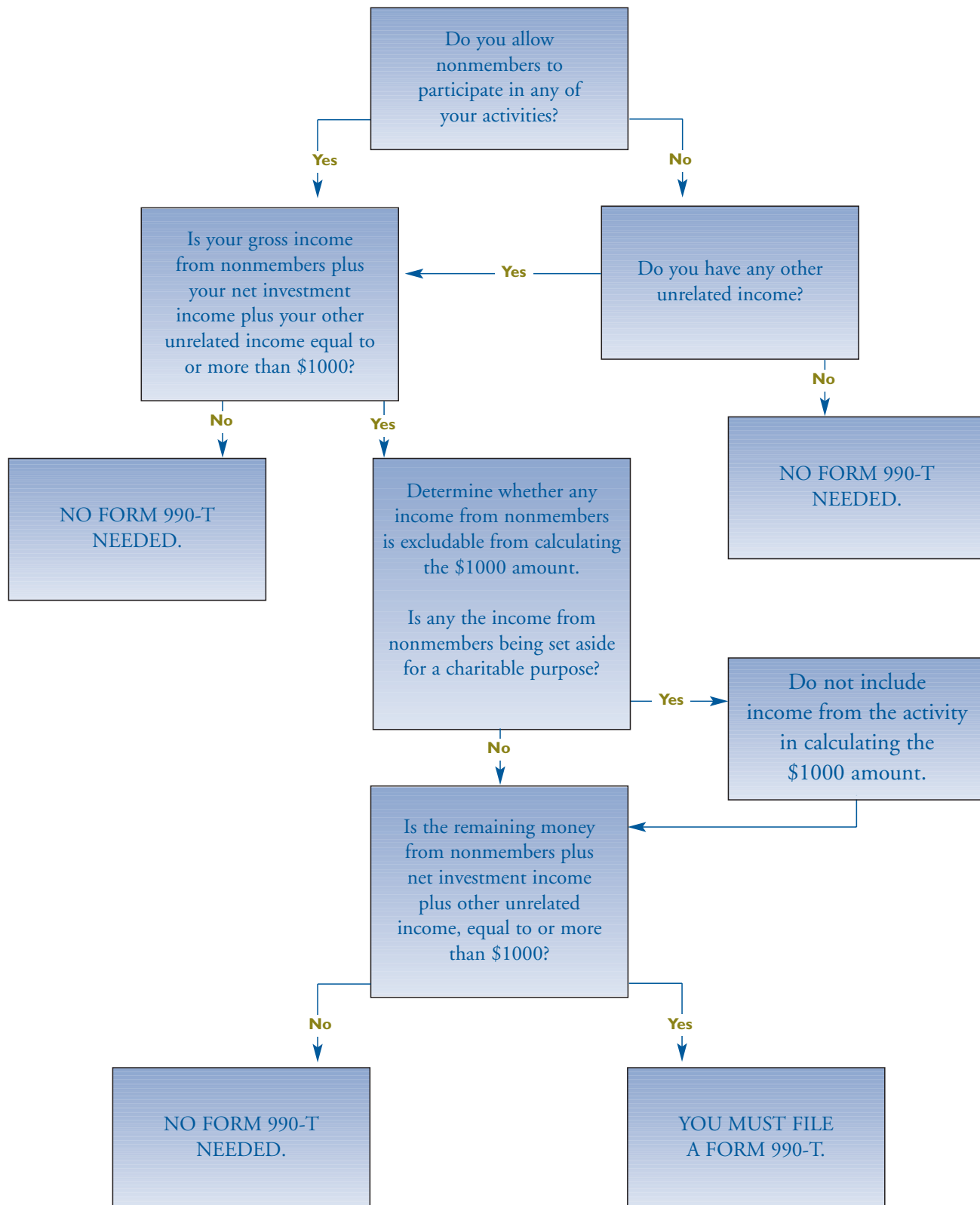
**Is an IRC 501(c)(7) veterans' organization subject to UBIT on its rental income?**

Rental income from members is generally not taxable. Rental income from nonmembers is taxed.

**Is the income from weekly bingo games subject to UBIT if the games are open to the general public?**

All nonmember income, including bingo income, is considered unrelated business income subject to tax for IRC 501(c)(7) organizations. Detailed records may be kept to differentiate between member and nonmember income.

## IRC 501(C) (7) SOCIAL CLUB UBI REPORTING REQUIREMENTS



If such records are available, only the nonmember income will be taxable. If adequate records are not available, all income from bingo will be taxable. Nonmember income from all sources, if in excess of 15%, may jeopardize exemption under IRC 501(c)(7).

***If a nonmember pays to participate in gaming activities at the club, is the income subject to UBIT?***

**YES.** If a nonmember, including a guest of a member who pays his own way, gambles in the club facility, the income is subject to UBIT.

***Is the income from the sale of package liquor or carry out food subject to UBIT?***

**YES.**

***Would income from a fundraiser on behalf of the local veterans' hospital, open to the general public and held in the club facility, be subject to UBIT?***

A social club may conduct some charitable activities in addition to its social activities. The income set aside for charitable purposes is not subject to UBIT.

The income from nonmembers of the club, however, must be taken into account in determining the percentage of gross income the club receives from nonmember use of the facilities. Nonmember receipts in excess of 15% could jeopardize exemption.

***Is the income generated from the use of club facilities by a member of another veterans' organization subject to UBIT?***

**YES.** Amounts paid to a social club by visiting members of another club are amounts paid by nonmembers. For example, members of other clubs who participate in a calcutta (wagering pool) are not guests of members of the host club, but are considered members of the general public. Such income is subject to UBIT and may adversely affect the club's exempt status if the relevant percentage limitations are exceeded.

## **E. IRC 501(c)(8) AND 501(c)(10)**

***Are organizations described in IRC 501(c)(8) and (10) subject to UBIT?***

**YES.**

***Is income from gambling other than bingo subject to UBIT?***

Gambling among members and their bona fide guests is a recreational and fraternal activity and not subject to UBIT. Nonmember participation in lodge activities, including gambling, is not in furtherance of exempt purposes and will result in the receipts received from nonmembers being subject to UBIT.

***Is income from nonmember use of the bar and restaurant subject to UBIT?***

**YES.**

***Would income from the rental of the Lodge to nonmembers be subject to UBIT?***

**YES,** unless it meets one of the exceptions noted above.

## CONTRIBUTIONS TO VETERANS' ORGANIZATIONS

*IRC 170(c)(3) provides an income tax deduction for contributions to a post of war veterans if it is organized in the United States or any of its possessions, and no part of its net earnings inures to the benefit of any private shareholder or individual. This chapter explains when a veterans' organization may be entitled to receive contributions that are deductible under IRC 170(c)(3).*

A war veterans' organization is one that satisfies both a membership requirement and a purpose requirement. To be eligible to receive tax deductible contributions under IRC 170(c)(3), at least 90% of the members must be war veterans. Substantially all of the other members must be either veterans, cadets, or spouses, widows, or widowers of war veterans, veterans, or cadets. "War veterans" are defined as persons who have served in the United States Armed Forces during a period of war. These periods are as follows:

- A. April 21, 1898, through July 4, 1902;
- B. April 6, 1917, through November 11, 1918;
- C. December 7, 1941, through December 31, 1946;
- D. June 27, 1950, through January 31, 1955;
- E. February 28, 1961, through May 7, 1975, in the case of a veteran who served in the Republic of Vietnam during that period;
- F. August 5, 1964, through May 7, 1975; and
- G. August 2, 1990, and ending on the date prescribed by Presidential Proclamation or by law.

A war veterans' organization must also be organized and operated primarily for the following purposes:

- A. *Furthering comradeship among persons who are or have been members of the Armed Forces,*
- B. *Honoring the memory of deceased veterans and members of the Armed Forces and aiding and comforting their survivors,*
- C. *Encouraging patriotism, and*
- D. *Aiding hospitalized, disabled and needy war veterans and their dependents.*

### **Are all contributions to an IRC 501(c)(19) organization deductible under IRC 170(c)(3)?**

**NO.** The requirements for tax-exemption under IRC 501(c)(19) are different from the requirements for deductibility of contributions under IRC 170(c)(3).

### **May contributions to an IRC 501(c)(4) veterans' organization be deductible?**

**YES.** If the organization qualifies as a war veterans' organization within the meaning of IRC 170(c)(3), and satisfies both the membership requirement and the purposes requirement, contributions will be deductible.

### **May a member of an IRC 501(c)(19) or 501(c)(4) veterans' organization deduct his travel expenses if they are incurred in the performance of official duties?**

**MAYBE.** If the organization satisfies the requirements of IRC 170(c)(3) and there is no significant element of personal pleasure, recreation, or vacation in such travel, the expenses may be deducted as contributions.

### **Are auxiliary members included as members for purposes of the IRC 170(c)(3) membership test?**

If the auxiliary is a separate organization, its members are not included as members of a war veterans' post for purposes of the IRC 170(c)(3) membership test. When auxiliary members are not in a separate organization or the auxiliary shares the employer identification number of the post, its members are included as members of the post for purposes of the IRC 170(c)(3) membership test.



**Will including the auxiliaries under the group exemption of a veterans' organization's parent affect whether contributions to the parent are deductible?**

**MAYBE.** All members of the organizations included in a group ruling are considered members of the parent. If the auxiliary members make up more than 10% of the total membership of the group, the parent will not satisfy the membership requirements under IRC 170(c)(3), and contributions will not be deductible.

**Does an IRC 501(c)(19) organization formed primarily to provide social and recreational activities (bar and restaurant for its members) meet the purposes requirement of IRC 170(c)(3)?**

**NO.** Social and recreational purposes are not consistent with classification as a *war veterans'* organization.

**May a taxpayer deduct contributions to an auxiliary described in IRC 501(c)(19)?**

**MAYBE.** If the primary purpose of the auxiliary is to support a post of war veterans described in IRC 170(c)(3) and the auxiliary also meets the membership and purpose requirements of that section, contributions will be deductible.

**Are contributions deductible to a veterans' organization exempt under IRC 501(c)(8) or (10)?**

**MAYBE.** IRC 170(c)(4) allows a deduction for contributions to exempt fraternal organizations but only if such gifts are to be used exclusively for religious, charitable, scientific, literary, or educational purposes, or for the prevention of cruelty to children or animals.

*To receive tax deductible contributions under IRC 170(c)(3), at least 90% of the members must be war veterans.*





*Every organization must keep adequate records to establish liability for or exemption from taxes. Veterans' organizations that are tax-exempt need to maintain records to establish that their activities further exempt purposes. Some must maintain records regarding membership requirements. All veterans' organizations must also keep records clearly identifying revenues from each source and expenses related to each source to determine whether any of the income is subject to UBIT. Recognized accounting methods must be used to provide the required information.*



*Every organization must show, through its records, that its purposes and activities continue to be appropriate for an exempt organization. Records must also be kept to establish liability for tax on unrelated business income, employment tax, Social Security and Medicare under the Federal Insurance Contributions Act, or excise tax on certain gambling income.*

*Every organization must maintain records of income from each source (related and unrelated) and the expenses attributable to each income source. This is required to substantiate its income and to determine what income, if any, is subject to tax. If applicable, it also must maintain records to determine if there is tip income, employment tax owed and income subject to wagering and other excise taxes. Records should be maintained to show income from veteran members and from nonmembers by activity or income source.*

*If records are not maintained to indicate income from members and nonmembers, or if records are inadequate, all income may be subject to UBIT, and tax-exemption may be jeopardized.*

## A. GENERAL RECORDKEEPING QUESTIONS

### **What are the consequences of not maintaining adequate records?**

Failure to maintain adequate books and records may result in a loss of tax-exempt status. The failure or inability to file the required information return or otherwise comply with the Tax Code is a failure to observe the conditions required for the continuation of exempt status.

### **Volunteers are used to conduct post fundraisers. However, the post pays employees for security and accounting. What records are required to show that these fundraisers are not subject to UBIT?**

To establish that the fundraisers are conducted by substantially all volunteer labor, records should show the number of volunteers, the hours spent in planning and conducting the activity, and how many paid employees are used. If the paid employees are full-time employees, a reasonable allocation of time spent on the fundraising activity may be made. Records of the income and expenses related to the fundraiser must be maintained.

## B. IRC 501(C)(19)

### **What records must be maintained to show the composition of membership?**

A post must maintain a list of members and the category of membership (veteran, degree of relation, or non-veteran or non-relative). If a post receives deductible

contributions, it must also maintain a list of members, their dates of service, whether they are war veterans, have served in Vietnam, and if not, whether they are spouses, widows, or widowers of war veterans, veterans, or cadets.

### **What records are required for auxiliary units regarding membership?**

Auxiliary units must maintain a list of members and show their relation to the veteran post member. An auxiliary member must be related to the post member within two degrees of consanguinity.

### **Must a post maintain a record of activities and the number of members, auxiliary members, volunteers and employees involved in each activity?**

**YES.** Records should be maintained to indicate the nature of the monthly activities and to identify individuals participating in the activities (members, auxiliary, social members, youth groups, etc.). If the activity is a fundraiser, records should show who conducted the activity, and whether or not volunteers provided services. Records of activities can include post meeting minutes, historian's records, activity books, commander's books, house committee reports, and reports to the parent organization.

For those activities that are not related to exempt purposes because they are open to the general public, it is important to keep adequate records to establish how much of the income generated is from nonmember sources and subject to UBIT. **If no records are kept, all the income from activities that are open to the public will be taxed as UBTI.** [See Chapter 7 on UBIT]

### **If the bar and restaurant are open to the general public, what records are required?**

A post must maintain records of gross income and expenses from the bar and dining facility and any other income producing activities. In cases where the facility or activity is open to the general public (such as bingo, pull-tabs, gaming devices and fundraisers, such as shrimp dinners, etc.), the post must maintain a separate record of the gross receipts from members and from nonmembers to determine what amount of income is be subject to UBIT. The post must also maintain

records of who conducted the activity, whether or not compensation was paid, and the hours involved.

### **What records should be kept when joint fundraising activities are conducted with the auxiliary?**

When an activity is conducted jointly, income and expenses may be allocated. Standard accounting methods may be used to determine a reasonable allocation method.

*Example:* A spaghetti dinner/fundraiser is sponsored jointly by the post and the auxiliary. The income and expenses may be prorated based upon the number of volunteers from each organization that were involved in conducting the activity.

### **Is an auxiliary supporting a specific post required to maintain separate records?**

**YES.** An auxiliary must maintain records to show that its activities and funds are used to support the post. Records should include not only the activity, but also how many members conducted and/or participated in the activity. If it is a fundraiser, records should show how many members conducted the activity, and whether the activity was conducted by volunteers.

### **What records must be kept to establish an insurance set-aside?**

Amounts set aside for insurance payments are not subject to UBIT. A formal set-aside is not required. However, the organization must maintain adequate records describing the amount set aside and the use of the set aside funds.

## **C. IRC 501(c)(4)**

### **What type of records must be maintained to show the composition of membership?**

There is no membership requirement for exemption under IRC 501(c)(4). A post need only maintain a list of members and the category of membership (veteran, degree of relation, or non- veteran or non-relative) for its own use and to verify dues income.

If a post qualifies under IRC 170(c)(3) to receive tax deductible contributions, it must maintain a list of members,

their dates of service, whether they are war veterans, have served in Vietnam, and if not, whether they are spouses, widows, or widowers of war veterans, veterans, or cadets.

## D. IRC 501(c)(7)

### **What specific records should an IRC 501(c)(7) organization maintain?**

Records should be maintained to show the amounts and sources of gross income, whether the gross income is from members or nonmembers, and the expenses related to each source of gross income. This is required to determine the amount of member/nonmember income for exemption purposes as well as to determine what income is subject to UBIT.

### **What records must be maintained when nonmembers use the club's facilities?**

The club must maintain adequate records to substantiate the use of facilities by members, nonmembers and bona fide guests. A separate ledger should be kept for gross receipts from nonmembers.

## E. IRC 501(c)(8) AND (10)

### **Must a fraternal beneficiary society maintain a list of members and their status?**

**YES.** Records should be maintained to show the number of members in each class. The organization must also be able to show the common bond between its members.

### **What records should be maintained to show that a fraternal beneficiary organization operates under the lodge system?**

The parent organization must have an organizational document and by-laws permitting lodges and defining the common bond, purposes and rituals required under the lodge system. The subordinates must adhere to the requirements of the parent. Records such as organizational documents, minutes of meetings and records of actual activities may be used to show that an organization operates under the lodge system.

# What type of records must be maintained when certain facilities and functions are open to the public?

The operation of recreational facilities, such as a bar and restaurant, is not considered an exempt activity under IRC 501(c)(4). Fundraisers, such as bingo and other types of gambling, are business activities that do not further social welfare purposes. The post must maintain records showing the extent of exempt activities as well as non-social welfare activities to establish that it is operated primarily for exempt purposes.

The post must also maintain books and records that are sufficient to establish the amount of gross income, the sources of gross income, expenses, deductions, credits, and why the income would be excluded from UBIT if applicable. The post should maintain records of who conducted the activity, whether or not compensation was paid, and the hours involved.

*Example: bingo income is not subject to UBIT. Records on the gross revenue and expenses (including payouts) must be maintained. Separate ledgers must be maintained for income from the sale of pull-tabs, the operation of the bar and grill, and other activities not meeting any of the exceptions to UBIT.*



***Should a fraternal beneficiary organization maintain a segregated fund for charitable purposes?***

**YES.** A segregated fund is recommended.

***Should a fraternal beneficiary organization maintain records of its fraternal activities as well as income from insurance?***

**YES.** A record of activities is important to establish that the organization is more than just an insurance company. Appropriate records include minutes of meetings, flyers and advertisements of activities, and records of gross income and expenses attributable to activities and insurance.

***What records should be maintained regarding life, sick, accident and other benefits provided to members and nonmembers?***

An organization should maintain information regarding types of benefits offered, eligibility requirements for each benefit,

the classes of members that may receive the benefit, the number of members and/or nonmembers in each class receiving the benefit, plus all income and expenses from the sale of policies if it is providing insurance. Nonmember income from the sale of insurance is taxable. [See Chapter 7 on UBIT]

***What records should be maintained when a fraternal beneficiary organization operates a bar and/or restaurant?***

Records should be maintained to show whether the bar and/or restaurant is restricted to members and their bona fide guests, or whether it is open to the general public. Records should be maintained to indicate what income is from the members, what income is from the general public and what expenses are allocated to each source of income.

## FILING REQUIREMENTS

*Exempt organizations must file various returns and reports. This Chapter discusses:*

- ★ *Information Returns*
- ★ *Employment Tax Returns*
- ★ *Donee Information Returns*
- ★ *Income Tax Returns*
- ★ *Returns for Political Activities*

### **Forms 990 & 990-EZ**

Exempt organizations, including veterans' organizations, file Form 990, Return of Organization Exempt From Income Tax, or Form 990-EZ, Short Form Return of Organization Exempt From Income Tax, when annual gross receipts, whether related or unrelated, are more than \$25,000. Note: gross income is computed before any gaming prizes, payouts, or expenses are deducted. The instructions for completing the Form 990 or Form 990-EZ should be consulted when preparing the form.

Form 990-EZ is designed for use by small exempt organizations when gross receipts are less than \$100,000 and the total assets at the end of the year are less than \$250,000.

The appropriate form must be filed by the 15th day of the 5th month after the end of the organization's annual accounting period. Failure to file the appropriate forms may subject the organization to penalties.

A central (parent) organization may file a consolidated information return for all entities listed in its group ruling. All subordinates must have the same fiscal year ending date as the parent organization to be included in the group information return.

### **Form 990-T**

Form 990-T is the Exempt Organization Business Income Tax Return. An exempt organization may be liable for tax on its unrelated business income. Unrelated business income is income from a trade or business, regularly carried on, that is not substantially related to the purposes that are the basis for the organization's exemption. When gross unrelated business taxable income is over \$1,000, the organization must file Form

990-T. Gross income is gross receipts minus the cost of goods sold. See the Instructions for Form 990-T for additional information for defining gross income and the cost of goods sold.

### **Employment Tax Returns**

Every employer who pays wages to employees is responsible for withholding, depositing, paying and reporting federal income tax, Social Security and Medicare (FICA) taxes, and federal unemployment tax (FUTA), unless specifically excepted by law or if the taxes clearly do not apply. For more information, see Publication 15, Circular E, Employer's Tax Guide, which summarizes the responsibilities of an employer; Publication 15-A, Employer's Supplemental Tax Guide; and Form 941, Employer's Quarterly Federal Tax Return.

### **Form 1120-POL**

Form 1120-POL is the Return for Political Activity. An exempt organization must file Form 1120-POL for any year in which it:

- A. (i) Expends any amount to influence the selection, nomination, election, or appointment of any individual to any federal, state, or local public office or office in a political organization, or the election of Presidential or Vice Presidential electors, or (ii) makes expenditures relating to an office described in (a), and
- B. Has net investment income.

For more information about filing Form 1120-POL, refer to the instructions accompanying the form.

- *Form 990 - Return of Organization Exempt From Income Tax*
- *Form 990-EZ - Short Form Return of Organization Exempt From Income Tax*
- *Form 990-T - Exempt Organization Business Income Tax Return*
- *Form W-2G - Certain Gambling Winnings*
- *Form 11-9C - Occupational Tax and Registration Return for Wagering*
- *Form 730 - Tax on Wagering*
- *Form 940 - Employer's Annual Federal Unemployment (FUTA) Tax Return*
- *Form 941 - Employer's Quarterly Federal Tax Return*
- *Form 945 - Annual Return of Withheld Federal Income Tax*
- *Form 8109 - Federal Tax Deposit Coupon*
- *Form 8282 - Donee Information Return*
- *Form 1099-MISC - Miscellaneous Income*
- *Form 1096 - Annual Summary and Transmittal of U.S. Informational Returns*
- *Form 1120-Pol - U.S. Income Tax Returns for Certain Political Organizations*
- *Form 5754 - Statement by Person(s) Receiving Gambling Winnings.*  
*Note: This form is not filed with the IRS.*

### **Dispositions of Donated Property**

If an organization receives a contribution of charitable deduction property and sells, exchanges, or otherwise disposes of the property within two years after its receipt, the organization must file Form 8282, Donee Information Return (Sale, Exchange, or Other Disposition of Donated Property). For more information, refer to the instructions for Form 8282.

### **Information Provided to Donors**

A organization receiving tax deductible contributions must give a donor a disclosure statement for a quid pro quo contribution over \$75. A donor cannot deduct a charitable contribution of \$250 or more unless the donor has a written acknowledgment from the charitable organization. Obtain Publication 1771, Charitable Contributions - Substantiation and Disclosure Requirements, Publication 557, Tax-Exempt Status for Your Organization, and Publication 526, Charitable Contributions, for additional information.

### **Certain Gaming Winnings**

FORM W-2G - Certain Gambling Winnings. Certain wagering transactions require the filing of Form W-2G and Form 1096, Annual Summary and Transmittal of U.S. Information Returns. The Form W-2G is filed when an individual wins a prize with a minimum specific dollar amount at a gaming event. The winner must provide the game operator with proper identification including his/her social security number. Obtain Publication 3079, Gaming Publication for Tax-Exempt Organizations, for additional information regarding filing requirements of tax-exempt organizations conducting gaming.

## DEFINITIONS

*IRC 501(c)(4)* provides, in part, for the exemption from federal income tax of civic leagues or organizations not organized for profit but operated exclusively for the promotion of social welfare. No part of the net earnings of such entity may inure to the benefit of any private shareholder or individual.

*IRC 501(c)(7)* provides for the exemption from federal income tax of clubs organized for pleasure, recreation, and other nonprofitable purposes, substantially all of the activities of which are for such purposes and no part of the net earnings of which inures to the benefit of any private shareholder.

*IRC 501(c)(8)* provides for the exemption from federal income tax of fraternal beneficiary societies, orders, or associations operating under the lodge system and providing for the payment of life, sick, accident or other benefits to the members and their dependents.

*IRC 501(c)(10)* provides for the exemption from federal income tax of domestic fraternal societies, orders, or associations, operating under the lodge system, the net earnings of which are devoted exclusively to religious, charitable, scientific, literary, educational, and fraternal purposes, and which do not provide for the payment of life, sick, accident, or other benefits.

*IRC 501(c)(19)* provides for the exemption from federal income tax of a post or organization of past or present members of the Armed Forces of the United States, or an auxiliary unit or society of, or a trust or foundation for any such post or organization meeting specific organizational requirements as stated in the Code.

*IRC 501(c)(23)* provides for the exemption of any association organized before 1880, more than 75 percent of the members of which are present or past members of the Armed Forces, and a principal purpose of which is to provide insurance and other benefits to veterans or their dependents. The Army and Navy Mutual Aid Societies are the only organizations known to qualify under this section.

*Auxiliary Units or societies* are corporations or associations formed to support the purposes and activities of a post or organization composed of veteran members. *IRC 501(c)(19)* provides for the exemption of auxiliary units composed of spouses of members of an *IRC 501(c)(19)* organization, or persons related to a member of such an organization within two degrees of consanguinity.

*“Bona fide guest” for IRC 501(c)(7) and 501(c)(19) purposes* is an individual invited to participate in an activity, accompanied by a member, and for whom all expenses are paid by the member. Whether an individual is a bona fide guest or a member of the general public is important for determining the source of income for *IRC 501(c)(7)* exempt status and for determining amounts of UBIT for *IRC 501(c)(7)* and *IRC 501(c)(19)* organizations.

A *“nonmember”* is an individual who is not a member of the organization but who participates in recreational activities sponsored by the organization or receives services or goods from the organization and pays for the services or goods received. Such an individual, even when accompanied by a member, is generally considered to be the principal in a business transaction with the organization.

A *war veteran* is a person who served in the Armed Forces of the United States during the following periods:

- A. April 21, 1898, through July 4, 1902;
- B. April 6, 1917, through November 11, 1918;
- C. December 7, 1941, through December 31, 1946;
- D. June 27, 1950, through January 31, 1955;
- E. February 28, 1961, through May 7, 1975, in the case of a veteran who served in the Republic of Vietnam during that period;
- F. August 5, 1964, through May 7, 1975, and
- G. August 2, 1990, and will end on the date prescribed by Presidential Proclamation or by law.





## RELATED PUBLICATIONS

*The Internal Revenue Service provides other publications and annual reporting instructions that cover specific aspects relating to topics discussed herein.*

- Publication 15 . . . . . Employer's Tax Guide (Circular E)
- Publication 15A . . . . . Employer's Supplemental Tax Guide
- Publication 510 . . . . . Excise Taxes
- Publication 515 . . . . . Withholding of Tax on Nonresident Aliens and Foreign Corporations
- Publication 526 . . . . . Charitable Contributions
- Publication 531 . . . . . Reporting Tip Income
- Publication 535 . . . . . Business Expenses
- Publication 557 . . . . . Tax-Exempt Status for Your Organization
- Publication 578 . . . . . Tax Information on Private Foundations and Foundation Managers
- Publication 598 . . . . . Tax on Unrelated Business Income of Exempt Organizations
- Publication 1391 . . . . . Deductibility of Payments Made to Charities Conducting Fund-Raising Events
- Publication 1771 . . . . . Charitable Contributions - Substantiation & Disclosure Requirements
- Publication 3079 . . . . . Gaming Publication for Tax-Exempt Organizations
- Instructions for Forms 1099, 1098, 5498, and W-2G, Reporting Requirements

### **Free Publications and Forms**

To order publications and forms, call our toll-free telephone number **1-800-829-3676** or write the IRS Forms Distribution Center for your area.

### **See Us on the Web:**

- IRS Home Page: <http://www.irs.gov>
- Exempt Organization: [http://www.irs.gov/bus\\_info/leo](http://www.irs.gov/bus_info/leo)
- Publication 3079: <http://ftp.fedworld.gov/pub/irs-pdf/p3079.pdf>

### **Taxpayer Assistance:**

EP/EO Customer Service (Ohio) 877-829-5500  
(Toll-Free) IRS Helpline - 800-829-1040

## REQUEST FOR COMMENTS

*To assist the Internal Revenue Service in its goal of providing effective, quality, and current information, we are soliciting comments and suggestions on this publication. Please indicate any changes you would recommend as well as suggestions for additions.*

*Please send your comments to:*

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Exempt Organizations Division  
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