



By Laws
Department of Missouri
Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War
as amended 2009

Preamble

We, the descendants of Soldiers, Sailors or Marines who served in the Army or Navy of the United States of America during the War of Rebellion of 1861-1865, have joined this Patriotic and Fraternal Order for the purpose and objects set forth by the National Organization, Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War, and in so doing pledge ourselves to commemorate our forefathers' deeds, to render loyal service to our country, and to promote the maintenance of unqualified American citizenship with respect for and honor to the flag.

ARTICLE I - Organization

This Department shall be constituted by the Constitution and Regulations (C&R) governing the National Organization, Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War and shall be known as the DEPARTMENT of MISSOURI, SONS of UNION VETERANS of the CIVIL WAR.

ARTICLE II - Meetings

Section 1. The annual Encampment of the Department of Missouri Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War, shall be held between the second day of January and the first day of July. The place and time of said Annual Encampment shall be determined by a majority vote of all members present and voting at the regular meeting that precedes the annual meeting. The Department Commander, or his designee shall be present at the Encampment.

Section 2. In the event of a failure to fix the time and place of the Annual Encampment before July 1st, the same shall be determined by the Department Commander, Secretary, Treasurer and the Members of the Council, by a Majority vote at least 30 days prior to July 1st in any year.

Section 3. Special meetings of the Department may be called by the Commander, With the consent of the council, or be convened by the Commander upon the petition of a majority of the Camps and approved by Brothers of the camps provided that not less than fifteen (15) days notice of said meeting shall be given each Camp, but no business shall be transacted at any special meeting other than that for which it was called - and the call for all special meetings shall state the object and purpose of same.

Section 4. There shall be at least two regular business meetings each year besides the department encampment. These meetings, their dates and times, shall be established by a general order of the department commander issued at least 30 days prior to the meeting(s). Meeting notices should be posted on the Internet web page and also distributed, at least, by electronic transmission to all members of the Department at the last known electronic contact address known to the Department. The meetings may address and approve any business before the department, but may not approve by-law changes.

Section 5. A quorum of members of the Department is met by those present at a meeting when the meeting was called following any of the above procedures.

ARTICE III - Officers and Their Duties

Section 1. The elected officers of the Department shall be as follows: Commander, Senior Vice Commander, Junior Vice Commander, three (3) members of the Council, two of which will be elected on even number years and one on odd numbered years, a Secretary/Treasurer or a Secretary and a Treasurer who shall serve a term of 2 years. The Secretary/Treasurer or a Secretary elected in even years and the Treasurer elected in odd years. The same member may hold the office of Secretary and the office of Treasurer simultaneously. The Commander, Treasurer, or the Secretary/Treasurer may not serve on the Council. All Officers shall serve until their successors are duly elected and installed. All subsequent officers and committee references in these Bylaws shall be regarded as Department related unless described otherwise.

Section 2. The commander, after his election, shall appoint other officers for the term of one (1) year as per the C&R. The appointed officers shall include, but not be limited to, the following: patriotic instructor, chaplain, counselor, historian, graves registration officer, camp organizer, and civil war memorials officer. The commander may also appoint chief of staff, GAR records officer, signals officer, eagle scout coordinator, ROTC coordinator, guide, color bearer, guard, and any other positions required by the C&R, these bylaws and/or the order's ceremonials and ritual.

Section 3. All officers shall be brothers of the Department of Missouri and shall perform the duties as specified by the C&R, ritual, these by-laws, and the orders of the Commander. The officers shall have such duties which are prescribed in the official Department Officers Job Descriptions as adopted by the National Encampment.

Section 4. If a vacancy should occur in any elected office, the Council shall convene, and by a majority vote of said Council, elect a Brother of the Department of Missouri to fill said Vacancy until the next Annual Encampment. If a vacancy should occur in any appointed office, the Commander may appoint another Brother of the Department to fill said vacancy until the next encampment, the removal from office of any elected or appointed officer for misconduct of duty shall be as provided by the C&R and these bylaws.

Section 5. All officers (elected and appointed) shall upon their retirement from office, turn over to their successor all property of the Department within ten (10) days after leaving office. All property shall be confirmed with a written inventory list.

Section 6. Pursuant to the C&R, a sufficient number of Brothers of the Department of Missouri shall be elected as Delegates and Alternates to attend and represent the Department of Missouri at the Annual Encampment of the Order. Said election shall occur at the Annual Department encampment preceding the national encampment in question.

ARTICLE IV - Authorized Expenditures

Section 1. The commander may be entitled to reimbursement of certain expenses necessary for the conduct of his office. Approval for reimbursement will be subject to a vote of the Council. Expenses may include but are not limited to, Long distance telephone calls, and postage.

Section 2. The Senior Vice commander may be entitled to reimbursement of certain expenses necessary for the conduct of his office. Approval for reimbursement will be subject to a vote of the Council. Expenses may include, but are not limited to, long distance telephone calls, and postage.

Section 3. The Junior Vice Commander may be entitled to reimbursement of certain expenses necessary for the conduct of his office. Approval of reimbursement for expenses will be by vote of the Council. Typical expenses may include but are not limited to, long distance telephone calls, and postage.

Section 4. The Secretary may be entitled to reimbursement of certain expenses necessary for the conduct of his office. Approval for reimbursement will be by a vote of the Council. Typical expenses may include, but are not limited to, long distance calls and postage.

Section 5. The Treasurer may be entitled to reimbursement of certain expenses necessary for the conduct of his office. Approval of reimbursement for expenses shall be obtained by a vote of the council. Expenses may include but not be limited to, Long distance telephone calls and postage.

ARTICLE V - Council

Section 1. The Council shall meet after their installation and elect a chairman, vice chairman and secretary. They shall have charge and supervision of all investments of funds and property of the Department. they shall convene on the day of and just before the Annual Department Encampment for the purpose of a full audit of the

Department books and accounts, and accounting of all Department property, and to review a budget prepared by the Treasurer for the ensuing year and for the consideration of such other business as may be brought to it's attention.

Section 2. The Treasurer shall have all necessary books, papers, etc. at the time and place designated and shall render assistance in making said audit. Failure to comply without just cause or prior arrangements may result in disciplinary measures set forth in the C&R and these bylaws.

ARTICLE VI - Reports

Section 1. All officers of the Department shall present an annual written report at the Department Encampment.

Section 2. The Secretary shall make and keep a record of the proceedings of the Annual Encampment. He shall make a regular report of the correspondence received and sent, and other activities as required by his office, to the Commander as often as required by the C&R. He shall also make reports, as may be deemed necessary by the Commander and / or Council.

Section 3. The Treasurer shall prepare and maintain records of all the Departments finances, reporting the total receipts, expenditures and balances on hand. This report shall be presented at the Annual Encampment. He shall also make special reports, as may be deemed necessary by the Commander and / or Council.

ARTICLE VII - Camp Charter Fees and Per Capita Tax

Section 1. The Charter fee for all new Camps within the Department of Missouri will be paid by the Department.

Section 2. Each new camp within the Department shall receive a Packet containing the following:

(1) Ritual and Ceremony, (2) transfer forms, (1) Department By Laws, and a listing of current Camps and officers within the Department.

Section 3. The Per Capita Tax for the ensuing year shall be fixed at the first Department or special Department meeting after the National Encampment.

Section 4. Camps shall be exempt from Department Per Capita Tax assessment on Real Sons, Life Members, and Juniors.

Article VIII Department Committees

Section 1. The standing department committees shall be as follows: bylaws, legislative, membership, graves registration, civil war memorials, G.A.R. records, Sons of Union Veterans /Sons of Veterans (S.U.V./S.V.) records, camp organizing, marketing, and communication and technology. Said chairmen of said committees may appoint brothers to assist them in their department functions at their discretion.

Section 2. Special Committees may be created by action of the Commander and shall exist for the period of time designated in the creation thereof. Duties and responsibilities shall be defined at the time of Committee creation.

Section 3. All Standing and Special Committees shall, except as where otherwise noted, consist of Brothers of the Department of Missouri in good standing within their respective Camps. The Commander shall appoint the Chairman of each Committee unless otherwise specified. The Commander shall serve *Member ex-officio* on all Standing and Special Committees, unless otherwise noted.

Section 4. The Bylaws Committee shall be chaired by the Senior Vice Commander and shall annually review these bylaws, bringing any necessary revisions to the attention of the Department membership.

Section 5. The Legislative Committee shall keep itself informed of all legislation which may be introduced in the Missouri State Legislature, of such nature as to affect the interest of this Order and / or the other Allied Orders of the Grand Army of the Republic, or the patriotic interests of the people, and may recommend to the Camps, subject to the approval of the Department Commander, any action that the committee deems advisable or expedient, The Legislative Committee shall consist of the Department Commander, Secretary, and three other Brothers of the Department appointed by the Commander.

Section 6. The Membership Committee shall be chaired by the Junior Vice Commander and shall consist of all Camp Junior Vice Commanders. the purpose of the Committee shall be to put forth proposals and implement programs for the recruitment of Brothers into the Order.

Section 7. The Graves Registration Committee shall seek and identify all graves of Civil War Veterans in the state of Missouri. The Committee shall bring to the attention of the Department any disrespect or lack of maintenance shown to any Civil War grave. The Committee shall be chaired by the Graves Registration Officer.

Section 8. The Civil War Memorials Committee shall seek, locate, catalog and promote the preservation of all monuments and memorials to Civil War Veterans within the State of Missouri. The committee shall be chaired by the Civil War Memorials Officer.

Section 9. The GAR records Committee shall seek, locate and catalog all GAR records within the state of Missouri. The Committee Chair shall be the GAR records officer.

Section 10. The Communications and Technology Committee shall advise officers and committees about the latest computer and related technologies pertinent to the Department. The Committee shall be chaired by the Signals Officer.

Section 11. The SV/SUV records committee shall seek, locate and catalog all SV/SUV records within the state of Missouri. The chairman may appoint additional brothers to assist him as needed.

Section 12. An annual awards committee, consisting of the last 3 past department commander and chaired by the senior vice commander, shall oversee the process to nominate and present awards to camps, brothers, and people outside the order who are worthy of the awards presented by the order. They shall review the current rules governing each award and may recommend modifications to the criteria for future awards. The secretary, treasurer and other past department commanders may act in advisory capacities to this committee.

Section 13. The marketing committee shall seek, propose, and with approval initiate ways to promote the Department of Missouri and its camps. The chairman may appoint additional brothers to assist him as needed, except that the junior vice commander because of his role as chairman of the membership committee shall be a member of this committee also.

ARTICLE IX - Camps

Section 1. The Department Commander may annually inspect any Camp for the purpose of ascertaining the condition of the same.

Section 2. The use of ritualistic ceremonies in the conducting of regular Camp meetings is encouraged of all Camps.

Section 3. The initiation of candidates into the Order is encouraged to be done as per the Ritual of the order at a regular Camp meeting.

Section 4. Camps are encouraged to meet at least quarterly throughout the year in Ritual session.

Article X Membership at Large

Section 1. In accordance with Chapter II, Article X, Section 1, National Regulations, the Department shall not maintain Membership at Large (MAL). When applications are received from the National Organization for MAL, the Department Junior Vice Commander shall contact the member and give him the opportunity to select one of the Camps in the Department to join. If the new MAL does not elect to choose a Camp within 30 days, he shall be assigned to the Camp closest to his place of residence. The Department Council shall develop and maintain a map of the Department to serve as a guideline for Camp assignment.

ARTICLE XI - Associates

Section 1. Associates may be enrolled only into existing Camps within the Department pursuant to the Order's C&R.

Section 2. The Associate applicant shall observe all procedures of application, membership and dues structures as the member applicant.

Section 3. A rejected applicant for Associate enrollment shall not be eligible to apply again for Associate enrollment until six (6) months have elapsed after such rejection.

ARTICLE XII - Elections

Section 1. The camps of this Department shall elect Camp officers between the first regular meeting of the Camp during the month of October and the first meeting of December, inclusive; said elections shall conform to regulations established by the C&R.

Section 2. The Camps of this Department shall install Camp officers between the first regular meeting of the Camp in November through January, inclusive. Said installation shall conform to regulations established by the C&R and shall be performed by proper authority - the Department Commander or his designee or the Commander-in-Chief or his designee.

ARTICLE XIII - Amendments

Section 1. The Bylaws shall only be amended by a two-thirds (2/3) vote of the Brothers present and entitled to vote at any Department or special Department meeting.

Section 2. Any proposed amendment, to these Bylaws shall be printed to typewritten and a copy sent to the Commander of each Camp for review, at least 30 days prior to any Department meeting. All Camps shall take action on same and instruct their delegates accordingly.

Section 3. These Bylaws and any amendments shall be effective immediately after their adoption at the Department meeting and subsequent approval of the Commander-in-Chief.

ARTICLE XIV - Ritualistic Equipment

Section 1. Camps are encouraged to provide at least three (3) flags. The first two flags shall be the United States and the Missouri state flags. The third flag shall be the blue, bearing the gold badge of the order, no smaller than 8 by 10 inches centered with the names of the Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War and the name and number of the Camp. The Size of all three flags and poles, respectively, shall be the same. The fringe on all three flags shall be yellow.

Section 2. The Department is encouraged to provide three (3) flags. The first two flags shall be the United States and Missouri state flag. The third flag shall be red, bearing a gold badge of the order, no smaller than 8 by 10 inches centered with the names in gold lettering of the Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War and the Department of Missouri. The size of all three flags and poles, respectively, shall be the same. The fringe on all three flags shall be yellow.

Section 3. All flags of the Camps and or the Department shall be displayed, if practicable, at all regular meetings of the respective body, at parades, and when ordered by the Department Commander.

Section 4. All Camps and the Department shall make all efforts possible to secure and use the ritualistic equipment provided for in the C&R, Ritual and Bylaws.

ARTICLE XV - Awards

Section 1. Authorization for a Department certificate of appreciation award is provided. The award shall be conferred by the commander upon any individual or entity, who, in the judgment of the awards committee, has through his/her actions, words, or deeds, significantly contributed to the furtherance of the Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War and the memory of the Grand Army of the Republic within the state of Missouri.

Section 2. The James Eads award for most outstanding camp and the Frank Blair award for most outstanding individual brother shall be presented annually. The GAR award for member(s) of the other Allied Orders who have best assisted the Sons of Union Veterans, Department of Missouri in its mission may be presented annually. The Show-Me Spirit award for most outstanding citizen(s) who have best promoted the remembrance of the Union soldiers of the Civil War may be presented annually. The Meritorious Service Award for long term contributions to the department of Missouri may be presented as needed. The committee may elect to grant other certificates as needed.

ARTICLE XVI - Discipline

Section 1. Disciplinary activities are addressed and governed by the national Constitution and Regulations ("C&R") in Chapter V (General Regulations), article VI (Discipline).

ARTICLE XVII - Sons of Veterans Reserve and Camp Guards

Section 1. The Department of Missouri will encourage the establishment of a military unit known as the Sons of Veterans Reserve (SVR) as outlined within the C&R of the order.

Section 2. The Department Commander may call upon the SVR officer commanding within the Department and request the SVR to provide an appropriate appearance and military participation on behalf of the Department.

Section 3. The Senior officer of any SVR unit existing within the Department present at any Department function, shall assume overall command of the military aspects of the Department function. The senior officer of each Camp Guard participating in any Department function shall place himself and his Camp Guard under the command of the SVR Officer.

Section 4. Camps may maintain an independent Camp Guard under the auspices of the Camp. Said Camp Guards shall not be governed by the Standard Operating Procedures of the National Military Department, SVR. The highest ranking officer of any Camp Guard shall be Captain.

Section 5. The Department may call upon the various Camps and request that the Camps provide an appropriate appearance and military participation at a Department function.

Section 6. Each Camp with a Camp Guard may regulate the amount of dues for members of such a unit.

Section 7. There shall be no money paid out from the Department Treasury to any source expense or purpose for the SVR or any Camp Guard.

ARTICLE XVIII - Inclusion of Other Regulations

Section 1. Included herein by reference and made a part of these Bylaws are the following rules and regulations and any subsequent amendments or modifications thereto: Constitution and Regulations of the National Organization of the Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War and Standard Operating Procedures of the national Military Department of the Sons of the Veterans Reserve.

ARTICLE XIX - Dissolution and Disposition of Assets

Section 1. In the case of surrender or forfeiture of the Department Charter, all Department property and assets shall be turned over to the National Commander-in-

Chief of the Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil or his duly authorized representative and shall become the property of the National Organization, Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War. The Receipts for property and assets shall be added to the surrendered Department Records.

Section 2. All property of the Department shall be held by the National Organization, Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War, as a charitable trust that is held and used for the purpose for which the Order exists. Any such transfer or disposal within six (6) months of disbandment or surrender of the Department Charter without consent of the National Commander-in-Chief of the Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War is prohibited. The property and funds of the Department shall not be divided amongst its members.

Section 3. In the event the National Organization, Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War no longer exists, said property and funds shall revert to the benefit of the first and any remaining organizations of the Allied Orders of the Grand Army of the Republic or in their absence, to the holdings of the Missouri Historical Society.