

**SONS OF THE AMERICAN LEGION (SAL)
DETACHMENT OF MISSOURI
CONSTITUTION AND BYLAWS**

CONSTITUTION

PREAMBLE

Proud possessors of a priceless heritage, we male descendants of veterans of all wars, associate ourselves together as “Sons of The American Legion” for the following purposes:

- To uphold and defend the Constitution of the United States of America; to maintain law and order;
- to foster and perpetuate a true spirit of Americanism;
- to preserve the memories of our former members and the association of our members and our forefathers in all wars;
- to inculcate a sense of individual obligation to the Community, State and Nation;
- to combat the autocracy of both the classes and the masses;
- to make right the master of might;
- to promote peace and goodwill on earth;
- to safeguard and transmit to posterity the principles of justice, freedom, and democracy,
- to consecrate and sanctify our friendship by our devotion to mutual helpfulness;
- to adopt in letter and spirit all of the great principles for which The American Legion stands, and
- to assist in carrying on for God and Country.

**ARTICLE I
NAME**

Section 1. The name of this organization shall be the Sons of The American Legion, Detachment of Missouri, Inc. Known hereafter as Detachment.

Section 2. The Detachment Headquarters shall be located at the site of the Department Headquarters, The American Legion, Department, Inc.

ARTICLE II NATURE

Section 1. The Sons of The American Legion, Detachment of Missouri is a civilian organization. Membership therein does not affect nor increase liability for military or police service.

Section 2. The Detachment shall be absolutely non-political and shall not be used for the dissemination of partisan principles nor for the promotion of the candidacy of any person seeking public office of preferment.

Section 3. The Detachment shall be absolutely nonsectarian.

Section 4. Each member shall perform his full duty as a citizen according to his own conscience and understanding in accordance with the law.

ARTICLE III ELIGIBILITY AND MEMBERSHIP

Section 1. All male descendants adopted sons, and stepsons of members of The American Legion, and such male descendants of veterans who died in service during the period of April 6, 1917, through November 11, 1918, or any time from December 7, 1941, to date, who served honorably, as set forth in Article IV of the National Constitution of The American Legion, or who died subsequent to their honorable discharge from such service, shall be eligible for membership in the Sons of The American Legion.

Section 2. There shall be no form or class of membership except an active membership.

Section 3. Membership in the Sons of The American Legion is membership in the National Organization of the Sons of The American Legion and the Detachment by affiliation with a Squadron.

Section 4. Applications for membership shall be made in writing on blanks prescribed therefore by the National organization.

Section 5. No person, at any one time, may be a member of more than one Squadron.

Section 6. All Detachment, District, and Squadron Officers shall, at all times while in office, be members in good standing of the Sons of The American Legion.

ARTICLE IV ADMINISTRATION

Section 1. The legislative body of the Sons of The American Legion, Detachment of Missouri shall be an annual Detachment Convention to be held at the same time and place as The American Legion, Department of Missouri, Inc.

Section 2. The Detachment Convention shall be composed of delegates from each Squadron.

Section 3. The Administrative power of the Detachment shall be vested in the Detachment Executive Committee, known hereafter within the Article as the Committee. The Committee shall be composed of the Commander, Senior Vice Commander, and two (2) Zone Vice Commanders, the immediate Past Detachment Commander, Adjutant, Finance Officer, Chaplain, Sergeant-at-Arms, Judge Advocate, Historian, National Executive Committeeman, and the Alternate National Executive Committeeman.

ARTICLE V ORGANIZATION

Section 1. This Detachment is organized as a subordinate body of the National Sons of The American Legion and is under the sponsorship and jurisdiction of the Department of Missouri, The American Legion.

Section 2. This Detachment shall be governed by such rules and regulations as may be prescribed by the National Executive Committee of The American Legion, and by such rules and regulations as may be prescribed by the Detachment, and approved by the Department of Missouri Executive Committee of The American Legion and which are not inconsistent with those prescribed by the National Organization.

Section 3. The Detachment is governed by the Sons of The American Legion Commission, appointed by The American Legion, Department of Missouri. Known hereafter as the Commission.

Section 4. The Detachment Commander shall by invitation attend the meetings of the Department Commission.

Section 5. The Detachment shall hold regularly scheduled conferences at the same time and place as The American Legion Department of Missouri conferences.

Section 6. All actions taken at Detachment meetings shall be subject to review and approval of the Commission, and The American Legion Department Executive Committee.

ARTICLE VI DETACHMENT ADVISORY COMMISSION

Section 1. The members of the Detachment Advisory Commission shall be the same persons who are appointed by The American Legion Department of Missouri to its Sons of The American Legion Commission. The chairman of the Commission is the Detachment Advisor. The Advisor chairs all Commission meetings. The Advisor may take Commission reports to and from the Department. The Advisor is the liaison between the Detachment, and the Department Commander.

Section 2. All actions of the Detachment Advisory Commission are subject to the approval of The American Legion Department Executive Committee.

Section 3. The Department Adjutant of The American Legion, Department of Missouri, or their appointee shall be the coordinator of membership for the Detachment. The Department Adjutant or appointee may send notification of Commission meetings, and any other duly called meetings of the Detachment.

ARTICLE VII DETACHMENT OFFICERS

Section 1. The officers of this Detachment shall be a Commander, Senior Vice Commander, Eastern Zone Vice Commander, Western Zone Vice Commander, Adjutant, Finance Officer, Sergeant-at-Arms, Chaplain, Historian, and Judge Advocate.

Section 2. In addition to the above officers, a National Executive Committeeman and Alternate National Executive Committeeman shall be elected to represent the Detachment at the National level. These officers are elected for a term of two years.

Section 3. There shall be a nominating committee which shall consist of all Past Detachment Commanders in good standing, with the immediate Past Detachment Commander as Chairman, that will recommend nominees for office.

ARTICLE VIII DETACHMENT CONVENTION

Section 1. Delegates:

(a) Each Squadron in the Detachment shall have delegates on the following:

- 1) One delegate for each ten members of a fraction thereof.
- 2) Past Detachment Commanders who are active members shall be entitled to one vote provided they are present at the Annual Meeting. Their vote will be included with their Squadrons.
- 3) Members of the Detachment Executive Committee and the Detachment Adjutant shall be members of the Detachment Convention, but, as such, shall have no vote in the convention. All Past National or Past Detachment Commanders in good standing in their respective Squadron in this Detachment shall be Delegates-at-Large to the Detachment convention and shall be entitled to one vote each when present.

Section 2. A quorum shall exist at the Detachment Convention when a minimum of ten (10) Squadrons are represented by duly elected delegates or alternates.

Section 3. During the Detachment Annual Convention, the following Detachment Officers shall be elected: Detachment Commander, Senior Vice Commander, Eastern Vice Commander, Western Vice Commander, Adjutant, Sergeant-at-Arms, Chaplain, Finance Officer, Judge Advocate, and Historian. The National Executive Committeeman and the Alternate National Executive Committeeman serve two-year terms.

Section 4. All Committee members shall furnish proof that he is a member in good standing in the Detachment of Missouri to the Detachment Adjutant immediately upon election to office.

Section 5. The Committee shall fill any vacancy in an office occurring between annual meetings for the remainder of the unexpired term.

Section 6. Any officer may be removed for inefficiency by the Committee, a two-thirds vote of said committee being necessary to effect such removal. Any officer who absents himself for three or more consecutive meetings can, on due investigation, be held to be sufficient proof of inefficiency, warranting such removal.

Section 7. The Committee shall hold regularly scheduled meetings at the same time as The American Legion Department of Missouri Conferences and at The American Legion Department Convention. Notices of these meetings will be in The American Legion Department's Missouri Legionnaire.

Section 8. The Committee may call a special meeting other than the three regular scheduled meetings with a thirty-day notice to all Committee members, and to all members of the Commission.

Section 9. Three members of the Committee shall constitute a quorum for the normal transaction of business.

Section 10. The Committee shall meet for organization and such business as may come it within ten days after the annual election on the call of the Commander. Thereafter the Committee shall meet at the call of the Commander as often as said Commander may deem necessary. The Commander shall call a meeting of the Committee upon the written request of two members of the committee.

Section 11. All appointments of the Detachment Commander are subject to approval of the Committee.

Section 12. The Committee without meeting may transact business by mail, telephone, digital electronic media, or any other method of communication on matters of urgency not involving new policy and on which action cannot be delayed until the next regular meeting. Thirty days shall be allowed for the votes cast and recorded by the Detachment Adjutant. The Adjutant then shall notify the Detachment Commander of the votes cast. As is early as possible the action voted on shall be forwarded to the Commission for approval.

ARTICLE IX ELECTION OF OFFICERS

Section 1. The legislative body of the Sons of The American Legion, Detachment of Missouri shall be an annual Detachment Convention to be held at the same time and place as The American Legion, Department of Missouri, Inc.

Section 2. Each year at the same time and place as The American Legion, Department of Missouri, shall hold its convention, the Detachment, shall hold its Annual Meeting to be known as its Annual Convention. Time and place of the Annual Convention will be announced by a call to order mailed to the Squadrons by the Detachment Adjutant.

Section 3. Representation at the Detachment Annual Meeting shall be the Delegates and Alternates, elected by the Squadrons.

Section 4. Each Squadron in the Detachment shall have delegates on the following basis:

(a) One delegate for each ten members or a fraction thereof.

(b) Past Detachment Commanders who are active members shall be entitled to one vote provided they are present at the Annual Meeting. Their vote will be included with their Squadrons.

Section 5. During the Detachment Annual Meeting the following Detachment Officers shall be elected: Detachment Commander, Senior Vice Commander, Eastern Zone Vice Commander, Western Zone Vice Commander, Adjutant, Finance Officer, Sergeant-at-Arms, Chaplain, Historian, and Judge Advocate. The National Executive Committeeman and Alternate National Executive Committeeman serve two-year terms.

Section 6. To be eligible for Detachment Commander, candidate must have been on the Detachment Executive Committee for at least two years.

Section 7. No Detachment Level Officer may hold any office in the Department of Missouri of District Commander or higher. This is due to the attendance requirement of said officer at Detachment Conferences and Convention.

Section 8. A quorum shall be considered present when three Detachment Officers and seven members of different Squadrons in attendance, total representation equaling at least ten Squadrons.

Section 9. Questions that require a division shall require votes to be appropriated in a like manner as in Article IX, Section (4)a.

Section 10. Installation of Detachment Officers shall follow the Saturday session of the Detachment Annual Meeting, and shall be done according to ritual.

(a) All Officers shall hold their office from the installation at the Detachment of Missouri Annual Meeting to the next installation at the Detachment of Missouri Annual Meeting the following year.

Section 11. Any Officer may be removed from office for cause by a joint meeting of Commission and the Detachment Executive Committee. The vacancy would then be filled by the Joint Committee, subject to the approval of the American Legion, Department of Missouri Department Executive Committee.

ARTICLE X DISTRICTS

Section 1. Intermediate organizations between the Detachment and Squadrons may be formed to be known as Districts.

Section 2. Each District of the Sons of The American Legion will carry the same numeric designation and area boundaries as The American Legion District in which it is located.

Section 3. The purpose of the districts is to act as liaison groups between Squadrons and the Detachment and to promote the overall programs in their areas through common efforts.

Section 4. Districts may elect officers from among their members. Titles, duties, and terms of office shall generally conform to those of the Squadron organizations.

Section 5. Each District exists through sponsorship of The American Legion District(s) and is subject to such rules, regulations and supervision as shall be created by the sponsoring District not in conflict with rules and regulations set up by the National Executive Committee.

ARTICLE XI SQUADRONS

Section 1. Each squadron exists through sponsorship of the individual Post of The American Legion and is subject to such rules, regulations and supervision as shall be created by the sponsoring post not in conflict with rules and regulations set up by the National Executive Committee. Squadrons in the Detachment of Missouri, shall be organized under the jurisdiction of the local American Legion Posts and shall bear the same name of such Post as follows: Sons of The American Legion (Post Name), Squadron (Post Number), Detachment of Missouri.

Section 2. Through the Detachment, the Department of Missouri shall have jurisdiction over all Squadrons located within the State.

Section 3. All the squadrons of The American Legion, in the Detachment of Missouri, shall be governed by such rules and regulations as may be prescribed by the National Committee of the Sons of The American Legion as approved by the National Executive Committee of The American Legion, and by such further rules and regulations as may be prescribed by the Department of Missouri, and which shall not be inconsistent with those prescribed by the National Organization.

Section 4. Application to form a squadron of the Sons of The American Legion shall be to a Post Commander of The American Legion in the area in which the Squadron will exist. Upon the Post Commander's approval, the application shall be forwarded to the Department Adjutant for final approval, and submitting to the National Adjutant and National Commander of The American Legion in the same manner as for issuance of charters of Posts in The American Legion. The Department Adjutant shall also submit a photo copy of the application to the Detachment Adjutant.

Section 5. The minimum amount of members for forming a Squadron of the Sons of The American Legion shall be ten.

Section 6. There shall only be one Squadron per Post.

Section 7. Each Squadron shall elect officers at a regular meeting not less than thirty days prior to the Detachment Annual Meeting and report these officers to the Detachment Adjutant at least twenty days prior to said Annual meeting. Installation of said officers shall be held within sixty days of the Detachment Annual Meeting.

Section 8. Each Squadron shall be the judge of its own membership, subject to the restrictions of this Constitution and Bylaws.

Section 9. The amount of annual Squadron dues shall be determined by the Squadron and the sponsoring American Legion Post. These dues which will include the Detachment and National dues shall be collected by the Squadrons. The Squadron shall be responsible for forwarding the appropriate dues to Detachment Headquarters for filing and forwarding to National Headquarters.

Section 10. Each Squadron shall subscribe to the National and Detachment Constitutions and Bylaws and shall not incur any obligations in the name of any other Squadron, subdivision, organization, branch, committee, or group of members in the Detachment of Missouri.

Section 11. Each Squadron shall adopt its own Constitution and Bylaws, Rules and Regulations, not inconsistent with the National and Detachment Constitutions and Bylaws, and shall provide a copy and amendments to the Detachment and Department.

Section 12. Any member of the Sons of The American Legion, Detachment of Missouri in good standing in his Squadron, may transfer his membership to another Squadron upon complying with the membership requirements of the Squadron to which he desires to transfer, and for this purpose he shall be entitled to a certification from his Squadron stating his membership and duration thereof. The transfer shall be valid only when registered with the Department Adjutant.

ARTICLE XII COMMISSIONS AND COMMITTEES

Section 1. Each activity of the Sons of The American Legion Detachment of Missouri authorized by the Detachment Convention or by the Detachment Executive Committee and approved by the Department of Missouri Executive Committee shall be carried out by the medium of Commission or Committee. Members of each Commission or Committee shall be appointed by the Detachment Commander, by and with the advice and consent of the Detachment Executive Committee. Those designated as Commissions to carry out the major activities of the Detachment shall have three (3) or six (6) members. Committees shall have three (3) or six (6) members, except that Ad Hoc Committees shall be of a size deemed necessary by the Detachment Commander. All terms on regular Commissions or Committees shall be for three (3) years.

Section 2. Each year the Detachment Commander shall appoint the Chairman of the Detachment Commissions and Committees. These Chairman will be appointed at the session following the installation of the new Detachment Officers during the annual convention.

ARTICLE XIII FINANCES

Section 1. The revenue of the Sons of The American Legion shall be derived from annual membership dues and from other sources as may be approved by the Commission.

Section 2. The amount of annual Detachment dues shall be fixed by the Sons of The American Legion, Detachment of Missouri, and the National dues shall be fixed by the National Organization, and shall become due and payable by December 31st of each year for the succeeding calendar year.

Section 3. The annual dues collected by the Detachment of Missouri shall be forwarded to the National Organization based upon the current per capita with the remaining monies kept in an appropriate account maintained by the Department of Missouri, The American Legion. The American Legion, Department of Missouri, shall distribute the funds of the Detachment upon the direction of the Detachment Advisor within the scope of an approved budget. This account shall be maintained under the direction of the Department Finance Officer and Department Finance Committee and the Detachment Finance Officer, under the purview of the Department SAL Advisor.

Section 4. A member whose dues for the current year have not been paid by January first shall be classed as delinquent. If his dues are paid on or before February first, he shall be automatically reinstated. If he is still delinquent after February first, he shall be suspended from all privileges. If he is still under such suspension on June thirteenth of such year, his membership in the Sons of The American Legion shall be forfeited. A member so suspended or whose membership has been so forfeited may be reinstated to active membership in good standing by vote of the Squadron and payment of current dues for the year in which reinstatement occurs. Provided, however, that the Squadrons, Detachments, and the National Organization may waive the provisions hereof, upon payment of dues for the year in which reinstatement occurs, with reference to former members who have been prevented the payment of dues by reason of military service.

ARTICLE XIV DISCIPLINE

Section 1. The American Legion, Department of Missouri, may suspend or revoke the charter of any Squadron of the Sons of The American Legion in the Department of Missouri, which violates its Constitution and By-Laws or take such other disciplinary measures as may be for the benefit of the Squadron, District, or the Detachment as a whole. Any action taken is subject to the review of the Department Executive Committee, through the Commission.

ARTICLE XV AMENDMENTS

Section 1. This Constitution is adopted, subject to the provisions of the Constitution of the Organization of which this Detachment is a subordinate member. Any amendment to the Constitution of such organizations which are in conflict with any provision hereof shall be regarded as automatically repealing or modifying the provision of this Constitution to the extent of such conflict.

Section 2. This Constitution may be amended at the Annual Meeting of this Detachment by a vote of two-thirds of the delegates attending, provided that the proposed amendments have been submitted in writing to the Squadrons sixty days prior to the opening of such Annual Meeting.

Section 3. Approved amendments shall subsequently be submitted without delay to the Commission for consideration and modification and/or approval and thence on to the Department of Missouri Executive Committee for final approval prior to any implementing on the part of the Detachment.

Approved by the Detachment of Missouri July 13, 2024

Approved by the Department of Missouri _____2024

BYLAWS

ARTICLE I OFFICERS DUTIES AND RESPONSIBILITIES

Section 1. Commander

The Commander shall be the Executive Head of the Sons of The American Legion, Detachment of Missouri, and will have full authority to enforce the provisions of the Detachment Constitution and Bylaws, and the policies and mandates of the National Executive Committee of The American Legion, the Department Executive Committee, the Commission, and Detachment Executive Committee. In fulfillment of his role as Detachment Commander, he shall also be responsible for promoting the Sons of The American Legion programs with Squadrons, and assisting in the formation of new Squadrons by enlisting the aid of the Detachment Vice Commanders.

Section 2. Vice Commanders:

- (a) The Detachment Senior Vice Commander shall serve with seniority, and the two Detachment Zone Vice Commanders shall serve without seniority. They shall be responsible for membership within the Detachment. They shall directly represent the Detachment Commander on all matters referred to them. The Senior Vice Commander shall, upon request, preside over meetings. He shall act as the Commander in the absence of the Commander.
- (b) The two Detachment Zone Vice Commanders shall serve without seniority. They shall be elected as follows: Eastern Zone Vice Commander shall be elected from Department Districts 1, 2, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, or 14. Western Zone Vice Commander shall be elected from Department Districts: 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 15, 16, or 17. The Zone Vice Commanders are responsible for promoting the Sons of The American Legion Programs and shall be selected from within their geographic boundaries. They shall assist in the formation of new squadrons and assist the Commander when called upon.

Section 3. National Executive Committeeman and Alternate National Executive Committeeman:

The National Executive Committeeman (NEC) shall represent the Detachment in a dignified manner on the National Executive Committee through attendance at all National Executive Committee meetings and the National Convention. The NEC shall report to the Detachment Executive Committee on any and all important matters that come out of those meetings. The NEC shall attend all Detachment meetings. The NEC shall be the escort of any and all National dignitaries that may visit during any function within the Detachment. The Alternate National Executive Committeeman will fulfill the aforementioned responsibilities only in the absence and request of the NEC.

Section 4. Adjutant

The Adjutant shall be charged with the administration duties required in carrying out the policies and mandates of The American Legion and of the Detachment Executive Committee.

Section 5. Finance Officer

The Finance Officer shall be direct custodian of the fund books of the Detachment. He shall prepare a budget for the ensuing year subject to the approval of the Detachment Executive Committee and the Commission.

Section 6. Sergeant-at-Arms

The Sergeant-at-Arms shall be charged with the responsibility of preserving order at all Detachment meetings and he shall be given the custody of the Detachment Colors between such meetings. He shall perform other such duties which are usual and customary to this office.

Section 7. Chaplain

The Chaplain shall perform such divine and non-sectarian services as may be necessary, adhering to such ceremonial rituals as may be prescribed by the National Membership and Post Activities Committee of The American Legion. He shall organize and conduct the memorial services at the Detachment Annual Meeting.

Section 8. Historian

The Historian shall collect from year to year all records and data of value and interest to the Detachment of Missouri and shall compile a complete history of the year's activities during his term of office. In addition, he shall develop a procedure for District and Squadron Historians to follow in publishing their respective yearbooks, for possible submission to National programs.

Section 9. Judge Advocate

The Judge Advocate shall provide professional advice in the conduct of all official meetings of the Detachment. He shall be the guardian of the Constitution and Bylaws. He shall perform an annual audit on the financial records of the Detachment immediately prior to the Annual Meeting and report his findings to the full membership.

ARTICLE II SQUADRON AND DISTRICT CONSTITUTION AND BY-LAWS

Section 1. Each Squadron and District shall adopt a Constitution and Bylaws. In the formation of such there shall be no conflict with the National Constitution and Bylaws nor this Constitution and Bylaws governing the Sons of The American Legion.

ARTICLE III RULES OF ORDER

Section 1. The procedure at all Squadron, District, and Detachment meetings shall be governed by most recent accepted version of Roberts Rules of Order.

ARTICLE IV AMENDMENTS

Section 1. These Bylaws are adopted, subject to the provisions of the Bylaws of the Organization of which the Detachment is a subordinate member. Any amendment to the Bylaws of such organizations that are in conflict with any provision hereof shall be regarded as automatically repealing or modifying the provision of these Bylaws to the extent of such conflict.

Section 2. These Bylaws may be amended at the Annual Meeting of this Detachment by a vote of two-thirds of the delegates attending, provided that the proposed amendments have been submitted in writing to the Squadrons sixty days prior to the opening of such Annual Meeting.

Section 3. Approved amendments shall subsequently be submitted without delay to The American Legion, Department of Missouri, Sons of The American Legion Commission for consideration and modification and/or approval and thence on to the Department of Missouri Executive Committee for final approval prior to any implementing on the part of the Detachment of Missouri, Sons of The American Legion.

Approved by the Detachment of Missouri July 13, 2024

Approved by the Department of Missouri _____2024