

SONS OF THE AMERICAN LEGION DETACHMENT OF MISSOURI CONSTITUTION AND BYLAWS

CONSTITUTION

PREAMBLE

Proud possessors of a priceless heritage, we male descendants of veterans of the Great 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 the Great Wars;
- to inculcate a sense of individual obligation to the Community, State and Nation;
- to combat the autocracy of the classes and the masses;
- to make right the master of might;
- to promote peace and good will 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 site of the Department Headquarters, The American Legion, Department of Missouri, Inc.

ARTICLE II OBJECT

Section 1: The object and purposes of The Sons of The American Legion, Detachment of Missouri are as herein before set out in the Preamble

ARITCLE III 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 or for the promotion of the candidacy of any person seeking public office or preferment.

ARTICLE VI 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 VII 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. He/she chairs all Commission meetings. He/she may make Commission reports to and from the Department. He/she 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 his/her appointee) shall be the coordinator of membership for the Detachment. He/she may send notification of Commission meetings, and any other duly called meetings of the Detachment.

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, telegraph, telephone 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 X 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 all Squadrons by the Detachment Adjutant.

ARTICLE XI 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 XII 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 Commanders 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 2. Each year the Detachment Commander shall appoint the Chairman of the Detachment Commissions and Committees. These Chairmen will be appointed at the session following the installation of the new Detachment Officers during the annual Convention.

ARTICLE XIV 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 31 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 XV 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.

BYLAWS

ARTICLE I OFFICERS DUTIES AND RESPONSIBILITIES

Section 1. **Commander**

The Commander shall be the Executive Head of the Sons of the 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: Easter 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.

**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 this 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.