



# SONS OF THE AMERICAN LEGION DETACHMENT OF LOUISIANA DETACHMENT BYLAWS

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(SONS OF THE AMERICAN LEGION DETACHMENT OF LOUISIANA BYLAWS)

## ARTICLE I: (NOMINATION AND ELECTION OF OFFICERS)

SECTION 1: ANY SQUADRON MEMBER IN THE DETACHMENT OF LOUISIANA MAY PRESENT THE NAME OF ANY OTHER SQUADRON MEMBER IN THE DETACHMENT OF LOUISIANA FOR NOMINATION AS A DETACHMENT OFFICER, IF SAID NOMINEE ISN'T PRESENT, THE DETACHMENT ADJUTANT MUST HAVE A LETTER STATING WHAT OFFICE SAID NOMINEE IS RUNNING FOR.

SECTION 2: THOSE OFFICERS SHALL BE DECLARED ELECTED WHO HAVE BY ROLL CALL BALLOT RECEIVED A MAJORITY OF THE VOTES OF THE DELEGATES PRESENT AT DETACHMENT CONVENTION.

SECTION 3: THE NEWLY ELECTED OFFICERS SHALL TAKE OFFICE AT THE CLOSE OF THE DETACHMENT CONVENTION, AT WHICH TIME THEY SHALL BE INSTALLED BY PROPER AUTHORITY. THE NEWLY APPOINTED OFFICERS SHALL TAKE OFFICE AT THE CLOSE OF THE POST DETACHMENT EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING.

## ARTICLE II: (DUTIES OF OFFICERS)

SECTION 1 (COMMANDER): THE COMMANDER, WHO CORRESPONDS TO THE PRESIDENT OF AN ORGANIZATION, SHALL BE THE EXECUTIVE HEAD OF THE DETACHMENT OF THE SONS OF THE AMERICAN LEGION, WITH FULL POWER TO ENFORCE THE PROVISIONS OF THE DETACHMENT CONSTITUTION AND BYLAWS AND THE POLICIES AND THE MANDATE OF THE NATIONAL AND OF THE DEPARTMENT COMMITTEES ON THE SONS OF THE AMERICAN LEGION AND OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE OF THE DETACHMENT.

SECTION 2 (VICE COMMANDERS): THE VICE COMMANDERS SHALL ACT AS REPRESENTATIVES OF THE COMMANDER ON ALL MATTERS REFERRED TO THEM BY THE COMMANDER AND SHALL ON THE REQUEST OF THE COMMANDER, PRESIDE OVER MEETING AND PERFORM SUCH OTHER DUTIES AS ARE USUALLY INCIDENT TO THE OFFICE.

SECTION 3 (ADJUTANT): THE ADJUTANT, WHO CORRESPONDS TO THE SECRETARY OF AN ORGANIZATION SHALL BE CHARGED WITH THE ADMINISTRATIVE DUTIES REQUIRED IN CARRYING OUT THE POLICIES AND MANDATES OF THE NATIONAL AND DEPARTMENT COMMITTEE ON THE SONS OF THE AMERICAN LEGION AND THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE OF THE DETACHMENT.

SECTION 4 (FINANCE OFFICER): THE FINANCE OFFICER SHALL BE THE CUSTODIAN OF THE FUNDS OF THE DETACHMENT. HE SHALL MAKE REPORTS UPON THE CONDITION OF THE DETACHMENT TREASURY WHEN CALLED FOR BY THE COMMANDER OR EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE, PROVIDED HOWEVER, THAT ALL DISBURSEMENT SHALL FIRST BE APPROVED BY THE DEPARTMENT EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE. HE SHALL PERFORM SUCH OTHER DUTIES AS ARE USUALLY INCIDENT TO THIS OFFICE.

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SECTION 5 (JUDGE ADVOCATE): THE JUDGE ADVOCATE SHALL BE THE LEGAL ADMINISTRATOR IN QUESTIONS OF PROCEDURE OR PROPER ADMINISTRATION FOR THE DETACHMENT ACCORDING TO THE UNIFORM CODE OF PROCEDURE FOR THE ORGANIZATION OF THE DETACHMENT OF LOUISIANA SONS OF THE AMERICAN LEGION AND ROBERT RULES OF ORDER.

SECTION 6 (SERGEANT-AT-ARMS): 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. HE SHALL PERFORM SUCH OTHER DUTIES AS ARE USUALLY INCIDENT TO THE OFFICE.

SECTION 7 (CHAPLAIN): THE CHAPLAIN SHALL PERFORM SUCH DIVINE AND NON-SECTARIAN SERVICE AS SHALL BE NECESSARY ADHERING TO THE CEREMONIAL RITUALS AS MAY BE PRESCRIBED.

SECTION 8 (HISTORIAN): THE HISTORIAN SHALL COLLECT FROM YEAR TO YEAR ALL RECORDS AND DATA OF VALUE AND INTEREST TO THE SONS OF THE AMERICAN LEGION AND THE AMERICAN LEGION, AND SHALL COMPILE AN ANNUAL SCRAPBOOK AND HISTORY BOOK DURING HIS TENURE.

SECTION 9: THE COLOR BEARERS ARE TO PRESENT COLORS AND/OR ANY OTHER FUNCTIONS DIRECTED BY THE SERGEANT AT ARMS AND/OR PART OF ANY OTHER FUNCTION.

SECTION 10: ALL DETACHMENT OFFICERS IN THE PERFORMING OF THEIR DUTIES SHALL BE GOVERNED BY THE AMERICAN LEGION DEPARTMENT OF LOUISIANA.

#### ARTICLE III: (EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE)

THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE IS CLEARLY DEFINED IN THE DETACHMENT CONSTITUTION IN ARTICLE VIII, WHICH ALSO SETS FORTH ITS POWERS AND DUTIES.

#### ARTICLE IV: (MEMBERSHIP)

SECTION 1: MEMBERSHIP IN THE SONS OF THE AMERICAN LEGION IS MEMBERSHIP IN SQUADRON, DISTRICT, IN THE DETACHMENT AND NATIONAL ORGANIZATION AS ONE.

SECTION 2: EACH SQUADRON SHALL BE THE JUDGE TO ITS OWN MEMBERSHIP, SUBJECT OF RESTRICTIONS OF SONS OF THE AMERICAN LEGION DETACHMENT, DISTRICT AND NATIONAL CONSTITUTION AND BYLAWS.

SECTION 3: MEMBERS MAY BE EXPELLED OR SUSPENDED UNDER THE SAME PROCEDURES PROVIDED FOR THE SUSPENSION OR EXPULSION OF A MEMBER OF THE AMERICAN LEGION.

#### ARTICLE V: (AMERICAN LEGION SUPERVISORY COMMITTEE)

THE JURISDICTION OF THE DEPARTMENT OF LOUISIANA, THE AMERICAN LEGION, SHALL BE EXERCISED THROUGH THE COMMISSION ON AMERICANISM WHICH IS APPOINTED ANNUALLY BY THE AMERICAN LEGION DEPARTMENT EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE ON NOMINATION OF AMERICAN LEGION DEPARTMENT COMMANDER.

#### ARTICLE VI: (COMMISSION AND COMMITTEES)

SECTION 1: UPON NOMINATION OF THE DETACHMENT COMMANDER, THE DETACHMENT EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE SHALL ANNUALLY APPOINT THE FOLLOWING STANDING COMMISSIONS: AMERICANISM, VETERAN AFFAIRS AND REHABILITATION, CHILDREN AND YOUTH, INTERNAL AFFAIRS, FINANCE, AND LEGISLATIVE AND THE FOLLOWING STANDING COMMITTEES CONVENTION, MEMBERSHIP, AND CHILD WELFARE. EACH COMMISSION SHALL HAVE A MINIMUM OF THREE MEMBERS PER COMMISSION AND NO MORE THAN ONE MEMBER FROM ANY SQUADRON. COMMISSION MEMBERS MUST ALWAYS EQUAL AN ODD NUMBER.

SECTION 2: DUTIES OF STANDING COMMISSIONS / COMMITTEES ARE AS FOLLOWS  
AMERICANISM

TO FORMULATE AND RECOMMEND MATTERS OF SONS OF THE AMERICAN LEGION POLICY INCLUDING PLANS AND PROGRAMS RESPECTING AN UNDERSTANDING AND APPRECIATION OF THE GOVERNMENT OF THE UNITED STATES, ITS HISTORIC AND OTHER POLITICAL PRONOUNCEMENTS AS WELL AS THE DUTIES AND RESPONSIBILITIES OF CITIZENSHIP WITH REFERENCE TO, BUT NOT LIMITED TO, MATTERS PERTAINING TO PATRIOTIC DEVOTION TO THE UNITED STATES CITIZENS, EDUCATION AND EDUCATIONAL FACILITIES, DEVELOPMENT OF PATRIOTIC ACTIVITIES AND OTHER MATTERS SUCH AS RELIGIOUS EMPHASIS CONSISTENT WITH THE AIMS AND PURPOSES OF THE SONS OF THE AMERICAN LEGION IN THE CULTIVATION OF LOYALTY TO THE UNITED STATES AS EXPRESSED IN THE PREAMBLE TO THE SONS OF THE AMERICAN LEGION CONSTITUTION.

VETERANS AFFAIRS AND REHABILITATION

TO FORMULATE AND RECOMMEND MATTERS OF THE SONS OF THE AMERICAN LEGION POLICY INCLUDING PLANS AND PROGRAMS RESPECTING AN UNDERSTANDING AND APPRECIATION OF THE NEEDS OF VETERANS.

CHILDREN AND YOUTH

TO FORMULATE AND RECOMMEND MATTERS OF THE SONS OF THE AMERICAN LEGION POLICY INCLUDING PLANS AND PROGRAMS RESPECTING AN UNDERSTANDING AND APPRECIATION OF THE NEEDS OF CHILDREN.

INTERNAL AFFAIRS

TO FORMULATE AND RECOMMEND MATTERS OF POLICY AND INTERNAL AFFAIRS OF THE DETACHMENT AND TO CONSIDER RESOLUTIONS NOT OTHERWISE ASSIGNED TO OTHER STANDING COMMISSIONS. TO STUDY AND MAKE RECOMMENDATIONS TO THE DETACHMENT CONCERNING ALL MATTERS PERTAINING TO PROPOSED CHANGES IN THE CONSTITUTION AND BYLAWS OF THE DETACHMENT OF LOUISIANA.

LEGISLATIVE

RESPONSIBLE FOR INFORMING THE MEMBERS OF ISSUES ON THE FEDERAL, STATE, AND LOCAL GOVERNMENTAL LEVELS THAT ARE PERTINENT TO VETERANS AND THEIR FAMILIES.

FINANCE

THE FINANCE COMMISSION IS CLEARLY DEFINED IN THE DETACHMENT FISCAL CODE, WHICH SETS ITS POWER AND DUTIES.

CONVENTION

TO WORK WITH THE DETACHMENT COMMANDER AND ALL OTHER PARTIES IN PLANNING THE DETACHMENT CONVENTION AND MID-WINTER CONFERENCE. TO RECEIVE FROM THE DETACHMENT ADJUTANT A STATEMENT OF THE NUMBER OF DELEGATES TO WHICH THE SQUADRON ARE ENTITLED UNDER THE DETACHMENT CONSTITUTION. TO VERIFY AND RECOMMEND APPROVAL OF SAME INCLUDING ADJUDICATION OF DISPUTES THEREON AND TO REPORT TO THE DETACHMENT CONVENTION AT ITS FIRST SESSION, AND IMMEDIATELY PRECEDING THE ELECTION OF OFFICERS. TO CONSIDER AND DEVISE SPECIAL RULES OF ORDER FOR THE DETACHMENT CONVENTION AND MID-WINTER CONFERENCE NOT PROVIDED FOR IN THE STANDING RULES AS MAY BE REQUIRED OR DIRECTED BY THE CONVENTION OR MID-WINTER CONFERENCE FOR PURPOSE OF PROCESSING ISSUES OR SPECIAL BUSINESS OF THE CONVENTION OR MID-WINTER CONFERENCE. SUCH SPECIAL RULES SHALL APPLY TO CONVENTION OR MID-WINTER CONFERENCE FOR WHICH THEY WERE ADOPTED.

SECTION 3: THESE COMMISSIONS SHALL SERVE FOR A PERIOD OF ONE (1) YEAR OR FROM ONE SUMMER DETACHMENT EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING TO THE FOLLOWING SUMMER DETACHMENT EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING UNTIL THE NEW COMMISSION HAS BEEN APPROVED BY THE DETACHMENT EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE.

SECTION 4: EACH COMMISSION CHAIRMAN SHALL SUBMIT A PROPOSED BUDGET FOR THE UPCOMING YEAR TO THE DETACHMENT FINANCE CHAIRMAN.

SECTION 5: EACH COMMISSION SHALL MEET AT LEAST THREE (3) TIMES A YEAR.

SECTION 6: UPON NOMINATION OF DETACHMENT COMANDER, THE DETACHMENT EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MAY APPOINT SUCH COMMITTEES AS DEEMED ADVISABLE FOR THE BENEFIT OF THE MEMBERSHIP OF THE DETACHMENT AS A WHOLE.

#### ARTICLE VII: (MEETINGS)

SECTION 1: EACH DETACHMENT OFFICER AND EACH MEMBER OF THE DETACHMENT EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE AND EACH SQUADRON SHALL FURNISH TO THE ADJUTANT THEIR ADDRESS, TO WHICH ALL NOTICES AND DOCUMENTS MAY BE SENT, AND THE SAME SHALL BE HELD TO HAVE BEEN DULY SENT TO OR SERVED UPON A DETACHMENT OFFICER, MEMBER OF THE DETACHMENT EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE OR SQUADRON IF MAILED TO SUCH ADDRESS AS FURNISHED. IN DEFAULT OF ADDRESS HAVING BEEN FURNISHED BY A DETACHMENT EXECUTIVE MEMBER, DETACHMENT OFFICER OR SQUADRON, ANY NOTICE OR DOCUMENT WILL BE HELD TO HAVE BEEN DULY SERVED UPON SUCH MEMBER FIVE DAYS AFTER THE SAME SHALL HAVE BEEN DEPOSITED IN THE LOCAL POST OFFICE ADDRESSED TO SUCH MEMBER AT SUCH POST OFFICE ADDRESS.

SECTION 2: NOTICE OF ALL SPECIAL MEETINGS OF THE DETACHMENT SHALL BE MAILED TO EACH MEMBER FOURTEEN (14) DAYS PREVIOUS TO THE HOLDING OF SUCH MEETING AND AT LEAST FORTY (40) DAYS IN ADVANCE OF THE HOLDING OF ANNUAL MEETINGS.

SECTION 3: THE NOTICE OF SPECIAL MEETINGS SHALL STATE OBJECT AND PURPOSE THEREOF, AND ANY OTHER BUSINESS DEEMED NECESSARY AND IMPORTANT SHALL BE HANDLED ONLY UPON COMPLETION OF THE ORIGINAL OBJECT OF THE MEETING SET FORTH IN THE NOTICE.

#### ARTICLE VIII: (NATIONAL CONVENTION DELEGATES)

SECTION 1: DELEGATES TO THE ANNUAL SONS OF THE AMERICAN LEGION NATIONAL CONVENTION SHALL BE ELECTED AT THE DETACHMENT CONVENTION PRIOR TO THE UPCOMING SAID NATIONAL CONVENTION.

SECTION 2: THE JUNIOR PAST DETACHMENT COMMANDER, WHO WILL SERVE AS DELEGATE CHAIRMAN, WILL BE AN AUTOMATIC DELEGATE TO THE NATIONAL CONVENTION PROVIDING THAT HE WILL ATTEND THE NATIONAL CONVENTION, IF THE JUNIOR PAST DETACHMENT COMMANDER DOES NOT ATTEND THE NATIONAL CONVENTION, THEN THE DELEGATE CHAIRMAN WILL BE ELECTED FROM THE DELEGATION BY THE ELECTED DELEGATES. THE INCOMING COMMANDER AND THE PRESENT NATIONAL EXECUTIVE COMMITTEEMEN WILL ALSO BE AUTOMATIC DELEGATES TO THE NATIONAL CONVENTION.

SECTION 3: ANY SQUADRON MEMBER IN THE DETACHMENT OF LOUISIANA MAY PRESENT THE NAME OF ANY OTHER SQUADRON MEMBER IN THE DETACHMENT OF LOUISIANA FOR NOMINATION AS A DELEGATE TO THE NATIONAL CONVENTION PROVIDED THAT THE PERSON BEING NOMINATED IS GOING TO THE NATIONAL CONVENTION.

SECTION 4: THOSE DELEGATES SHALL BE DECLARED ELECTED WHO HAVE BY ROLL CALL BALLOT RECEIVED A MAJORITY OF THE DELEGATES PRESENT AT THE DETACHMENT CONVENTION.

SECTION 5: ALTERNATE DELEGATES TO THE NATIONAL CONVENTION SHALL ALSO BE ELECTED.

#### ARTICLE IX: (FINANCES)

DISTRICTS IN THE DETACHMENT OF LOUISIANA SHALL BE ORGANIZED ACCORDING TO THE APPROPRIATE ARTICLE IN THE NATIONAL CONSTITUTION OF THE SONS OF THE AMERICAN LEGION.

ARTICLE XI: (FINANCES)

SECTION 1: THE REVENUE OF THE DETACHMENT OF LOUISIANA SHALL BE DERIVED FROM ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP DUES AND FROM SUCH OTHER SOURCES AS MAY BE APPROVED BY THE DEPARTMENT EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE OF THE AMERICAN LEGION.

SECTION 2: THE AMOUNT OF SUCH ANNUAL DUES SHALL BE \$6.00, WHICH SHALL INCLUDE THE ANNUAL DUES OF THE NATIONAL ORGANIZATION OF THE SONS OF THE AMERICAN LEGION.

SECTION 3: DETACHMENT AND NATIONAL DUES SHALL BE TRANSMITTED TO THE DEPARTMENT FINANCE OFFICER OF THE AMERICAN LEGION WHO WILL TRANSMIT THE NATIONAL DUES TO THE NATIONAL TREASURER OF THE AMERICAN LEGION. DETACHMENT DUES AND ALL OTHER DETACHMENT FUNDS SHALL REMAIN IN THE CUSTODY OF THE DEPARTMENT FINANCE OFFICER AND SHALL BE ACCOUNTED FOR SEPARATELY FROM OTHER FUNDS OF THE DEPARTMENT.

ARTICLE XII: (AMENDMENTS)

SECTION 1: THIS CONSTITUTION IS ADOPTED, SUBJECT TO THE PROVISIONS OF THE NATIONAL CONSTITUTION OF WHICH THIS DETACHMENT IS A SUBORDINATE MEMBER. ANY AMENDMENT TO THE NATIONAL CONSTITUTION, WHICH IS IN CONFLICT WITH ANY PROVISION HEREOF, SHALL BE REGARDED AS AUTOMATICALLY REPEALING OR MODIFYING THE PROVISIONS OF THIS CONSTITUTION, TO THE EXTENT OF SUCH CONFLICT.

SECTION 2: THIS CONSTITUTION MAY BE AMENDED AT ANY DETACHMENT CONVENTION BY AFFIRMATIVE VOTE OF (2/3) TWO-THIRDS OF THE REGISTERED DELEGATES PRESENT, PROVIDED, THAT THE PROPOSED AMENDMENT SHALL HAVE BEEN SUBMITTED IN WRITING AND DISTRIBUTED AT LEAST (12) TWELVE HOURS PRECEDING THE VOTING, SUBJECT TO THE RATIFICATION OF THE DEPARTMENT EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE OF THE AMERICAN LEGION.

THIS DOCUMENT IS WRITTEN AND APPROVED TO SUPERCEDE ALL OTHERS

*[Signature]* 12/12/05  
HANK KWIATKOWSKI  
DEPARTMENT JUDGE ADVOCATE 2005-2008

*[Signature]* 12-22-05  
ROBERT DEDUAL  
DETACHMENT COMMANDER 2005-2008

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CAMILLE LEJEUNE JR.  
DETACHMENT ADJUTANT 2005-2008

- ORIGINAL COPY FOR DEPARTMENT RECORDS
- ORIGINAL COPY FOR DETACHMENT RECORDS
- ORIGINAL COPY FOR NATIONAL S.A.L. RECORDS

Unanimously approved at the 31<sup>st</sup> Detachment Convention  
June 11, 2005