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**Constitution and Bylaws**

**of the**

**{Name of Sponsoring AL Post}**

**Sons of the American Legion**

**Squadron \_\_\_**

**{City}, VA**

**Revised**

**10 April 2025**

**Constitution of the**

**Sons of the American Legion**

**Squadron \_\_\_**

**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 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 1 - Name**

Section 1. The name of this organization shall be {Name of AL Post} Sons of the American Legion Squadron \_\_\_ of {City or County}, Detachment of Virginia.

**Article 2 - Objectives**

Section 1. The objectives and purposes of the Squadron shall be to promote the principles and policies as set forth in the foregoing preamble and the National and Detachment constitutions of the American Legion.

**Article 3 - Nature**

Section 1. The Sons of the American Legion is a civilian organization. Membership therein does not affect nor increase liability for military service.

Section 2. The Sons of the American Legion shall be absolutely nonpolitical and shall not be used for the dissemination of partisan principles, nor the promotion of the candidacy of any person or group seeking public office.

**Article 4 - Eligibility**

Section 1. All male descendants[[1]](#footnote-1), 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. No person may be a member at any one time of more than one squadron.

**Article 5 - Officers**

Section 1. The administrative affairs of Squadron \_\_\_ shall be under the supervision of an Executive Committee. This committee will consist of the most recent Past Commander and the following elected officers: Commander, Vice Commander, Adjutant, Finance Officer, Sergeant at Arms, Chaplain, and Historian. Three or more officers may call an Executive meeting. Six or more officers must be present to hold an executive meeting. All officers are elected annually. All members in good standing can run for offices.

Section 2. Nomination for elected officers shall be made in Squadron \_\_\_’s regular meeting in April. Nomination shall come openly from the floor. At the May regular meeting, all officers will be elected. In June, all elected officers will be installed in their respective offices. The officers have no limits of term. Any officer can be removed for inefficiency by 2/3 vote of the members voting at any regular squadron meeting.

Section 3. In the absence of an officer, the chain of command is: Commander, Vice Commander, Past Commanders, Adjutant, Finance Officer, Sergeant at Arms, Chaplain, and Historian.

**Article 6 - Finances**

Section 1. The revenue of this Squadron shall be derived from membership, or initiation fees, from annual membership dues. Revenue from other sources as may be recommended by the membership and approved by the membership at a regular meeting.

Section 2. As of \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_{date}, the annual Squadron dues will be $20.00 {or as the Squadron votes} for new members and dual members; $25.00 {or as the Squadron votes} for existing members after their initial year.

Section 3. The Squadron shall pay to Detachment Headquarters, the National and Detachment annual membership dues for every member of the squadron.

Section 4. A fund in the amount of $75.00 dollars for Squadron needs shall be established. Uses of this fund require a minimum of three Officers approval.

Section 5. Funding may be provided for leadership training, a limit of two members per year.

**Article 7 - Discipline**

Section 1. Disciplinary topics will be reviewed by the Executive Committee. Meetings can be called by any three officers of the Executive Committee and/or the Commander.

**Article 8 - Amendments**

Section 1. This Constitution may be amended at any regular Squadron meeting. All amendments must be proposed at one regular meeting in advance to be voted on. A 2/3 vote of attending members at such a meeting is needed for the amendment to be adopted.

Section 2. This Constitution of the Sons of the American Legion Squadron \_\_\_ shall be reviewed every four years. The Constitution Committee shall consist of the Commander and any four members of the Squadron in good standing.

**Bylaws**

**Of

the {Name of Sponsoring AL Post}**

**Sons of the American Legion**

**Squadron \_\_\_**

**Article 1 - Name**

Section 1. The Squadron existing under these bylaws shall be known as {Name of Sponsoring AL Post} Sons of the American Legion Squadron \_\_\_ of {City or County}, Detachment of Virginia.

**Article 2 - Meetings**

Section 1. The regular meeting of this Squadron shall be held in {City or County}, Virginia, on the {day, e.g.: first Tuesday} of each month at Squadron \_\_\_'s home at {Address}, at {time of day}.

Section 2. The regular meeting will consist of a quorum of at least three members. In which, one of three should be the Squadron’ Commander, Vice Commander or Adjutant; who shall chair the meeting and keep minutes of the meeting to relay to the Squadron Adjutant.

**Article 3 - Membership**

Section 1. Membership in the Sons of the American Legion is equivalent to membership in the National Organization of the Sons of the American Legion by affiliation with Squadron \_\_\_.

Section 2. Members may be suspended or expelled under the procedures provided for the suspension or expulsion of a member of the American Legion.

**Article 4 - Management**

Section 1. The government and management of this Squadron is entrusted to the Executive Committee, who shall take, as provided in the Constitution of Squadron \_\_, additional members as appointed.

**Article 5 - Requirements for Command**

Section 1. Vice Commanders are required to attend Leadership College.

Section 2. Any member may attend Leadership College. Funding *may* be provided by Squadron \_\_\_ for leadership training, a limit of two members per year.

**Article 6 - Duties of Officers**

Section 1. Commander: Head of Squadron \_\_\_. It shall be the duty of the Commander to preside at all meetings of Squadron \_\_\_ and the Executive Committee and to have supervision of the business and affairs of Squadron \_\_\_. He shall be a member of the Executive Committee within the Squadron.

Section 2. Vice Commander: Shall assume and discharge the duties of the Commander in his absence or disability; or as called upon by the Commander. He shall act upon all matters of the Squadron as a representative of the Commander. Shall oversee the membership committee.

Section 3. Adjutant: He is the administrative officer of the Squadron regarding policy mandates of the organization. He is charged with keeping correct records of the proceedings of all meetings, keeping such records as the departmental and national organizations require.

Section 4. Finance Officer: Shall be the custodian of all funds of Squadron \_\_\_. He shall be charged with receiving and disbursing the funds of Squadron \_\_\_. He shall make reports on the condition of the treasury at each regular meeting.

Section 5. Sergeant at Arms: Shall be charged with responsibility of preserving order at all meetings and be the custodian and shall have responsibility of the colors of Squadron \_\_\_.

Section 6. Chaplain: Shall perform such divine and nonsectarian service as necessary adhering to the rituals as prescribed.

Section 7. Historian: Shall collect from year to date all records and data of value and interest to the Sons of the American Legion and the American Legion. He shall compile during his term of office a complete history of the year’s activities.

Section 8. All officers must attend ten out of twelve regular meetings to be honored as a past officer. Absence may be waived if prior notice is made to the Executive Committee. Sicknesses will be waived.

**Article 7 - Appointments**

Section 1. The following Standing Committees of the Squadron are hereby established with chairmen as indicated.

Committee Chairman

Membership Finance Officer Appointed by Commander

Child Welfare Foundation Appointed by Commander

Five Point Program of Service Appointed by Commander

Colors and Ceremonial Appointed by Commander

Memorial Appointed by Commander

To be appointed by the Commander, all chairmen must be in good standing.

**Article 8 - Amendments**

Section 1. These Bylaws may be amended at any regular Squadron meeting. All amendments must be presented at one regular meeting prior. A 2/3 vote of attending members at such a meeting is needed for the amendment to be adopted.

Section 2. The Bylaws and Constitution of the Sons of the American Legion Squadron \_\_\_ shall be reviewed every four years. The Bylaws and Constitution committee shall consist of the Commander and any four members of the squadron \_\_\_ in good standing.

**Article 9 – Rule of Order**

Section 1. All proceedings of Squadron \_\_\_ and the Executive Committee shall be conducted under Robert’s Rules of Order, Revised.

**Article 10 – Limits and Liabilities**

Section 1. Squadron \_\_\_ shall not incur, nor cause to be incurred, any liability or obligation whatsoever that shall be subject to liability by any other Squadron, subdivision, group of men or women, member of Sons of the American Legion, or other individuals, corporations, or organizations.

**Article 11 – Effective Date**

Section 1. Shall be effective immediately upon adoption.

Post Commander \_\_\_: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Post Adjutant \_\_\_: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Squadron Commander \_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Squadron Adjutant \_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

1. As “Sons of the American Legion” Squadrons come under the 501(c)(19) status of their parent American Legion Post, descendants are limited to two (2) generations by the IRS in order to maintain tax-exempt status (*i.e,* sons, adopted sons, stepsons & grandsons, adopted grandsons & step-grandsons). [↑](#footnote-ref-1)