

# ***The CONSTITUTION of***

## ***The Sons of Confederate Veterans***

*As adopted on July 1, 1896  
And amended in General Convention  
July 20, 2024  
Charleston, South Carolina*



*General Headquarters  
Elm Springs  
Maury County  
Columbia, Tennessee*

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<b>CERTIFICATION</b>	

## **Constitution of the Sons of Confederate Veterans**

### **PREAMBLE**

In the name of a reunited country, the Sons of Confederate Veterans declare the following purposes. Allegiance to the Constitution of the United States of America, largely written and expounded by Southern men, the very Magna Carta of our liberties; a strict construction of all sections conferring power upon the Federal government and the implied and understood reservations to the States arising therefrom and a general attitude of opposition to further amendment thereof. We adhere to the principles of the Great Charter of England granted at Runnymede, A.D. 1215, and the Anglo-Saxon rights and personal liberties transmitted to us thereunder. *We also share our ancestors belief in the struggle for liberty as expressed in the A.D. 1320 Scottish Declaration of Arbroath where it states: "It is in truth not for glory, nor riches, nor honours that we are fighting, but for freedom for that alone, which no honest man gives up but with life itself;" thus we wish to associate in one united, compact body all men of Confederate ancestry and to cultivate, perpetuate and sanctify the ties of fraternity and friendship entailed thereby; to aid and encourage the recording and teaching with impartiality of all Southern history and achievement from Jamestown to this present era, seeing to it especially that the events of the War for Southern Independence are authentically and clearly written and that all documents, relics and mementos produced and handed down by the active participants therein are properly treasured and preserved for posterity; to urge, aid and assist needy sons of Confederate veterans, their wives, widows and orphans; to urge, aid and assist in the erection of suitable and enduring monuments and memorials to all Southern valor, military and civil, wherever done and wherever found, particularly stressing that of our heroic Confederate ancestors who, by their sacrifice, perpetuated unto us and our descendants that glorious heritage of valor, chivalry and honor which we now hold and venerate; and to instill in our descendants a devotion to and reverence for the principles represented by the Confederate States of America, to the glory of God and the honorable memory of our fathers who fought in that Cause.*

Therefore, we, the Sons of Confederate Veterans, commit to insure that the aforementioned impartial Southern history will be taught to each generation, current and future, in accordance with the "Charge" given to the Sons of Confederate Veterans by Lt. Gen. Stephen Dill Lee, Commander General of the United Confederate Veterans, in his speech at

the 16th Annual Meeting and Reunion of the United Confederate Veterans held in New Orleans, Louisiana on April 25, 1906.

“To you, Sons of Confederate Veterans, we will commit the vindication of the Cause for which we fought. To your strength will be given the defense of the Confederate soldier’ good name, the guardianship of his history, the emulation of his virtues, the perpetuation of those principles which he loved and which you love also and to those ideals which made him glorious, and which you also cherish.”

This will be the mission statement for all current and future members of the Sons of Confederate Veterans organization, as defined within this Constitution.

Therefore, we, the representatives of the Camps, in Convention, do adopt, ordain and establish this Constitution, which was first adopted, ordained and established in Richmond, Virginia on the first day of July, 1896:

## **1. TITLE**

- 1.1. The name of this organization shall be the Sons of Confederate Veterans (the “Confederation”). The official flag of the Sons of Confederate Veterans shall be the Battle Flag of the Army of Northern Virginia with reverence to all Confederate flags used in the War for Southern Independence.
- 1.2. The Sons of Confederate Veterans shall be a non-profit eleemosynary organization with principal offices at Elm Springs, Columbia, Maury County, Tennessee.
- 1.3. This Constitution, and the Standing Orders, promulgated under the authority of the articles of incorporation of the Sons of Confederate Veterans, Inc. a Texas non-profit corporation, shall be the organizational and governing instruments of the Sons of Confederate Veterans for all purposes under law.

## **2. NATURE & PURPOSE**

- 2.1. The Sons of Confederate Veterans, in furtherance of the Charge of Lieutenant General Stephen D. Lee, shall be strictly patriotic, historical, educational, fraternal, benevolent, non-political, non-racial and non-sectarian. The Sons of Confederate Veterans neither embraces, nor espouses acts or ideologies of racial and religious bigotry, and further, condemns the misuse of its sacred symbols and flags in the conduct of same. Each member is expected to perform his full duty as a citizen according to his own conscience and understanding.
- 2.2. Nothing in this Constitution or Standing Orders shall be construed to abridge or prohibit the adoption or advocacy of positions that are concerned with the general welfare of Southern Heritage, the United States of America, its several States, or the

national security thereof nor to abridge or prohibit the expressions of the mind of the Confederation in such manners by the adoption of resolutions or petitioning the government.

- 2.3 Said organization is organized exclusively for charitable, religious, education and scientific purposes, including, for such purposes, the making of distributions to organizations that qualify under section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code, or corresponding section of any future federal tax code.
- 2.4 No part of the net earnings of the organization shall inure to the benefit of, or be distributable to its members, trustees, officers, or other private persons, except that the organization shall be authorized and empowered to pay reasonable compensation for services rendered and to make payments and distributions in furtherance of the purpose set forth in the purpose clause hereof. No substantial part of the activities of the organization shall be the carrying on of propaganda, or otherwise attempting to influence legislation, and the organization shall not participate in, or on intervene in (including the publishing or distribution of statements) any political campaign on behalf of any candidate for public office. Notwithstanding any other provision of this document, the organization shall not carry on any other activities not permitted to be carried on (a) by an organization exempt from federal income tax under section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code, or corresponding section of any future federal tax code, or by (b) by an organization, contributions to which are deductible under section 170(c)(2) of the Internal Revenue Code, or corresponding section of any future federal tax code.
- 2.5 Not notwithstanding any other provision of this Constitution and the standing Orders, this Confederation shall not, except to an insubstantial degree, engage in any activities or exercise any powers that are not in furtherance of the purposes of the Sons of Confederate Veterans.
- 2.6 The Sons of Confederate Veterans is the Chartering source of all Departments, Divisions, and Camps covered under this Constitution and Standing Orders; and all Divisions and Camp Constitutions shall be consistent with the Constitution and Standing Orders of the Sons of Confederate Veterans.
- 2.7 The Sons of Confederate Veterans is the legal, genealogical, and spiritual successor to the United Confederate Veterans and the United Sons of Confederate Veterans.

### **3. MEMBERSHIP**

- 3.1 Eligibility. Membership in the Sons of Confederate Veterans is open to all male descendants—lineal or collateral—of those men who served honorably and whose service terminated honorably in the armed forces of the Confederate States of America or one of the States thereof. Applicants for membership must be men of good character, who emulate the best qualities of the Confederate soldier.

- 3.1.1. No individual shall be admitted into membership who has not attained at least twelve (12) years of age.
- 3.1.2. Each camp shall be the judge of its own members, subject to the restrictions of this Constitution and the Standing Orders, and each Camp shall be further charged with the responsibility of making the principle determination of an Applicant's character, temperament, and qualifications for membership.
- 3.1.3. No one shall be admitted to membership in any Camp until satisfactory proof of the foregoing qualifications be submitted in duplicate on an official blank application prepared for that purpose. The original shall be preserved and forwarded to General Headquarters within ten days for recording and permanent preservation. Each Camp shall keep a duplicate copy of all membership application forms. It is hereby expressly provided that all Camps shall, as far as practical, bring together, on similar blanks, the records of all members admitted prior to the adoption of this provision, one copy for the Camp and the other General Headquarters.

- 3.2. Conduct. Members shall at all times conduct themselves as gentlemen so as to bring credit and respect upon the Sons of Confederate Veterans and upon the memory of our Confederate forebears.
- 3.3. Termination. Membership shall cease by death, resignation, non-payment of dues, or expulsion. Members may also be temporarily suspended in accordance with this Constitution and Standing Orders.
  - 3.3.1. Resignation. A member in good standing may resign by sending a written resignation to General Headquarters. The resignation shall be effective upon receipt or on an otherwise specified date.
  - 3.3.2. Expulsion. Any individual expelled from membership under the provisions of this Constitution and Standing Orders shall be stricken from the roster, and the Adjutant-in-Chief shall take care to note his name so that he may not be readmitted nor reinstated to membership.
  - 3.3.3. Non-payment. A member shall be removed from the roster of members in good standing for non-payment of required dues, fees and special assessments

by the closing date determined by the General Executive Council and published to the membership at least ninety (90) days in advance. Members may be reinstated upon petition and payment of all outstanding dues, fees, and a special assessment to be determined by the General Executive Council. If a member who is delinquent attempts to be reinstated in Camp 584 or a Division other than his prior Division, his previous Camp must be contacted by SCV HQ to determine the reason for the member leaving their previous Camp and or Division. Furthermore provided, any member in good standing who becomes delinquent while serving in a combat zone with the military (as determined by eligibility for military combat pay) shall be reinstated upon payment of outstanding dues without penalties or special assessments.

- 3.4. Real Sons. Having submitted proof of membership qualifications and lineage, Real Son Membership may be bestowed along with all the same rights and privileges as any other member. Furthermore, Real Sons shall be exempt from payment of all recording fees, per capita dues and special assessments.
- 3.5. Memorial Memberships. Individuals, who would otherwise qualify for membership in the Sons of Confederate Veterans but are deceased, may be specially enrolled as Memorial Members. The Executive Director shall review all applications for Memorial Membership, approving only those that reflect the Southern spirit and character of our Confederate ancestors. The General Executive Council shall establish the fees necessary to obtain a Memorial Membership and prescribe other forms of recognition. A listing of all Memorial Memberships shall be kept and maintained at General Headquarters.
- 3.6. Life Membership. Members who make a qualifying contribution to the Life Membership Endowment Fund shall be termed Life Members.
  - 3.6.1. The amount of the qualifying contribution shall be twenty-five (25) times the amount of annual dues for applicants up to 65 years of age, and half that amount for applicants 65 years of age or older and half that amount again for applicants 80 years of age or older with applicable rules and forms to be determined by the General Executive Council.
  - 3.6.2. Life members shall be exempt from the payment of per capita dues to General Headquarters.
  - 3.6.3. Life Members may receive such special recognition, certificates and badges, as the General Executive Council shall deem proper.
  - 3.6.4. A contribution to the Life Membership Endowment Fund may be made on behalf of anyone who is qualified to be a member. Proof of qualification shall be presented at the time of contribution. If the named individual is under the age of regular membership, he will be a Cadet Member in good standing until reaching the prescribed age. At that point his Life Membership shall be activated and he shall receive such special recognition, certificates and badges, as the General Executive Council shall deem proper for Life Membership.

3.7. Headquarters Camp Membership. Individuals qualifying as members but residing inconveniently distant from an active Camp or otherwise hindered from participating with a local Camp may join the Confederation and hereby receive the Reports of the Adjutant-in-Chief and other pertinent information.

- 3.7.1. All applications for new membership in or transfer into the Headquarters Camp by existing members shall be reviewed and approved by the Executive Director. If the applicant is currently or has previously been a member of the SCV, the original Camp must be contacted to determine the reason for the member leaving their home camp.
- 3.7.2. Headquarters Camp members shall be subject to the payment of the same per capita dues paid to General Headquarters by each member.
- 3.7.3. Headquarters Camp Members may also be required to pay additional dues and fees as the General Executive Council may determine. Payment shall be made individually by each member annually to General Headquarters.
- 3.7.4. No member or group of members of the General William D. McCain Camp 584 may operate as an unchartered Camp or represent themselves as a Camp within the sovereign boundaries of any unchartered Division of the Sons of Confederate Veterans.

### 3.8. Cadets

- 3.8.1. Program Participation. Cadet membership shall be by election of the Camp only. No part of this shall be construed as being a requirement placed on the Camp. Participation is solely by Camp elective and the Camp shall hold full responsibility for all aspects of the program.
- 3.8.2. Eligibility: Male descendants from birth through eleven (11) years of age shall be eligible for membership as a Cadet. Cadet membership shall expire upon reaching twelve (12) years of age (at that point being eligible for regular membership). Participation requirements shall be identical to those of traditional membership, with the following exceptions: Cadets will not hold voting rights, Cadets will not be considered when determining Camp delegates or voting strength, Cadets cannot represent their respective Camp as a delegate at convention, for the purpose of casting votes or determining business, Cadets will not receive a subscription to the "Confederate Veteran" with their paid membership. A separate subscription may be purchased if so desired.
- 3.8.3. Dues: Cadet dues shall be ten dollars (10) annually. Cadets shall receive a certificate of membership once requisite dues have been paid. No other rights or privileges shall be bestowed or otherwise construed as being associated with Cadet Membership.

- 3.8.4. **Duty of Camps:** It shall be the sole duty of each Cadets Camp to prepare and facilitate the Cadet for future full membership. This includes, but is not limited to education in and familiarization with the preservation of Confederate heritage, history and the memory of all who perished for the Confederate Cause.
- 3.8.5. **Eligibility for full membership:** Cadets shall become eligible for full membership, with all rights and privileges, upon attaining twelve (12) years of age. The Cadet shall be entitled to a full swearing in, with all pomp and circumstance associated with becoming a full member, to be set by this Constitution and Standing Orders.
- 3.8.6. General Headquarters will provide an appropriate application form for Cadet members.
- 3.9. **Associate Membership:** Each member has one Camp which holds his membership. This is the Camp in which he is enumerated for the purpose of representation on the Division and general (National) level. In this enumerated or “home” Camp he has the full rights of membership including but not limited to voting on Camp matters, holding a Camp office and being selected to represent the Camp. A member may choose to be associated with an additional Camp, and with that Camp’s agreement he may be styled as an Associate Member. As an Associate Member, he may take part in all Camp activities with the exception of being enumerated in that Camp for the purpose of representation on the Division and general (National) level, voting on Camp matters, holding a Camp office and being selected to represent the Camp.

#### **4. Camps**

- 4.1. **Formation.** The basic unit of the Confederation shall be the Camp. Seven or more individuals in possession of the prescribed eligibility qualifications as set forth herein may make application for a charter as a Camp the of Sons of Confederate Veterans. Each Camp shall have a name and be assigned a number by General Headquarters.
- 4.2. **Executive Committee.** The Camp Commander and such other specific officers as prescribed in the Camp’s constitution shall serve together as an Executive Committee, whose purpose shall be to conduct the business affairs of the Camp subject to the will of the Camp membership.
- 4.3. **Terms of office.** Unless otherwise provided for by the Camp constitution, each officer shall serve a term of one year or until their successors are elected and qualified.
- 4.4. **Vacancies.** Unless otherwise provided for by the Camp constitution, any vacancy occurring amongst the leadership of a Camp shall be filled by the Camp Commander with the advice and consent of the Division Commander; should the office of Camp

Commander be vacated, the vacancy shall be appointed by the Division Commander.

- 4.5. Officers. Each Camp shall elect from among themselves a Commander, and may elect or cause to be appointed from among themselves such other officers as they deem necessary for the conduct of their business including but not limited to Lieutenant Commander, Adjutant, Treasurer, and Chaplain. The Camp may further define the duties of all offices, provided that the defined duties are not in conflict with the provisions of this Constitution and the Standing Orders.
  - 4.5.1. The Commander shall be the principal officer of the Camp. He shall be the president of all meetings of the Camp and the Camp's Executive Committee. He shall have those duties of administration and supervision usually incumbent upon the office. The Commander shall perform such other duties as may, from time to time, be prescribed by the Camp.
  - 4.5.2. The Lieutenant Commander shall assist the Commander, and whenever the Commander is absent shall serve in his stead. The Lieutenant Commander shall perform such other duties as may, from time to time, be prescribed by the Commander or the Executive Committee.
  - 4.5.3. The Adjutant will be the principal financial officer, and shall insure that the financial records are kept in good order, in such manner and according to such procedures as approved by the Executive Committee, and shall properly administer and record all receipts and disbursements. He shall have custody of all monies and securities of the Camp, and shall deposit all money in the name of and to the credit of the Camp in such depositories as designated by the Executive Committee. The Adjutant shall render to the Commander or the Camp, whenever they may require it, an account of all transactions and the financial conditions of the Camp. He shall keep the records and archives of the Camp including the minutes of all proceedings and a roster of all members in good standing. The Adjutant shall perform such other duties as may, from time to time, be prescribed by the Commander or the Camp. These duties, may be shared and divided with a Treasurer and/or Assistant Adjutants who may be elected or appointed, as the Camp deems necessary.
  - 4.5.4. The Chaplain shall perform such services as may be necessary in connection with the office; from time to time as is proper, lead the Camp in prayer and supplication to Almighty God; tend to the spiritual ministrations of the Camp; and shall regularly report as to the needs and wellness of its members. The Chaplain shall perform such other duties as may, from time to time, be prescribed by the Commander or the Camp.
- 4.6. Administration. All Camps shall have the full enjoyment of the right to govern themselves, provided that they shall be subject to this Constitution and the Standing Orders of the Confederation. Each Camp shall be the judge of its own members,

subject to the provisions of this Constitution and Standing Orders. By accepting a charter, a Camp acknowledges irrevocable jurisdiction and declares itself to be in all things subject to the Constitution and the Standing Orders of the Sons of Confederate Veterans and the Division under which it is organized, if any, and the rules, regulations, orders and laws promulgated in pursuance thereof, and further, the said Camp pledges itself, through its members, to uphold the principles of the Sons of Confederate Veterans and to assist to the accomplishment of the praiseworthy objects and purposes of the Confederation. No Camp in any State where a Division has been formed in accordance with the provisions of this Constitution and Standing Orders shall be permitted to withdraw from that Division and continue its activities as a separate Camp representing the Sons of Confederate Veterans.

- 4.7. **Incorporation.** Any Camp desiring to incorporate under the laws for non-profit corporations of the jurisdiction of that Camp shall obtain permission from the General Executive Council and shall state in plain language in its formation documents and constitution filed with that jurisdiction, that it is a subordinate organization of the Sons of Confederate Veterans, Inc., a Texas Non-Profit Corporation. Any existing Camp, which is incorporated at the time this Constitution and Standing Orders are adopted, shall amend its formation documents filed with the state and its bylaws and constitution in like manner. No incorporation documents may be amended without prior approval of the General Executive Council. No Camp may be deprived of any of its assets, except in the case of dissolution, without the approval of the Camp.
- 4.8. **Each Camp member in good standing shall be entitled to one (1) vote, and only one (1) vote in the election of officers, passage of amendments to the Camp constitution and/or articles of incorporation and election of delegates to Division and national conventions.**
- 4.9. **Meeting.** A Camp must hold at least four (4) meetings per year for the purpose of transacting necessary business and electing officers.

## 5. DIVISIONS

- 5.1. **Standard Division Organization.** Any every State and Territory of the United States, political entity outside of the United States or contiguous grouping of States, Territories or foreign political entities located within a single Department, as defined in the Standing Orders, having within its boundaries five (5) or more Camps in good standing regularly organized, may be chartered as a Division upon approval by the General Executive Council. No other Division shall simultaneously operate within these boundaries. Member camps may subsequently choose to charter a new Division of more restrictive geographic boundaries, but in accordance with this paragraph; the existing Division shall not prevent this action unless the remainder Camps would no longer be duly qualified to operate as a Division. No subdivision of a State may be chartered as a Division. Existing contiguous Divisions may choose to vacate their

charters and seek a new consolidated charter in accordance with this paragraph; this action shall require approval by the membership of the Divisions concerned as well as the approval of the General Executive Council. Divisions may also upon approval by the General Executive Council, annex contiguous States, Territories or foreign political entities located in the same Department, but within that entity. All Camps within a Division so defined shall report to that Division's headquarters command.

- 5.2. **Provisional Divisions.** Camps shall report directly to the designated Department Commander. Within boundaries, as defined in 5.1, where there are at least two (2) Camps in good standing, the Commander-in Chief, at his discretion, may form them into a Provisional Division. The Commander-in-Chief shall appoint the Division Commander until they attain the required number of Camps to entitle them to organize themselves.
- 5.3. **Brigades.** Each Division may be subdivided into Brigades for purposes of administration, representation, and fostering the growth and formation of Camps within the Division. Each Division constitution providing for Brigades shall specify the method of determining their boundaries, and the number and method of election of Brigade officers if any.
- 5.4. **Division Convention.** Each Division shall hold, at least annually, a convention of the Camps comprising the Division at a time and place fixed in advance by a method of their choosing. At least thirty (30) days in advance of the convention, the Division Commander shall notify the Commander-in-Chief, the Commander of his Department, and the Camps of his Division of the time and place of the convention. Each Division Convention shall be the judge of its own members.
- 5.5. **Executive Council.** The Division Commander and such other specific officers as prescribed in the Division's constitution shall serve together as a Division Executive Council, provided that among all officers eligible to vote on the Division Executive Council, those officers elected by the membership shall constitute a majority of the Division Executive Council. Between Division conventions, the administration power of the Division shall be vested in the Division Executive Council, whose purpose shall be to conduct the business affairs of the Division subject to the will of the Division membership.
- 5.6. **Terms of office.** Unless otherwise specified in the Division constitution, each officer shall serve a term of one year or until their successors are elected and qualified.
- 5.7. **Officer.** Each Division shall elect from among themselves a commander and may elect or cause to be appointed from among themselves such other officers as they deem necessary for the conduct of their business including but not limited to Lieutenant Commander, Adjutant, Treasurer, Chaplain, Brigade Commanders, Sergeant-at-Arms, Historian, Editor, Public Affairs Officer, Chief of Staff, Parliamentarian, and Color Sergeant.

- 5.7.1. The Commander shall be the principal officer of the Division, and shall apply himself in organizing his Division into Camps, being careful to have all the requirements of the Constitution strictly complied with in the formation of Camps; be intermediary with General and Department Headquarters and see to the execution of all orders received therefrom; and assist the Department Commander by counsel or otherwise. He shall promptly transmit to General and Department Headquarters cop. All orders received therefrom; and assist the Department Commander by counsel or otherwise. He shall promptly transmit to General and Department Headquarters copies of all general and special orders, all circulars and circular letters, and other literature, which may be issued by him or his officers. He shall be the president of all meetings of the Division and the Division's Executive Council. He shall have those duties of administration and supervision usually incumbent upon the office. The Commander shall perform such other duties as may, from time to time, be prescribed by the Division Executive Council or Division Convention.
- 5.7.2 The Lieutenant Commander shall assist the Commander, and whenever the Commander is absent shall serve in his stead. The Lieutenant Commander shall perform such other duties as may, from time to time, be prescribed by the Commander or the Executive Council. Additional, subordinate Lieutenant Commanders may be appointed or elected as necessary.
- 5.7.3. The Adjutant will be the principal financial officer, and shall insure that the financial records are kept in good order, in such manner and according to such procedures approved by the Division Executive Council, and shall properly administer and record all receipts and disbursements. He shall have custody of all monies and securities of the Division, and shall deposit all money in the name of and to the credit of the Division in such depositories as designated by the Division Executive Council. The Adjutant shall render to the Commander or the Division, whenever they may require it, an account of all transactions and the financial condition of the Division. He shall keep the records and archives of the Division including the minutes of all proceedings and a roster of all members in good standing. The Adjutant shall perform such other duties as may, from time to time, be prescribed by the Division Commander or the Division Executive Council. These duties may be shared and divided with a Treasurer and/or Assistant Adjutants who may be appointed or elected, as the Division deems necessary.
- 5.7.4. The Chaplain shall perform such services as may be necessary in connection with the office; tend to the spiritual ministrations of the Division; from time to time as is proper, lead the Division in prayer and supplication to Almighty God; and have superintendence of its Confederate Memorial observances. The Chaplain shall perform such other duties as may, from time to time, be prescribed by the Commander or the Executive Council.

- 5.7.5. The Brigade Commanders shall assist the Division Commander by counsel or

otherwise; supervise the work of their Brigades, see to the enforcement of all orders from Division Headquarters, foster the growth and formation of new Camps within their Brigades, act as representatives of the Division Commander in his absence and on all matters referred by him; and shall perform such other duties as may, from time to time, be prescribed by the Commander or the Executive Council.

- 5.8. Vacancies. Unless otherwise provided for by the Division constitution, any vacancy occurring amongst the leadership of a Division or a Brigade thereof, shall be filled by the Division Commander with the advice and consent of either the Commander-in Chief or the supervising Department Commander; should the office of Division Commander be vacated, the vacancy shall be filled by the Commander-in-Chief with the advice and consent of the supervising Department Commander or the Division Executive Council.
- 5.9. Division Fees & Per Capita Dues. Divisions may levy additional fees, special assessments, and per capita dues upon their Camps for their own purposes to meet internal expenses; same to be paid to their headquarters direct, subject to the will of the Division membership.
- 5.10 Membership Standards. Each Division of the Sons of Confederate Veterans shall be the judge of its own membership, subject to the restrictions of the Constitution and the Standing Orders.
- 5.11. A current and correct copy of each Division's organizational instrument (*i.e.* constitution) shall be on file with General Headquarters.
- 5.12. Incorporation. Any Division desiring to incorporate under the laws for non-profit corporations of the jurisdiction of that Division shall first obtain permission from the General Executive Council and shall state in plain language in its formation documents and constitution, filed with that jurisdiction, that it is a subordinate organization of the Sons of Confederate Veterans, Inc., a Texas Nonprofit Corporation. Any existing Division, which is incorporated at the time this Constitution and Standing Orders is adopted, shall amend its constitution and formation documents filed with that jurisdiction in like manner. No incorporation documents may be amended without prior approval of the General Executive Council. No Division may be deprived of any prior approval of the General Executive Council. No Division may be deprived of any of its assets, except in the case of dissolution, without the approval of the Division.
- 5.13. Division Charter. Each Division shall be issued a charter by General Headquarters.

## 6. DEPARTMENTS

- 6.1. Department Organization. The Confederation shall be subdivided into Departments, also known as Armies. Each Department shall be comprised of whole Divisions and any Camps, not attached to an organized Division, falling within the applicable region as defined herein.

- 6.2. Department Commander. The Department Commander shall assist the Commander-in-Chief by counsel or otherwise; be the principal officer of the Department; be intermediary with General Headquarters and the Divisions under his command; see to the execution of all orders received from General Headquarters; promptly transmit to General Headquarters copies of all general and special orders, all circulars and circular letters, and other literature which may be issued by him or his officers; and to foster the growth and formation of Camps and Divisions. He shall be the president of all meetings of the Department. He shall have those duties of administration and supervision customarily incumbent upon the office. The Department Commander shall perform such other duties as may, from time to time, be prescribed by the Commander-in-Chief or the General Executive Council.
- 6.3. Department Councilman. At each convention where national officers are prescribed to be elected, the delegates representing the Camps from each Department shall elect from among themselves representatives to the General Executive Council to be known as Department Councilmen. One Councilmen shall be elected from each Department. The Department Councilmen shall perform such other duties as may, from time to time be prescribed by the Commander-in-Chief or the General Executive Council.
- 6.4. Department Meetings. Department Commanders may, from time to time as they deem convenient, hold a meeting of the Camps comprising the Department, but Departments shall have no legislative authority except to govern their own meetings.
- 6.5. Officers. Department Commanders may, appoint the same regular staff as the Commander-in-Chief and such assistants and aides as they deem necessary, including geographically based Corps Commanders to assist in the growth and formation of Camps; all such officers shall serve at the will and pleasure of the Department Commander.
- 6.6. Fees & Per Capita Dues. Departments may not levy and compulsory fees or per capita dues upon their Camps or members.

## 7. GENERAL EXECUTIVE COUNCIL

- 7.1 Structure. While the Camps are not in convention, the administrative power shall be vested in the General Executive Council, comprised of the Commander-in-Chief, Lieutenant Commander-in-Chief, all Department Commanders and Councilmen, the Adjutant-in-Chief, Chaplain-in-Chief, Judge Advocate-in-Chief, Chief of Staff, Chief of Heritage Operations and the last three (3) Past Commanders-in-Chief; none of whom shall be employees of the SCV. Each officer enumerated herein shall be entitled to one (1) vote on all questions, which may properly come before the General Executive Council.
- 7.2. Attendance. All voting members of the General Executive Council are expected to attend meetings of the General Executive Council unless hindered or extraordinarily incapacitated.

7.3. Removal. Any officer elected or appointed may be removed by the individuals authorized to elect or appoint such officer whenever in their judgment the best interest of the Confederation will be served thereby.

7.4. Quorum. A quorum of the General Executive Council shall be a majority of all eligible voting members, except as otherwise provided for herein.

7.5. Past Commanders-in-Chief.

7.5.1 The last three (3) and only the last three (3) Past Commanders-in-Chief shall be entitled to the same rights and privileges as other members including the right to cast one (1) vote on all questions, which may properly come before the General Executive Council.

7.5.2. The Past Commanders-in-Chief are not obligated to attend meetings, and their offices may not be vacated for failure to attend; only if present shall they, or any one of them, be counted in the computation of a quorum.

7.5.3. The rights, privileges and honors of a Past Commander-in-Chief described herein may be rescinded or revoked by four-fifths (4/5) of the delegates at a General Convention, present and voting.

7.6. Meetings - Regular

7.6.1. The General Executive Council shall meet within twenty-four hours after the final adjournment of the General Convention.

7.6.2. The Commander-in-Chief may call such other regular meetings of the General Executive Council at such time and place as may seem to him proper

7.7. Meetings - Special

7.7.1. Special meetings of the General Executive Council may be called for a specific purpose and may only consider business specifically described in the meeting notice.

7.7.2. The Commander-in-Chief shall convene the General Executive Council in a special meeting upon the petition of 5 (5) of the voting members of the General Executive Council

7.7.3. Such petition shall specify the reasons necessitating such a meeting, the specific purposes for which the meeting is called, and a suggested time and place of the meeting. After receiving a sufficient number of qualified petitions,

the Commander-in-Chief must call a special meeting of the General Executive Council at a reasonable time and place of his choosing to be held within fourteen (14) days.

- 7.7.4. If, after four days from receiving the petitions, the Commander-in-Chief has refused to call a special meeting, the petitioners may order that the special meeting be held at the time and place specified in their petition.
- 7.8. The General Executive Council may adopt such rules, as they deem necessary to govern the conduct of their meetings so far as they are not inconsistent with this Constitution and the Standing Orders.
- 7.9. All questions affecting the election, eligibility and conduct of General Officers shall be referred to and determined by the General Executive Council. All questions affecting the election, eligibility and conduct of the Division Officers, except as hereinafter provided, shall be referred to and determined by the General Executive Council, which shall be the final authority thereon.
- 7.10. Meetings may be held by teleconference or similar communications equipment, or another suitable electronic communications system, including videoconferencing technology or the Internet, or any combination, if the telephone or other equipment or system permits each person participating in the meeting to communicate concurrently with all other persons participating in the meeting.
- 7.11. Actual notice of any proposed meeting must be given by U.S. Mail or other means acceptable to the General Executive Council at least forty-eight (48) hours in advance.

## **8. CONVENTIONS**

- 8.1. The legislative body of the Sons of Confederate Veterans shall be the elected delegates from the Camps of the Sons of Confederate Veterans in convention assembled.
- 8.2. Notice. Notice of the General Convention shall be mailed to every Camp in good standing at least thirty (30) days but not more than ninety (90) days in advance. Notification shall include the time and place of the meeting as well as the general nature of the business to be transacted. Such notices may be contained in copies of the Confederation's publications if mailed to all Camps or all members.
- 8.3. President. The Commander-in-Chief shall be the president of the convention; he may, at his discretion, designate another individual to serve as the convention president. If the appointed president is not a member in good standing of the SCV, the appointment must be approved by a majority of individual delegates present & voting.

- 8.4. **Time & Place.** The Camps shall be assembled in General Convention annually at a time, date and place fixed at least one (1) year in advance by the General Executive Council subject to approval by the convention; and shall not be altered or changed except in the event of an emergency or other exigent circumstances, determined by two-thirds (2/3) of the General Executive Council. The convention shall be held within the time frame defined by the Standing Orders.
- 8.5. **Quorum.** At any properly noticed General Convention of Camps, a quorum shall exist whenever one-third (1/3) of the registered delegates are present. At any Special Convention, a quorum shall exist whenever one-fifth (1/5) of all Camps in good standing are represented to at least two (2) delegates. Said delegates shall be considered by the Credentials Committee based on a written certification from the Camp Commander or Adjutant, on the form provided by General Headquarters.
- 8.6. **Representation.** Each Camp shall be entitled to send one (1) delegate for every ten (10) members or major fractions thereof provided that every Camp in good standing shall be entitled to at least two (2) delegates. Said delegates shall be credentialed by the Credentials Committee based on a written certification from the Camp Commander or Adjutant, on the form provided by General Headquarters.
- 8.7. **Eligibility.** Each convention shall be the judge of its own members.
- 8.8. **Voting**
  - 8.8.1. **Officer elections.** When there is but one candidate for an office, by general consent, a formal ballot may be dispensed with, and the candidate be elected by acclamation.
  - 8.8.2. **Special votes prohibited.** At any General or Division Convention, no individual shall be entitled to cast any votes based upon any office formerly held except that Divisions may allow past Commanders of that Division a vote at their Division Conventions.
  - 8.8.3. **Proxy voting prohibited.** Proxy voting, being the practice of casting ballots for a Delegation for which no registered Delegate is actually present, shall not be allowed in any General, Special or Division Convention.
  - 8.8.4. **Enumeration.** On enumerating active members of Camps for representation, none shall be counted who are thus enumerated in another Camp of the Confederation. Membership in more than one Camp is not forbidden, but no Compatriot shall be borne on the rolls of more than one Camp for the purpose of enumeration and representation. When a Compatriot is a member of more than one Camp, he shall elect in which one he will be enrolled for representation. No individual may serve as a delegate from a Camp unless he has been a member of that Camp for the preceding six (6) months or he is a

Charter member of that Camp, or a waiver be granted by approval of two-thirds (2/3) of the General Executive Committee.

- 8.8.5. Delegates. The representation of the various Camps at the annual General, Department, Division and Brigade Conventions shall be by delegates, as follows: One delegate for every ten (10) members in good standing in the Camp and one additional for a fraction thereof of five (5) or more; provided that every Camp in good standing shall be entitled to at least two (2) delegates. Except for Divisions which may fix their own internal representation, each delegation must have a letter of credentials signed by the Camp Commander or Adjutant attesting to the veracity thereof, or they cannot be recognized. Such letter shall name the Chairman of the delegation and the names of the other delegates elected to represent the Camp. If the Chairman of the delegation named is not in attendance at the convention, those delegates in attendance are hereby authorized to elect a Chairman from among themselves. All delegates must be in "good standing" if his annual per capita dues and, if applicable, recording fee or reinstatement fee was not transmitted to General Headquarters by the deadline established according to the provisions of his Constitution and the Standing Orders. For the purposes of representation and voting at General Conventions, a Camp is not in "good standing" if the annual per capita dues and, if applicable, recording fees or reinstatement fees for at least seven members was not transmitted to General Headquarters by the deadline established in accordance to the provisions of this Constitution and Standing Orders.
- 8.8.6. Delegate Voting. At the General Convention, in election of officers and on final passage of Constitutional amendments, each Camp shall be entitled to cast the number of votes equal to the number of delegates to which it is entitled whether or not it has that number of delegates in attendance. In the event that all of the delegates to which the Camp is entitled are not in attendance, the number of votes which the Camp is entitled to cast shall be prorated among the Camp's delegates present, if more than one. If only one delegate is present, that delegate shall be entitled to cast the total number of votes to which his Camp is entitled as hereinbefore stated.
- 8.8.7. Nothing in the above section shall be considered as binding upon Divisions and their methods of voting at Division or Brigade Conventions. They may adopt the above procedure or prescribe their own method of counting votes in the Division Constitution.
- 8.8.8. Headquarters Camp shall not be entitled to vote.
- 8.8.9. A Camp that is not in "good standing" as defined herein shall not be allowed any representation at the General Convention.

- 8.8.10. Roll Call. One third (1/3) of the delegates present and voting may demand that the yeas and nays be recorded on any main motion.
- 8.8.11. Secret Ballot. In an election for any office for which there is more than one candidate, voting shall be by secret ballot, and no publication of such secret ballot may be allowed.
- 8.8.12. Voting place. Voting for all contested offices and ballot questions shall occur at the same place time, place, and at the same site where the business sessions are held.
- 8.9. Special Conventions. From time to time, as circumstances may necessitate, the Camps of the Sons of Confederate Veterans may be called into a Special Convention as provided for herein. Special Conventions shall, in all respects, function according to the same rules and requirements as General Conventions, except as otherwise provided for herein.
- 8.10. Special Conventions must be called for a specific purpose and may only consider business specifically described in the call to convention.
- 8.11. The Commander-in-Chief shall convene the Camps in a Special Convention upon the written petition of two-thirds (2/3) of the General Executive Council, by one-third (1/3) of the Camps in good standing, or of five percent (5%) of the actual membership of the Confederation. Petitions from the General Executive Council are to be sent to the Commander-in-Chief; petitions from the Camps or the members are to be sent to General Headquarters.
- 8.12. Such Special Convention petitions shall specify the reasons necessitating such a meeting, the specific purposes for which the meeting is called, and a suggested time and place of the meeting. After receiving a sufficient number of qualified petitions, the Commander-in-Chief must call the Camps into Special Convention at as reasonable time and place of his choosing within sixty (60) days.
- 8.13. If, after sixty (60) days, the Commander-in-Chief has refused to call the Camps into Special Convention, the petitioners may order that the Special Convention be held at the time and place specified in their petition.

## 9. GENERAL OFFICERS

- 9.1. Elected officers.

- 9.1.1. At each General Convention held in an even-numbered year, the Camps in convention assembled shall elect a Commander-in-Chief and a Lieutenant Commander-in-Chief. In the same time, place and manner the Camps comprising each Department shall elect from among themselves a Commander and Councilman for each of them as provided for herein. They shall be

Members of the staff for the Commander-in-Chief, and each of them shall be entitled to one (1) vote on all questions before the General Executive Council.

- 9.1.2. The Commander-in-Chief and Lt. Commander-in-Chief shall serve for a term of two (2) years or until their successors are elected, and they may not succeed themselves consecutively in the same office.
- 9.1.3. The Department Commanders and Councilmen shall serve for a term of two years, or until their successors are elected. They may succeed themselves in the same office to which they were elected once.

## 9.2. Cabinet officers.

- 9.2.1. The Adjutant-in-Chief, Chaplain-in Chief, and Chief of Heritage Operations shall be appointed by the Commander-in-Chief with the advice & consent of the General Executive Council. Each shall be entitled to one (1) vote on all questions before the General Executive Council, and shall serve until the adjournment of the succeeding General Convention following their election, or until their successors are chosen and every function of that General Convention is discharged.
- 9.2.2. A Chief of Staff may be appointed by the Commander-in-Chief and he shall serve at the will of and pleasure of the Commander-in-Chief. He shall be entitled to one (1) vote on all questions before the General Executive Council.
- 9.3. Subordinate Officers. The Commander-in-Chief may appoint other Officers as he deems necessary to be members of his Staff who shall serve at his will and pleasure, such as: Quartermaster-in-Chief, Inspector-in-Chief, Judge Advocate-in-Chief, Surgeon-in-Chief, Historian-in-Chief, Parliamentarian, Sergeant-at-Arms, Color Sergeant, Director of Public Affairs, Genealogist-in-Chief, and Chief of Protocol. He may appoint such additional assistants and aides, as he deems necessary, provided that in his order he shall describe the purpose and duties of the office.
- 9.4. Past Commanders-in-Chief. Each Commander-in-Chief who has served a full term and does not continue to hold the office shall have the honorific of Past Commander-in-Chief. He shall take rank in parades and in all other ceremonial respects next to the Commander –in-Chief. Those who shall not have served a full term may have these privileges confirmed on them by motion, receiving three-fourths (3/4) of the votes cast at any General Convention.

## 9.5. Duties of officers.

- 9.5.1. Commander-in-Chief. The Commander-in-Chief shall be the principal officer of the Sons of Confederate Veterans with full responsibility and power to enforce

the Sons of Confederate Veterans with full responsibility and power to enforce the provisions of this Constitution and Standing Orders, the will of the General Convention, and the decisions and orders of the General Executive Council, and to this effect he may be issue all necessary orders. He shall be president of the General Convention and chairman of the General Executive Council and shall decide all questions of law, order or usage. He shall be empowered to act for the good of the Confederation, as circumstances, in his judgment, may require, in cases not provided for by this Constitution and Standing Orders, subject to all such decisions and acts to appeal to the General Convention. He shall have those duties of administration and supervision usually incumbent upon the office. The Commander-in-Chief shall perform such other duties as may, from time to time, be presented by the Convention.

- 9.5.2. Lieutenant Commander-in-Chief. The Lieutenant Commander-in-Chief shall assist the Commander-in-Chief, and whenever the Commander-in-Chief is absent shall serve in his stead. The Lieutenant Commander-in-Chief shall be chairman of the Recruiting and Retention Committee and perform such other duties as may, from time to time, be prescribed by the Commander-in-Chief or the General Executive Council. In case of the death or resignation of the Commander-in-Chief, the Lieutenant Commander-in-Chief shall become Commander-in-Chief for the unexpired term with all the executive authority thereunto appertaining.
- 9.5.3. Adjutant-in-Chief. The Adjutant-in-Chief shall keep the correct records and minutes of the proceedings of the General Executive Council and the General Convention; maintain an accurate roster of all members in good standing, all officers, and a roll of the Camps; conduct the correspondence of the Confederation; issue the necessary orders under the direction of the Commander-in-Chief; be the keeper of the Seal of the Confederation, and issue under it all certificates of membership, commissions and documents; he shall make reports on the condition of the general treasury when called for by the Commander-in-Chief or the General Executive Council; and make a report to each General Convention, showing the work performed by his office, and the conditions and prospects of the Confederation, with such recommendations as he may deem proper. The Adjutant-in-Chief shall perform such other duties as may, from time to time, be prescribed by the Commander-in-Chief or the General Executive Council; and may have the assistance of such professional staff as the Confederation may employ. These duties may be shared and divided with Assistant Adjutants-in-Chief who may be appointed, as the Commander-in-Chief deems necessary.
- 9.5.4. Judge Advocate-in-Chief. The Judge Advocate-in-Chief shall advise the Commander-in-Chief and the General Executive Council on legal matters,

including rendering an opinion as to the construction and interpretation of the Constitution and Standing Orders. He shall perform such other duties as may be assigned to him by the Commander-in-Chief or the General Executive Council, while carrying on the normal functions generally assigned by his office.

- 9.5.5. Chief of Staff. The Chief of Staff shall assist the Commander-in-Chief on supervising the organization and proper functioning of the Confederation, as well as coordinating the work of the General Staff; perform such other duties as may be assigned to him by the Commander-in-Chief, while carrying on the normal functions generally assumed by a Chief of Staff.
- 9.5.6. Chief of Heritage Operations. The Chief of Heritage Operations shall have primary responsibility for organizing and executing the heritage activities of the Confederation. He shall be chairman of the Heritage Operations Committee. He shall perform such other duties as may be assigned to him by the Commander-in-Chief, while carrying on the normal functions generally assigned by his office.
- 9.5.7. Chaplain-in-Chief. The Chaplain-in-Chief, being a confessor of the Christian faith, shall, from time to time as is proper, lead the Confederation in prayer and supplication to Almighty God; perform such services of divine worship as may be necessary in connection with the office; and tend to the spiritual ministration of the Confederation. He shall perform work such other duties as may be assigned to him by the Commander-in-Chief, while carrying on the normal functions generally assumed by his office.

9.5. Vacancies. Any office becomes vacant when the holder thereof dies or becomes incapacitated due to illness or injury, resigns, fails by his own act of to maintain a valid membership in a bina fide Camp, or is otherwise removed from office.

- 9.6.1. Commander-in-Chief. A vacancy in the office of Commander-in-Chief shall be filled by the Lieutenant Commander-in-Chief.
- 9.6.2. Elected Officers. Vacancies of elected offices, including the vacancy created when the Lieutenant Commander-in-Chief accedes to the office of Commander-in-Chief, shall be filled by the Commander-in-Chief subject to the approval of the General Executive Council at its next meeting and until the next convention where an election can be held. If any action is taken at a convention that will result in a vacancy being created, the vacancy shall be filled by election at that convention.
- 9.6.3. Other Officer. Vacancies among non-elected offices shall be filled in the same manner as their appointment, for the balance of the term.

## 10. COMMITTEES

- 10.1. **Organization.** In the furtherance of its work the Sons of Confederate Veterans shall organize its members into committees of two kinds: standing and ad hoc. Committees shall keep a record of their meetings; make reports annually, or more often as required by the Commander-in-Chief; may subdivide themselves for purposes of facilitating their labors; and shall turn over their records to the Adjutant-in-Chief at the expiration of their term of office. The Commander-in-Chief shall be an ex officio member of all committees, except that he shall not be obligated to attend meetings and he shall be counted towards the computation of a quorum only when present.
- 10.2. **Meetings.** All committees shall meet at the call of the chairman.
- 10.3. **Quorum.** A quorum shall exist when one third (1/3) of the members are present or participating in the meeting.
- 10.4. **Ad hoc committees.** Ad hoc committees may be appointed by the Commander-in-Chief as he deems necessary, or by the General Convention.; provided that their purpose and the duration of their commission is specified.
- 10.5. **Appointment of Standing Committees.** All Standing Committees shall be appointed by the Commander-in-Chief and the chairman thereof named by him; their terms of office shall be coterminous with his, unless otherwise specified
- 10.6. **Standing Committees.** The General Convention may create such standing committees as it deems appropriate.
- 10.7. **Committee Officers.** Whenever required, committees shall elect from among themselves a chairman, if none is named otherwise, vice-chairman, and secretary; whose duties shall be those customary to the office.

## 11. FINANCE

- 11.1. **Dues and fees.** The revenue of the Sons of Confederate Veterans shall be derived from recording fees, per capita dues, donations, and from such other sources as may be approved by the General Executive Council.
  - 11.1.1. Yearly per capita dues shall be paid by each Camp for every active member in good standing. The amount of such per capita dues and/or fees shall be determined by the convention. No motion to increase the amount of dues and/or fees shall be in order unless previous notice has been given to all Camps in good standing at least thirty (30) days and not more than ninety (90) days prior to the convention. No amendment or substitute motion shall be accepted to the proposed amount of dues increase that is for a dollar amount greater than that contained in the previous notice.

- 11.1.2. Financial penalties, over and above other dues and fees, may be increased on memberships for which the required dues and fees have not been paid by the required closing date. Such penalties to be determined by the General Executive Council.
- 11.1.3. From time to time as they deem necessary, a special assessment, over and above existing dues and fees, may be levied by the convention. Such special assessments shall be irregular in nature and notice of the intent to levy a special assessment shall have been given to all Camps in good standing at least (30) days and not more than ninety (90) prior to the convention.
- 11.1.4. The General Executive Council shall prescribe and publish all necessary procedures, deadlines, and forms for the payment of any required dues or fees. The General Executive Council may also pro-rate dues for new members.
- 11.2. **Transmittal.** As used herein, “Transmitted to” shall mean delivery by hand, postmarked by the United States Postal Service or received by a private courier. Any new member or any former or suspended member seeking reinstatement whose per capita dues and required fees are not transmitted to General Headquarters by the due date fixed and published by the General Executive Council, shall not be in “good standing” for the purposes of this Constitution and Standing Orders.
- 11.3. **Prompt payment.** The recording fee and per capita dues of new members shall be remitted to General Headquarters within fifteen (15) days after a member joins the Confederation.
- 11.4. **Fiscal year.** The fiscal year of the Confederation shall be from 1 August to the following 31 July.
- 11.5. **Budget.** A proposed budget shall be annually approved by the General Executive Council and submitted to the Convention for approval. The budget presentation shall include, for each account reported, the previous fiscal year’s budgeted amount, the previous year’s actual amount expanded, as well as the projected budgeted amount for the coming fiscal year, as well as a general report of any non-budgeted expenses and revenues from the previous fiscal year.
- 11.6. **Annual audit.** An audit of the funds of the Confederation shall be annually conducted by a reputable Certified Public Accountant selected by the General Executive Council. The report of the auditor shall be submitted to the General Convention.

- 11.7. **Asset protection.** The General Executive Council shall take care to ensure that the monies and assets of the Confederation are properly cared for and that all assets are protected. No assets for which the Investment Committee is responsible may be sold, exchanged, obligated, transferred, monetized, or otherwise converted to cash without the prior approval of the Investment Committee. Except as otherwise provided for in the Constitution and Standing Orders, no cash may be distributed from those accounts for any purpose without the express consent of the Investment Committee. Any such transaction must be executed within sixty (60) days of receipt of the required Investment Committee permission to remain valid and in compliance with this section.
- 11.8. **Delinquency.** Camps in arrears for three (3) consecutive months in payment of recording fees and per capita dues upon its members to the General Confederation (or per capita dues levied by the Division) shall be notified of their delinquency. If the Camp remains in arrearage for a total of six consecutive months, it shall be automatically suspended from all privileges of the Confederation. If the Camp shall remain in arrearage for an additional two (2) consecutive years, its charter may be revoked by the General Executive Council, provided always that a suspended Camp may be reinstated upon the payment to the General Headquarters of the current per capita dues and required fees. A Camp whose charter has been revoked shall be admitted upon the same condition and upon the payment of the same dues and fees as a new Camp.
- 11.9. Any long-term debt contracted or other evidence of indebtedness issued on behalf of the Sons of Confederate Veterans, Incorporated, shall be reported to the membership at least thirty (30) days prior to issuance. This limitation is not applicable to short-term debt or accounts payable incurred in the normal course of business.

## 12. GENERAL HEADQUARTERS

- 12.1. The General Headquarters of the Confederation shall be located at Elm Springs, Columbia, Maury County, Tennessee.
- 12.2. The official archives and records of the Confederation, together with all books, manuscripts, relics and other historical materials brought together under its direction, shall be kept at General Headquarters or stored at a proper facility. They shall be carefully arranged, classified, indexed and displayed and they shall at all times be open to the use and inspection of any member or members of the Confederation.

## 13. DISCIPLINE AND ADMINISTRATION

- 13.1. A member of the Sons of Confederate Veterans may be censured or suspended or expelled from membership only upon a proper showing of cause. Charges shall be

based upon disloyalty, neglect of duty, dishonesty, and conduct unbecoming a member of the Sons of Confederate Veterans, or the commission of an act repugnant to this Constitution and Standing Orders. Charges may be proffered by their Camp, Division, or by action of the General Executive Council or the General Convention. If said member resigns after charges have been properly proffered, he shall be considered to have been expelled.

- 13.2. Disciplinary Committee. Shall be composed of the Inspector-in-Chief and six members, two each from the three Departments. Members of the Disciplinary Committee shall be appointed by the Commander-in-Chief strictly from lists submitted to him by the three Department Commanders and Councilmen. They may subdivide to hear particular cases so long as the sub-committee is composed of not less than three members. Sub-committees shall have the full force and effect of the whole committee.
- 13.3. Standing. Charges proffered by a Camp or Division must be against one of its own members. The General Executive Council or the Convention may proffer charges against any member. Charges may not be proffered by any individual.
- 13.4. Procedure. Charges shall be proffered in writing to the Commander-in-Chief who shall promptly refer the matter to the Disciplinary Committee. The accused shall be presented a copy of the charges and invited to provide a timely response. The Committee or sub-committee may conduct additional inquiries as necessary. A two-thirds majority shall be necessary to decide any question of guilt. Once charges have been proffered to the Disciplinary Committee, the accused's membership shall be temporarily suspended until the charges are resolved or the General Executive Council votes to lift the suspension.
- 13.5. Venue. The Committee or Sub-committee shall meet in person at General Headquarters or other announced meeting place of the General Executive Council to hear testimony, receive investigative reports, receive other information, and deliberate and vote on the question. The Committee or Sub-committee may meet via teleconference. All proceedings shall be in executive session.
- 13.6. Report. After the conclusion of its business, the committee or sub-committee shall report to the Commander-in-Chief their findings, which he shall disseminate to the General Executive Council. If the committee or sub-committee makes a finding of guilty, the accused shall be promptly notified by the Commander-in-Chief using U.S. Mail or private carrier, which provides proof of delivery. If the accused is acquitted, the matter shall be dropped and disregarded; if found guilty, the accused shall have the right to appeal to the General Executive Council.
- 13.7. Appeal. The accused may appeal the decision by submitting a request for an appellate hearing to the Commander-in-Chief within thirty (30) days of the date from which the notice was sent. The request for appeal, once received by the Commander-

in-Chief, shall be ordered for hearing before the General Executive Council in a timely manner. The General Executive Council may decide whether or not to hear the appeal; a majority shall be necessary to uphold the decision of the Disciplinary Committee. The General Executive Council may remand the case to the Committee for reconsideration. The accused shall be notified of the decision of the General Executive Council by U.S. Mail or private carrier, which provides proof of delivery.

13.8. **Imposing Punishment.** The Commander-in-Chief shall direct that punishment be imposed if any of the following conditions occur:

13.8.1. The decision of the Disciplinary Committee is upheld by the General Executive Council.

13.8.2. The guilty verdict of the Disciplinary Committee is upheld by the General Executive Council, but a lesser punishment is ordered.

13.8.3. The General Executive Council declines to hear the appeal.

13.8.4. The accused declines his right of appeal.

13.8.5. The time limit for submitting a request for an appellate hearing expires. The accused shall be notified in writing of the punishment to be imposed.

13.9. **Decisions Not Upheld.** If the General Executive Council does not uphold the decision of the Disciplinary Committee and the accused is determined to be not guilty, then the accused shall be notified by the Commander-in-Chief that he has been exonerated and the matter has been dropped.

13.10. **Expelled members.** Expelled members are not eligible for reinstatement. Expelled members shall not be allowed to take part in any SCV meetings or activities.

13.11. **Commanders-in-Chief.** The Commander-in-Chief may be disciplined by the General Executive Council or any Convention; a two-thirds majority shall be necessary to decide.

13.12. **Convention.** Any decision by a Convention to censure a member shall be final.

13.13. **Discipline:** Camps and Divisions, being the judge of their own members, may impose discipline upon their own members. Camps or Divisions may suspend or expel a member from their respective Camps or Division. The case then must be forwarded to the Commander-in-Chief for review, Any member expelled from a Division will be transferred to HQ Camp 584, however will remain under suspension pending case review by the Disciplinary Committee and the General Executive Council. A violation of the suspension meted out by a Camp, Division or National shall, for purposes of calculating the Thirty (30) days, be considered a new

violation, the thirty days beginning with the dispensation of the Camp's, Division's or National's actions on the violation of the suspension, not the original infraction which led to the suspension. If a Camp disciplines a member and proffers charges on the incident with its Division (within the time prescribed by the Division bylaws, or 30 days if no such time is prescribed), then the matter shall no be considered dispensed, for purposes of calculating the 30 days above, until the conclusion of the Division's adjudication. At the point the charges are proffered to the Commander-in-Chief, the procedures are as described elsewhere in this article. If the member is not expelled from the Confederation at the culmination of these actions, he may petition the Disciplinary Committee for the right to transfer to a Camp different from whence he came. If this petition is denied, he may appeal to the General Executive Council.

- 13.14. **Camp Suspensions.** Suspension of the Charter of a Camp shall not affect the membership in the Sons of Confederate Veterans of Compatriots of such Camp, nor impair their tenure of office or eligibility as officers therein during such suspension.
- 13.15. The General Executive Council shall promptly suspend or revoke the charter of any Camp, which fails to meet the obligations imposed upon it by this Constitution and Standing Orders, or commits an act repugnant to this Constitution and Standing Orders or detrimental to the objects and purposes of the Confederation.
- 13.16. Reinstatement for suspension shall take effect immediately upon receipt by the Commander-in-Chief of evidence of the removal by the suspended Camp of its cause of suspension.
- 13.17 During the interim between General Conventions, the Commander-in-Chief shall have the power to suspend the charter of any Camp or Division and suspend any officer from his office for conduct detrimental to the Confederation upon proper proof; said action to be reported to the next regular meeting of the General Executive Council for approval and thence to the next General Convention for final dispensation. Any Camp, Division, or officer so suspended shall have the right to appear before the General Executive Council.
- 13.18. Any Camp or Division whose charter has been suspended or revoked shall not be entitled to any rights and privileges of the Confederation. The Commander-in-Chief is charged with the duty of working with the Camp or Division or officer to remove the factors that necessitated the suspension.
- 13.19. Upon the failure of any Department, Division or Camp Commander, whether elected or appointed, to send in the required reports without reasons satisfactory to the Commander-in-Chief, said officer shall stand suspended, and the office shall be thereby vacant, and such vacancy shall be promptly filled as provided for herein.

13.20. The General Executive Council, after notice and a hearing, may suspend or revoke the charter of a Division, which violates this Constitution and Standing Orders, and may provide for the government and administration of such Division during such suspension during such suspension or upon the revocation.

## **14. DISSOLUTION**

### **14.1. National Dissolution**

14.1.1. In the event of dissolution or final liquidation, none of the Sons of Confederate Veterans' property nor any proceeds shall be distributed to or divided among any of the officers or members or inure to the benefit of any individual. Instead, after all of the Sons of Confederate Veterans' liabilities and obligations have been paid and discharged, the residual assets of the Sons of Confederate Veterans, including all monies, real or personal property, investments, credits, endowments, and any other appurtenances or things of pecuniary value, shall be distributed for one or more exempt purposes within the meaning of section 501©(3) of the Internal Revenue Code (or the corresponding section of any future federal tax code). The flags and emblems, financial records, minutes of meetings, non-financial records, and archives of the Sons of Confederate Veterans may be donated to an appropriate historical society, archive, or library.

14.1.2. Any such assets not so disposed of, shall be disposed of by a Court of Competent Jurisdiction of the county in which the principal office of the corporation is then located, exclusively for such purposes or to such organization or organizations, said Court shall determine, which are organized and operated exclusively for such purposes.

### **14.2. Dissolution of a Division, Camp, or other subdivision.**

14.2.1. In the event of dissolution or final liquidation of a Camp, the Camp's charter and any flags or emblems shall be turned over to General Headquarters of the Sons of Confederate Veterans. None of the property, nor any proceeds, shall be distributed to or divided among any of the officers or members or inure to the benefits of any individual. Instead, after all liabilities and obligations have been paid and discharged, the residual assets, including all moneys, real or personal property, investments, credits, endowments, financial records, and any other appurtenances or things of pecuniary value, shall be turned over to the Division under which the Camp is organized or, if there is no Division, to the General Headquarters of the Sons of Confederate Veterans. The dissolving Camp may recommend the use for those funds.

14.2.2. In the event of dissolution or final liquidation of a Division or other subdivision, any flags or emblems shall be turned over to General Headquarters of the Sons of Confederate Veterans. None of the property, nor any proceeds,

shall be distributed to or divided among any of the officers or members or inure to the benefit of any individual. Instead, after all liabilities and obligations have been paid and discharged, the residual assets, including all moneys, real or personal property, investments, credits, endowments, financial records, and any other appurtenances, or things of pecuniary value, shall be turned over to the General Headquarters of the Sons of Confederate Veterans.

- 14.2.3. Nothing contained in Section 14.2.1 or 14.2.2 shall be construed to affect the legal transfer of title to real property, owned by a Camp or Division in dissolution, wherein the original deed or bestowal document to such real to such real property, designates a successor of, or reverted to, an entity other than the Sons of Confederate Veterans (as in the case of Mississippi Divisions ownership of Beauvoir with title passing to the State of Mississippi upon the Division's dissolution).

## **15. INDEMNIFICATION**

- 15.1. Members of the General Executive Council, employees, and authorized agents of the Sons of Confederate Veterans shall be indemnified for costs, expenses, or liabilities necessarily incurred in connection with the defense of any action, suit, or proceeding in which they are made a part by reason of being a member serving in an elected or an appointed capacity. No member or employee shall be indemnified when adjudged in the action or suit to be liable for gross negligence or misconduct in the performance of duty.

## **16. AMENDMENTS**

- 16.1. The articles of this Constitution may be amended, altered, or repealed by a two-thirds (2/3) vote of the delegates present and voting in convention assembled; the Standing Orders may be amended, altered, or repealed by a majority vote of the delegates present and voting in convention assembled, provided that any proposed amendments, alterations, or repeals shall have been sent to each Camp in good standing at least thirty (30) days and not more than ninety (90) days in advance to the address on record at General Headquarters. The General Executive Council may promulgate reasonable rules governing the method by which such proposed amendments, alterations, or repeals are to be submitted and distributed.

## CERTIFICATION

This Constitution was amended in convention assembled, in Charleston, South Carolina on July 20, 2024.



Walter D. Kennedy  
Commander-in-Chief

James D. Hill  
Adjutant-in-Chief

Revisions - Murfreesboro, Tennessee (July 13, 2012)  
Article 13.13 (Revised)

Revisions - Vicksburg, Mississippi (July 17, 2015)  
Preamble, Article 5.1, 5.2, 7.1 and 9.2.1, 9.5.6 (Revised)

Revisions - Richmond, Virginia (July 17, 2015)  
Article 3.7.4 (Revised)

Revision - Richardson, Texas (July 15, 2016)  
Article 9.1.2. (Revised), Article 7.10 (Revised) and Article 11.1.1. (Revised)

Revision - St. Augustine, Florida (July 18, 2020)  
Article 3.8.2. and 3.8.3. (Revised), Article 7.10. (Revised) and Article 11.1.1 (Revised)

Revision - Metairie-Kenner, Louisiana (July 23, 2021)  
Article 11, Section 5 (Revised); Article 11, Section 7 (Revised); Article 11, Section 9 (Added);  
Article 13.4 (Revised)

Revision - Cartersville, Georgia (July 22, 2022)  
Preamble

Revision - Charleston, South Carolina (July 17, 2024)  
Article 3, Section 3.3.2, 3.3.3, 3.7. and 3.7.1 (Revised); Article 3, Section 3.9. (Added)