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Sample Camp Constitution and By Laws of \_\_\_\_\_ Camp \_\_\_\_\_ Sons of Confederate Veterans

**ARTICLE I. Name.** The name of this organization shall be the \_\_\_\_\_ Camp \_\_\_\_\_.

**ARTICLE II. Object.** To associate in one united, compact body of men of Confederate ancestry, and cultivate, perpetuate, and sanctify the ties of fraternity and friendship entailed thereby; to aid and encourage the history and achievement from Jamestown to this present era, constantly endeavoring to see that events of the War Between the States and the heroic contributions of the Confederate soldiers are authentically and clearly written, and all documents, relics, and mementos produced and handed down by those active participants therein are properly treasured and preserved for posterity; to aid and assist in the erection of suitable and enduring monuments and memorials to all Southern valor, civil and military, wherever done and where found; to instill into our descendants a devotion to and reverence for the principles represented by the Confederate State of America, to the honor, glory, and memory of our forefathers who fought in that Cause.

Therefore, we, the Sons of Confederate Veterans, commit to insure the aforementioned impartial Southern history will be taught to each generation, current and future, in accordance with the “Charge” given to the United Sons of Confederate Veterans by Lt. General Stephen Dill Lee, Commander-in-Chief 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’s 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 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.

**ARTICLE III. Nature.** Camp \_\_\_\_\_ shall be strictly historical and benevolent, non-political, and non-sectarian.

a. 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.

b. 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 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 (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.

c. Upon the dissolution of the organization, assets shall be distributed for one or more exempt purposes.

d. within the meaning of section 501 (c) (3) of the Internal Revenue Code, or corresponding section of

e. any future federal tax code, or shall be distributed to the federal government, or to a state or local government, for a public purpose. Any such assets not disposed of shall be disposed of by the Court of Common Pleas of the county in which the principal office of the organization is then located, exclusively for such purposes or to such organization or organizations, as said Court shall determine, which are organized and operated exclusively for such purposes.

#### **ARTICLE IV. Membership.**

Section 1. All male descendants, lineal, or collateral, at least twelve years of age, of those who served in the Confederate Army, Navy, or Marine Corps to the end of the war, or who died in prison or while in actual service, or who were killed in battle, or who were honorably discharged, shall be eligible for membership.

Section 2. No one shall be admitted to membership until satisfactory proof of the foregoing qualifications be submitted in duplicate on official blank applications prepared for that purpose, such applications bearing recommendation by a member in good standing of the Camp. The original shall be forwarded to the General Headquarters of the Sons of Confederate Veterans and the Camp shall preserve the duplicate.

Section 3. All applications for membership in the Camp, received by the Adjutant, shall be reviewed by the Commander. The Commander may submit the applications to a confidential, three (3)-man membership committee appointed by him, to pass on the acceptability of the candidate for membership. Candidates refused membership may petition the Camp membership for admission, and if receiving favorable approval of three-fourths (3/4) of the membership, will be granted full membership in the Camp.

Section 4 Annual dues and fees must be submitted with completed applications to the Camp Adjutant.

Section 5. Applications for membership in the Camp must be read at a regular meeting of the Camp. Upon reading of the application, membership in the Camp will be extended only after receiving two-thirds (2/3) vote of acceptance by the membership present.

Section 6. Active membership in the Camp is membership in the General organization of the Sons of Confederate Veterans.

Section 7. Any member in good standing in the Camp, transferring from the Camp, shall be entitled to a certificate from the Camp Adjutant stating his membership and duration thereof.

## **ARTICLE V. Dues.**

Section 1. The annual dues to the Camp shall be set annually by the Executive Council, such amount subject to approval by the membership at the Annual Meeting.

Section 2. Members in arrears four (4) months in payment of dues shall be classified as delinquent, and six (6) months' in arrears shall automatically impose suspension. Payment of all back dues within the current year, a payment of a \$5.00 reinstatement fee together with all additional levies for that year, shall permit reinstatement to active membership. A member delinquent one year or more shall be only reinstated upon vote of the Camp and payment of all amounts due him to the Camp.

## **ARTICLE VI. Meetings.**

Section 1. Annual Meeting. The annual meeting of the Camp shall be in month of each year on a date determined by the Executive Council. If the annual meeting shall not be held at the time fixed it shall be held within a reasonable time thereafter, and the officers shall hold over until their successors have been elected.

Section 2. Regular Meetings. The regular meeting of the Camp for the transaction of ordinary business shall be held on a day of each month, at such time and place as may be fixed by the Executive Council.

Section 3. A special meeting of the Camp may be held at any time upon call of the Commander. The Commander shall also call a special meeting upon demand in writing, stating the object of the proposed meeting, and signed by not less than 20 percent of the members entitled to vote. Notice of the time, place, and object of any special meeting shall be given all officers and members in good standing, in writing, by United States Mail not less than fifteen (15) days prior to the date fixed for the meeting. The Executive Council shall establish the place of such meeting in advance.

Section 4. Quorum. Members of the Camp entitled to vote shall constitute a quorum at any meeting.

Section 5. The rules of procedure at any meeting of the Camp shall be those set forth in *Roberts Rules of Order*, revised, except wherein they may be altered by the vote of the Camp.

## **ARTICLE VII. Officers.**

Section 1. The officers of the Camp shall be the Commander, First Lieutenant Commander, Second Lieutenant Commander, Adjutant, Treasurer, Judge Advocate, Quartermaster, Surgeon, Chaplain, Color Sergeant, Historian, and an Executive Council. All officers, except those of the Executive Council, shall be elected by a majority vote, by written ballot of the members in good standing present at the annual meeting of the Camp. They shall hold office for one year or until their successors are elected. Officers elected at the meeting shall take office on the first day following their election.

Section 2. The Executive Council shall be composed of the Commander, First Lieutenant Commander, Second Lieutenant Commander, Treasurer, and the two (2) immediate Past Commanders. No Past Commanders shall be eligible who have failed to maintain a good standing within the Camp.

Section 3. Meetings of the Executive Council shall be held at any time and place as the Commander may determine. At least three (3) members of the Executive Council may call meetings at any time on demand and in writing to the Commander.

Section 4. Members of the Executive Council shall constitute a quorum.

Section 5. Resignation of any officer may be accepted by majority vote of the remaining members of the Executive Council.

Section 6. When an office is vacated as a result of death, resignation, or removal, the Commander shall appoint a successor, upon recommendation of the Executive Council, such successor to hold office until the next election during the annual meeting.

#### **ARTICLE VIII. Duties of Officers.**

Section 1. Commander. The Commander shall preside at all meetings of the Camp and the Executive Council. He shall be a member ex officio of all regular and special committees, and shall perform all such other duties as usually pertain to his office.

Section 2. First Lieutenant Commander. The First Lieutenant Commander shall perform the duties of the Commander in his absence or at his request. He shall serve as program chairman, securing guest speakers and presentation for Camp functions.

Section 3. Second Lieutenant Commander. The First Lieutenant Commander shall perform the duties of the Commander in the absence of the Commander and the First Lieutenant Commander. He shall be responsible for the enlistment of new members. He shall maintain an adequate supply of SCV brochures and applications to accomplish the recruitment of new members. He shall monitor membership as to dues payment and meeting attendance. He shall constantly strive for an active, growing membership. He shall prepare and distribute to the membership in good standing- a roster of members, their addresses and telephone numbers.

Section 4. Adjutant. The Adjutant shall conduct all official correspondence pertaining to the proper preparation and forwarding of all reports required of the Camp to General Headquarters, Division, and Brigades. He shall notify all members of special meetings. He shall keep a true record of all meetings of the Camp and have custody of the books and papers of the Camp, except the Treasurer's books of account. He shall be the keeper of the Camp seal. All applications for membership, initiation fees, and first year dues shall be made to the Adjutant. He shall be responsible for the ordering of all items necessary for operations of the Camp. He shall also maintain adequate stock of SCV membership pins, decals, and applications.

Section 5. Treasurer. The Treasurer shall have charge of all funds of the Camp and place the same in such bank or banks as may be approved by the Executive Council. Such money shall only be withdrawn by check signed by the Treasurer. He shall keep an accurate account of his transactions and render a detailed report to the membership at any meeting when requested. He shall present a detailed report, in writing, of income and expenditures at the annual meeting. Bills paid by the Treasurer shall have received approval by the Executive Council. He shall be responsible for collection of dues and fees, taking proper note of the paying member, his address and other information necessary in the maintenance of Camp records and posting such information with the Adjutant.

Section 6. Judge Advocate. The Judge Advocate shall advise the officers and Executive Council of all legal matters, including the construction and interpretation of the SCV General Constitution and Camp By-laws. He shall serve as parliamentarian at both regular and special meetings. Upon direction of the Commander, he shall conduct investigations into charges or challenges brought against Camp members. He shall perform such other duties as are usually incident to his office.

Section 7. Quartermaster. The Quartermaster shall be responsible for the procurement of meeting sites and arrangements incident to preparation for regular, special, or social meetings of the Camp, such sites and arrangements subject to approval of the Executive Council. He shall be responsible for the operation of the Camp stores, maintaining adequate stocks and other items necessary for efficient operation. He shall account to the Commander as to expenditures. He shall maintain a cash fund up to \$ . Any monies in excess of \$ shall be remitted to the Treasurer.

Section 8. Surgeon. The Surgeon shall be responsible for the establishment and observance of ceremonial forms and courtesies of the Camp. Upon direction of the Commander or Executive Council, he shall issue announcements to the public concerning the Camp, its members and activities. He shall be familiar with basic techniques of first aid and shall stand ready to administer basic medical assistance when called upon at meetings and functions of the Camp.

Section 9. Chaplain. The Chaplain provides spiritual guidance for the Camp. He shall represent the Camp in times of bereavement. He shall periodically report to the Commander on the well-being of members confined by illness. In event of a member's death, he shall immediately notify the membership and the Chaplain-in-Chief. He shall be responsible for the procurement of flowers, wreaths, or such other items incidental to the accomplishment of his duties.

Section 10. Color Sergeant. The Color Sergeant shall maintain and safeguard the Camp colors. He shall issue the proper display of colors at all functions of the Camp and will lead members in salutes to the colors. He shall appoint assistants to aid in the performance of his duties.

Section 11. Historian. The Historian shall keep and maintain a written record of the Camp, its officers and members, and its accomplishments during his tenure of office. He shall be responsible for the collection of photographs, newspaper clippings, and such other items as necessary in the proper recording of Camp history. All items will be affixed in a bound volume as to insure preservation.

Section 12. Executive Council. The Executive Council shall:

- a. Approve or disapprove all bills presented to the Treasurer for payment.
- b. Sit in judgment in all disciplinary matters.
- c. Authorize and approve all meeting dates and arrangements.
- d. Rule on all questions affecting the election, eligibility, and conduct of members.
- e. When in the interest of the Camp, transact business on behalf of the membership.

Section 13. Editor. The Commander shall, upon taking office, appoint an editor and such other staff as necessary in the preparation and distribution of the official Camp Newsletter. The Commander shall periodically review operation of the newsletter to ascertain if its operation is in the best interest of the Camp. The Executive Council shall provide all acceptances of annual subscriptions from non-members and establish an annual subscription rate. The Editor, shall, at the end of the fiscal year, prepare a written report concerning number of copies produced, number distributed and associated cost; this report to be submitted to the Commander at the annual meeting.

#### **ARTICLE IX. Awards.**

Section 1. The Executive Council shall be responsible for the creation and administration of a program of awards presented to Camp members and non-members deemed worthy of recognition.

Section 2. The Executive Council shall review and authorize the presentation of certificates and awards, except the Commander's Commendations and Resolutions of respect, which are reserved for the Commander.

#### **ARTICLE X. Suspension or Expulsion.**

Section 1. Any member may be suspended or expelled from the Camp for cause; such cause being deemed sufficient by the Executive Council by a two-thirds (2/3) affirmative vote of the members of the Council present or at a regular or special meeting called for that purpose.

Cause for disciplinary action shall be:

- a. Disloyalty
- b. Neglect of Duty
- c. Dishonesty
- d. Conduct unbecoming a member of the Sons of Confederate Veterans
- e. An act repugnant to the Sons of Confederate Veterans Constitution or the objectives and purpose of the Sons of Confederate Veterans.

Section 2. No vote on suspension or expulsion may be taken unless at least fifteen (15) day notice, in writing, shall have been given to the member of the charges preferred and of the time and place of the meeting of the Executive Council at which such charges will be considered. The notice must be delivered to the member by registered mail. At such meetings, the member under charge will be accorded a full hearing.

Section 3. The Executive Council shall provide for true and accurate recording of all proceedings of such hearings.

Section 4. Any officer may be removed by a two-thirds (2/3) vote of the members in good standing present at any special meeting called for that purpose. No vote on removal may be taken unless at least fifteen (15) day notice, in writing, shall have been given to the officer of the reasons for his pending removal and of the time and place of the special meeting at which such a ballot on his removal is to be taken. The Executive Council, upon majority vote, may suspend an officer pending outcome of this special meeting. At such meetings, the officer shall be given a full hearing.

Section 5 Any member in good standing may offer charges against any officer or member. They shall be in writing clearly stating the facts relied upon and accompanied by all affidavits or exhibits, which are to be used in their support. Such charges shall be filed with the Adjutant, who will immediately notify the Commander. The Commander will call a meeting of the Executive Council to hear the charges. The Adjutant will give at least fifteen (15) days notice of the meeting to each member of the Executive Council, to the accuser, and to the accused, which notice shall be in writing and will include a true copy of the charges and of the supporting affidavits and exhibits.

Section 6. Any member suspended or expelled by the Executive Council may appeal to the full membership of the Camp. Such appeal shall be made in writing to the Adjutant who will notify the Commander. The Commander will call a special meeting of the Camp for the purpose of acting on the appeal. The Adjutant shall give at least fifteen (15) days notice, in writing, to all members of the Camp in good standing — stating the date, time, place, and reason for such special meeting. At the meeting of the full Camp, the Adjutant will read the original charges, the supporting affidavits, and read or display the accompanying exhibits and will read the minutes of the special meeting of the Executive Council at which the charges were heard and action taken. A full hearing will be given the accuser and accused. A vote will be taken by ballot of the members in good standing present and a two-thirds (2/3) vote shall be required to reverse the action of the Executive Council.

Section 7. Any member who has been suspended or expelled, and having exhausted the foregoing appeals procedures, has the right to appeal to the Division and afterwards, if necessary, the General Executive Council, whose decision shall be final. A member expelled by the Camp is not eligible for membership in any other Camp of the Confederation.

**ARTICLE XI. PROHIBITIONS.**

Section 1. No discussion of political or religious subjects, or any political action, or the endorsing of aspirants for political office, shall be permitted.

Section 2. No assessment shall be levied upon the Camp members other than annual dues and initiation fees, except by resolution of the General membership.

Section 3. Proxy voting shall not be permitted in the conduct of Camp elections or business.

**ARTICLE XII. OFFICIAL LADIES.**

The Camp Commander may appoint only the following ladies to represent the Camp — Matron of Honor, Chap-eron, Sponsor, and three (3) Maids of Honor.

**ARTICLE XIII. OFFICIAL OBSERVANCES.**

Section 1. The Camp shall observe the celebration of Confederate Memorial Day.

Section 2. The Camp shall, as a token of appreciation to friends and family, annually host during on a date select-ed by the Commander.

**ARTICLE XIV. AMENDMENTS.**

Any proposed amendments to these By-laws may be introduced by any member of the Camp at any regular or special meeting called for that purpose. A vote may be taken upon the proposed amendment, provided a copy of the intended amendment has been sent to each Camp member in good standing, by United States Mail, at least ten (10) days prior to the meeting. A two-thirds (2/3) vote of the members present, will be necessary to pass or reject.

Adopted this \_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, 20\_\_\_ by the members of the \_\_\_\_\_ Camp \_\_\_\_\_

Camp Commander \_\_\_\_\_ Camp Adjutant \_\_\_\_\_