



**CONSTITUTION  
AND  
BY-LAWS  
  
OF THE  
  
SONS OF  
THE AMERICAN LEGION  
DETACHMENT OF  
PENNSYLVANIA**

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**CONSTITUTION  
OF  
THE SONS OF THE AMERICAN LEGION  
DETACHMENT OF PENNSYLVANIA**

**ARTICLE I  
NAME**

*Section 1.* The name of this organization shall be the Sons of the American Legion, Detachment of Pennsylvania.

**ARTICLE II  
OBJECT**

*Section 1.* The object of this organization shall be as set forth in the National Constitution of the Sons of the American Legion.

*Section 2.* Proud possessors of a priceless heritage, we male descendants of the veterans of all wars, associate ourselves together as “Sons of The American Legion” for the following purposes: To uphold and defend the Constitution of the United States of America; To maintain law and order; To foster and perpetuate a true spirit of Americanism; To preserve the memories of our former members and the association of our members and our forefathers in all wars; To inculcate a sense of individual obligation to the community, state and nation; To combat the autocracy of both the classes and the masses; To make right the master of might; To promote peace and good will on Earth; To safeguard and transmit to posterity the principles of justice, freedom and democracy; To consecrate and sanctify our friendship by our devotion to mutual helpfulness; To adopt in letter and spirit all of the great principles for which The American Legion stands, and to assist in carrying on for God and country.

## **ARTICLE III NATURE**

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

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

**Section 3.** The Sons of the American Legion shall be absolutely non-sectarian.

**Section 4.** Each member shall perform his full duty as a citizen according to his own conscience and understanding in accord with the law.

## **ARTICLE IV ORGANIZATION**

**Section 1.** A local unit of the Sons of The American Legion is the Squadron and one (1) Post of The American Legion may sponsor not more than one (1) Squadron.

With the approval of the Department of Pennsylvania, Squadrons sponsored by the Posts shall be organized into Districts of the Detachment.

**Section 2.** The organization of a Sons of The American Legion Detachment, District or Squadron within the Department of Pennsylvania shall conform with the regulations of said Department, with The American Legion and with the National Constitution and By-Laws of the Sons of The American Legion.

**Section 3.** A Sons of The American Legion District may be formed by five (5) or more Squadrons within a designated American Legion Judicial District,

and shall conform with the regulations of The American Legion District and/or Department and with the regulations of the National Executive Committee of The American Legion and with The American Legion.

**Section 4.** The Sons of The American Legion Squadron shall be organized under the jurisdiction and sponsorship of a local Post of The American Legion and shall bear the name of such sponsoring Post as follows:

“Sons of The American Legion (Name Of) Squadron No.\_\_\_\_\_,  
Detachment of Pennsylvania”

**Section 5.** The Detachment of Pennsylvania shall have jurisdiction over The Sons of The American legion District within the geographical area of the Detachment, subject to such limitations as may be described by The American legion, Department of Pennsylvania.

**Section 6.** The Detachment of Pennsylvania, Sons of The American Legion, shall be governed by such rules and regulations as may be prescribed by the Department Executive Committee.

## **ARTICLE V ELIGIBILITY**

**Section 1.** All male descendants, adopted sons and stepsons of members of The American Legion and such male descendants of veterans who died in service during all wars, during the delimiting periods set forth in Article IV, Section 1 of the National Constitution of The American legion, or who died subsequent to their honorable discharge from such service, shall be eligible for membership in the Sons of The American Legion.

**Section 2.** There shall be no form or class of membership except that of an active membership.

## **ARTICLE VI LEGISLATIVE BODY**

**Section 1.** The Legislative Body of the Detachment shall have an annual Convention, to be held annually on a date and at a time and place determined by vote of the preceding Convention. All acts of the Detachment Convention are subject to ratification by the Department Executive Committee of The American Legion.

**Section 2.** In the Detachment Convention, each Squadron shall be entitled to one (1) delegate and one (1) alternate. Also to one (1) additional delegate and one (1) additional alternate for each fifteen (15) paid members determined as of thirty (30) days prior to the date of the Annual Detachment Convention. Delegates and/or alternates, chosen by each Squadron, must be received in the office of the Director of Activities fifteen (15) days prior to the Annual Detachment Convention.

**Section 3.** Delegates from five (5) Squadrons shall constitute a quorum.

## **ARTICLE VII DETACHMENT OFFICERS**

**Section 1.** The officers of the Detachment shall consist of the following:

- A. One (1) Detachment Commander
- B. Three (3) Detachment Vice Commanders, one (1) from each Judicial Section
- C. One (1) Detachment Adjutant
  - 1. Three (3) Section Adjutants, one (1) from each Judicial Section
  - 2. Three (3) Section Aides to the Vice Commander, one (1) from each Judicial Section
  - 3. Six (6) Section Assistant Sergeants-at-Arms, two (2) from each Judicial Section
- D. One (1) Detachment Judge Advocate

- E. One (1) Detachment Historian
- F. One (1) Aide to the Commander
- G. Three (3) Detachment Sergeants-at-Arms or more if deemed necessary, one (1) from each Judicial Section

**Section 2.** The Detachment Commander shall be elected at the Detachment Convention by a majority vote of the delegates at the Detachment Convention. He shall serve for one (1) year or until his successor is elected and he shall not be eligible to hold this position again.

- A. Dual members of both The American Legion and the Sons of The American Legion are not eligible to run for the position of Detachment Commander.
- B. In the event of a vacancy in the office of Commander, the Vice Commander from the same Judicial Section as the Commander will complete the unfulfilled term of office. Any subsequent vacancy shall be filled by the Detachment Executive Committee from among the remaining Vice Commanders.
- C. The Detachment Executive Committee shall consist of:
  - 1. The Detachment Commander
  - 2. The three (3) Detachment Vice Commanders
  - 3. All Past Detachment Commanders
  - 4. Detachment Chaplain
  - 5. All appointed Detachment officers

**Section 3.** The three (3) Detachment Vice Commanders shall be elected, one (1) from each Judicial Section, at the Detachment Convention by the delegates of their respective Judicial Section. They shall serve for one (1) year or until their successors are elected. They shall not be eligible to succeed themselves.

- A. In the event of a vacancy in the office of a Vice Commander, a successor to fill the unexpired term shall be elected by the Squadrons of the Federal Judicial Section. This election shall be called for and conducted by the Detachment Commander within thirty (30) days

after the vacancy occurs and at a location within the Federal Judicial Section.

**Section 4.** The Detachment Commander shall appoint the Detachment Adjutant, Detachment Judge Advocate, Detachment Historian, Aide-to-the-Detachment Commander, and the three (3) or more Detachment Sergeants-at-Arms. The Detachment Sergeants-at-Arms should consist of at least one (1) from each of the Judicial Sections.

**Section 5.** The Detachment Chaplain shall be elected by majority vote of the delegates at the Detachment Convention. He shall serve for one (1) year or until a successor is elected.

**Section 6.** Each Detachment Vice Commander shall have the authority, with the approval of the Detachment Commander, to appoint one (1) Assistant Sergeant-at-Arms, one (1) Aide to the Commander, and one (1) Sectional Detachment Adjutant from his respective Judicial Section.

**Section 7.** The Detachment shall recognize individuals designated by the Department Commander as an Advisor and S.A.L. Chairman that shall be ex-officio members of all committees or commissions of the Detachment of Pennsylvania.

**Section 8.** The Department Commander and the Department Adjutant of The American Legion and the staff members of The American Legion at the Department Headquarters are responsible for the routine administration work for the Sons of The American Legion and shall be recognized as ex-officio advisors to the Sons of The American Legion, Detachment of Pennsylvania.

**Section 9.** In fulfilling their duties and responsibilities, the Detachment officers of the Sons of The American Legion shall be responsible to the Department Executive Committee, or to a subordinate body designated by the Department Executive Committee.

**ARTICLE VIII**  
**NATIONAL EXECUTIVE COMMITTEEMEN**

**Section 1.** The Detachment Convention shall elect the National Executive Committeeman and the Alternate National Executive Committeeman for a two (2) year term.

**Section 2.** In the event of a vacancy in the office of the National Executive Committeeman, the Alternate National Executive Committeeman shall serve as the National Executive Committeeman and the Detachment Commander shall appoint a new Alternate National Executive Committeeman to serve until the next Detachment Convention.

**Section 3.** In the event of the vacancy in the office of both the National Executive Committeeman and the Alternate National Executive Committeeman, the Detachment Commander shall appoint both the National Executive Committeeman and the Alternate National Executive Committeeman to serve until the next Detachment Convention.

**ARTICLE IX**  
**DISCIPLINE**

**Section 1.** The Detachment of Pennsylvania may suspend, cancel or revoke the Charter of any Squadron of the Sons of The American Legion over which it has jurisdiction in the event it violates the provisions of the Constitution, subject however, to the approval of the Department Executive Committee.

**Section 2.** Upon cancellation or revocation of the Charter of any Squadron of the Sons of The American Legion, the property and assets belonging to such Squadron shall thereupon become the property of the Post of The American Legion to which such Squadron is attached.

## **ARTICLE X AMENDMENTS**

***Section 1.*** This Constitution may be amended at any Detachment Convention by the affirmative vote of two-thirds (2/3) of the registered delegates thereat, subject to ratification by the Department Executive Committee.

**BY-LAWS OF  
THE SONS OF THE AMERICAN LEGION  
DETACHMENT OF PENNSYLVANIA**

**ARTICLE I  
NAME**

*Section 1.* The Detachment existing under these By-Laws shall be known as the Sons of The American Legion, Detachment of Pennsylvania.

*Section 2.* The objects of this Detachment are set forth in the Detachment Constitution.

**ARTICLE II  
DUTIES OF OFFICERS**

*Section 1.* Detachment Commander:

The Detachment Commander is the executive head of the organization with the full power to carry out the mandates and policies of the Sons of The American Legion as approved by the Department Executive Committee. He shall perform such other duties as are usually incidental to the office.

*Section 2.* Detachment Vice Commanders:

The Vice Commanders shall act as a representative of the Commander on all matters referred to them by him, and shall, on his request, preside over meetings and perform such other duties as are usually incidental to the office.

*Section 3.* Detachment Adjutant:

The Adjutant, who corresponds to the Secretary of an organization, shall be charged with the usual duties of an Adjutant or Secretary. He is the administrative officer of the policies and mandates of the organization.

***Section 4.*** Detachment Sergeant-at-Arms:

The Sergeant-at-Arms shall be charged with the responsibility of preserving order at all meetings and shall be given the custody of and responsibility for the colors of the organization. He shall perform such other duties as are usually incidental to the office.

***Section 5.*** Detachment Chaplain:

The Chaplain shall perform such divine and non-sectarian service as shall be necessary, adhering to the ceremonial rituals as may be prescribed.

***Section 6.*** Detachment Historian:

The Historian shall collect from year to year all records and data of value and interest to the Sons of The American Legion and The American Legion, The Department of Pennsylvania, and shall compile during his term of office a complete history of the year's activities.

***Section 7.*** Detachment Judge Advocate:

The primary duty of the Judge Advocate is to supply professional advice in the conduct of the Sons of The American Legion business or to procure proper council. He is the guardian of Constitutional form of the Sons of The American Legion. He should assist other Sons of The American Legion committees and offices. He should be available to the Commander for legal advice.

***Section 8.*** All Detachment officers of the Sons of The American Legion in the performance of their duties shall be governed by The American Legion, Department of Pennsylvania. All actions of the Sons of The American Legion at the Squadron level, intermediate level and at the Detachment level shall be subject to review and ratification by The American legion, Department of Pennsylvania.

## **ARTICLE III EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE**

*Section 1.* The Constitution of Squadron or Detachment may create an Executive Committee and define the powers and composition thereof.

## **ARTICLE IV MEMBERSHIP**

*Section 1.* Membership in the Sons of The American Legion is membership in the National organization of the Sons of The American Legion by affiliation with a Squadron.

*Section 2.* Each Squadron shall be the judge of its own membership subject to the restrictions of the Constitution and By-Laws of the Detachment of Pennsylvania.

*Section 3.* Members may be suspended or expelled under the same procedures provided for the suspension or expulsion of a member of The American Legion.

## **ARTICLE V MEMBERSHIP DUES AND FINANCES**

*Section 1.* The revenue of the Sons of The American Legion, Detachment of Pennsylvania shall be derived from annual membership dues and from such other sources as may be approved by the Department Executive Committee.

*Section 2.* The amount of annual Detachment dues shall be determined by the Detachment under such procedures as are prescribed by The American Legion, Department of Pennsylvania. Such funds shall be transmitted to the Department Comptroller and shall be held and accounted for separately from other funds of the Department.

**Section 3.** The amount of such annual dues shall be determined by the Squadron.

**Section 4.** The annual National dues shall be collected by each Squadron and transmitted through The American Legion, Department of Pennsylvania, and thence to the National Treasurer.

**Section 5.** The amount of such annual Detachment dues shall be one dollar and fifty cents (\$1.50) which amount is in addition of National dues as provided by the National Constitution.

## **ARTICLE VI MEMBERSHIP AND ARREARS IN DUES**

**Section 1.** Applications for Squadron membership shall be verified by the designated officials of the sponsoring Post of The American Legion having jurisdiction over the Squadron.

**Section 2.** A member whose dues for the current year has not been paid by January 1st shall be classed as delinquent. If his dues are paid on or before February 1st, he shall be automatically reinstated. If he is still delinquent after February 1st, he shall be suspended from all privileges. If he is still under such suspension on June 30th of such year, his membership in the Sons of The American legion shall be forfeited. A member so suspended or whose membership has been forfeited may be reinstated to active membership in good standing by vote of the Squadron and payment of current dues for the year in which reinstatement occurs. Provided, however, that the Squadrons, Detachments, and the National Organization may waive the provisions hereof, upon payment of dues for the year in which reinstatement occurs, with reference to former members who have been prevented from payment of dues by reason of active military service.

## **ARTICLE VII AMENDMENTS**

***Section 1.*** These By-Laws may be amended by any Detachment Convention by the affirmative vote of two-thirds (2/3) of the registered delegates thereat, subject to ratification of the Department Executive Committee.