
Constitution
Of the National Organization
Sons of Spanish American War Veterans



As Amended through the 78th National Convention
August 30th, 2014

ARTICLE I. Name and Organization

Section 1. This organization shall be known as the “SONS OF SPANISH AMERICAN WAR VETERANS” and shall consist of the National Organization and all Camps.

ARTICLE II. Purpose and Objects

Section 1. The purpose and objects of this organization are to perpetuate the memory of the services of the veterans of the Spanish-American War Era, which includes the Spanish-American War, the Philippine Insurrection and the China Relief Expedition; 1898-1903.

Section 2. To promulgate the principles of Freedom, Patriotism and Humanity; to assist in the proper observance of Memorial Day and other days commemorating the events of the Spanish-American War Era; to promote public sentiment and proper respect for all such events among the school children and the general public whenever and wherever possible.

Section 3. To keep constantly on the alert regarding the condition of dependant relatives of all Spanish-American War Veterans and to assist whenever possible and proper in the prosecution of claims for pension, hospitalization or habitation.

Section 4. To inculcate and instill in our membership a true and proper understanding of American principles and history; and to encourage the principles of universal liberty, equal rights and full justice to all men.

Section 5. To assist in promulgating a proper observance of the usages of the flag of the United States of America and a due expression of respect thereto. To teach obedience to the laws of the country and true respect to our magistrates as enforcers thereof.

Section 6. To gather and preserve the records of patriotic service performed by the veterans of the Spanish-American War Era; to honor their memory and shield from neglect the graves of our heroic dead.

ARTICLE III. Organization

Section 1. The several constituted units of this organization shall be:

A. The National Organization.

B. Unit's known as Camps, each of which shall bear a name and number. There shall be but one Camp in each city, unless otherwise specifically authorized by the National President.

C. All Members-at-Large are under the jurisdiction of the Member-at-Large Camp.

ARTICLE IV. Office of the National President

Section 1. The office of the National President shall be called “Office of the National President” and shall be located as designated by him in his General Orders and all business or communications requiring his action shall be forwarded to him.

ARTICLE V. Membership

Section 1. Membership in this organization shall be classified as Hereditary, Associate, Junior, Junior Associate and Real Son, as hereinafter defined; provided that they shall have never been convicted of any infamous or heinous crime.

Section 2. HEREDITARY. A Hereditary Member shall be a male descendant, whether through the maternal or paternal line, not less than fourteen (14) years of age, who can document a relation to a Soldier, Sailor, Marine or Mariner who was regularly mustered and served honorably in, or was honorably discharged from the Army, Navy, Marine Corps or Merchant Marine of the United States of America or one of her Allied nation’s military forces during the Spanish American War Era.

Section 3. ASSOCIATE. There shall be two classes of Associate Membership.

A. ASSOCIATE. An Associate member shall be a male, not less than fourteen (14) years of age, who cannot document an ancestral lineage required for membership as a hereditary member, but who otherwise meets the requirements for membership.

B. JUNIOR ASSOCIATE. A Junior Associate shall be a male between the ages of five (5) and fourteen (14) years of age, whose ancestral lineage required for membership as a hereditary member cannot be documented, but who otherwise meets the requirements for junior membership.

C. Associates or Junior Associates are not eligible to be elected, appointed or otherwise assume the offices of National President, National Senior Vice President, National Junior Vice President, or National Secretary.

D. Associates and Juniors Associates shall not be counted towards the required number of members to establish a new Camp. The names of Associates and Junior Associates may not appear on the Camp Charter.

E. Associates and Junior Associates in any Camp shall not exceed one-half (1/2) of the total membership of the Camp at the time of election. At no time during a

meeting of the National Organization shall business be transacted if the number of Associates in attendance exceeds forty-nine per cent (49%) of the total attendance then present.

- F. Other than herein limited, Associates and Junior Associates are entitled to all rights, privileges and responsibilities of membership.

Section 4. JUNIOR. A Junior Member shall be a male between the ages of five (5) and fourteen (14) years of age, who meets the qualifications for membership as stipulated in Section 2, Article V of this Constitution.”

- A. Junior Members are not eligible to hold any elected office in any Camp or the National Organization, nor shall they be eligible to serve in any appointive office in the National Organization.
- B. Juniors shall not be counted towards the required number of members to establish a new Camp. However, the names of Junior Members may appear on the Camp Charter as Junior Members.
- C. Junior Members in any Camp shall not exceed one-fourth (1/4) of the total membership of the Camp at the time of election. At no time during a meeting of the National Organization shall business be transacted if the number of Junior Members in attendance exceeds forty-nine per cent (49%) of the total attendance then present.
- D. Other than herein limited, Junior Members are entitled to all rights, privileges and responsibilities of membership.

Section 5. REAL SON. Any prospective Hereditary Member submitting proof of membership qualifications and lineage that shows they are a son, son-in-law, or step son of a veteran of the Spanish-American War Era may be granted a Real Sons membership. Real Sons shall be exempt from payment of all recording fees, per capita dues, and special assessments.

Section 6. A Life Membership shall be available to any member of the Order, after the payment of a Life Membership fee that will be established by the National Organization. Life Members are exempt from the National per capita tax and otherwise enjoy all the rights and privileges of membership.

ARTICLE VI. Prohibitions

Section 1. This organization shall be absolutely non-partisan and non-sectarian, and shall not be used for the dissemination of partisan, political or sectarian principles, or for the promotion of the candidacy of any person seeking public office.

ARTICLE VII. Government

Section 1. This Constitution, the By-Laws, the Rules and Regulations, and the Ritual, as adopted and as from time to time amended, and all legislation enacted by the National Convention shall be the supreme law of this organization; provided, however, that Robert's Rules of Order shall be the parliamentary guide of this organization. Subject to the foregoing, this organization shall be under the control of the chief executive called the National President.

Section 2. The National President shall have the power to suspend any member or camp for failure to comply with this Constitution, the By-Laws or the Rules and Regulations of this organization and the enactments of a National Convention duly convoked.

ARTICLE VIII. United Spanish War Veterans

Section 1. This organization has been created by the United Spanish War Veterans and is the official heir and legal successor of same.

ARTICLE IX. Amendments

Section 1. This Constitution can be amended by a majority vote of the members present and voting at the National Convention, provided, that such proposed amendment shall have been submitted in writing to the National President by a member not less than ninety (90) days before the opening of the next National Convention.

Section 2. Original proposition may be discussed, altered or amended at the Convention, provided it does not alter the character of the original proposition.

Section 3. Any other amendment to the Constitution can be presented at the current National Convention, and will be voted on at the following National Convention provided the proposed amendment has been published in General Orders.

ARTICLE X. Printing

Section 1. The National President shall ensure that copies of this Constitution are readily available to all Members.