
Rules & Regulations
Of the National Organization
Sons of Spanish American War Veterans



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

ARTICLE I. Membership

Section 1. Every application for admission shall be in writing and shall give in detail upon blanks furnished by National Headquarters the applicant's name, residence, age, occupation and relationship to a veteran of the Spanish American War Era. Applications for Membership at Large shall be similar in all respects but shall be submitted to the National Secretary.

Section 2. Immediately upon the acceptance of a Member a copy of the application, along with any and all fees, shall be forwarded to the National Secretary.

Section 3. Any Member in good standing must upon written application be given a Transfer Card and upon presentation of the same to any other Camp with the sum of \$5.00 he may be accepted into membership and properly voted upon. Until the acceptance of this transfer by any Camp he shall be considered a member of the Camp granting it. Any Camp accepting the transfer shall notify the National Secretary.

Section 4. A member who has been suspended or dropped from the rolls in any manner except by dishonorable discharge, shall be eligible to reinstatement only in the Camp from which he was dropped or suspended (known hereinafter as Camp of original membership) unless more than a period of two (2) years has elapsed since he was dropped or suspended. Should said Camp be no longer in existence he may make application to any Camp, in which event all ranks previously held by him shall be declared forfeited. All Members suspended or dropped from the rolls for a period of more than two (2) years shall forfeit their previous rank on reapplying for membership. Applicants for reinstatement in the Camp of original membership shall be voted upon by the members and four (4) opposing votes shall be sufficient to deny the application, in which event the applicant may, upon receiving the consent of the National President, apply to any other Camp for admission or to the National President for admission for Membership-at-Large. Applications to a Camp other than the one of original membership shall be in the same form and shall be voted upon in the same manner and subject to the same restrictions of a new Member. Any member who has been dishonorably discharged shall never be eligible to membership in any Camp of this organization, unless new evidence is received completely exonerating him from all guilt.

Section 5. For all purposes a member in good standing shall be deemed to be one whose dues are paid in full and against whom no charges exist.

Section 6. No member shall retain the title of a Past Office except the President of a unit who shall be known as a Past Camp or Past National President.

ARTICLE II. Camps

Section 1. A Camp may be formed by the authority of the National President, but a Charter shall not be issued unless the application shall be signed by at least eight (8) persons who are eligible to membership and whose qualifications shall have been previously determined and accepted by the National President. A Charter fee of \$10.00 must accompany each application for a Charter.

Section 2. Upon approval of an application for a Charter of a Camp, the National President shall institute or designate a member of this organization to institute said Camp. Each new Camp shall receive from National Headquarters a copy of each of the Order's documents.

Section 3. A new Camp may be named after the town, city, borough or county where located. It may be named after an individual person, military camp or base, battle, ship or popular saying of the Spanish American War Era. The name shall be submitted by the membership after the first official meeting of the new Camp for approval of the National President.

Section 4. Where a Camp without good and sufficient reason fails to be instituted within six (6) months of the date from which the Charter has been approved, the Charter application shall be void and the Charter fee forfeited.

Section 5. The Charter shall remain open ninety (90) days from the date of institution for the names of Charter Members.

Section 6. All Camp By Laws shall be subject to approval of the National President and National Judge Advocate.

Section 7. All Camps shall be governed by the National Constitution, By Laws, Rules and Regulations, Ritual, National enactments, the lawful orders of the National President and the Camp By-Laws.

Section 8. No Charter shall be surrendered by any Camp as long as five (5) members thereof demand its continuance. Written notice of such proposed surrender shall be given to every member in good standing and to the National President at least two (2) weeks before the meeting called for such action.

ARTICLE III. Disbandment

Section 1. In the event of the surrender of a Camp Charter, the National Council of Administration shall take and shall have the power to secure the possession of the properties and monies of the Camp. Said properties and monies of the Camp shall be held in trust for one (1) year pending the reinstatement of the Charter or the formation of a new Camp in the same area, when the National President is to transfer same to the new Camp. Properties and monies held for more than one (1) year shall be disposed of by the National Organization.

Section 2. Where a Camp Charter has been suspended, the National President shall have the power to take possession of the properties and monies of the Camp and hold same in trust until the Camp Charter has been reinstated, in which case said properties and monies are to be returned to the Camp. If said Charter is subsequently revoked the procedure shall follow that in Section 1 of this Article.

Section 3. Any member of a defunct or suspended Camp, who are in good standing at the time the Camp Charter was revoked or suspended and who reside in an area where another Camp is located, may apply to National Headquarters for a transfer to such Camp. If no Camp is located in his area he may, upon application to National Headquarters, become a Member at Large.

ARTICLE IV. Initiation Fee, Dues and Per Capita Tax

Section 1. Each Camp in the process of formation shall charge an initiation fee of not less than \$5.00. The initiation fee shall in all cases accompany the application. No Camp shall act upon an application unless said initiation fee shall have been deposited beforehand. In the event the applicant for membership is rejected the fee is to be refunded immediately.

Section 2. Each Camp shall fix dues to be charged its members. No assessments are to be levied upon the members of a Camp for any purpose.

Section 3.

A. Each Camp Treasurer shall pay annually no later than June 30th the following per capita tax on the members of its camp; said fees to be forwarded to the National Treasurer.

1. For Hereditary and Associates the fee of two dollars (\$2.00)

2. For Junior and Junior Associates the fee of one dollar (\$1.00)
 3. For Real Sons, Life Members and the Ex-Officio National Secretary there shall be no fees
- B. Any Camp in arrears (delinquent) in payment of per capita tax three months, without good cause, shall be excluded from all representation at any National Convention. The representation of every Camp at a National Convention shall be based upon the last per capita tax report made prior to such Convention.
 - C. Any Camp delinquent in payment of per capita tax six months shall be suspended. Up to six months additional time may be granted by the National President prior to suspension.
 - D. A Camp under suspension for a period of one year shall be disbanded. Under no conditions shall a Camp remain on the books of the organization when per capita tax has not been paid for two years.
 - E. New Camps shall be exempt from the payment of per capita tax from the date of institution to the next per capita tax due period.
 - F. For the purpose of per capita tax payments, a member is considered in good standing until the Camp shall suspend him from all rights of membership.
 - G. A Brother is not in good standing when he is arrears for dues of three months or more. Notification shall be sent the Brother at least two weeks before the three months are up by the Treasurer of his indebtedness to the organization.
 - H. A Brother in arrears for six months for non-payment of dues shall be notified at least two weeks in advance that he is liable for suspension if his dues are not paid.
 - I. A Brother under suspension for a period of one year for non-payment of dues shall be notified by the Treasurer at least two weeks in advance that if he fails to make a partial payment of his dues he shall be dropped from membership in the organization.

ARTICLE V. Supplies, Patents, Copyrights, Etc.

Section 1. All supplies must be purchased through the National Headquarters.

Section 2. The design, patents, copyrights, dies, etc. for the badge, button or other insignia of this organization and the United Spanish War Veterans are the property of the

Sons of Spanish American War Veterans. Any article employing the use of the designs for which patents have been granted for badge or button, for any purpose shall secure the same from National Headquarters. Such articles including the badge and button, shall be manufactured only on order of the National Organization and no subordinate unit or member shall hereafter engage by contract or otherwise in the manufacture of such articles, emblems, buttons and badges unless authority for doing so has been obtained from the National Council of Administration.

ARTICLE VI. Colors, Uniforms and Insignia

Section 1. The colors of this organization shall be Carmine Red, Chrome Yellow and Flag Blue.

Section 2. The official dress uniform shall be determined by National Convention.

Section 3. The official badge and lapel button of this organization shall be similar in design to those illustrated in US Design Patents No. 84158 and No. 84430.

Section 4. The National President is hereby authorized to apply for, receive or accept and take all legal steps necessary to apply for, receive or accept all designs, copyrights or patents which shall remain in his possession during his term of office.

Section 5. Regulation brass buttons for dress uniforms of this organization shall be brass and shall be embossed with the lapel button emblem. The large (coat) and small (sleeve and vest) buttons to be of both solid and shell manufacture.

Section 6. The uniform cap emblem shall be of bronze, heavy gauge, size 1.5 X 1.5 inches, lapel button emblem.

Section 7. Badges for Officers.

- A. The Regulation Past National President's badge shall be a gold lapel button, surrounded by a gold wreath, supported by official Sons ribbon from gold bar, which has four silver stars mounted on it.
- B. The emblem of the National President shall be the metal drop of the membership badge suspended from a neck ribbon of the Order's colors. At the conclusion of the National President's term of office, the badge will be passed to his successor.
- C. National Officers insignia shall be as follows:

National President and Past National President; 4 gold stars

National Senior Vice President; 3 gold stars

National Junior Vice President; 2 gold stars

National Chaplain; gold cross

All other National Officers; 1 gold star

The above insignia shall be worn on the membership badge ribbon and / or on the overseas type cap.

Section 8. Flags. Camps may use either of the standard sizes of flags as specified by manufacturers. That the Sons colors shall be used as follows: Flag – blue background; yellow or gold letters (embroidered or gold leaf); and that the color red be utilized where seen fit. State seals and insignia may be used at their discretion.

Section 9. Informal official overseas style cap shall be of felt or whip cord of Flag Blue, with inner pleat of Chrome Yellow, trimmed with Carmine Red piping; lettering, numerals and insignia embroidered in gold. Camp and organization name on right side of cap; insignia, city and state on left side. Size of letters shall not exceed one half inch; insignia shall be 1.5 X 1.75 inches of lapel button emblem.

ARTICLE VII. General

Section 1. No subordinate unit of this organization shall be incorporated under the laws of any State, Territory, District or other jurisdiction for any purposes.

ARTICLE VIII. Amendments

Section 1. These Rules and Regulations 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 Rules and Regulations 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 IX. Printing

Section 1. The National President shall ensure that copies of these Rules and Regulations are readily available to all members.