

The Constitution of the National Sons of Spanish-American War Veterans

(Amended and approved by the general membership at convention in Newport, Kentucky, September 11, 2021)

ARTICLE I. 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 dependent 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 ID. 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 who do not join a camp shall be Members-at-Large.

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 eighteen (18) years of age, who can document a relation to a Soldier, Sailor, Marine, Mariner or sibling thereof 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 eighteen (18) years of age, who cannot document an ancestral lineage required for membership as a hereditary member, but who maintains an interest in the veterans of the Spanish American War, Boxer Rebellion and/or the Philippine Insurrection.
- B. Associates are not eligible to be elected, appointed or otherwise assume the offices of National President, National Senior Vice President, National Junior Vice President, National Registrar, or National Secretary.
- C. Associates may be counted towards the required number of members to establish a new Camp.
- D. Associates in any Camp shall not exceed one-half (1/2) of the total membership of the Camp at the time of organization.
- E. Other than herein limited, Associates 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 is 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. Camp Life Membership fees will be forwarded to the National Treasurer and any national expenses shall be deducted from the fee. The remaining balance will be split between the camp and the national organization at a ratio fixed by the national convention membership. All Member-at-Large Life Membership fees will be sent to the National Treasurer.

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- Status as a Non-profit Organization

Compensation

Section 1: Officers, members of the Board of Trustees, and appointive officials of the Organization shall not receive any stated compensation for their services, but the Board of Trustees may authorize reimbursement of expenses incurred in the performance of their duties.

Liability

Section 2: Nothing herein shall constitute members of the Organization as partners for any purpose. No member, member of the Board of Directors, officer, or agent of the Organization shall be liable for the acts or failures to act under these Bylaws, excepting only acts or failures to act arising out of willful malfeasance.

Funds

Section 3: Dues and per capita tax funds are to be collected prior to June 30, of the calendar year. The national organization fiscal year shall be July 1st until June 30th. The Organization shall use its funds only to accomplish the purpose and objectives specified in ARTICLE II above and no part of said funds, or of the net earnings of the Society, shall inure to the benefit of, or be distributable to, its members, directors, trustees, officers or other private persons, except that the Society shall be authorized and empowered to pay reasonable compensation for services rendered, and to make payments and distributions in furtherance of the purposes set forth in ARTICLE II of this Constitution. No funds shall be used for purposes contrary to the laws of the State of South Carolina or the provisions concerning prohibited activities of the Internal Revenue Code pertaining to the use of funds by non-profit corporations.

Limitations

Section 4: No substantial part of the activities of the Society shall be the carrying on of propaganda, or otherwise of attempting to influence legislation and the Society shall not participate in, or intervene in (including the publishing or distribution of statements) any political campaign on behalf of or in opposition to any candidate for public office. Notwithstanding any other provision of this Constitution, the Society shall not carry on any other activities not permitted to be carried on by an organization exempt from federal income tax under section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code, or the corresponding section of any future federal tax code, or by an organization, contributions to which are deductible under section 170(c)(2) of the Internal Revenue Code, or the corresponding section of any future federal tax code.

ARTICLE X. Amendments

Section 1. This Constitution can be amended by a majority vote of the members present and eligible to vote 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. Availability

Section 1. The National Secretary shall ensure that copies of this Constitution are readily available to all Members by having posted on the website.

ARTICLE XI - Dissolution

If this Organization is dissolved for any reason, the assets of the Organization shall be distributed by the National President providing that it shall be distributed to an organization(s) and used for one or more exempt purposes within the meaning of section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code, or the corresponding section of any future federal tax code, or shall be distributed to a state or local government, for a public purpose.

By-Laws

Of the Sons of Spanish-American War Veterans

(Amended and proposed by the Council of Administration subject to approval by general membership in convention in September 2017)

ARTICLE I. National Convention

Section 1. The supreme power of this organization shall be lodged in the National Convention.

Section 2. The National Convention shall be held annually.

Section 3. The body of the National Convention shall consist of the following representatives:

1. National officers elected.
2. Past National Presidents.
3. Camp Delegates or their Alternates.
4. Members-at-Large.

All representatives to the National Convention must be Members in good standing in their respective Camps which likewise must be in good standing.

Section 4. Each Camp may have one (1) Delegate for each five (5) Members, or major fraction thereof, with a minimum of two (2) Delegates. The Delegates must be in good standing at the time of the National Convention and have been elected prior to the National Convention. One (1) Alternate will be allowed for each Delegate. Delegates and Alternates shall have credentials issued by their Camp.

Section 5. Every Delegate of a National Convention who is present at such Convention shall be entitled to one and only one vote. A majority vote of the

members present and voting shall be necessary to pass any resolution or motion at a National Convention.

Section 6. The President, at the Council of Administration meeting prior to the National Convention, can appoint any attending officer to serve as Master of Ceremonies during the Convention. His duties shall be to welcome, conduct, and introduce visitors to the Convention.

ARTICLE II. National Officers

Section 1. All Members present at a National Convention shall be eligible to any National office, provided that the candidates for National President shall have the title of at least Past (or present) President of a Camp or shall be a Member at Large who has been in attendance at three previous National Conventions.

Section 2. The National Convention shall elect the following Officers for the period of two years or until their successors are duly elected and appointed and qualified. National President, National Senior Vice President, National Junior Vice President. A three year term Trustee shall be elected at the convention.

Section 3. A majority vote of the members of the Convention present and eligible to vote shall be necessary to elect. If there is no election on the first ballot, another shall be held. If there is no election on the second ballot, the name of the Brother receiving the least number of votes on the second ballot shall be dropped and another ballot taken. This procedure is to continue in successive ballots until an election is completed.

Section 4. National Officers may receive such compensation for their services as the National Convention may direct.

ARTICLE III. Duties of Officers

Section 1. NATIONAL PRESIDENT. The National President shall enforce all the laws enacted by the National Convention. He shall preside at all Conventions and at all meetings of the Council of Administration. He shall

appoint all Committees and shall serve as a member Ex-officio thereof. He shall approve and sign all Charters. He shall have the power to suspend, revoke or reinstate a charter, as outlined in the Rules and Regulations. He shall act on all requests, petitions or resolutions which do not in any way conflict with established policies of this organization. He shall exercise such powers, transact such business and perform such duties as may by custom pertain. to his office, subject always to the laws of this organization, its objects and purposes. He shall appoint the following National Officers: National Secretary, National Treasurer, National Chief-of-Staff: National Chaplain, National Sergeant-at-Arms, National Inspector, National Patriotic Instructor, National Judge Advocate, National Quartermaster, National Graves Registration Officer, Senior and Junior Color Sergeants, Historian, Master of Ceremonies, and all necessary assistants.

Section 2. NATIONAL VICE PRESIDENTS. The National Senior and Junior Vice Presidents, in order of their seniority, shall assist the National President in such manner as he may direct and shall perform the duties of the National President in case of his absence, resignation or disability to attend to the duties of his office. The National Senior Vice President shall be Chairman of the Ways and Means Committee. The National Junior Vice President shall be chairman of the Committee on Audit.

Section 3. NATIONAL SECRETARY. The National Secretary shall keep accurate minutes of the proceedings of the National Convention; the meetings of the Council of Administration; and of such other proceedings as he may from time to time be called upon to record, and to record the same in books to be kept for that purpose. He shall conduct such correspondence of the National Headquarters as the National President may direct. He shall serve as an ex-officio member of all camps. He shall perform such other duties as may from time to time be delegated to him by the National President.

Section 4. NATIONAL TREASURER. He shall be custodian of all funds and securities belonging to the National Organization. He shall promptly deposit to the account of the National Organization all monies received by the National Organization. The account of the National Organization shall be held in a nation-wide bank. All checks, drafts or withdrawals from such account shall be made by him; warrants for withdrawals are made over the

signatures of the National President and or the National Senior Vice-President. Itemized receipts are required for all withdrawals. He shall, at all times, be prepared to inform the National President, or the Council of Administration, the financial conditions of the National Treasury, and, annually at the National Convention, furnish a detailed statement of same. He shall notify Camp Treasurers by February 1 of any delinquencies. He shall notify Members at Large who are delinquent in their dues by March 1. He shall handle non-saleable supplies including applications for Membership-at-Large; and shall serve as an ex-officio member of all camps. He shall be the custodian of the Seal of the National Organization unless otherwise directed by the national president. He may sign all Charters issued during his term of office and place thereon the Seal of the National Organization. He may sign and issue charters upon receipt of funds.

Section 5. NATIONAL REGISTER. This officer has final authority in approval of all submitted application papers for membership. He shall have responsibility for the assessment of all furnished proofs and the verification of lineages. Correct, proven lineage is an absolute requirement for membership in the Society. He shall keep a record of all applications approved or rejected. He shall notify the National Treasurer of all approved applications.

Section 6. BOARD OF TRUSTEES. The Board of Trustees will meet and determine national policy at times designated by the national president. They shall make or cause to be made, a thorough audit and examination of the books of account of the National Treasurer, Supply Officer and the National Son and read a report at the National Convention. They shall also determine the investment policy of funds received held in trust and the power to invest is hereby granted.

Section ~~7~~. VACANCIES. In the event of a vacancy in the office of National President, the National Senior Vice President shall at once succeed to the title and duties of the office. The National Junior Vice President shall at once succeed to the title of National Senior Vice President and duties of the National Senior Vice President. Also, the Junior Vice President shall at once succeed to the title and duties of the Senior Vice President in the event of a vacancy in the latter office. In the event of a vacancy in the office of Junior Vice President an appointment shall be made by the National President with the consent of the members of the Council of Administration until the following national convention.

ARTICLE IV. Council of Administration

Section 1. The body of the Council of Administration shall consist of the elective National Officers. Past National Presidents, the National Secretary,

the National Treasurer, the National Judge Advocate, and other national officers who may be invited to attend by the National President.

Section 2. There shall be one regular meeting of the Council of Administration before the National Convention convenes and another one after the installation of the new National Officers. The National President may call a meeting of the Council of Administration whenever the interest of the organization requires it. No traveling expenses will be allowed for these meetings.

Section 3. A majority of the members of the Council of Administration may call a meeting of the Council of Administration by resolution duly signed by the members.

Section 4. The Council of Administration shall perform and exercise such duties and powers as may be prescribed in these By-Laws to it and such additional duties and powers as shall have been expressly imposed upon and delegated to it by the National Convention. The Council shall act as an advisory board to the National President when called upon by him to do so and the members as individuals shall perform any special service which he may direct.

ARTICLE V. Committees

Section I. The following committees: Credentials, Audit, Resolutions, Legislation, Ways and Means, Public Relations, Historical, Nominating, By-Laws, and Recruiting may be appointed by the National President as necessary.

Section 2. The Committee on Credentials may be appointed prior to the convening of a Convention and shall report to the Convention upon the credentials of members, submitting a list of duly accredited Officers, Past Officers, and Delegates present and entitled to participate in the Convention.

Section 3. The Committee on Audits shall be composed of the National Junior Vice President as Chairman with the Board of Trustees who shall audit or cause to be audited the books, records and supplies of National Treasurer,

Supply Officer, Secretary, the editor of the National Son and report in writing to the National Convention.

Section 4. The Committee on Resolutions shall report to the National Convention any resolutions passed by a majority of the Committee. Resolutions will be accepted or declined by eligible voting members.

Section 5. The Committee on Ways Means shall suggest ways and means of deriving all funds for the operation and continuation of the National Organization and shall work with the Board of Trustees in determining a safe and profitable investment policy for the funds of the National and Organization.

Section 6. The Committee on Public Relations shall be on guard at all times to see that the public relations of the Sons of Spanish American War Veterans remain on the highest basis at all times and shall suggest from time to time to the National President methods of improving the public relations of this organization.

Section 7. The Historical Committee shall consider and act upon all incidents of the Spanish-American War Era from a historical standpoint.

Section 8. The Nominating Committee shall be appointed not later than the second session of the National Convention which shall draw up a prospective list of Officers for the coming year and shall submit same to the convention under Nomination of Officers. Further nominations may be made from the floor.

ARTICLE VI. Rituals and Rules & Regulations

Section 1. The National Convention may adopt a Ritual and Rules and Regulations, which shall contain all official regulations, ceremonies and procedure for the proper conduct of all units of this organization. Such Ritual and Rules and Regulations when adopted by the National Convention shall have the same force and effect as though incorporated in these laws.

ARTICLE VII. Revenue

Section 1. Upon the advice of the National Treasurer, the National Convention may determine from year to year the rate of per capita tax to be levied on the camps as set forth in the Rules and Regulations of this organization. New per capita rates may be set under the authority prescribed in Article 8, Section 1 in the Rules and Regulations.

Section 2. The National Quartermaster may handle such supplies as may be found expeditious and sell the same for cash to the members or camps.

Section 3. The National Organization, through the Council of Administration, shall have the right to raise funds by means other than that above described.

ARTICLE VIII. Funds

Section 1. All monies received by the National Organization from whatever source, not received, raised or solicited for a special purpose, shall constitute the General Fund of the Organization.

Section 2. The National Convention may from time to time establish funds for specific purposes. A Special Fund may be permanent or temporary and shall consist of all sums received for the purpose specified in the Convention.

ARTICLE IX. Disbursements

Section 1. Payment out of General Fund:

A. The National President shall order payments from the General Fund in accordance with the enactments of the National Convention.

B. The National President, with the consent of the Council of Administration, shall have the power to order payments from the General Fund at his own discretion and without reference to other authority for the following purposes:

1. For all current expenses of the National Headquarters incurred in the ordinary course of business, including supplies needed either for the National

Headquarters or to supply the camps in conformity with Article 7, Section 2 of these By-Laws.

C. Disbursements from the General Fund for purposes other than those herein-before mentioned shall be authorized only in accordance with enactments of the National Convention.

Section 2. Payments from Special Funds shall be made only in strict accordance with the purposes and in the manner set forth in the enactments of the National Convention establishing such Fund.

ARTICLE X. Discipline and Court Martial

Section 1. When discipline is required, the National President and Council of Administration shall appoint members to investigate the infraction. If the accused is a member of council, he will not be included in any investigation. Members charged with having committed the following offenses may be tried by court martial as hereinafter outlined:

- A. The making of false statement in an application for membership.
- B. The making of false statements against a member or members of the organization.
- C. Violation of the oath of obligation.
- D. Violation of the material provisions of the laws of the organization or its subsidiary units and the lawful orders of same.
- E. Failure to pay a just debt to any unit of this organization or the misappropriation or misapplication of funds belonging to any unit of this organization.
- F. Failure to make prompt and proper accounting and returns of any property or funds belonging to any unit of this organization.

Section 2. A member found guilty of any of the offenses above mentioned shall be penalized by the Court as follows:

- A. Discharge from the organization.
- B. Removal from office.
- C. Disqualification from holding office for a specific period.
- D. Suspension from membership.
- E. Forfeiture of any or all ranks held in the organization.
- F. Reprimand by the Court.
- G. Nothing herein contained shall prevent the Court from imposing one or more penalties or placing the offender under probation.

Section 3. Any three (3) members may submit a written complaint, against any member or members, to the National President and National Judge Advocate. The Judge Advocate may order a Committee to investigate and file a written report before taking any action thereon. If the Committee recommends that the charges be heard by a court-martial the Officer to whom the report is submitted must take action thereon. Infractions involving a camp matter shall be resolved at the camp level.

Section 4. Any justly accused member of the Order shall be tried by the National Judge Advocate and five (5) Members who shall be appointed by the National President. The names of the members of the Court shall remain confidential until the final verdict has been rendered.

Section 5.

- A. The Judge Advocate, upon receipt of the written charges, shall transmit to the accused a copy of the charges and he shall also instruct both the accused and accusers that they shall have thirty (30) days to submit briefs substantiating their respective stands.
- B. Both the accused and accusers shall present copies of the above mentioned briefs, at his or their expense, to the Judge Advocate, containing all facts

pertaining to their side of the case. All briefs shall be attested by a notary public.

C. The Judge Advocate shall call for a ballot of each member of the Court within thirty (30) days of the sending of the above mentioned briefs to the Court members; provided, that he may grant a reasonable extension of time on the request for further information by one of the members of the Court. In no event shall transportation expenses be provided for the conduct of the Court-Martial.

Section 6. The verdict, together with all briefs and charges, shall be filed permanently with National Headquarters.

Section 7. The right to appeal to the case of a Court-Martial shall be made to the National President and if in his judgment any doubt remains as to the justice rendered by the verdict, he shall cause a National Court-Martial to sit in judgment. The right of an appeal in the case of a National Court-Martial shall be made to the National Convention.

Section 8. Impeachment of the National President shall be conducted as provided in the Constitution and Rules and Regulations of the United Spanish War Veterans for Impeachment of their Commander in Chief

ARTICLE XI. United Spanish War Veterans

Section 1. No member of the Sons of Spanish-American War Veterans shall at any time have the right or permission to wear or carry the emblem of the United Spanish War Veterans, unless uniformed in an historical presentation.

ARTICLE XII. Merit Awards

Section 1. The National Convention may award each year merit badges or citations to members for distinguished service to the organization.

ARTICLE XIII. Amendments

Section 1. These By-Laws can be amended by a majority vote of the members present and eligible to vote 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 these By-Laws 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 I. Availability

Section 1. The National Secretary shall ensure that copies of these By Laws are readily available to all Members by having posted on the website.

Rules and Regulations

Of the Sons of Spanish-American War Veterans

(Amended and proposed by the Council of Administration subject to approval by general membership in convention in September 2017)

ARTICLE I. Membership

Section 1. Every application for admission shall be furnished by the National Headquarters. Applications submitted by candidates will be in writing and shall give the applicant's name, residence, age, occupation and relationship to a veteran of the Spanish American War Era. Application to join a camp will be submitted to the camp and a copy of the accepted application will be forwarded to the National Registrar. Applications for Membership at Large shall be similar in all respects but shall be submitted directly to the National Registrar.

Section 2. Any Member in good standing may belong to more than one camp.

Section 3. Any Camp losing or accepting the transfer shall notify the National Registrar.

Section 4. A camp member who has been suspended or dropped from the rolls in any manner shall not be eligible for membership in another camp or as a Member-at-Large. A camp may reinstate a member when the issue is resolved. Should said Camp be no longer in existence he may make application to any Camp, after a review of, and resolution of, past ineligibility. 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. A suspended Member-at-Large may reapply to the National Organization once the reason(s) for suspension have been resolved.

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 any member or individual with the approval of the National President. A Charter shall not be issued until there are 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 determined by the National Treasurer but not less than \$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 of the application, the camp is considered to have withdrawn its application. A new application may be initiated without prejudice.

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 Camp shall be considered active if there has not been a membership meeting within twelve calendar months or there are less than five (5) members. A defunct camp shall return the camp charter to the National Treasurer. 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 commencement of such action.

ARTICLE ID. 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 the other camp 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 set initial camp fees. Camps shall pay Per Capita Tax on each non-Life member to the National Organization.

Section 2. Each Camp shall determine dues to be charged its members.
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. These fees shall be determined by the National Treasurer with consent of the Council of Administration.

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

2. 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 Member-at-Large is not in good standing when he is in 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 Quartermaster.

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. 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 may be worn on the membership badge ribbon

Section 6. Flags. Camps may use either of the standard sizes of flags as specified by manufacturers. The Sons colors shall be used as follows: Flag - blue background; yellow or gold letters (embroidered or gold leaf); and that

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 eligible to vote at the National Convention. Such proposed amendment are to be 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. Availability

Section 1. The National President shall ensure that copies of these Rules and Regulations are readily available to all members by having posted and accessible on the website.