



**CONSTITUTION
OF
*Sons of The American Legion
Tenth District
Detachment of Minnesota***

Preamble

Proud possessors of a priceless heritage, we male descendants of veterans of the Great 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 forefathers in the Great War; 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 I

Name and Nature

- Section 1.* The name of this organization shall be "Sons of The American Legion, Tenth District, Detachment of Minnesota".
- Section 2.* Sons of The American Legion, Tenth District, Detachment of Minnesota, is a civilian organization. Membership therein does not affect nor increase liability for military or police service.
- Section 3.* Sons of The American Legion, Tenth District, Detachment of Minnesota, shall be absolutely nonpolitical and non-sectarian, and shall not be used for the dissemination of partisan principles nor for the promotion of the candidacy of any person seeking public office or preferment.
- Section 4.* Each member shall perform his full duty as a citizen according to his own conscience and understanding.

ARTICLE II

Organization

- Section 1.* Sons of The American Legion in the Department of Minnesota shall be organized as a Detachment of and subordinate body to the National Organization of Sons of The American Legion.
- Section 2.* Sons of The American Legion in the Detachment of Minnesota shall be organized in Districts identical to the Department of Minnesota under the jurisdiction of the corresponding District of The American Legion, and in Squadrons under the jurisdiction of the local Posts of The American Legion and shall bear the name of the Post as follows: "Sons of The American Legion Squadron of Post No Department of Minnesota".
- Section 3.* The Department Executive Committee of The American Legion, Department of Minnesota, shall have jurisdiction over all Squadrons and Districts of The Sons of The American Legion organized by any Post or District of The American Legion in this Department.
- Section 4.* All Squadrons of Sons of The American Legion in the Detachment of Minnesota shall be governed by such rules and regulations as may be prescribed by the National Executive Committee of The Sons of The American Legion as approved by the National Executive Committee of The American Legion and by such further rules and regulations as may be prescribed by the Executive Committee of the Detachment of Minnesota, not inconsistent with those prescribed by the National organization of The American Legion and of the Department of Minnesota Executive Committee.
- Section 5.* The Sons of The American Legion, Tenth District, shall be composed of that area which is designated by the Department of Minnesota, for the Tenth District American Legion, which consists of the following: Pine, Chisago, Kanabec, Isanti, Mille Lacs, Anoka and Wright Counties, and all of Hennepin County outside the present city limits of Minneapolis and Richfield. The Counties comprising the Tenth District Sons of The American Legion shall be divided into five Sub-Districts as follows: Sub-District One shall consist of Pine, Kanabec, Mille Lacs and Isanti counties. Sub-District Two shall consist of Anoka and Chisago counties. Sub-District Three shall consist of all of Hennepin County outside the city limits of Minneapolis north of Interstate 394, including Wayzata, Long Lake and Maple Plain. Sub-District Four shall consist of all of Hennepin County south of Interstate 394 outside the city limits of Richfield. Sub-District Five shall consist of all of Wright County.

ARTICLE III

Eligibility

- Section 1.* Any male descendant, adopted son and stepson of a member of The American Legion and such descendants of a veteran who died in service during the periods of time of eligibility for Legion membership, as defined by the Constitution of The American Legion, or who died subsequent to honorable discharge from such service, shall be eligible for membership in Sons of The American Legion, Detachment of Minnesota.
- Section 2.* There shall be no form or class of membership except active membership.

ARTICLE IV

District Organization

- Section 1.* The legislative body of Sons of The American Legion, Tenth District, Detachment of Minnesota, shall be the District Executive Committee. Their acts, before becoming finally effective, must be ratified by the District Executive Committee of The American Legion, Tenth District, Department of Minnesota.
- Section 2.* The District Executive Committee shall consist of the Commander, Vice Commanders, Adjutant, Finance Officer, Chaplain, Historian, Sergeant-at-Arms, Membership Director, Judge Advocate and the Junior Past District Commander. All Executive Committee members shall have a vote, except for Chaplain, Sergeant-at-Arms and Judge Advocate.
- Section 3.* The Tenth District American Legion, Department of Minnesota Executive Committee shall appoint at least one Tenth District American Legion, Department of Minnesota Legion member to serve as adviser to the Tenth District Sons of The American Legion.
- Section 4.* The District Executive Committee of Sons of The American Legion shall meet at least twice each year. It shall meet immediately preceding the District Convention to approve the agenda for the District Convention, and within 60 days following the District Convention to approve the District Commander's appointments.
- Section 5.* The District Executive Committee of the Tenth District, Sons of The American Legion, without meeting, may transact business by mail, telegraph, fax, computer, or telephone on matters of urgency not involving new policy and on which action cannot be delayed until the next regular meeting. Fifteen (15) days shall be allowed for the return, by mail, fax, computer, telegraph or telephone, of the votes thereon by the District Adjutant. The District Adjutant shall notify the District Commander of the results of the vote taken. The District Executive Committee may also meet on the call of the District Commander of Sons of The American Legion, the request of at least five (5) District Executive Committee Members, or on the written request of at least five (5) Squadrons at any time during the year for sufficient reason to it appearing.
- Section 6.* The chairman of the Executive Committee shall be the District Commander. If he is unable to preside, either the Commander or the Executive Committee shall select a Vice Commander to preside.

ARTICLE V

Squadron Organization

- Section 1.* Those who desire to form a Squadron of Sons of The American Legion shall make application to the Post Commander of the local Post of the American Legion in which they reside for application for Charter. Upon approval by the Post Commander, the application shall be forwarded to the Commander of the Headquarters Detachment, and upon his approval a Charter shall be issued by the National Commander and the National Adjutant of The American Legion in the manner now prescribed in issuing of Charters for Posts of The American Legion.

- ARTICLE V
- Section 2.* The minimum membership for forming a Squadron of the Sons of The American Legion shall be ten (10).
- Section 3.* There shall be only one Squadron of Sons of The American Legion consisting of one or more sections for each Post of The American Legion.
- Section 4.* The Officers of each Squadron of Sons of The American Legion shall consist of: Commander, First Vice Commander, Second Vice Commander, Adjutant, Finance Officer, Sergeant-at-Arms, Chaplain and Historian.
- Section 5.* The Commander of the Post of The American Legion with which the Squadron is affiliated shall appoint a committee of three or more Post members, to be known as "The Supervisory Committee", who shall supervise the activities of the Squadron.
- Section 6.* All officers and members of the Executive Committee of each Squadron shall be elected annually for a term of one year by the members of the Squadron subject to final approval by the Supervisory Committee of the local Legion Post with which the Squadron is affiliated.

ARTICLE VI

Finances

- Section 1.* The revenue of Sons of The American Legion shall be derived from annual membership dues and from such other sources as may be approved by the Tenth District Executive Committee of The American Legion.
- Section 2.* The amount of annual Detachment and District dues shall be in such amount as may be determined by the Detachment of Minnesota as approved by the Department of Minnesota Executive Committee.
- Section 3.* The amount of annual Squadron dues, in addition to National, Detachment and District dues, shall be determined by the Squadron.
- Section 4.* The annual National dues shall be collected by each Squadron and transmitted through the Department of Minnesota to the National Treasurer of The American Legion. The annual Detachment dues shall be collected by each Squadron and transmitted directly to the Department of Minnesota.
- Section 5.* Annual dues shall be payable December 30 of each year.
- Section 6.* The District shall have a District Finance Committee to be composed of five (5) members, no two members appointed from the same Area. Finance Committee members shall be appointed by the Commander and hold a staggered five year term. The District Commander and the District Finance Officer shall be ex officio members of said Committee. The member serving his last year on the Committee shall automatically become its Chairman and the Finance Officer becomes Secretary, unless the Finance Committee decides otherwise. The District Finance Committee shall be charged with preparation and adoption of the annual budget of the District, the handling and disbursements of funds under the budget, and other such duties as shall be prescribed by the District Executive Committee. The annual budget will be submitted to the Executive Committee for approval and Tenth District American Legion for ratification. Non-budgetary expenditures shall be referred to the Finance Committee for study and recommendations and then submitted to the Executive Committee for approval.

ARTICLE VI The Chairman of the Finance Committee shall be authorized each year to be an alternate signatory on all vouchers in the absence of the District Finance Officer.
Section 6. - cont.

ARTICLE VII

Discipline

Section 1. The Detachment of Minnesota Executive Committee or the Department of Minnesota Executive Committee may suspend or revoke the Charter of any Squadron of Sons of The American Legion which violates this Constitution or By-Laws.

ARTICLE VIII

Amendments

Section 1. The Constitution and By-Laws may only be amended by a two-thirds vote of all registered delegates at a regular District Convention, provided notice of the proposed amendments have been mailed to each Squadron in the District 30 days before such meeting or at a convention. The proposed amendment shall be read and posted to the convention at least 30 minutes before a vote thereon.

Section 2. No such Amendment shall conflict or be inconsistent with the National Constitution and By-Laws of the Sons of The American Legion or with the Constitution and By-Laws of the Detachment of Minnesota.

Section 3. In the event of any inconsistency at any time between the provisions of the National Constitution and By-Laws or the Detachment Constitution and the District Constitution, the National or Detachment provisions shall govern.

ARTICLE IX

Annual Meeting

Section 1. A District Convention shall be held annually for the purpose of electing District Officers, passing resolutions, amending the Constitution and By-Laws, and for any such other purposes as may be necessary.

Section 2. Representation of the District Convention shall be by Delegates elected by the Squadrons on the basis of one Delegate for each Squadron of ten (10) members or less, and one additional delegate for every ten (10) members whose Detachment dues have been received in Detachment headquarters 30 days prior to the first day of the Convention for which they are chosen.

Section 3. Each Delegate shall be entitled to one vote. The vote of any Delegate absent and not represented by an Alternate shall be cast by the majority of the registered Delegates present from his Squadron. Alternates for Delegates shall have all the privileges of registered Delegates except that of voting.

- ARTICLE IX**
- Section 4.* Voting shall be done by a voice vote, except for election of Officers. During elections, uncontested elections shall be done by voice. Contested elections shall be by written ballot by Squadron. The Commander shall appoint tellers as necessary to count ballots and to ensure each Squadron has voted properly. The tellers shall announce the winner and give the total votes if asked by any candidate for that office.
- Section 5.* The order of the election of officers shall be Commander, 5 Vice Commanders, Finance Officer and Historian. The newly elected officers shall take office immediately following the adjournment of Convention.
- Section 6.* Nominations of officers shall be made from the floor of the Convention. All elective officers must be elected by a majority vote. Any member of a Squadron of this District in good standing shall be eligible to hold office except as herein provided. Each officer shall hold office for the term of one year or until a successor shall have been duly elected and qualified.
- Section 7.* All actions of the District Convention are subject to ratification and approval of the Tenth District Executive Committee of The American Legion, Department of Minnesota.
- Section 8.* Except as noted in these Constitution and By-Laws, the parliamentary authority shall be Robert's Rules of Order, the most recent edition.
- Section 9.* A Quorum shall consist of representation by five (5) Squadrons with current membership.
- Section 10.* The Convention shall coincide with the Tenth District American Legion Convention, and all Convention Business shall be conducted in one day.

ARTICLE X

Suspension of Constitution

- Section 1.* No section of this Constitution may be suspended at any given time.