



Sons of the American Legion Detachment  
Constitution and Bylaws  
Updated May 17, 2025

THE SONS OF THE AMERICAN LEGION  
DETACHMENT OF SOUTH CAROLINA  
CONSTITUTION

**PREAMBLE**

Proud possessors of a priceless heritage, we male descendants of 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 associations 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 I - NAME**

This Organization shall be known as The Sons of the American Legion, Detachment of South Carolina, and shall be comprised of Squadrons established and chartered in the Detachment. The Sons of the American Legion, Detachment of South Carolina is a program of the American Legion Department of South Carolina (hereinafter the "Department"), and shall be subject to its oversight through the American Legion Department of South Carolina, Committee on the Sons of the American Legion (hereinafter, the Department SAL Committee")

**ARTICLE II - OBJECTIVES**

Section 1. The purposes, principles, aims and objects of this association are declared to be in conformity with those of the National Organization of The Sons of the American Legion, of which this Detachment is a part, as enunciated in the preamble to this constitution, identical with that of the National Organization of The Sons of the American Legion adopted at its first annual convention in Chicago, Illinois August, 1972, and as amended through the date of the adoption of this Constitution and subject to the oversight of the American Legion Department of South Carolina.

Section 2. We further dedicate ourselves to the promotion of the welfare,

prosperity and happiness of all people of South Carolina, to the preservation of the ideals and traditions of our state and pledge our single-minded adherence to the hallowed faith of our fathers and all the great principles for which the American Legion stands.

Section 3. The American Legion, Detachment of South Carolina, shall be absolutely non- political, and shall not be used for the dissemination of partisan principles or for the promotion of the candidacy of any person seeking public office or preferment.

### ARTICLE III - ELIGIBILITY

Section 1. Any person eligible for membership in The Sons of the American Legion pursuant to the requirements of the Constitution and Bylaws of the National Organization of the Sons of the

American Legion shall be eligible for membership in the Detachment.

Section 2. There shall be no form or class of membership except an active membership, and dues shall be paid annually, (for multiple years, or for life in the event a program for multiple years or life membership is ever adopted by the National Organization of the Sons of the American Legion.)

Section 3. No person may be a member at any one time of more than one Squadron.

Section 4. No person, who has been expelled by a Squadron, shall be admitted to membership in another Squadron, without the consent of the expelling Squadron, except that where such consent has been asked for and denied by such Squadron, he may then appeal to the Executive Committee of the Detachment of the expelling Squadron for permission to be admitted to membership in another Squadron, and shall be ineligible for membership until such permission is granted.

#### ARTICLE IV - GEOGRAPHICAL LIMITS

The American Legion, Detachment of South Carolina, shall be divided into twenty Districts:

The geographical limits of Districts 1 through 20 shall be defined in the same manner as they are defined by the Department.

#### ARTICLE V - DETACHMENT CONVENTION

Section 1. Except where hereinafter specifically delegated, all power and authority are lodged in the convention, which shall be composed of delegates from the Squadron as hereinafter provided. The Detachment Adjutant is hereby authorized to set and plan the annual Detachment Convention and will report to the Detachment Executive Committee the necessary arrangements of said conventions.

Section 2. The Detachment Executive committee is hereby invested with the power to appoint such committees deemed necessary and to make such arrangements as may be deemed necessary for the holding of the Convention.

Section 3. With the consent of the Department SAL Committee, the Convention may be called in extraordinary session by either The Detachment Commander by and with the consent of The Detachment Executive Committee, or upon the petition of two-thirds (2/3) of the Squadron of the Detachment.

Section 4. The number of votes of each Squadron represented at the Detachment Convention is hereto outlined in Article XII, Section 10 and 11 of the Constitution.

Section 5. A quorum of said Detachment Convention shall consist of the duly elected delegates present from at least one-fifth (1/5) of the Squadron in good standing with the Detachment, provided that a smaller number may meet and adjourn from time to time until a quorum be assembled.

ARTICLE VI  
DETACHMENT EXECUTIVE  
COMMITTEE

Section 1. Between the meetings of the convention, the Detachment Executive Committee shall constitute the governing body of this association, and such committee hereby empowered to make all

rules and regulations necessary and consistent with this Constitution and the Bylaws of this association, and to do all things to promote and carry out its aims and purposes.

Section 2. The Detachment Executive Committee with full voting rights shall consist of the following members:

Immediate Past Detachment  
Commander National Executive  
Committeeman  
Alternate National Executive  
Committeeman Detachment Historian  
Detachment First Vice-Commander  
Detachment Second Vice-  
Commander Detachment Third Vice-  
Commander Detachment Fourth  
Vice-Commander District One  
Commander  
District Two Commander  
District Three  
Commander District Four  
Commander District Five  
Commander District Six  
Commander District  
Seven Commander  
District Eight Commander  
District Nine Commander  
District Ten Commander  
District Eleven  
Commander District  
Twelve Commander  
District Thirteen  
Commander District  
Fourteen Commander  
District Fifteen  
Commander District  
Sixteen Commander  
District Seventeen  
Commander District  
Eighteen Commander  
District Nineteen  
Commander District  
Twenty Commander

The immediate Past Detachment Commander shall have served as such through the latest full term of office or the last part thereof, and each District Commander for a period of their elected terms. The Detachment Commander serves as the Ex-Officio

Chairman of the Detachment Executive Committee.

Section 3. The Detachment Executive Committee shall meet at such times and places as may be agreed upon by the aforementioned committee or upon call by the Detachment Commander and/or the Detachment Adjutant as prescribed by the Constitution and Bylaws. The Executive Committee shall not meet less than four (4) times between Detachment Conventions.

Section 4. The Detachment Adjutant shall serve as secretary of the Detachment Executive Committee when in session.

Section 5. Only the voting members, as prescribed in Article VI, Section 2 of the Constitution shall be permitted to be present and privileged to participate in Executive Sessions of said committee. In addition, the Past Detachment Commanders, as non-voting members of the Detachment Executive

committee, shall be permitted to be present and privileged to participate in Executive Sessions of the committee.

ARTICLE VII  
DETACHMENT  
OFFICERS

Section 1. The officers of this organization shall consist of:

Detachment Commander  
National Executive Committeeman  
Alternate National Executive Committeeman  
Detachment Historian  
Detachment First Vice-Commander  
Detachment Second Vice-  
Commander Detachment Third  
Vice-Commander Detachment  
Fourth Vice-Commander

Section 2. In the case of a vacancy in the office of the National Executive Committeeman, the duly elected Alternate National Executive Committeeman shall fulfill the remainder of the unexpired term of the National Executive Committeeman. In the case of such events, a special Detachment Executive Committee shall convene to elect an Alternate National Executive Committeeman for the remainder of the unexpired term of said office.

Section 3. In the event of a vacancy in any other Detachment office, except as prescribed in Article VII, Section 4, such vacancy shall be immediately filled at a meeting of the Detachment Executive Committee and the officers so elected by the Detachment Executive Committee shall continue to discharge the duties of the office until the next Detachment Convention.

Section 4. In case of the death, resignation, removal from the Detachment, or disqualification of the Detachment Commander, the Detachment Adjutant shall immediately call the Detachment Executive Committee into session and such committee shall appoint/confirm the Detachment First Vice-Commander successor for the unexpired term.

Section 5.

(A) The Detachment Executive Committee shall appoint a Detachment Adjutant, who shall be the Chief Operating Officer of the Detachment. He shall be placed under a bond in such sum and with such surety as the Detachment Executive Committee may direct.

(B) He shall hold office from the date of his appointment and qualifications. The Detachment Adjutant may be removed from said position only upon a two-thirds (2/3) vote of the Detachment Executive Committee.

(C) The Detachment Executive Committee may appoint an assistant Detachment Adjutant, considering the recommendation of the Detachment Commander and the Detachment Adjutant. His duties shall be in cooperation and under the supervision of the Detachment Adjutant. He shall be paid a salary as to be determined by the Detachment Executive Committee.

(D) The Detachment Commander, with the approval of the Detachment Executive Committee, shall appoint the following Detachment officers:

Detachment Judge  
Advocate Detachment  
Service Officer  
Detachment Chaplain  
Detachment Sergeant-at-Arms,  
and up to Four (4) Assistant  
Sergeant-at-Arms

- (E) These positions shall coincide with that of the appointing Detachment Commander.

## ARTICLE VIII ELECTION OF DETACHMENT OFFICERS

Section 1. Two-thirds (2/3) of the certified delegates eligible to vote will elect the following officers at the annual Detachment Convention. These officers shall consist of:

Detachment  
Commander  
Detachment  
Historian  
Detachment First Vice-Commander  
Detachment Second Vice-  
Commander Detachment Third  
Vice-Commander Detachment  
Fourth Vice-Commander

Section 2. The National Executive Committeeman and the Alternate National Executive Committeeman shall be elected biennial at the annual Detachment Convention. These elections will take place on an even/odd year rotation with the National Executive Committeeman being elected on the odd year, and for the Alternate National Executive Committeeman every even year, with both positions being elected by two-thirds (2/3) of the certified delegates eligible to vote at the annual Detachment Convention.

Section 3. The Detachment Vice-Commanders will ascend upward into the next highest office at each annual Detachment Convention with the knowledge/affirmative action of the certified delegates present unless otherwise stated in the Detachment Constitution/Bylaws.

Section 4. The candidates for the position of fourth (4<sup>th</sup>) Vice-Commander shall be brought forth to the Detachment convention by their respective nominating Squadron. The nominees from their respective Squadrons will then compete for the vacant position of fourth (4<sup>th</sup>) Vice-Commander with their election being held at the

annual Detachment Convention by two-thirds (2/3) of the certified delegates present at said convention, unless Article VII, Section 4 of the Constitution has taken affect.

Section 6. The Detachment District Commanders shall be elected biennially at the appropriate District meeting by two-thirds (2/3) of the certified delegates eligible to vote at said district meeting.

These officers shall have an even/odd rotation with District Commanders from:

District One  
District Three  
District Five  
District  
Seven  
District Nine  
District  
Eleven  
District  
Thirteen

District Fifteen  
District  
Seventeen  
District  
Nineteen

Being elected every odd year, and District Commanders from:

District Two  
District Four  
District Six  
District Eight  
District Ten  
District Twelve  
District  
Fourteen  
District Sixteen  
District  
Eighteen  
District Twenty

Being elected every even year. To be eligible to hold the office of District Commander, you must be a member of a Squadron within the District you will command.

Section 7. A District meeting must be held at least thirty (30) days prior to the annual Detachment convention in those Legion District in which a District Commander will be elected for the ensuing two (2) years. The name of the newly elected District commander will be forwarded to Detachment Headquarters within one (1) week after the election, and prior to the annual Detachment Convention. The installation of these newly elected District Commanders will take place at the annual Detachment Convention.

Section 8. The number of votes for a Squadron represented at the District meeting within the electing Legion District shall be on the basis of three (3) votes for each Squadron plus one additional vote for each fifteen ( 15) members or major fraction thereof. The official membership standing of each Squadron as certified by the various Squadron adjutants to the District Commander at the time of the meeting will govern the voting strength of each Squadron.

Section 9. All officers shall continue in office until their successors are elected and qualified, unless they shall sooner resign, remove from the Detachment, or become otherwise disqualified.

Section 10. Beginning in 2009, all **Detachment Officers and members of the Detachment Executive Committee** will within **forty-five (45) days** following the conclusion of the annual Detachment Convention, take the "American Legion Extension

Institution Course,” and successfully complete and graduate from said course.

## ARTICLE IX - VICE COMMANDERS

Section 1. The Detachment Vice-Commanders will consist of four (4) annually elected officers.

Section 2. The titles of the aforementioned Detachment Officers are as outlined:

First Vice-  
Commander Second  
Vice-Commander

Third Vice-  
Commander Fourth  
Vice-Commander

Section 3. The order of ascension to Detachment Commander for the aforementioned Vice- Commanders will be as follows, and as approved by two-thirds (2/3) of the certified delegates to the annual Detachment Convention following Roberts Rules of Order:

- A. First Vice-Commander serves for a term of one year before ascending to the position of Detachment Commander with knowledge/affirmative action of the certified delegates present at the annual Detachment Convention, unless Article VII, Section 4 of the Constitution has taken affect.
- B. Second Vice-Commander serves for a term of one year before ascending to the position of First Vice-Commander with knowledge/affirmative action of the certified delegates present at the annual Detachment Convention, unless Article VII, Section 4 of the Constitution has taken affect.
- C. Third Vice-Commander serves a term of one year before ascending to the Detachment Second Vice-Commanders position with knowledge/affirmative action of the certified delegates present at the annual Detachment Convention unless Article VII, Section 4 of the Constitution has taken affect;
- D. Fourth Vice-Commander serves a term of one year before ascending to the Detachment Third Vice-Commander's position with the knowledge/affirmative action of the certified delegates present at the annual Detachment Convention unless Article VII, Section 4 of the Constitution has taken affect; and
- E. Additional duties for these Vice Commanders are outlined in the Bylaws, Article III, Section 2.

ARTICLE X - DISTRICT OFFICERS

Section 1. The Detachment Commander, with the approval of the Detachment Executive Committee, and upon the recommendation of the District Commanders, shall appoint in each District one (1) or more officers to be known as Area Commanders.

Section 2. The District Commanders will recommend one (1) such Area Commander for each county within his District having two (2) or more Squadron

therein. These recommendations will be made within thirty (30) days following the annual Detachment Convention.

Section 3. Area Commanders shall be under the immediate supervision of the District Commander and will take action according to his direction in all matters pertaining to The Sons of the American Legion, Detachment of South Carolina.

Section 4. The Detachment Commander shall, upon approval of the Detachment Executive Committee appoint a District Chaplain for each District as recommended by the District Commander.

Section 5. Meetings as may be held by a District Commander, consisting of the Squadron commanders and District Chaplain, shall be known as the District Executive Committee. The empowerment of the District Executive Committee shall be limited to recommendations to the Detachment Executive Committee, as well as, to aid The Sons of the American Legion, Detachment of South Carolina in carrying out its objectives within their respective Districts. Such Officers shall serve for a term of one year.

## ARTICLE XI - DISCIPLINE

Section 1. That upon conviction of any Detachment Officer of a felony by any duly constituted court, that said office shall be immediately declared vacant and forthwith filled as provided by the Constitution and Bylaws as in the case of any other vacancy.

Section 2. Upon the filing by any Officer of sworn charges against any other Office of the Detachment, coming out of the failure on his part of performing the duties of his office, according to the Constitution and By-Laws:

Neglect;  
Incapacity;  
Or Inability to serve;  
Or failure to carry out the orders of directions of the Detachment Executive Committee; or Conduct unbecoming of an officer.

The Detachment Adjutant, provided he is not the officer accused, shall establish a confidential investigation committee of 3 non-voting jurors, Receive the report of the committee and preferral of charges if warranted; Formally notify the offending Officer who shall be served by certified mail of the charges and the accused shall be given no less than twenty (20) days from the set date by the Detachment Adjutant for a hearing of the charges before the Detachment Executive Committee.; Upon notification by the Detachment Adjutant of a fixed day and time set, the accused shall be required to appear before the Detachment Executive Committee and answer such charges as may be preferred against him; Trial shall be in executive session. If the accused fails to appear for the trial, the trial proceeds without him. The Detachment Executive Committee can hear appeals in this format from Squadron officers and members provided that the appeal is filed within 60 days of the close of the action against the officer(s) or member(s).

Section 3. If said officer fails to file such a request within the specified time, then the Detachment Executive Committee shall have the power to act on the charges, at such time as the Detachment Commander may designate.

Section 4. A two-thirds (2/3) vote of the Detachment Executive Committee on the said charges shall be binding upon him, and at any trial held, the Detachment Judge Advocate shall be the presiding officer.

## ARTICLE XII - SQUADRON ORGANIZATIONS

Section 1. There shall be organized throughout The Sons of the American Legion, Detachment of South Carolina, as many local Squadron as may be deemed advisable by the Detachment Executive Committee:

- A. that the formation and revitalization of American Legion Squadrons be a priority, which only the Detachment Commander or the Detachment Executive Committee controls in accordance with Article IX, Section 1 of the National Constitution.
- B. as long as all of the required obligations are met for the establishment of a Squadron, no individual, Squadron, or District should have the authority to deny any individual(s) the opportunity to start or revitalize a Squadron, without just cause, but the final decision will be made by the Detachment Commander or Detachment Executive Committee;
- C. that there should be a Sons of the American Legion Squadron for every American Legion Post and Squadron leadership will work together to ensure the success of the Squadron in its support of programs and the local community and

sponsoring Post.

Section 2. Applications for charters for Squadrons of The American Legion, Detachment of South Carolina, shall be signed by ten (10) or more eligible persons

Section 3. The Detachment Executive Committee shall investigate the qualifications, fitness and desirability of such applicants and approve of such application, as prescribed in Section 2 of this Article.

Section 4. The Detachment Executive Committee and the Department SAL Committee shall either approve or disapprove such application and the actions and decision of the Detachment Executive committee shall be final and conclusive and shall not be reviewed by any officer, committee or convention of the association, or any other authority.

Section 5. Upon the application approval by the Detachment Executive Committee the approved charter for said Squadron shall be duly forwarded to The National Adjutant recommending the issuing of a temporary charter or permanent charter as the case may be.

Section 6. If, after any charter shall have been issued to any local Squadron, it shall be made to appear to the Detachment Executive Committee that the continued existence of such will be harmful or prejudicial to the harmony and prosperity of this association, then and in that event the Detachment Executive Committee shall have power, after notice to the said local Squadron to show cause at a time and place to be fixed in said notice to revoke and annul said charter.

Section 7. The Detachment Executive Committee, with the approval of the Department SAL Committee, shall have power to revoke any local Squadron charter for the further reason of a Squadron failing to report at least ten (10) members to Detachment Headquarters by March first (1<sup>st</sup>) of each year.

Section 8. All assets and records of a Squadron having its charter revoked shall be turned over to the Department Adjutant.

Section 9. The said Squadron in question may appeal from the decision of the Detachment Executive Committee at the next regularly scheduled Convention meeting.

Section 10. Each local Squadron shall at some duly published time elect not less than three (3) delegates to the Detachment Convention, and one additional delegate for each fifteen (15) members or major fractional part thereof, and each duly registered delegate shall be entitled to one vote. The total delegate vote count of each Squadron will be determined by their membership totals 30 days prior to the meeting of the Detachment Convention. One or more registered delegates present will be permitted to cast all votes for which the Squadron is entitled due to its membership count. A

registered delegate is one who has received their credentials.

Section 11. All Past Detachment Commanders and any Congressional Medal of Honor recipient, as long as they are members in good standing with the American Legion, Department of South Carolina and with the Sons of the American Legion Detachment of South Carolina, shall have one (1) additional individual vote. Their votes are counted only when the aforementioned individuals are present and cast their vote with the Squadron that they are members.

Section 12. Each local Squadron shall have power to make such By-Laws as it may deem best to further the purposes of the Association, if the same be not inconsistent with the Constitution and By-Laws of this Detachment or of the National Organization of The American Legion.

Section 13. After a local Squadron has been organized and received its charter, it shall have power to elect new eligible members in such manner as may be provided for by the Constitution and By- Laws of that Squadron.

#### ARTICLE XIII - AMENDMENTS

Section 1. The Constitution may be amended at any Detachment Convention by a vote of two-thirds (2/3) of the total authorized representation thereat, provided that the proposed amendment shall have been submitted through the Detachment Adjutant to the Detachment Squadrons, and members of the Detachment Executive Committee by mailing same to them at least sixty (60) days prior to the next Detachment Convention; any such proposed amendment may be amended without further notice by a two-thirds (2/3) vote of the total authorized representation thereat, provided it does not increase the modification proposed by the amendment and it has received the approval of the Detachment Constitution/By-Laws committee and, provided further, it may be amended by unanimous vote at any Detachment Convention without notice.

Section 2. That no proposed amendment shall be submitted through the Detachment Adjutant to the Squadron and members of the Detachment Executive Committee, as provided in Section 1 of this Article, unless said proposed amendment shall have been first submitted by a Detachment Squadron, Detachment Squadron Executive Committee, or the Detachment Executive Committee.

#### ARTICLE XIV - FINANCE

Section 1. The revenue of the Sons of the American Legion, Detachment of South Carolina shall be derived from annual membership dues as outlined in Article II, Section 1 of the Detachment Bylaws. Additional monies shall be derived from such other sources as may be recommended by the Detachment Finance Committee and approved by the Detachment Executive Committee.

Section 2. The amount of such annual Detachment membership dues as prescribed in the aforementioned section, as recommended by the Detachment Finance Committee, shall be determined by each annual Detachment Convention by two-thirds (2/3) of delegates present and voting for the ensuing year, and cannot be lower than the preceding year.

Section 3. The Detachment annual membership dues on each Son of the American Legion shall be collected by each Squadron and transmitted promptly to National Headquarters. Squadrons are designated agents for collection for the Detachment with respect to such annual dues. Transmission of said dues and under no circumstances shall the period from receiving the said dues and the actual transmitted dues through MyLegion.org be more than thirty (30) days.

#### ARTICLE XV - DISSOLUTION

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BYLAWS  
OF

THE SONS OF THE AMERICAN LEGION  
DETACHMENT OF SOUTH CAROLINA

ARTICLE I - ELECTION OF OFFICERS

Section 1. The Detachment Officers elected at any annual convention of this Organization shall take office immediately upon election and shall forthwith assume the performance of the duties of their respective offices, subject to their approval by the Department SAL Committee.

Section 2. In electing Squadron officers, the following schedule will be followed:

(A) At the **March** meeting of the Squadron, a nominating committee will be elected by the Squadron membership or by the Squadron Executive Committee. The Squadron Commander shall not appoint nor be a member of the committee.

(B) This committee shall make its formal report to the Squadron at the **April** meeting.

(C) Squadron Officers will be elected at the **May** meeting with the Squadron Commander calling for additional nominations from the floor at the Squadron meeting.

(D) Squadron Officers will be installed at the **June** meeting of **all** Squadrons.

(E) The names of the newly elected officers shall be reported to Detachment Headquarters **immediately following the election** or by **July 1<sup>st</sup>** on forms provided by the Detachment.

ARTICLE II - FINANCES

Section 1. Membership dues within the Sons of the American Legion Detachment of South Carolina (Detachment) will be collected, distributed to, or retained by the American Legion National organization (National), the Department, and/or the local Squadron such that the approved per capita amounts are received or retained by each entity. The dues management

process will be conducted per a written and published policy approved by 2/3's majority of the Detachment Executive Committee (SALEC). Changes to the dues management policy require the approval of a 2/3's majority vote of the SALEC and republication of the revised policy.

- (a) If the National Organization changes the per capita amount due to it, the Detachment will implement the change per the schedule provided by National. The Detachment may adjust the per capita amount received from or distributed to the local Squadron such that the per capita amount due to the Detachment is unchanged.

#### Section 2.

The Detachment Finance Committee shall be charged with the responsibility of preparing the annual budget, and no expenditure of any Detachment funds, not provided for in the annual budget shall be made by the Detachment Executive Committee (SALEC), unless first referred to the Detachment Finance Committee for its study and recommendation.

In the event the Detachment Finance Committee approves the expenditure, it will then be forwarded to the Department Adjutant to be presented to the Department Finance Committee for their study and recommendation for approval or rejection. The decision of the Department Finance Committee will be final.

## ARTICLE III - DUTIES OF OFFICERS

### **Detachment Commander**

(A) The duties of the Detachment Commander shall be to preside over the Convention, and he shall be ex officio Chairman of the Detachment Executive Committee.

(B) He shall take care that the high principles and purposes of The Sons of the American Legion are preserved.

(C) He shall be the official spokesman on all occasions for The American Legion, Detachment of South Carolina.

(D) With the approval and consent of the Detachment Executive Committee, he shall discharge the duties laid upon him by the Constitution and these Bylaws, and shall further perform all duties incident to the office of Chief Executive of the organization, and faithfully carry out the mandates of the convention and all duties devolved upon him by the Detachment Executive Committee.

(E) The Detachment Commander, to lighten his burdens, is not required to visit all Squadrons of this Detachment. He is expected to attend District meetings held at such places as may be selected and designated by the District Commanders and at such times as the Detachment Commander may specify.

(F) It shall be the responsibility and duty of the Detachment Commander to prepare and submit to the Detachment convention a detailed report of his activities during the year with such recommendations, as he may deem advisable for the information and guidance of the future of The Sons of the American Legion, Detachment of South Carolina.

(G) In order that the Detachment Executive Committee may be informed as to the contents of the Commander's report to be made to the convention, it shall be the duty of the commander to submit a report to the meeting of the Detachment Executive Committee held immediately prior to the convening of the annual Detachment convention.

### **Detachment First Vice-Commander**

As Commission chairperson, Internal Affairs, the incumbent oversees all phases of Internal Affairs and assures the Detachment Commander, Detachment Adjutant, and the Detachment Executive Committee that all sub-committees have met, findings reported and/or plans implemented as required.

The Detachment Vice-Commander will not hold any other Chairmanship or positions on other committees at the Detachment level.

The primary duties and responsibility of the Detachment First Vice-Commander is oversight of all sub-committees that formulate Internal Affairs.

The Detachment First Vice-Commander will represent the Detachment Commander and/or the Detachment at various functions as prescribed by the Detachment Commander and Detachment Adjutant throughout the ensuing year.

In addition, in case of where the Detachment Commander cannot fulfill his duties as outlined in Article VII, Section 4 of the Constitution, the Detachment Adjutant will call a special meeting of the Detachment Executive Committee for the purpose of filling the unexpired position of the Detachment Commander. The Detachment First Vice-Commander upon approval will ascend to Commander and fulfill the unexpired term as directed by the Detachment Executive Committee.

The Detachment First Vice-Commander's term of office is for one (1) year, unless otherwise provided for in the Detachment constitution.

### **Detachment Second Vice-Commander**

The duties and responsibilities are to serve as Commission chairperson of Americanism and to oversee functioning responsibility of the various Americanism programs for The Sons of the American Legion, Detachment of South Carolina.

The Detachment Vice-Commanders will not hold any other chairmanship or positions on other committees at the Detachment level.

The incumbent works closely with each committee and their chairman's, as appointed by the Detachment Commander. The incumbent will learn history, program operational procedures, and time frames for all the Americanism programs conducted by both National and Detachment Headquarters.

These major programs include but are not limited to: the Five Star Program, the Ten Ideals Program, and the following Department programs - Oratorical, Boys State, Baseball, and Law Cadet. As Commission chairperson, numerous other programs are conducted throughout the year that warrant Squadron and Detachment awareness and knowledge. The incumbent is responsible to disseminate appropriate information concerning these programs to Detachment, District and Squadrons.

The incumbent oversees all phases of Americanism and assures the Detachment Commander, Detachment Adjutant, and Detachment Executive Committee, that all sub-committees have met, findings reported, and/or plans implemented as required.

The incumbent works closely with the Detachment Commander, Detachment Adjutant to assure all programs outlined by the Detachment Executive Committee are implemented.

The incumbent throughout the year will represent the Detachment Commander and/or Detachment at various functions prescribed by the Detachment Commander and/or Detachment Adjutant.

The Detachment Second Vice-Commander's term of office is for one (1) year unless otherwise provided for by the Commission.

### **Detachment Third and Fourth Vice-Commander**

The Detachment Third and Fourth Vice-Commanders' primary duties and responsibilities are to oversee the Districts.

The Detachment Vice-Commanders will not hold any other chairmanship or positions on other committees at the Detachment level.

The Detachment Third Vice-Commander serves as the Commission chairperson of National Security and assures the Detachment Commander, Detachment Adjutant and the Detachment Executive Committee that all sub-committees have met, findings reported, and/or plans implemented as required.

The Detachment Fourth Vice-Commander serves as the Commission chairperson of Economics and assures the Detachment Commander, Detachment Adjutant and the Detachment Executive Committee that all sub-committees have met, findings reported, and/or plans implemented as required.

The Detachment Third/Fourth Vice-Commanders are responsible for and assures that all programs outlined by the Detachment Commander, Detachment Adjutant, Detachment Executive Committee, the Commission chairperson of Internal Affairs, and the commission chairperson of Americanism are fully implemented within Districts. Through this process, the Detachment is assured continuity of program development and each Squadron is fully aware of all programs of the American Legion and the Sons of the American Legion.

The Detachment Third/Fourth Vice-Commanders will represent the Detachment Commander and/or the Detachment at various functions as prescribed by the Detachment Commander and/or the Detachment Adjutant throughout the year.

The Detachment Third/Fourth Vice Commander will serve a term of one (1) year.

## **Detachment Adjutant**

The Detachment Adjutant shall be the Chief Operating Officer of the Sons of the American Legion, Detachment of South Carolina. As Chief Operating Officer of the Detachment, he shall be charged with the administration of policies and procedures of both the National and Detachment Sons of the American Legion, as well as the politics and mandates of the Detachment convention, Detachment Executive Committee, and as prescribed by the Constitution. He shall perform such other duties as are usually incident to the office.

**ONLY THE DEPARTMENT ADJUTANT OR AN OFFICER OF THE DEPARTMENT SHALL BE AUTHORIZED TO SIGN ANY LEGAL DOCUMENT, BORROW MONEY, ESTABLISH BANK ACCOUNTS OR TAKE ANY LEGALLY OR CONTRACTUALLY BINDING ACTION ON BEHALD OF THE DETACHMENT.**

With the Detachment Historian, he/she shall carefully prepare all of the permanent records of the Detachment, and shall be the official custodian of all such records.

The incumbent shall, subject to the oversight of the Department Adjutant, be in charge of the Detachment Personal Property, other than money, and resources located at the Department Headquarters Building.

The incumbent shall coordinate his activities and cooperate with the Department Adjutant.

Upon receipt of reports from Vice Commanders, the Detachment Adjutant shall assist to ensure that any assistance in rehabilitating all such Squadrons are accomplished and given by The Sons of the American Legion, Detachment of South Carolina.

## **Detachment Finance Officer**

The incumbent shall be the Fiscal agent/Finance officer for the Organization.

If the Detachment Executive Committee shall so require, at any or all of the meetings, he shall be prepared to render true accounting of the financial condition of The Sons of the American Legion, Detachment of South Carolina.

Together with the Detachment Adjutant and the Detachment Finance Committee, he shall assist with the preparation of an annual operating budget for the Detachment.

## **Detachment Chaplain**

The Detachment Chaplain shall be appointed by the Detachment Commander, as specified in Article VII, Section 5(d) of the Constitution, from among the clergyman or religious officers who are members of The Sons of the American Legion, Detachment of South Carolina.

The incumbent shall discharge all duties incident to his/her office, and do all things required of him by the Detachment Executive Committee.

It shall be the particular duty of the Detachment Chaplain to promote the "Service to God and Country" program of The American Legion in the Detachment and to submit programs to respective Squadrons to carry that objective into effect.

The incumbent shall be responsible for all religious and memorial services for all Detachment meetings.

District Commanders shall have the authority to appoint individuals who have served in the office of Squadron Chaplain to serve as Chaplain of the District commanded by such District Commander. The term of any such District Chaplain shall coincide with the term of the District Commander appointing him, provided, however, that such Chaplain shall continue in office beyond the end of the term of the District Commander appointing him until his successor shall have been duly appointed and installed.

The Detachment Chaplain shall hold a conference of the District and Squadron Chaplains at least once a year.

#### **Detachment Judge Advocate**

The Detachment Judge Advocate shall be the legal advisor for the annual Detachment Convention, the Detachment Executive Committee, the Detachment Commander, and the Detachment Adjutant, as well as, the other officers of The Sons of the American Legion, Detachment of South Carolina, subject to the oversight of the Department Judge Advocate.

The incumbent shall perform such other duties as may be assigned to him by the Detachment Commander, Detachment Adjutant or the Detachment Executive committee and shall act as parliamentarian at all, Detachment meetings during his/her term of office.

It shall be the duty of the Detachment Judge Advocate to attend all scheduled Detachment meetings and to advise the Detachment Commander and Detachment Adjutant on any matters pertaining to the interpretation of the Constitution and Bylaws of the Sons of the American Legion, Detachment of South Carolina.

#### **Detachment Sergeant-at-Arms**

The incumbent under the direction of the Detachment Commander and/or Detachment Adjutant shall attend all scheduled Detachment meetings of the American Legion, Detachment of South Carolina.

The incumbent shall take care of the Detachment Colors and see that they are properly displayed and secured after each meeting.

The incumbent shall see that all Assistant Sergeant-at-Arms under his direction are assigned their post and duties, as well as, have enough assigned to fulfill the meeting requirements.

The Detachment Sergeant-at-Arms shall see that all members attending the various meetings are properly qualified and shall call for such identification, as he deems necessary.

### **Detachment Historian**

The incumbent shall be charged with the preparation of the permanent records of The American Legion, Detachment of South Carolina, and shall perform such other duties as shall be designated by the Detachment Commander, Detachment Adjutant and the Detachment Executive Committee.

### **District Commanders**

A District Commander shall be elected for any District having two (2) or more Squadrons. In any District in which there is only one (1) Squadron, the Squadron Commander of that Squadron shall assume the duties of the District Commander of that Squadron until another Squadron shall have been established in that District, and a District Commander elected for such District.

The District Commander shall be in charge of their respective Sons of the American Legion Districts, which shall correspond to the Department Districts.

They shall faithfully promote the membership, aims, ideals, and principles of the Organization.

They shall perform such other duties as directed by the Detachment Commander, Detachment Adjutant, Detachment Vice-Commander, and the Detachment Executive Committee.

The incumbent is specifically required to visit each Squadron of their District at least once (1) prior to November first of each year.

Each District Commander shall submit to the Detachment Headquarters, fifteen (15) days following the annual Detachment convention, the names and addresses of all Squadron Officers within his District.

The incumbent shall arrange the program of their respective meetings substantially following the format in the "Department Officers Guide," with appropriate modifications for

matters that do not apply to the Sons of the American Legion and shall invite such guests to attend, as they may desire.

It shall be the prime duty of the District Commanders to promote and promulgate the programs of The Sons of the American Legion, to interest Squadrons within their respective Districts in the same and lend their best efforts to the promotion of its programs.

For the promotion and promulgating of the programs of The Sons of the American Legion, there shall be a District Executive Committee in each District. This shall be composed of a District Commander as Chairman, Squadron Commanders, Squadron Adjutant within a District, as well as, the District Chaplain.

The District Executive Committee shall meet not less than three (3) times during the year, at a place and time determined by the District Commander and reported as stated in Article X, Section 5 of the Constitution.

Immediately following each meeting of the District Executive Committee, the District Commander shall report in writing to the Detachment Commander such action taken and such programs of The American Legion and the Sons of the American Legion presented.

The immediate Past District Commander will continue to serve on the District Executive Committee, with voting privileges for a period not to exceed one (1) year.

#### ARTICLE IV - MEETINGS

Section 1. Unless otherwise directed by the Detachment Executive Committee, there shall be held annually at a time and place designated by such committee, a meeting/conference shall be held within thirty (30) working days after the conclusion of the annual Detachment Convention.

Section 2. This meeting/conference shall meet and consider all matters of importance to the Sons of the American Legion, Detachment of South Carolina, as well as, plan the upcoming events for the ensuing Detachment year. This meeting/conference shall be of informational guidelines for the Squadron Commander/Adjutants, and advisory in nature to the Detachment Executive Committee and the annual Detachment Convention.

Section 3. It may prepare for submission to the next annual convention recommendations regarding all questions arising during the year.

Section 4. This meeting/conference shall receive reports from all of the local Squadrons in the Detachment and from the District Commanders regarding their respective Districts. It shall be the duty of each member of the Detachment Executive Committee to attend this meeting/conference.

Section 5.

(A) Immediately following adjournment of the Detachment Convention, the out-going and in-coming officers and the Detachment Executive Committee shall hold a joint session, at which time the in-coming Detachment Commander shall preside.

(B) The agenda of said meeting shall consist primarily of a report of the out-going Detachment Commander concerning the situations in the Detachment that might need attention.

(C) That the District Commander be instructed that within four (4) weeks they shall arrange a meeting with their respective Squadron Commander to set up a yearly agenda of District meetings as outlined in Article III, Section 10(f) of the Detachment Bylaws.

(D) The Detachment Executive Committee shall meet within thirty (30) working days after adjournment of the Detachment Convention.

(E) A program of events shall be submitted by the Detachment Adjutant to the Detachment Executive Committee not more than thirty (30) working days after the adjournment of the Detachment Convention for considerations of the Detachment Executive Committee to delete to amend in such particulars as may be deemed appropriate and advisable.

ARTICLE V - DETACHMENT COMMITTEES

Section 1. The standing committees of this Detachment shall be composed of members of The Sons of the American Legion.

Section 2. The Detachment Commander shall annually appoint the following committee items:

1. The general chairpersons of all committees unless already specified in the Constitution;
2. The sub-committees chairperson of all committees;
3. Appoint one-third (1/3) of committee members of all committees for a three (3) year term, unless otherwise specified already in the Constitution.

The general chairperson/subcommittee chairpersons, unless otherwise provided for, term of chairpersons coincides with that of the appointment Detachment Commander.

Section 3. The Detachment Commanders appointments shall have the consent and approval of the Detachment Executive Committee.

Section 4. Such committees and subcommittees as are appointed shall perform the duties designated by the Detachment Bylaws, Detachment Commander, Detachment Adjutant, and the Detachment Executive Committee.

Section 5. The committees shall work in cooperation with all similar committees of the National organization of the Sons of the American Legion and with corresponding Department committees in the American Legion and American Legion Auxiliary.

Section 6.

(A) Upon appointment as chairperson/sub chairperson of a committee/subcommittee, it shall be the responsibility of that person to take positive action and steps to familiarize themselves with the duties and responsibilities of the committee and/or subcommittee.

(B) The general chairpersons of all such committees shall call a meeting of his committee within thirty (30) days following that date of his appointment as chairperson, at which time the committee shall formulate plans for the ensuing year.

(C) Chairpersons of subcommittees shall submit the plans of the subcommittee in writing to the general chairperson of the committee.

(D) The general chairperson of all commissions will then make an inclusive report in writing to the Detachment Commander.

Section 7. Any member of a standing committee who fails to attend the meetings of the committee without acceptable excuse shall be dropped and the Detachment Commander shall then appoint a new member of such committee to fill the vacancy.

Section 8. The Sons of the American Legion commissions/committees for South Carolina shall be as follows:

(A) Internal Affairs Commission: The Internal Affairs Commission shall be divided into the following subcommittees including the General Chairperson:

1. Constitution/Bylaws Committee, six (6) members. This committee shall annually review the Detachment Constitution and Bylaws and originate and recommend such changes as are deemed necessary. The Committee shall consider all proposed Constitution/Bylaws changes referred to it and report its findings, status, changes, additions and its recommended approval/disapproval to the Detachment Convention.

2. Membership and Squadron Activities Committee (5 permanent members):

a. There shall be an ad-hoc committee to the Membership and Squadron Activities subcommittee which will be called "The New

Squadron Formation and Revitalization Committee.”

- b. The committee will consist of one (1) member from each District selected by the District Commander with the name submitted to the Detachment Commander for approval.
  - c. The committee will assist the Detachment Commander, Detachment Membership Chairperson and the Membership and Squadron Activities subcommittee.
  - d. This ad-hoc committee shall also assist the District Commanders with the developing of new Squadrons and revitalization of existing Squadrons and overall membership awareness.
  - e. Tenure on this ad-hoc committee shall be voluntary and therefore continuity will exist among committee membership.
  - f. Vacancies will be filled by the appropriate District Commander and submitted to the Detachment Commander for approval.
3. Resolutions Committee (6 members): The committee shall consider all proposed Resolutions referred to it and report its findings, status, changes, additions and its recommended approval/disapproval to the Detachment Convention.
4. Trophies and Awards Committee (6 members);
5. Graves Registration/Memorials Committee (6 members);
6. Public Relations Committee (6 members);
7. Distinguished Public Service Award Committee (5 members):
- a. The retiring Detachment Commander shall name a member for this committee;
  - b. The name shall be placed at the bottom of the list;
  - c. The senior member of the committee shall be chairperson by appointment of the Detachment Commander;
  - d. The term of committee assignment shall be for five (5) years;
  - e. No person may be appointed to this committee more than once;

- f. In case of death, resignation or disqualification of a member, the incumbent Detachment Commander shall appoint an individual to serve the remaining portion of the five (5) year term thus vacated.

8. Finance Committee (3 members).

#### MISSION STATEMENT

In keeping with the Constitution and Bylaws of The Sons of the American Legion, Detachment of South Carolina, it is important to insure that all of our programs contribute to the financial health of the Detachment.

In order to meet all of the Detachment's Financial obligations, an annual budget will be established which shows growth while insuring that all of the Detachment's needs are met. No additional funds should be expended without a complete review of the cost associated and approval by the Department Adjutant and the Department SAL Committee. Each line item in the budget will be reviewed to determine if the money is being spent wisely.

The Detachment Finance Committee shall be charged with the responsibility of preparing the annual budget, and no expenditures of any Detachment funds, not provided for in the annual budget shall be made by the Detachment Executive Committee, unless first referred to the Detachment Finance Committee for its study and recommendation.

The Detachment Finance Committee shall consist of the three (3) members, all of whom shall be appointed for three (3) years with the incoming Detachment Commander appointing one member for a three-year term. The Detachment Commander shall appoint the Chairman.

The revenue of The Sons of the American Legion, Detachment of South Carolina, shall be derived from the annual membership dues as outlined in Article II, Section 1 of the Detachment Bylaws. Additional monies shall be derived from such other sources as may be recommended by the Detachment Finance Committee and approved by the Detachment Executive Committee.

The amount of such annual Detachment membership dues as prescribed in the aforementioned section, as recommended by the Detachment Finance Committee, shall be determined by each annual Detachment Convention by two-thirds (2/3) of delegates present and voting for the ensuing year, and cannot be lower than the preceding year.

12. Detachment Convention Committee (10 members):

- a. Convention Location Subcommittee (3 members)
- b. Distinguished Guest Subcommittee (6 members)

13. Legion and Auxiliary Liaison Committee (3 members).

(B). American Commission:

1. Community Service Subcommittee (6 members)
2. Boys State Subcommittee (6 members)
3. Oratorical Content Subcommittee (6 members)
4. Boy Scout Subcommittee (6 members)
5. Children and Youth Activity Committee (6 members)
6. Education and School Awards Subcommittee (6 members)
7. American Legion Baseball Subcommittee (1 member from each league)
8. Religious Activities Subcommittee (4 members); Detachment Chaplain as Chairperson, one (1) additional clergyman and two (2) laypersons
9. Junior Shooting Sports Committee (6 members)
10. Child Welfare Committee (6 members)
11. Law Cadet Committee (6 members)
12. Patriots Point Committee (6 members)

(C) National Security Commission: The National Security Commission shall be divided into the following subcommittees:

1. Civil Defense Subcommittee (6 members)
2. Law and Order Subcommittee (6 members)
3. Military Affairs Subcommittee (6 members)
4. Counter-Subversive Activities Subcommittee (6 members)
5. Foreign Relations Committee (restricted to members of the National Congress who are members of The American Legion)
6. Legislative Committee (9 members). This committee shall be comprised of two (2) State Senators and two (2) State House of Representatives of

the South Carolina Legislature who are also members of The American Legion. In addition, there shall be five (5) persons from the general membership of The American Legion.

(D) Economic Commission. The Economic Commission shall be divided into the following subcommittees including the General Chairperson:

1. Veterans Employment Subcommittee (3 members)
2. Veterans Housing Subcommittee (3 members)
3. Veterans Preference Subcommittee (3 members)
4. Rehabilitation Subcommittee (9 members); includes county service officers as ex-officio members provided they are members of The American Legion
5. Hospital Subcommittee (9 members)
6. Hospital Service Subcommittee (12 members)

#### ARTICLE VI - CONVENTION COMMITTEES

Section 1. Before each annual Detachment convention the Detachment Commander shall appoint the following convention committees to serve during the life of the convention only:

A. Committee on Credentials: The Committee on Credentials shall pass upon the credentials of all delegations to the convention from local Squadrons. In case of a controversy, the action of this committee shall be final provided that an appeal may be taken to the floor by either of the contestants in such controversy.

B. Committee on Rules: The Committee on Rules shall recommend to the convention such rules as they deem advisable and necessary for the conduct of the business of the convention.

Section 2. There may also be appointed by the Detachment Commander any further or other committees for each convention as shall be deemed necessary and proper.

#### ARTICLE VII - AMENDMENTS

Section 1. The Bylaws may be amended at any Detachment Convention by a vote of two-thirds (2/3) of the total authorized representation thereat, provided that the proposed amendment shall have been submitted through the Detachment to the Detachment Squadrons, and members of the Detachment Executive Committee by mailing same to them at least sixty (60) days prior to

the next Detachment Convention. Any such proposed amendment may be amended without further notice by two-thirds (2/3) vote of the total authorized representatives thereat, provided it does not increase the modification proposed by the amendment and it has received the approval of the Detachment Constitution/Bylaws Committee and, provided further, it may be amended by unanimous vote at any Detachment Convention without notice.

Section 2. That no proposed amendment shall be submitted through the Detachment Adjutant to the Squadrons and members of the Detachment Executive Committee, as provided in Section 1 of this Article, unless said proposed amendment shall have been submitted by a Detachment Squadron, Detachment Squadron Executive Committee, or the Detachment Executive Committee.

## ARTICLE VIII - DISCIPLINE

### Section 1:

(A) Each Squadron of The American Legion, Detachment of South Carolina shall be the judge of its own membership, subject to the restrictions of the National and Detachment Constitution and Bylaws and the oversight of the Department SAL Committee.

(B) In order that the membership in each Squadron of the Detachment of South Carolina has an opportunity to become thoroughly familiar with the purposes and ideals of The Sons of the American Legion and the objectives of his/her Squadron, each Squadron is required to meet at least once (1) every three (3) months during each SAL year.

(C) The Squadron meetings are to be stated and at fixed intervals to be provided for in the Bylaws of the Sons of the American Legion Squadron.

### Section 2

(A) Members may be suspended or expelled from The Sons of the American Legion only upon proper showing of cause.

(B) Charges shall be based upon disloyalty, neglect of duty, dishonesty, and conduct unbecoming a member of The Sons of the American Legion.

(C) All charges must be made under oath and in writing by the accusers and served on the accused either by personal service or by mailing a certified copy of same to him/her by registered mail at his/her last known address at least thirty (30) days prior to the date for his/her trial.

(D) No member in good standing shall lose his/her membership until given a fair trial in such manner and form, as the Detachment Bylaws shall provide.

Section 3. The trial of a member shall be held before the executive committee of the Squadron, the Commander presiding, and he/she shall be the sole judge of the admissibility of evidence.

Section 4. Any member who has been suspended or expelled has the right to appeal to the Detachment Executive Committee, and its decision shall be final.