



Sons of The American Legion

Detachment of Wisconsin

Constitution and Bylaws

Adopted July 16, 2016

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CONSTITUTION

PREAMBLE

Proud Possessors of a Priceless Heritage, we male descendants of veterans of the Great Wars, associate ourselves together as the 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 members and forefathers in the Great 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

Section 1. The name of this organization shall be the “Sons of The American Legion, Detachment of Wisconsin”.

Section 2. The Detachment Headquarters of the Sons of The American Legion, shall be located at the site of the Headquarters of The American Legion, Department of Wisconsin.

ARTICLE II – NATURE

Section 1. The Sons of The American Legion is a civilian organization and is a program of The American Legion. Membership therein does not affect nor increase liability for military or police service.

Section 2. The Sons of The American Legion shall be absolutely non-political and shall not be used for the dissemination of partisan principles, nor the promotion of the candidacy of any person or group seeking public office or preferment.

Section 3. The Sons of The American Legion shall be absolutely non-sectarian.

Section 4. Each member shall perform his duty as a citizen according to his own conscience and understanding in accord with the law.

ARTICLE III – ORGANIZATION

Section 1. The local unit of the Sons of The American Legion, Detachment of Wisconsin is the Squadron and one (1) Post of The American Legion may sponsor not more than one (1) Squadron. With the approval of the District of The American Legion, Department of Wisconsin

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having jurisdiction, Squadrons organized by the Posts of that District may be organized as Sons of The American Legion Districts. Such District groups shall conform within the regulations of The American Legion, Department of Wisconsin, within the regulations of the National Executive Committee of the Sons of The American Legion and the National Constitution and By-Laws of the Sons of The American Legion.

Section 2. The American Legion, Department of Wisconsin and the Sons of The American Legion, Detachment of Wisconsin, shall have jurisdiction over the Sons of The American Legion Squadron and District groups organized. Application for Squadron charter must have the approval and endorsement of the sponsoring American Legion Post Commander, Department Commander and the National American Legion Adjutant before issuance.

Section 3. The Sons of The American Legion Squadron shall be organized under the jurisdiction and sponsorship of a local post of The American Legion and shall bear the name of such sponsoring post as follows: "Sons of The American Legion Squadron of _____ Post Number _____ Department of Wisconsin".

Section 4. The minimum membership for the formation and existence of a Squadron shall be ten (10) members.

Section 5. The Sons of The American Legion Squadron and District groups, shall be governed by such rules and regulations as may be prescribed by the National Executive Committees of The American Legion and The Sons of The American Legion, the Executive Committee of The American Legion, Department of Wisconsin, and the Executive Committee of the Sons of The American Legion, Detachment of Wisconsin.

Section 6.

- a) The Detachment may be divided into twelve (12) Districts, the areas of which shall conform to American Legion District boundaries as defined by The American Legion, Department of Wisconsin, which are as follows:

District 1 - Racine, Kenosha, Walworth, Rock and Waukesha Counties.

District 2 - Jefferson, Columbia, Dodge, Washington, Ozaukee and Sheboygan Counties.

District 3 - Crawford, Richland, Grant, Iowa, Dane, Lafayette and Green Counties.

District 4 - All of that part of Milwaukee County which lies South and West respectively of a line defined as follows: Beginning at the intersection of the center line of East Knapp Street in the city of Milwaukee, and the shore of Lake Michigan and running thence West along the center line of East Knapp Street to the center of the Milwaukee River, thence generally South along the center of said Milwaukee River to the center line of East State Street; thence West along the center line of East and West State Street to the center line of North 60th Street; thence North along the center line to North 60th Street and the East line of the 5th Ward of the City of Wauwatosa to the intersection of the center line North 65th Street and the center line of

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West Center Street; thence West along the center line of West Center to the East Boundary line of the City of Wauwatosa; thence generally North along the said East Boundary line of the City of Wauwatosa to the center line of West Hampton Avenue; thence West along the center line of West Hampton Avenue (being the North line of the City of Wauwatosa) to West line of the County of Milwaukee.

- District 5 - All that part of Milwaukee County which lies North and East respectively of the line defined in "District 4" above.
- District 6 - Marquette, Green Lake, Fond du Lac, Winnebago, Calumet, and Manitowoc Counties.
- District 7 - La Crosse, Jackson, Monroe, Clark, Vernon, Juneau, Adams and Sauk Counties.
- District 8 - Marathon, Portage, Waupaca, New London Squadron No. 263 in Outagamie County, Waushara, Wood and Shawano/Menomonee Counties.
- District 9 - Langlade, Forest, Florence, Marinette, Oconto, Outagamie, Brown, Kewaunee and Door Counties.
- District 10 - Dunn, Barron, Chippewa, Eau Claire, Trempealeau, Buffalo-Pepin, Pierce and St. Croix Counties.
- District 11 - Price, Oneida, Iron, Vilas, Taylor, Ashland, and Lincoln Counties.
- District 12 - Douglas, Sawyer, Burnett, Polk, Rusk, Bayfield and Washburn Counties.
- b) Each Sons of The American Legion, Detachment of Wisconsin District created with the authorization of The American Legion, Department of Wisconsin District having jurisdiction shall consist of delegates from each Squadron within the District, and which membership shall be composed of a minimum of two delegates from each Squadron together with one additional delegate for each one hundred memberships on which the Squadron shall have paid its dues to the Detachment. Alternates for each delegate may also be elected by each Squadron to act in the absence or disability of a delegate. Membership in such District organization shall be mandatory upon all Squadrons in such District.
- c) Each Sons of The American Legion, Detachment of Wisconsin District that organizes shall adopt a written Constitution and Bylaws to govern its operation and functioning, which is subject to the approval of the Executive Committee of the District of The American Legion, Department of Wisconsin having jurisdiction, and the Executive Committee of the Sons of The American Legion, Detachment of Wisconsin, and a copy of which shall be maintained by the District Adjutant of The American Legion, Department of Wisconsin having jurisdiction and the Detachment Adjutant.
- d) Each Sons of The American Legion, Detachment of Wisconsin District that organizes shall elect one Sons of The American Legion District Commander and may elect or appoint one or more Sons of The American Legion District Vice Commanders for each Sons of The American Legion District from among the active Sons of The American Legion members of such Sons of The American Legion District. Their respective terms of office shall commence immediately upon the adjournment of the annual Detachment Convention after their election and shall end at the adjournment of the second next succeeding annual Detachment Convention. Their election or appointment shall be subject to ratification by

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the Executive Committee of the District of The American Legion, Department of Wisconsin having jurisdiction and the annual Detachment Convention following their election. The odd numbered Sons of The American Legion Districts shall elect Sons of The American Legion District Commanders and either elect or appoint Sons of The American Legion District Vice Commanders during even numbered years, and the even numbered Districts shall elect Sons of The American Legion District Commanders and either elect or appoint Sons of The American Legion District Vice Commanders during each odd numbered year. The Sons of The American Legion, Detachment of Wisconsin District Constitution may provide for the election or appointment of additional Sons of The American Legion District officers.

- e) The Sons of The American Legion District Commander and Sons of The American Legion District Vice Commanders and such other elective Sons of The American Legion District officers as the Sons of The American Legion, District Constitution provides shall be elected at a Sons of The American Legion District meeting held between the first day of April and the first day of July in any year at such time as may be designated by the Sons of The American Legion District Commander. Election results are subject to the approval of The American Legion, Department of Wisconsin District Executive Committee with jurisdiction. The Sons of The American Legion District Commander shall notify each Squadron Commander in his District by mail at least thirty (30) days prior to the date of such election meeting. The number of delegates and alternates to which a Squadron is entitled at any Sons of The American Legion District meeting at which Sons of The American Legion District officers are elected shall be ascertained and computed on the paid-up membership of such Squadron as reported to Detachment Headquarters thirty (30) day prior to such meeting. The names of the delegates and alternates to such meeting shall be certified to by the Squadron Adjutant and submitted to the Sons of The American Legion District Commander prior to such meeting.
- f) Each Sons of The American Legion District that organizes shall hold at least two meetings a year which shall take the place of, and be known as, the Sons of The American Legion District Spring Conference and the Sons of The American Legion District Fall Conference, and which, at the discretion of the Sons of The American Legion District Commander, may be held in conjunction with the Spring and Fall conferences of other Sons of The American Legion Districts in the Detachment. The District organization shall hold such other meetings as may be provided by its Constitution and Bylaws.
- g) The Sons of The American Legion District Commander, or such Sons of The American Legion District Vice Commander as he shall designate, shall preside at all meetings of the Sons of The American Legion District organization. The duties of the Sons of The American Legion District Commander and the Sons of The American Legion District Vice Commanders shall be such as are prescribed by the Detachment Constitution and Bylaws, and as further provided by the Sons of The American Legion District Constitution and Bylaws. The duties of other Sons of The American Legion District officers and committees shall be such as are provided by the Sons of The American Legion District Constitution and Bylaws.
- h) Each Sons of The American Legion District that organizes shall have the power to levy and collect such per capita dues and assessments from the Squadrons within the Sons of The American Legion District as shall be provided by its Constitution and Bylaws. All finances of each Sons of The American Legion District shall be managed in a manner

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prescribed by The American Legion, Department of Wisconsin District Executive Committee with jurisdiction.

- i) Each Sons of The American Legion District that organizes shall have a Sons of The American Legion District Executive Committee of which the Sons of The American Legion District Commander shall be the chairman and presiding officer. Such Sons of The American Legion District Executive Committee shall be composed of and shall have such powers as shall be defined by the District Bylaws as approved by The American Legion, Department of Wisconsin District Executive Committee with jurisdiction.

ARTICLE IV – ELIGIBILITY

Section 1. All male descendants, adopted sons and stepsons of members of The American Legion and such male descendants of veterans who died in service during World War I, World War II, the Korean War, Vietnam War, Lebanon, Grenada, Panama and the Persian Gulf War, during the delimiting periods set forth in Article IV, Section I, of the National Constitution of The American Legion or who died subsequent to their honorable discharge from such service, shall be eligible for membership in the Sons of The American Legion.

Section 2. There shall be no form or class of membership, except an active membership.

Section 3. There shall be no age barrier for membership in the Sons of The American Legion. Male descendants can be a member from birth to death.

Section 4. If there are some that are eligible to belong to the Sons of The American Legion, but their home post does not sponsor a Squadron, it will be permissible for these Sons to join the Squadron of another post, until such time as their home post forms a Squadron. They may then transfer to said Squadron, but cannot be forced to make such transfer.

Section 5. No person may be a member of more than one Squadron at any one time.

Section 6. No person who has been expelled by a Squadron shall be admitted to membership in another without the consent of the expelling Squadron. Except, that where such consent has been asked and denied, he may then appeal to the Detachment Executive Committee for permission to apply for membership in another Squadron and shall be ineligible for membership until such permission is granted.

ARTICLE V – ADMINISTRATIVE

Section 1. Administrative Body.

The administrative body of the Sons of The American Legion, Detachment of Wisconsin shall be the Detachment Convention of the Sons of The American Legion. All actions at the Detachment Convention are subject to ratification by the Executive Committee of The American Legion, Department of Wisconsin.

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Section 2. Authority.

- a) The American Legion, Department of Wisconsin recognizes the Sons of The American Legion as a program of the Department. The National American Legion and The American Legion, Department of Wisconsin shall have jurisdiction over the Sons of The American Legion Squadrons chartered by a Post in the Department of Wisconsin. The American Legion, Department of Wisconsin Executive Committee shall be the governing body of the Sons of The American Legion and must ratify all actions taken at their annual Detachment Convention.
- b) The Department Commander shall annually appoint a Program Chairman for the Sons of The American Legion, Detachment of Wisconsin from the ranks of The American Legion, Department of Wisconsin. The Program Chairman for the Sons of The American Legion, Detachment of Wisconsin shall serve as a member of the Department Americanism Committee. The minutes of all meetings, and the actions taken by the Sons of The American Legion, Detachment of Wisconsin Executive Committee shall be incorporated in the Sons of The American Legion Program Chairman report to the Department Americanism Committee at each regularly scheduled meeting thereof.
- c) The Sons of The American Legion, Detachment of Wisconsin shall elect organization officers at their annual Detachment Convention, which is held at the same time and in conjunction with The American Legion, Department of Wisconsin Convention.

Section 3. In the Sons of The American Legion Detachment of Wisconsin, each Squadron shall be entitled to one (1) delegate for every ten (10) members plus one (1) delegate for any fraction thereof, and one (1) alternate delegate for each delegate, based upon the actual membership as of June first (1st) of the year in which the Detachment Convention is held, or ending forty-five (45) days prior to the opening session of the Detachment Convention, whichever is earlier.

Section 4. Each duly registered delegate shall be entitled to one (1) vote. Alternates for registered delegates shall have all privileges of registered delegates, except that of voting. A registered delegate is one who has received his credentials and has paid such registration fees as may be required.

Section 5. Delegates from five (5) Squadrons shall constitute a quorum.

Section 6. All Past Detachment Commanders shall be delegates at large to the Detachment Convention, with voting privileges with their Squadrons. All Detachment Officers shall be delegates at large with voting privileges with their respective Squadrons.

Section 7. Where a District group is organized the Sons of The American Legion District Commander shall be a delegate at large with voting privileges with their respective Squadron.

Section 8. Between the Detachment Conventions, the administrative power shall be vested in the Executive Committee of the Sons of The American Legion, Detachment of Wisconsin, which shall consist of the Detachment Commander, four (4) Detachment Vice Commanders, Detachment Chaplain, two (2) Detachment Sergeant-At-Arms, the Sons of The American Legion National Executive Committeeman, the Sons of The American Legion Alternate National

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Executive Committeeman, the immediate three past Detachment Commanders and all District Commanders. Non-voting advisory members shall consist of the Detachment Historian, the Detachment Adjutant and all assistant Detachment Adjutants, the Detachment Judge Advocate, all past Detachment Commanders and The American Legion, Department of Wisconsin Program Chairman of the Sons of The American Legion.

Section 9. In addition to provisions of this Constitution and By-Laws and Robert's Rules of Order, Revised, the Executive Committee of the Sons of The American Legion, Detachment of Wisconsin shall establish Executive Committee Rules to further govern the conducts of its business

Section 10. The Executive Committee of the Sons of The American Legion, Detachment of Wisconsin shall provide a "Uniform Code of Procedure", for the orderly organization and operation of the Detachment Convention, with the continuing power of revision. This code shall be applicable at all Detachment Conventions, unless it is amended, suspended or replaced by a two-thirds (2/3) vote of the registered delegates present, at a Detachment Convention. Delegates and other attendees of the Detachment Convention shall pay any fees and register in accordance with any practices as established by the Executive Committee of The American Legion, Department of Wisconsin.

ARTICLE VI – ELECTIONS

Section 1. The Detachment Convention delegates shall elect a Detachment Commander, four (4) Detachment Vice Commanders, a Detachment Chaplain, two (2) Detachment Sergeant-At-Arms, a Sons of The American Legion National Executive Committeeman and a Sons of The American Legion Alternate National Executive Committeeman.

Section 2. The Detachment Commander, with the approval of the Executive Committee of the Sons of The American Legion, Detachment of Wisconsin, shall appoint a Detachment Adjutant, Detachment Historian, Detachment Judge Advocate, and as many Assistant Detachment Adjutants as deemed necessary.

Section 3. Such officers shall serve until the adjournment of the succeeding Detachment Convention, following their election and thereafter until their successors are elected. Vacancies in these offices occurring between Detachment Conventions shall be filled by appointment by the Detachment Commander, with the approval of the Detachment Executive Committee and shall serve subject to ratification by the Executive Committee of The American Legion, Department of Wisconsin.

Section 4. The Detachment Convention delegates shall elect one (1) Sons of The American Legion National Executive Committeeman and Sons of The American Legion Alternate National Executive Committeeman, for a two (2) year term, with the election to be held in the even number years. These Sons of The American Legion National Executive Committeemen may succeed themselves by election of the Detachment Convention delegates.

Section 5. No elected officers of the Detachment shall be allowed to hold more than one (1) elected position at the Detachment level.

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Section 6. Election results and appointments are subject to the approval of The American Legion, Department of Wisconsin Executive Committee. In fulfilling their duties and responsibilities the Detachment Officers of the Sons of The American Legion, Detachment of Wisconsin shall be responsible to The American Legion, Department of Wisconsin Executive Committee.

Section 7. National Convention of the Sons of The American Legion Delegates.

- a) The current Detachment Commander, the immediate past Detachment Commander, the Detachment Adjutant, and the currently serving Sons of The American Legion National Executive Committeeman shall be automatic delegates to the National Convention of the Sons of The American Legion. All current Sons of The American Legion National Officers and all Past Sons of The American Legion National Commanders are delegates at large with the Detachment to the Sons of The American Legion National Convention.
- b) Each Sons of The American Legion District with five-hundred (500) or more members, shall be entitled to elect one (1) National Sons of The American Legion Convention Delegate and one (1) Alternate for each five-hundred (500) members, based on membership received at Department headquarters thirty (30) days prior to the Sons of The American Legion National Convention. The Detachment Convention delegates shall elect any remaining delegates and alternates to the National Sons of The American Legion Convention.
- c) In the event the Detachment as a whole, is entitled to less delegates than are appointed and elected, according to ARTICLE VI, Section 6 a) and b) of the Constitution of the Sons of The American Legion, Detachment of Wisconsin, the distribution of delegates will be determined by the Detachment Executive Committee.
- d) In the event that after the close of the Detachment Convention, the Detachment becomes entitled to one or more delegates by virtue of its membership, in addition to those already appointed or elected, those additional positions shall be filled by appointment by the Detachment Commander following the manner outlined in ARTICLE VI, Section 6 e) of the Constitution of the Sons of The American Legion, Detachment of Wisconsin.
- e) Whenever a Delegate vacancy occurs to the Sons of The American Legion National Convention, after the official closing of the Detachment Convention of the Sons of The American Legion, Detachment of Wisconsin, the Detachment Commander shall be authorized to fill such vacancy by a member of the delegation in the following manner and priority: A vacancy in the delegation from any Sons of The American Legion District shall be filled by alternate delegates, present and able to act, from said Sons of The American Legion District in the order of priority they were elected. If a vacancy in a Sons of The American Legion District delegation exists after all the alternates eligible from said Sons of The American Legion District have been appointed, alternates from the delegates at large, present and able to act, may be appointed; and after all alternates, any member of the Detachment in good standing, present and able to act, may be appointed. If a vacancy among the delegates-at large exists it shall be filled from alternate delegates at large, present and able to act, in the order of priority they were elected; and after all alternates, any member of the Detachment in good standing, present and able to act, may be appointed to fill the vacancy.

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Section 8. The Detachment Convention and/or Detachment Commander shall not elect or appoint more than three (3) members from any one Squadron to the Executive Committee of the Sons of The American Legion, Detachment of Wisconsin with voting privileges.

ARTICLE VII – FINANCES

Section 1. The general revenue of the Sons of The American Legion shall be derived from annual membership dues and such other sources as may be approved by the annual Convention of the Sons of The American Legion, Detachment of Wisconsin, with the approval of the Executive Committee of The American Legion, Department of Wisconsin.

Section 2. The amount of such annual dues for National shall be set by National and the amount of such dues for the Detachment shall be set by the Detachment, subject to the approval by the Executive Committee of The American Legion, Department of Wisconsin and shall be payable by October 20th of each year for the succeeding year..

Section 3. All expenses paid out from the Sons of The American Legion funds, must be by signed voucher and have the written approval of the Detachment Finance Commission Chairman if available, otherwise the Detachment Adjutant or Detachment Commander in that order, provided that no officer shall approve their own vouchers but in all circumstances, all revenues and expenses shall be subject to the Internal Control Manual on Financial Procedures as adopted by the Executive Committee of The American Legion, Department of Wisconsin.

Section 4. Each Squadron shall determine its own dues.

Section 5. The annual National dues and the annual Detachment dues shall be collected by each Squadron and transmitted through The American Legion, Department of Wisconsin. The Department Adjutant shall transmit the National portion of the dues to the National Treasurer of The American Legion.

Section 6. The Department Adjutant shall provide a financial statement of the Sons of The American Legion general fund activity, from Department Headquarters, to the Detachment Adjutant and Detachment Finance Chairman, prior to the Detachment Convention, the Spring, Fall and Winter Detachment Executive Committee meetings of the Sons of The American Legion, Detachment of Wisconsin for review, and at any other time as circumstances may warrant as determined by the Department Adjutant.

ARTICLE VIII – DISCIPLINE

Section 1. The Executive Committee of the Sons of The American Legion, Detachment of Wisconsin may suspend, cancel or revoke the charter of any Squadron in the Sons of The American Legion, in the event it violates the provisions of this Constitution, subject however to the approval of the Executive Committee of The American Legion, Department of Wisconsin.

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Section 2. Upon the cancellation or revocation of the Charter of any Squadron, the property and assets belonging to said Squadron, shall there upon, become the property of the Post of The American Legion to which such Squadron is attached.

ARTICLE IX – AMENDMENTS

Section 1. This Constitution can only be amended at any Detachment Convention of the Sons of The American Legion, Detachment of Wisconsin by a two-thirds (2/3) vote of duly registered delegates present.

Section 2. Amendments to the National Constitution of the Sons of The American Legion shall automatically operate to amend the Constitution of the Sons of The American Legion, Detachment of Wisconsin.

Section 3. All changes in the Constitution of the Sons of The American Legion, Detachment of Wisconsin, must have the approval of the Judge Advocate of The American Legion, Department of Wisconsin and be ratified by the Executive Committee of The American Legion, Department of Wisconsin.

Section 4. All proposed amendments to this Constitution shall have been made available in writing to the Detachment Convention Delegates, prior to the opening of the first day of the Detachment Convention, and shall be submitted to Detachment Headquarters at least forty-five (45) days prior to the annual Detachment Convention in order that they may be sent to each Squadron for study and discussion at least thirty (30) days prior to the annual Detachment Convention. Failure to do so will preclude consideration of the proposed amendment referred to in this section by the Detachment Convention, unless over-ruled by a three-fourths vote of those delegates present.

Section 5. No proposed amendment to this Constitution shall be submitted to a Detachment Convention unless such proposed amendment shall have first been submitted by the Detachment Executive Committee, any Detachment Officer or Detachment Committee or Commission Chairman, or by a regular meeting of any District or Squadron of the Sons of The American Legion in the Detachment of Wisconsin.

BYLAWS

ARTICLE I – DEPARTMENT PROGRAM CHAIRMAN

Section 1. The Department Commander of The American Legion, Department of Wisconsin shall appoint a Legionnaire for a one (1) year term to serve as Department Program Chairman of The Sons of The American Legion, Detachment of Wisconsin, who shall serve as a non-voting advisor to all Committees and Commissions of The Sons of The American Legion, Detachment of Wisconsin.

ARTICLE II – DUTIES OF OFFICERS

Section 1. Detachment Commander – The Detachment Commander shall see that the provisions of the National, Department and Detachment Constitution and By-Laws and of all laws, regulations, and policies established there under shall be observed. He shall be the presiding officer of Detachment Conventions and of all other Detachment meetings and gathering at which he shall be present. He shall represent the Detachment in its relations with The American Legion, American Legion Auxiliary, federal, state and other governmental bodies. He shall have authority to designate a Detachment Vice Commander to represent him at public ceremonies and meetings and, in the event of the inability of any of the Detachment Vice Commanders to accept an assignment, he shall appoint another representative. In case of illness, absence, or other temporary disability of the Detachment Commander, he shall designate a Detachment Vice Commander to act in his stead. He shall receive complaints from members, squadrons, private citizens or organizations affecting the conduct or welfare of a Detachment, and shall present same to the Detachment Executive Committee for appropriate action. He shall appoint from time to time committees he may deem necessary.

Section 2. Detachment Vice Commanders – The Detachment Vice Commanders shall act as representative of the Detachment Commander on all matters referred to them by him and shall on his request, preside over meetings and perform such other duties as are usually incident to the office.

Section 3. Detachment Adjutant – The Detachment Adjutant, who corresponds to the secretary of an organization, shall be charged with the usual duties of an Adjutant or Secretary. He is the administrative officer of the policies and mandates of the organization.

Section 4. Detachment Chaplain – The Detachment Chaplain shall perform such divine and non-sectarian services as shall be necessary adhering to the ceremonial rituals as may be prescribed.

Section 5. Detachment Historian – The Detachment Historian shall collect from year to year all records and data of value and of interest to the Sons of The American Legion, Detachment of Wisconsin and shall compile during his term a complete history of the year's events.

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Section 6. Detachment Sergeant-At-Arms – The Detachment Sergeant-at-Arms shall be charged with the responsibility of preserving order at all meetings and the responsibility of the stand of colors during meetings of the Sons of The American Legion, Detachment of Wisconsin. He shall perform such other duties as are usually incident to the office.

Section 7. Sons of The American Legion National Executive Committeeman – The Sons of The American Legion National Executive Committeeman (SALNECman) shall represent the Detachment of Wisconsin at all meetings of the Sons of The American Legion National Executive Committee. He shall convey and support all mandates of the Detachment of Wisconsin.

Section 8. Sons of The American Legion Alternate National Executive Committeeman – The Sons of The American Legion Alternate NECman shall support the Sons of The American Legion National Executive Committeeman by his attendance at all meetings of the Sons of The American Legion National Executive Committee and shall represent the Detachment of Wisconsin in the absence of the SALNECman. He shall convey and support all mandates of the Detachment of Wisconsin.

Section 9. Detachment Judge Advocate – The Detachment Judge Advocate shall have the duty of knowing the Detachment Constitution and By-Laws, Roberts Rules of Order, Rules of The Detachment Executive Committee and the Uniform Code of Procedure for governing Detachment Conventions. He shall be in charge of settling any question or grievances, relative to the interpretation of said document(s). He shall determine the legality and rule on all complaints for or against any Detachment member. His rulings are to be prompt, accurate and impersonal.

Section 10. In fulfilling their duties and responsibilities, the Detachment Officers of the Sons of The American Legion, Detachment of Wisconsin, shall be responsible to the Executive Committee of The American Legion, Department of Wisconsin or to a subordinate body by it designated.

ARTICLE III – SQUADRON AND SONS OF THE AMERICAN LEGION DISTRICT OFFICERS

Section 1. All officers of a Squadron or Sons of The American Legion District, shall be governed in their actions by the Post or District of The American Legion with jurisdiction.

Section 2. Each Squadron or District, shall adopt a Constitution and By-Laws, provided however, there shall be no conflict with the National or Detachment Constitution and By-Laws of the Sons of The American Legion and the National or Department Constitution and By-Laws of The American Legion.

ARTICLE IV – MEMBERSHIP

Section 1. Each Squadron shall be the judge of its own membership, subject to the restrictions of this Constitution and By-Laws.

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Section 2. Members may be suspended or expelled under the same procedures provided for the suspension or expulsion of a member of The American Legion, Department of Wisconsin.

ARTICLE V – ARREARS IN DUES

Section 1. A member, whose dues for the current year have not been paid by January first, shall be classed as delinquent. If his dues are paid on or before February first, he shall be automatically reinstated. If he is still delinquent after February first, he shall be suspended from all privileges. If he is still under such suspension on June thirtieth of such year, his membership in the Sons of The American Legion shall be forfeited. A member so suspended or whose membership has been so forfeited may be reinstated to active membership in good standing by a vote of the Squadron and payment of current dues for the year in which reinstatement occurs. Provided, however, that the Squadron, Detachment and National organization may waive the provisions hereof, upon payment of dues for the year in which reinstatement occurs, with reference to former members who have been prevented from the payment of dues by reason of active military service.

ARTICLE VI – ELECTIONS

Section 1. Nomination of Detachment Officers, Sons of The American Legion National Executive Committeeman and Sons of The American Legion Alternate National Executive Committeeman, shall be from the floor of those Squadrons present and voting shall be by secret ballot. Delegates and Alternate delegates to the National Convention of the Sons of The American Legion shall also be nominated off the floor and voted on by a show of hands.

Section 2. During the post-convention Detachment Executive Committee meeting, the Detachment Commander shall appoint a Detachment Adjutant, Detachment Historian, Detachment Judge Advocate and any assistant Detachment Adjutants as needed.

Section 3. If the presiding officer is a member of the assembly, he can vote as any other member, when the vote is by ballot. In all other cases, the presiding officer can (but is not obligated to), vote whenever his vote will affect the result. He can vote either to break or to cause a tie. On a roll call vote, the presiding officer's name is called last and only when his vote will affect the result.

Section 4. Election results and appointments are subject to the approval of The American Legion, Department of Wisconsin Executive Committee. In fulfilling their duties and responsibilities the Detachment Officers of the Sons of The American Legion, Detachment of Wisconsin shall be responsible to The American Legion, Department of Wisconsin Executive Committee.

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ARTICLE VII – MEETINGS

Section 1. The Sons of The American Legion, Detachment Convention shall be held during the same time and in the same city, as the annual Convention of The American Legion, Department of Wisconsin.

Section 2. All Squadron meetings shall be held in accordance with the ritual of the organization. Meetings shall be held at the discretion of the Squadron.

ARTICLE VIII – FINANCES

Section 1. Payment of vouchers properly presented shall be made in a timely and efficient manner, usually within thirty (30) days of receipt of said voucher, provided that disbursement of funds conforms with the current budget as adopted by the Department Finance and Executive Committees.

Section 2. All finances of the Detachment shall be managed in a manner prescribed by the Executive Committee of The American Legion, Department of Wisconsin. Collection of all revenues, payment of budgeted expenses and disbursement of any funds shall be subject to the Internal Control Manual on Financial Procedures as adopted by Executive Committee of The American Legion, Department of Wisconsin.

Section 3. The revenue of the Sons of The American Legion, Detachment of Wisconsin shall be derived from annual membership dues in a per capita amount established by the annual Detachment Convention delegates, and from such other sources as may be approved by the Executive Committee of the Sons of The American Legion, Detachment of Wisconsin, The American Legion, Department of Wisconsin Fundraising, Finance, and Executive Committees. Modification to the Detachment per capita dues for members shall require a two-thirds vote in the affirmative by the annual Detachment Convention delegates. Dues shall be payable in amounts as provided in the Standing Rules.

ARTICLE IX – ACTIVITIES

Section 1. Only such activities shall be sponsored by the Sons of The American Legion, Detachment of Wisconsin as shall be for the benefit of veterans, their families and their communities and approved by the Detachment Executive Committee and the Executive Committee of The American Legion, Department of Wisconsin.

Section 2. Use of the Emblem of the Sons of The American Legion is governed by the National organization of The American Legion.

ARTICLE X – DETACHMENT EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Section 1. The Detachment Commander may call a meeting of the Detachment Executive Committee at any time and place selected by him and the Department Program Chairman. The

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Detachment Commander shall call a meeting of said Committee at any time when requested to do so, in writing by five (5) members of the Detachment Executive Committee. There shall be held, five (5) Committee meetings as follows; Spring, Fall, Winter, the pre-Convention and post-Convention meetings. When deemed appropriate, the Detachment Commander may authorize meetings via electronic media to be conducted in accordance with the guidelines established by the Department Judge Advocate.

Section 2. The Detachment Executive Committee shall have authority to appoint Sub-Committees from its members, for the performance of Special duties and shall have the authority to delegate to them such functions and authority as it shall deem necessary.

Section 3. Any matter purporting to relate to the policy, business or administration of this Detachment and which is not regulated by specific provisions of the Constitution of the Sons of The American Legion, Detachment of Wisconsin or these By-Laws, shall be referred to the Detachment Executive Committee for determination and adjustment.

Section 4. A quorum of the Detachment Executive Committee shall consist of 50% of the voting members plus one. Refer to Article V, Section 8 of the Constitution of the Sons of The American Legion, Detachment of Wisconsin for identification of the voting members.

Section 5. Finance Commission.

- a) There shall be a Detachment Finance Commission, which shall consist of four (4) members and the Detachment Finance Commission Chairman, who shall be appointed to a one (1) year term by the Detachment Commander subject to the approval of the Detachment Executive Committee. The Detachment Commander shall appoint two (2) members for a term of three (3) years, one (1) member for a term of two (2) years and one (1) member for a term of one (1) year and annually thereafter, the Commander shall fill the expired terms, subject to the approval of the Detachment Executive Committee. No two (2) members may be from the same Squadron. Members must be twenty-one (21) years of age or older.
- b) The Detachment Finance Commission, shall prepare and submit a budget for the succeeding calendar year, its decisions being final with the approval of the Detachment Executive Committee or overruled by a majority of the members present at a regular or special meeting of the Detachment Executive Committee. The Detachment budget shall be submitted to the Department Adjutant for compilation into the Department budget prior to the annual Department Budget meeting. The adoption of the annual budget, collection of all revenues, payment of budgeted expenses, disbursement of any funds and the handling of all receipts from dues, raffles and/or special projects shall conform with the Department Constitution & Bylaws and be subject to the Internal Control Manual on Financial Procedures as adopted by Executive Committee of The American Legion, Department of Wisconsin.
- c) The Detachment Finance Commission Chairman shall be in charge of the preparing and reading of the Financial Status, which is secured by him or the Detachment Adjutant, from Department Headquarters of The American Legion, prior to each Detachment Convention, the Spring, Fall and Winter Detachment Executive

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Committee meetings. He shall perform such other duties as are usually incident to the position.

Section 6. Internal Affairs Commission

- a)** There shall be created a Detachment Internal Affairs Commission which shall manage such other functions not otherwise assigned such as organizing the Detachment meetings, establishing the Detachment Legislative agenda, membership recruitment and retention, formulating policies, reviewing governing documents, and public relations.
- b)** This commission shall consist of such number of members of The Sons of The American Legion, Detachment of Wisconsin as the Detachment Executive Committee may from time to time determine. Appointments to such commission shall be made by the Detachment Commander subject to the approval of the Detachment Executive Committee of the Sons of The American Legion, Detachment of Wisconsin. The Detachment Executive Committee is empowered to assign duties and responsibilities to all standing commissions and to create committees within the commissions for the purpose of efficient conduct, supervision and coordination of activities.

ARTICLE XI – SONS OF THE AMERICAN LEGION DISTRICT COMMANDERS

Section 1. Each Sons of The American Legion District Commander shall give notice to the Squadrons in his District of a meeting, conference, or caucus provide for in Article III. Section 4 e) of the Constitution of The Sons of The American Legion, Detachment of Wisconsin.

Section 2. Sons of The American Legion District Commanders and Sons of The American Legion District Vice Commanders shall take office and be given the credentials of their office at the conclusion of the first Detachment Convention held following their election.

Section 3. Each Sons of The American Legion District Commander, in addition to being a member of the Detachment Executive Committee, shall also promote membership, assist in the organization of additional Squadrons, and promote the general welfare, efficiency, and success of the Sons of The American Legion within his District.

Section 4. A Sons of The American Legion District Officer, in the absence of the Sons of The American Legion District Commander shall represent the Sons of The American Legion District Commander at a Detachment Executive Committee meeting. In the event of the death, resignation, or suspension of a Sons of The American Legion District Commander, with no successor appointed, the Detachment Commander may designate a Sons of The American Legion District Officer to represent the Sons of The American Legion District at a Detachment Executive Committee meeting. Whenever a Sons of The American Legion District Officer is authorized to attend a Detachment Executive Committee meeting, either by a Sons of The American Legion District Commander or Detachment Commander, he shall have all the rights and powers accorded a Sons of The American Legion District Commander.

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Section 5. A Sons of The American Legion District organization shall have full power and authority to levy and collect from each Squadron annually a per capita assessment based on the Squadron's respective membership that is used to determine the Squadron's delegate strength to the Detachment Convention as defined in Article V. Section 3 of the Constitution of the Sons of The American Legion Detachment of Wisconsin. The Sons of The American Legion District must provide a monthly report, which includes financial information, to the District of The American Legion, Department of Wisconsin District Executive Committee with jurisdiction over the activities of the Sons of The American Legion District. These finances are reported on The American Legion, Department of Wisconsin District annual IRS Form 990. The American Legion District Adjutant and/or Finance officer must be signatory on all financial accounts

ARTICLE XII – AMENDMENTS

Section 1. These Bylaws can only be amended at any Detachment Convention by a two-thirds (2/3) vote of duly registered delegates present.

Section 2. Amendments to the National Bylaws of the Sons of The American Legion shall automatically operate to amend the Bylaws of the Sons of The American Legion, Detachment of Wisconsin.

Section 3. All changes in the Bylaws of the Detachment of Wisconsin, Sons of The American Legion must have the approval of the Judge Advocate of The American Legion, Department of Wisconsin and be ratified by the Executive Committee of The American Legion, Department of Wisconsin.

Section 4. All proposed amendments to these Bylaws shall have been made available in writing to the Detachment Convention Delegates, prior to the opening of the first day of the Detachment Convention, and shall be submitted to Detachment Headquarters at least forty-five (45) days prior to the annual Detachment Convention in order that they may be sent to each Squadron for study and discussion at least thirty (30) days prior to the annual Detachment Convention. Failure to do so will preclude consideration of the proposed amendment referred to in this section by the Detachment Convention, unless over-ruled by a three-fourths vote of those delegates present.

Section 5. No proposed amendment to these Bylaws shall be submitted to a Detachment Convention unless such proposed amendment shall have first been submitted by the Detachment Executive Committee, any Detachment Officer or Detachment Committee or Commission Chairman, or by a regular meeting of any District or Squadron of the Sons of The American Legion, Detachment of Wisconsin.