

Harry D. Jerred Squadron 215 Detachment of Wisconsin, Sons of The American Legion

CONSTITUTION of the SONS OF THE AMERICAN LEGION SQUADRON OF HARRY D. JERRED POST 215, DETACHMENT OF WISCONSIN

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

The name of this organization shall be the Sons of The American Legion Harry D. Jerred Squadron 215, Detachment of Wisconsin.

ARTICLE II - NATURE

Section 1. The Sons of The American Legion Harry D. Jerred Squadron 215, Detachment of Wisconsin, is a civilian organization. Membership therein does not affect nor increase liability for military or police service.

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

Section 3. The Squadron shall be absolutely non-sectarian.

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

ARTICLE III - ORGANIZATION

Section 1. This Squadron is organized as a subordinate body of the Sons of The American Legion, Detachment of Wisconsin and under the sponsorship and jurisdiction of The American Legion Harry D. Jerred Post 215, Department of Wisconsin.

Section 2. This Squadron shall be governed by such rules and regulations as may be prescribed by the National Executive Committee of The American Legion, by such rules and regulations as may be prescribed by the Detachment Headquarters, approved by the Department Executive Committee of The American Legion, and by such rules and regulations as may be prescribed by its sponsoring post of The American Legion, not inconsistent with those prescribed by the national organization.

Section 3. Only members in good standing will be privileged to participate in the business of a meeting, vote or hold office.

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, and December 7, 1941, to date, as set forth in Article IV, Section 1, 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.

ARTICLE V - OFFICERS

Section 1. The Squadron officers shall be a Commander, one, two or three Vice-Commanders, Adjutant, Finance Officer, (one or two) Sergeant(s)-at-Arms, Chaplain and Historian; of whom, the Commander, Vice-Commander(s), Sergeant(s)-at-Arms and Chaplain shall be elected at the Squadron's May meeting in even-numbered years.

Section 2. All other officers shall be appointed by the Squadron Commander.

ARTICLE VI – EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Section 1. Between Squadron meetings, the administrative power of the Squadron shall be vested in the Squadron Executive Committee, which shall consist of all elected officers for the current year, the three immediate Past Commanders and all current or Past Second District and Detachment of Wisconsin Commanders that are members of this Squadron.

Section 2. All other Past Squadron Commanders shall be members of the Squadron Executive Committee without vote.

Section 3. The SAL Advisor/Liaison Officer appointed by the Post 215 Commander shall be a de facto member of the Squadron Executive Committee without vote.

ARTICLE VII - DUES

Section 1. The annual membership dues of this Squadron shall be determined by vote of the members and payable by January 1, for the ensuing year. A member whose dues for the current year have not been paid by January 1 shall be deemed delinquent. If his dues are paid on or before February 1, he shall be automatically reinstated. If he is still delinquent after February 1, he shall be suspended from all privileges. If he is still under such suspension on June 30 of such year, his membership in the Sons of The American Legion shall be forfeited.

Section 2. Any member who has been suspended or whose membership has been forfeited may be reinstated to active membership in good standing by vote of the Squadron and payment of current dues for the year in which reinstatement occurs.

ARTICLE VIII - AMENDMENTS

Section 1. This Constitution is adopted, subject to the provision of the National Constitution and the Detachment Constitution of which this Squadron is a subordinate member. Any amendment to the National or Detachment Constitutions which is in conflict with any provision hereof shall be regarded as automatically repealing or modifying the provisions of this Constitution, to the extent of such conflict.

Section 2. This Constitution may be amended by a vote in the affirmative of two-thirds of the members presenting to vote, provided that the proposed amendment shall have been submitted in writing, and read at the immediately preceding Squadron meeting, and provided further, that written notice shall have been given to all members at least five days in advance of the date on which such amendment is to be voted upon.

BY-LAWS OF CONSTITUTION of the SONS OF THE AMERICAN LEGION SQUADRON OF HARRY D. JERRED POST 215, DEPARTMENT OF WISCONSIN

ARTICLE 1 - MEMBERSHIP

Section 1. Applications for membership shall be made in writing on blanks prescribed therefore by the national organization.

Section 2. All applications for membership shall be approved pending confirmation by the Executive Committee.

ARTICLE II - ELECTION OF SQUADRON OFFICERS

Section 1. At the regular squadron meeting, in May of even years, one (1) Squadron Commander, one (1) or two (2) or (3) Squadron Vice-Commanders, one (1) Chaplain and one (1) or two (2) Sergeants-at-Arms shall be elected and voting shall be by hand, roll-call or secret ballot.

Section 2. Nominating speeches for the office of Squadron Commander shall be limited to five minutes and one seconding speech of two minutes. For the Squadron Vice-Commander, the nominating speech shall be limited to three minutes and one seconding speech of two minutes.

Section 3. Election Procedure (for secret ballot):

(a) Nominations and elections for offices shall be made a special order of business.

- (b) Each member in good standing present shall have one vote.
- (c) The election officials shall consist of the following:
 - 1. A Supervisor of Election who shall be appointed by the Squadron Commander.
 - 2. Two Ballot Clerks who shall be appointed by the Squadron Commander and who shall assist the Supervisor of Election in the establishment, preparation and general supervision of the conduct of the election.
- (d) At the close of the voting, the Ballot Clerks and the Supervisor of Election shall expeditiously count and tally the number of votes cast for each candidate. The Clerks shall immediately thereafter present their tally sheets to the Supervisor of Election, setting forth the number of votes cast. The Supervisor of Election, together with the Ballot Clerks, shall total the vote of all candidates and return promptly to the meeting where the Supervisor of the Election shall announce the results. All tally sheets shall be delivered to the Squadron Adjutant and shall be retained by him for a period of thirty (30) days following the conclusion of the election. The Supervisor of Election and the Ballot Clerks shall adjudicate all questions of irregularities with respect to the election. And any candidate aggrieved by such adjudication may appeal to the Squadron Executive Committee any questions of irregularities affecting the result of such election at any time within (30) days after adjournment of the meeting at which the election was held.
- (e) The majority vote of the members in good standing present and voting shall be required for the election of any elected officer.
- (h) In the event of any tie, the tie shall be broken by lot. If no candidate receives a majority vote of the delegates present, the two with the highest vote shall then be voted upon again.

Section 4. The squadron may, by majority vote, suspend election rules for a hand/voice vote.

Section 5. The newly elected officers and members of the Executive Committee shall be installed by proper authority following election and shall take office immediately following the meeting, at which they were elected.

ARTICLE III - DUTIES OF OFFICERS

Section 1. Squadron Commander

- (a) The Squadron Commander shall be the executive head of this Squadron of the Sons of the American Legion, with full power to enforce the provisions of the local Constitution and Bylaws. He shall see that the provisions of the National, Detachment and District Constitutions and By-Laws and of all laws, regulations and policies established there under shall be observed. He shall be the presiding officer of all squadron meetings, unless he appoints a surrogate.
- (b) He shall represent the Squadron at all Spring and Fall Conferences of the Second District Sons of the American Legion once duly constituted.
- (c) He shall appoint, from time to time, such committees as he may deem necessary.
- (d) All squadron appointees shall serve at the pleasure of the Squadron Commander.

Section 2. Squadron Vice-Commander(s)

- (a) The Squadron Vice-Commander(s) shall act for the Squadron Commander in the event the Squadron Commander is incapacitated, or in the event of vacancy in the office of Squadron Commander.

(b) The Squadron Vice-Commander(s) shall represent the Squadron Commander on all matters referred to him, especially membership, and shall, upon his request, preside over meetings and perform such other duties as are usually incident to the office.

(c) The Squadron First Vice-Commander shall monitor and report on squadron membership at squadron meetings.

Section 3. Squadron Adjutant

(a) The Squadron Adjutant shall keep a record of all squadron meetings and all meetings of the Squadron Executive Committee and shall prepare same for permanent record in a book or file; and he shall, at each regular meeting, at the direction of the Squadron Commander, read the minutes of the previous meeting and make such corrections as may be allowed. He and the Squadron Historian shall have custody of all the minute books, files, records, and other property or equipment used in the performance of the duties of his office.

(b) He shall assist the Squadron Commander in completing the annual Consolidated Squadron Report.

Section 4. Squadron Chaplain

The Squadron Chaplain shall provide the invocation and benediction at squadron meetings, and perform such divine and non-sectarian service as may be necessary, adhering to such ceremonial rituals as may be prescribed by the National Membership and Post Activities Committee of The American Legion.

Section 5. Finance Officer

The Finance Officer shall be the custodian of the funds of the Squadron. He shall be charged with receiving the funds of the Squadron and coordinating with the Post Finance Officer for depositing and disbursing the funds of the Squadron. He shall make reports upon the condition of the Squadron treasury when called for by the Commander or Executive Committee; provided, however, that all disbursement shall first be approved by the Post committee heretofore referred to in Section 4, Article I, of the National Bylaws. He shall perform such other duties as are usually incident to the office.

Section 6. Squadron Sergeants-at-Arms

The Sergeant(s)-at-Arms shall set up the meeting room for meetings, distribute handouts, escort guests during meetings, ensure discipline and decorum during meetings, and perform any other duties as shall be assigned to them by the Squadron Commander.

Section 7. Squadron Historian

The Squadron Historian shall be responsible for the compiling of a complete historical record of the Squadron. He shall have authority to request from the officers any information necessary for the performance of his duties.

ARTICLE IV – EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Section 1. The Squadron Executive Committee shall fill any vacancy in the membership of the committee occurring between Squadron meetings for the remainder of the unexpired term.

Section 2. Any officer or executive committeeman may be removed for inefficiency by the Executive Committee, a two-thirds vote of said committee being necessary to affect such removal. An officer or executive committeeman who absents himself for three or more consecutive Squadron or Executive Committee meetings can, on due investigation, by the Executive Committee, be held to be sufficient proof of inefficiency, warranting such removal.

Section 3. Any officer or executive committeeman removed from his office, may appeal to the Executive Committee of American Legion Post 215.

ARTICLE V – SQUADRON SUPERVISION AND ADVISEMENT

This squadron is subject to the supervision and advisement of Harry D. Jerred Post 215, Department of Wisconsin, The American Legion, by committee or liaison appointed by the Post Commander.

ARTICLE VI – STANDING COMMITTEES

Section 1. The Squadron Executive Committee may direct the Squadron Commander to create any such standing committees as it shall deem advisable for the benefit of the membership of the Squadron as a whole.

Section 2. The Commander will discuss with the Squadron Executive Committee the creation of any committee(s) as recommended by the S.A.L. Liaison Officer.

ARTICLE VII - MEETINGS

Section 1. The regular meetings of this Squadron shall be determined by the Squadron Executive Committee, to be held at least four times each year.

Section 2. Special meetings shall be called upon a majority vote of the Executive Committee or upon the written request of six (6) Squadron members.

Section 3. Every member shall furnish to the Adjutant his address and/or email address, to which all notices and documents may be sent, and the same shall be held to have been duly sent to or served upon a member if mailed to such address and/or sent to such email address so furnished.

Section 4. Notice of all special meetings of the Squadron shall be delivered to each member of the Squadron at least 48 (forty-eight) hours prior to holding said meeting.

Section 5. The notice of special meetings shall state the object and purpose thereof, and no business shall be transacted at such special meeting except for such business as is contained in the notice thereof.

Section 6. The Squadron Executive Committee shall meet for organization and such business as may come before it within 10 days after the biannual election, at the call of the Squadron Commander. Thereafter, the Executive Committee shall meet at the call of the Commander, at least every three months and as often as said Commander may deem necessary. The Commander shall call a meeting of the Executive Committee upon the written request of five members of the

committee. Any electronic/telephonic communication of the Executive Committee shall constitute a meeting thereof.

Section 7. The procedure at all squadron meetings shall be governed by Robert's Rules of Order.

ARTICLE VIII - QUORUM

Section 1. Three (3) members, including a qualified presiding officer, shall constitute a quorum at any meeting of the Squadron.

Section 2. Three (3) members of the Executive Committee shall constitute a quorum for the legal transaction of business.

ARTICLE IX – FINANCES

All funds of this Squadron shall be deposited in a bank by the Squadron or Post Finance Officer. Withdrawals shall only be made upon draft or check signed by said Finance Officer.

ARTICLE X - AMENDMENTS

Section 1. These by-laws are adopted, subject to the provisions of the National By-Laws and the Detachment By-Laws, of which this Squadron is a subordinate member. Any amendment to the National or Detachment By-Laws which is in conflict with any provision hereof shall be regarded as automatically repealing or modifying the provisions of these by-laws to the extent of such conflict.

Section 2. These by-laws may be amended at any regular Squadron meeting by vote of two-thirds of the members attending such regular meeting, provided that the proposed amendment shall have been submitted in writing and read at the immediate preceding Squadron meeting, and provided further, that written notice shall have been given to all members at least five days in advance of the date when such amendment is to be voted upon, notifying said members that at such meeting a proposal to amend the Bylaws is to be voted upon.

Section 3. Amendments to the By-Laws of National Organization, Detachment of Wisconsin shall automatically operate to amend the By-Laws of the Harry D. Jerred Squadron 215.