



Sons of the American Legion

First District

Detachment of Minnesota

CONSTITUTION & BYLAWS

Revision: 3
Revision Date: May 1, 2024
Adopted: May 4, 2024
Ratified: May 18, 2024

Adopted by the District Convention of the First District Sons of the American Legion held at Post 91, Austin MN.

Ratified by the Executive Committee of the First District American Legion at District Convention held at Post 91, Austin MN.

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 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 "Sons of the American Legion, First District, Detachment of Minnesota" (hereinafter "First District Sons of the American Legion" or "the Organization").

ARTICLE II – NATURE

Section 1. The Sons of the American Legion is a civilian organization. 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 for the promotion of the candidacy of any person seeking public office or preferment.

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

Section 4. Each member of the Sons of the American Legion 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. The First District Sons of the American Legion shall be organized as a district of the Sons of the American Legion, Detachment of Minnesota, and under the jurisdiction thereof, subject to such limitations as may be prescribed by the American Legion, Department of Minnesota.

Section 2. The First District Sons of the American Legion shall be governed by such rules and regulations as may be prescribed by the Executive Committee of the American Legion, First District, Department of Minnesota (hereinafter "First District American Legion").

Section 3. The Executive Committee of the First District American Legion shall appoint a member of its organization to serve as District SAL Advisor to the First District Sons of the American Legion. The District SAL Advisor shall be ex-officio recognized as a

non-voting member with voice in all conventions of the First District Sons of the American Legion and in all meetings of all committees or sub-committees thereof.

Section 4. The First District Sons of the American Legion shall conform to the rules and regulations of the National and Detachment organizations of the Sons of the American Legion.

Section 5. The First District Sons of the American Legion shall be composed of the Squadrons organized within the First District as defined by the American Legion, Department of Minnesota (the Counties of Dodge, Fillmore, Freeborn, Houston, Mower, Olmsted, Steele, Wabasha, Waseca and Winona).

ARTICLE IV – ELIGIBILITY

Section 1. All males meeting the eligibility requirements as set forth in the National Constitution and Bylaws of the Sons of the American Legion shall be eligible for membership.

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

ARTICLE V – LEGISLATIVE BODY

Section 1. The legislative body shall be the District Convention, to be held annually.

Section 2. A Call to the District Convention shall be issued in the District newsletter no later than thirty (30) days prior to the opening day of the Convention.

Section 3. Each Squadron shall be entitled to one (1) delegate and one (1) additional delegate for every twenty-five (25) paid memberships, or major fraction thereof, whose current dues have been received at Detachment Headquarters no less than thirty (30) days prior to the District Convention.

Section 4. Each registered delegate shall be entitled to one (1) vote. The vote(s) of any absent registered delegate(s) shall be cast by the majority of the registered delegates in attendance from that Squadron.

Section 5. Voting shall be done by a voice vote, except for during the election of officers or when a division is called for. When a division is called for, the vote shall be retaken by such other method as deemed appropriate by the Chairman of the Convention.

Section 6. Delegates from five (5) Squadrons shall constitute a quorum.

Section 7. No actions of the District Convention shall take effect until ratified by the Executive Committee of the First District American Legion.

Section 8. The District Convention shall be conducted according to Robert's Rules of Order, the most recent edition, except as otherwise prescribed by the Constitution or Bylaws.

ARTICLE VI – SAL DISTRICT OFFICERS

Section 1. The District Convention shall elect a Commander, East Vice-Commander, West Vice-Commander, and Finance Officer. In addition, the SAL District Commander, with the

approval of the SAL District Executive Committee, shall appoint an Adjutant, Sergeant-at-Arms, Parliamentarian, Historian, Chaplain and Membership Director.

- Section 2. Any member in good standing shall be eligible for nomination or appointment to an office.
- Section 3. Elections shall be by written ballot, except when uncontested. When there is only one (1) candidate nominated for an office, and nominations for the office have been closed, the Chairman may declare the lone candidate elected by general consent.
- Section 4. Officers shall take office at the adjournment of the Department Convention immediately following the District Convention, and shall serve until the adjournment of the succeeding Department Convention and thereafter until a successor has been elected and approved.
- Section 5. When a vacancy occurs in an elected office between District Conventions, the SAL District Executive Committee shall elect an officer, by a majority vote, to serve the remainder of the term.
- Section 6. No election shall become effective until ratified by the Executive Committees of the First District American Legion and the Department of Minnesota. If either committee chooses not to ratify the election of an officer, and the District Convention has adjourned, the office shall be considered vacant and filled as prescribed herein.

ARTICLE VII – EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

- Section 1. Between District Conventions, administrative power shall be vested in the Executive Committee of the First District Sons of the American Legion (herein “SAL District Executive Committee”).
- Section 2. The SAL District Executive Committee shall be composed of the ten (10) elected and appointed SAL District Officers and the two(2) immediate Past SAL District Commanders. In addition, the District SAL Advisor shall be recognized as a non-voting member with voice.
- Section 3. The SAL District Commander shall serve as Chairman of the SAL District Executive Committee and preside over all meetings thereof. He shall ex-officio be a voting member of all sub-committees.

Section 4. The SAL District Executive Committee shall meet at least two (2) times each year. It shall meet immediately preceding the District Convention to establish the agenda, and shall meet immediately following the District Convention to approve the SAL District Commander's appointments. Additional meetings may be called, as deemed necessary by the SAL District Commander, or upon the request of at least three (3) committee members. All committee members shall be notified of the time, location and purpose of the meeting at least five (5) days prior to the meeting.

Section 5. Four (4) voting members shall constitute a quorum.

Section 6. The SAL District Executive Committee, without meeting together, may conduct business by email or telephone, on matters of urgency that do not involve new policy. Five (5) days shall be allowed for the members to report their vote to the SAL District Adjutant, who shall be responsible for counting the votes and reporting the results of the vote to the SAL District Commander.

ARTICLE VIII – SQUADRON ORGANIZATION

Section 1. Each Squadron in this district shall be organized as prescribed by the Constitution and Bylaws of the National and Detachment organizations of the Sons of the American Legion.

Section 2. Each Squadron may adopt a Constitution and Bylaws. In the formation of a Constitution and Bylaws there shall be no conflict with the Constitution and Bylaws of the National, Detachment or District organizations of the Sons of the American Legion. The Constitution and Bylaws, and any amendments thereto, shall not become effective until approved by the sponsoring Post and Detachment Executive Committee.

ARTICLE X – FINANCES

Section 1. The revenue of the Organization shall be derived from annual membership dues and from other sources as may be approved by the Executive Committee of the National, Department or District organization of the American Legion.

Section 2. The amount of annual district dues shall be determined by the Detachment as approved by the Executive Committee of the Department.

Section 3. The amount of annual Squadron dues shall be determined by the Squadron, and shall include the National, Detachment and District dues.

Section 4. The annual National, Detachment and District dues shall be collected by each Squadron and transmitted to the American Legion, Department of Minnesota.

Section 5. Annual dues for the current year shall be paid upon joining a Squadron. Thereafter, annual dues shall be paid no later than December 30th for the succeeding year.

ARTICLE XI – AMENDMENTS

- Section 1. This Constitution may be amended by a two-thirds vote of the delegates at any District Convention of the First District Sons of the American Legion provided a written resolution for the proposed amendment has been submitted through the SAL District Adjutant to the SAL District Executive Committee no less than thirty (30) days prior to the next District Convention. The SAL District Parliamentarian and District SAL Advisor shall review all resolutions for proper form and content.
- Section 2. No amendment shall conflict with the Constitution and Bylaws of the National or Detachment organizations of the Sons of the American Legion.
- Section 3. No amendment shall become effective until ratified by the Executive Committee of the First District American Legion.
- Section 4. Should any provision herein conflict with the provisions of the Constitution and Bylaws of the National or Detachment organizations, the National and Detachment provisions shall prevail.

ARTICLE I – DUTIES OF DISTRICT OFFICERSSection 1. **COMMANDER**

The District Commander is the executive head of the organization at the district level with full power to carry out the mandates and policies of the Sons of the American Legion as approved by the American Legion. He shall be Chairman of the Executive Committee and shall serve as representation for the District on the Detachment Executive Committee. He shall issue the annual Call to Convention and preside over the Convention.

Section 2. **VICE-COMMANDER**

The District Vice-Commander represents the organization in all matters referred to him by the District Commander and shall preside over meetings when appointed by the District Commander. He shall serve as a liaison between the District and the Squadrons in his area.

The East Vice-Commander shall oversee Squadrons within Area 1 and 3 as defined by the First District American Legion (the Counties of Olmsted, Wabasha, Winona, Fillmore and Houston).

The West Vice-Commander shall oversee Squadrons within Area 2 and 4 as defined by the First District American Legion (the Counties of Dodge, Steele, Waseca, Freeborn and Mower).

Section 3. **ADJUTANT**

The District Adjutant shall serve under the direction and control of the District Commander. He is responsible for conducting all correspondence on behalf of the organization. He shall maintain a list of names and addresses of all Squadrons in the District. He shall maintain a list of names and contact information for all officers and committeemen of the organization. He shall provide notification and maintain the minutes for all conventions and meetings of the organization.

Section 4. **FINANCE OFFICER**

The District Finance Officer shall serve under the direction of the Legion District Finance Officer. He shall be responsible for submitting any funds received by the organization, and any vouchers for payment, which have been approved by the District SAL Executive Committee, to the Legion District Finance Officer. He shall report the balance of the organization's accounts at all meetings of the Executive Committee and to the membership body at the District Convention. At the District Convention, and any other time as may be requested by the District Commander, he shall make available a report of all deposits and disbursements made since the preceding District Convention. In addition, he shall be Chairman of the Finance Committee.

Section 5. CHAPLAIN

The District Chaplain shall perform such divine and non-sectarian services as may be necessary, adhering to such ceremonial rituals as may be recommended by the Detachment and District Executive Committees from time to time. He shall, upon request, assist Squadron Chaplains with the same whenever possible.

Section 6. HISTORIAN

The District Historian shall collect from year to year all records and data of value and interest to the Sons of the American Legion and the American Legion, and shall compile during his term of office a complete history of the year's activities. He shall, upon request, assist Squadron Historians with the same whenever possible.

Section 7. MEMBERSHIP DIRECTOR

The District Membership Director shall, with assistance from the District Vice-Commanders, distribute all membership packets to the Squadrons and obtain a current list of officers for each Squadron. He shall record all memberships received at rallies and other drop-offs, and transmit those to the Department of Minnesota or hand deliver them to the Department of Minnesota at any Department function.

Section 8. SERGEANT-AT-ARMS

The District Sergeant-at-Arms shall be responsible for preserving order at all meetings and shall be given custody and responsibility of the colors of the Nation and organization. He shall be prepared to present the colors, on the request of the District Commander, whenever possible.

Section 9. PARLIAMENTARIAN

The District Parliamentarian shall give advice on parliamentary procedure to the district squadrons, district officers and the District Executive Committee. Any manner requiring legal advice or council shall be forwarded to the Department of Minnesota Judge Advocate.

Section 10. In addition to the duties defined herein, each officer shall perform such other duties as are usually incident to his office or as may be assigned to him by the SAL District Commander. All officers, in the performance of their duties, shall be governed by the First District American Legion.

Section 11. When attending an official function of the Sons of the American Legion or the American Legion, or when representing the organization in an official capacity, all officers shall wear official headgear and shall adhere to any other dress code as may be prescribed by the SAL District Commander

ARTICLE II – DISTRICT CONVENTION

Section 1. The District Convention of the First District Sons of the American Legion shall be held on the first Saturday in the month of May.

Section 2. The District Convention shall be held at the same location as the District Convention of the First District American Legion whenever possible. In the event both District Conventions cannot be held at the same location, the SAL District Executive

Committee shall, with approval from the Executive Committee of the First District American Legion, determine the location.

ARTICLE III – FINANCE COMMITTEE

- Section 1. A Finance Committee shall be appointed by the SAL District Commander at the meeting of the SAL District Executive Committee immediately following the District Convention.
- Section 2. The committee shall be composed of the Finance Officer, who shall be chairman of the committee, and two (2) additional members of the Organization as appointed by the SAL District Commander.
- Section 3. The Finance Committee shall be formed for the purpose of establishing the annual budget for the Organization. The Finance Officer shall present the committee's budget proposal to the SAL District Executive Committee and Legion District Finance Officer for approval. The committee shall dissolve upon approval of the budget.

ARTICLE IV – AMENDMENTS

- Section 1. These bylaws may be amended by a two-thirds vote of the delegates at any District Convention of the First District Sons of the American Legion provided a written resolution for the proposed amendment has been submitted through the SAL District Adjutant to the SAL District Executive Committee no less than thirty (30) days prior to the next District Convention. The SAL District Parliamentarian and District SAL Advisor shall review all resolutions for proper form and content.
- Section 2. No amendment shall conflict with the Constitution and Bylaws of the National or Detachment organizations of the Sons of the American Legion.
- Section 3. No amendment shall become effective until ratified by the Executive Committee of the First District American Legion.
- Section 4. Should any provision herein conflict with the provisions of the Constitution and Bylaws of the National or Detachment organizations, the National and Detachment provisions shall prevail.



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CONSTITUTION & BYLAWS REVISION LOG

Rev.	Description of change	Ratified on
	Original version	5-17-2019
1	Review and update of entire document Legion Exec. Committee ratified the entire document except Bylaws Art. I, Sec. 4	11-6-2021
2	Bylaws, Art. I, Sec. 4: Replaced with Finance Officer duties as approved by the Legion Exec. Committee	5-21-2022
3	Const, Art. VI, Sec. 1: Strike "Judge Advocate", replace with "Parliamentarian" Const, Art. XI, Sec. 1: Strike "Judge Advocate", replace with "Parliamentarian" Bylaws, Art. I, Sec. 9: Strike "Judge Advocate" from title, replace with "Parliamentarian" Bylaws, Art. I, Sec. 9: Substitute paragraph 1 Bylaws, Art. IV, Sec. 1: Strike "Judge Advocate" from title, replace with "Parliamentarian"	5-18-2024