

Standing Orders Of the **Sons of Confederate Veterans**

As Revised in General Convention
July 18, 2020
St. Augustine, Florida

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Sons of Confederate Veterans

Standing Orders

1. **CONVENTION VOTING.** In all questions submitted to the meeting, the chair shall put the question viva voce. If the chair thinks that the vote was inconclusive or a delegate calls for a division of the house, the chair shall take a standing vote. If on any main motion the yeas and nays are ordered, then the vote shall be taken by signed ballot. The final vote tabulation, including the actual results of each Camp's votes, shall be made patent and entered into the permanent records and archives of the Sons of Confederate Veterans.

2. **FRATERNAL RESPECTS.**

2.1. Members shall address each other as Compatriots.

2.2. Every Compatriot in this Confederation in good standing will be privileged to attend the meetings of any organization belonging to the Sons of Confederate Veterans, and receive that fraternal consideration they are designed to foster.

3. **CAMPS**

3.1. In the business and work of Camps, all the books and forms in use shall be of such form and style as may be prescribed by General Headquarters.

3.2. Before any application for charter is approved, it must be evident from the application that membership applications for the proposed Charter Members are in proper form and are on file at General Headquarters, or true copies thereof.

3.3. Each application for charter shall carry with it the approval of the Division Commander or where there is no Division, the Department Commander in whose region the Camp is proposed to be formed, who shall verify to the Adjutant-in-Chief that the paperwork is in order and that the applicants are qualified, deserving, and will be a credit to the organization.

3.4. When the application for charter and accompanying documents have been examined and found to be correct, and when said application is accompanied by conditions have been complied with, the charter shall be issued.

3.5. The charter shall carry the signature of the Commander-in-Chief and the Adjutant-in-Chief.

4. DEPARTMENT BOUNDARIES.

- 4.1. **ANV.** The Army of Northern Virginia Department shall include and be formed of the Camps and Divisions located in the States of Connecticut, Delaware, Maryland, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, New Jersey, New York, North Carolina, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island, South Carolina, Vermont, Virginia, West Virginia, and the District of Columbia.
- 4.2. **AOT.** The Army of Tennessee Department shall include and be formed of the Camps and Divisions located in the States of Alabama, Florida, Georgia, Illinois, Indiana, Kentucky, Michigan, Mississippi, Ohio, Tennessee, and Wisconsin.
- 4.3. **ATM.** The Army of Trans-Mississippi Department shall include and be formed of the Camps and Divisions located in the States of Alaska, Arizona, Arkansas, California, Colorado, Hawaii, Idaho, Iowa, Kansas, Louisiana, Missouri, Minnesota, Montana, Nebraska, New Mexico, Nevada, North Dakota, Oklahoma, Oregon, South Dakota, Texas, Utah, Washington and Wyoming.
- 4.4. Any Camp chartered in a region not otherwise specified herein shall be assigned a department by the GEC.

5. VOTING AND ELECTIONS.

- 5.1 Voting place. Voting for all contested offices and ballot questions shall occur at the same time and place, at the same site where the business sessions are held.
- 5.2 Poll watchers. Each candidate in a contested race may designate watchers to witness the voting procedures and the counting of the votes provided that the watchers do not interfere with the election.
- 5.3 Vote tabulation. Upon completion of the voting procedure the Tellers Committee, approved by the convention, shall count the votes. If a Tellers Committee is not appointed, the Credentials Committee shall be the Tellers and count the votes.

6. STANDING COMMITTEES.

The following shall be standing committees of the Confederation and shall carry out the work assigned to them by the Commander-in-Chief or the convention in addition to the tasks assigned herein.

- 6.1. The Educational & Historical Committee shall consist of a chairman and one (1) member from each Division, and shall have charge of all matters relating to the literary and historical purposes of this Confederation and perform such other duties as may be assigned to it.
- 6.2. The Relief Committee shall consist of a chairman and one (1) member from each Division, and shall have charge of all matters relating to relief, pensions, homes and other benevolent purposes of this Confederation and perform such other duties as may be assigned to it.

- 6.3. The Graves & Monuments Committee shall consist of a chairman and one (1) member from each Division, and shall have charge of all matters relating to monuments, graves and the Confederation's objects and purposes in these respects; and perform such other duties as may be assigned to it.
- 6.4. The Budget & Finance Committee shall consist of a chairman and five (5) members no three (3) of whom shall be from the same Division; and shall verify accounts of officers; prepare an annual budget; and attend to such other matters of finance as may be referred to it.
- 6.5. The Heritage Operations Committee shall consist of the Chief of Heritage Operations, who shall be its chairman, Deputy Chiefs of Defense and Promotion and a representative of each Department, no three (3) of whom shall be from the same Division; and shall assist in the planning, organizing and executing the heritage activities of the Confederation, and strongly advance positions and take action as necessary in the defense and promotion of Confederate heritage.
- 6.6. The Awards Committee shall consist of a chairman and such other members as deemed necessary for the completion of the work assigned, no three (3) of whom shall be from the same Division; and shall plan, organize, and execute a program of awards and incentives to recognize particular achievements as from time to time may be warranted; and perform such other duties as may be assigned to it.
- 6.7. The Credentials Committee shall be composed of a chairman, the Adjutant-in-Chief, and such other members as deemed necessary; provided that there shall be not less than five (5) members of the Committee and that there shall be no two (2) members from the same Division. There shall be sufficient members of the Committee to be present at the Registration desk at the General Convention during the published times of Registration. This Committee shall receive the Credential forms from the Camps at Registration for the General Convention; verify the Credentials by report of the Adjutant-in-Chief; arrange the roll of the Convention; and assign each Camp its number of votes. This report shall be signed by the committee and handed to the president of the convention.
- 6.8. The Brooks Medial Research Committee shall be composed of a Chairman and such other members as deemed necessary, including the Surgeon-in-Chief. The committee shall award grants to post-doctoral medical researchers (MD's, DDS's and PhD's in allied medical fields) doing medical research at medical schools. Grants shall be in the amount of \$12,000 or more per approved research project in a given year. The medical researcher applying for this grant must present evidence that they have a Confederate ancestor that would qualify them for membership in the Sons of Confederate Veterans or United Daughters of the Confederacy, though they need not be a member. This committee must provide an annual audit and shall report as required and perform such other duties as may be assigned to it.

- 6.9. The Confederate Medal of Honor Committee shall be composed of a Chairman and such other members as deemed necessary (historians and veterans); including the Historian-in-Chief; provided that there shall be no more than two (2) members from the same Division. The committee shall award those who served in the Confederacy in either a military or governmental capacity during The War Between the States. The recipient must have distinguished himself/herself conspicuously by gallantry and intrepidity at the risk of life above and beyond the call of duty while engaged in action against the enemy of the Confederate States of America. This committee shall report as required; and perform such other duties as may be assigned to it.
- 6.10. The Forrest Boyhood Home Committee shall be composed of a Chairman and such other members as deemed necessary, including the Tennessee Division Commander. The committee shall restore and preserve the Forrest Boyhood Home. The committee shall organize and coordinate educational and recreational programs for the general public as well as members of the Sons of Confederate Veterans; shall report as required; and perform such other duties as may be assigned to it.
- 6.11. Convention Planning Committee. The committee shall consist of a chairman and at least three members appointed by the Commander in Chief provided that there shall be no more than two (2) members from the same Division. This committee shall assist camps or divisions in making bids to host a General Reunion and in the planning of General Reunions. The committee shall also recommend sites & hosts for future conventions and Reunions whose commencement shall be neither before the *twenty-sixth (26) of June* nor after the *first (1) of August* each year; and perform such other duties as may be assigned to it.
- 6.12. The Amendments & Resolutions Committee shall be composed of a chairman and such other members as deemed necessary, including the Judge Advocate-in-Chief and the Parliamentarian ex officio, provided that there shall be no more than two (2) members from the same Division. The committee shall receive and review proposed amendments to the Constitution, Standing Orders and resolutions for consideration at the convention; shall report as required; and perform such other duties as may be assigned to it.
- 6.13. The Investment Committee shall be composed of three members who shall be appointed by the Commander-in-Chief and confirmed by the General Executive Council. Without in any way implying or creating any legal liability on the part of the Commander-in-Chief, he shall diligently seek as appointees persons who, while not necessarily professional financial managers, are thoroughly qualified by their experience to be financial managers. Initially, the Commander-in-Chief shall appoint members to the Committee with terms of three years, two years and one year, respectively. Thereafter, the term of office of the members of the Committee shall be three years with one term expiring at the adjournment of each General Convention; provided that the members of the Committee shall serve, and be

competent to act, until their successors shall have been duly appointed and confirmed. If any member of the Committee shall be unable to serve his full term because of death, resignation or disability, the Commander-in-Chief shall appoint, subject to confirmation by the General Executive Council, a Compatriot to fill the unexpired term. The General Executive Council shall have the power, by a two-thirds (2/3) vote, to find and determine the existence of disability for the purpose of this Section. The Committee shall be the trustees of all funds of the Confederation except the Operating Fund. The Committee shall have full power, subject to the control of the General Executive Council, to invest and reinvest said funds and to hold, purchase, sell, assign, transfer or dispose of any of the securities and investments in which such moneys shall have been invested, as well as the proceeds of such investments and such moneys, except as may otherwise be limited by the Constitution; provided that not more than five percent (5%) of the admitted assets of the organization may be invested in the common stock of any one corporation. The Investment Committee may meet in person, by telephone or by mail. In exercising its powers and authority, the members of the Investment Committee shall exercise ordinary business care and prudence under the facts and circumstances prevailing at the time of the action or decision. In so doing, the Committee shall consider the long-and short-term needs of the organization in carrying out its purposes, the organization's present and anticipated financial requirements, the expected total return on the organization's investments, general economic conditions, income, growth, long-term net appreciation and probable safety of funds. No member of the Investment Committee shall be liable for any action taken or omitted with respect to the exercise of these powers and authority if such member shall have discharged the duties of his position in good faith with that degree of diligence, care and skill which prudent men would ordinarily exercise under similar conditions. The Investment Committee shall also function in accordance with the following provisions:

- 6.13.1. It shall be the responsibility of the Commander-in-Chief and the Chief Operating Officer, in consultation, to determine the amount of moneys to be transferred from the Operating Fund to the Endowment Fund at the end of a fiscal year. Said transfer shall be subject to the advance approval of the General Executive Council.6.13.2.The income on the invested funds of the Confederation shall be added to the principal of said funds at the end of each fiscal year of the Confederation; provided that any part of said income not to exceed three-fourths thereof may, on the approval of the General Executive Council, by majority vote thereof, be used for general purposes of the Confederation.
- 6.13.2. The income on the invested funds of the Confederation shall be added to the principal of said funds at the end of each fiscal year of the Confederation; provided that any part of said income not to exceed three-fourths thereof may, on the approval of the General Executive Council, by majority vote thereof, be used for general purposes of the Confederation.

- 6.13.3. The principal of, and the income on, the invested funds of the Confederation may, on the approval of a two-thirds (2/3) affirmative vote of the General Executive Council, be used for unusual expenditures.
- 6.13.4. The funds of the Confederation, not including the Operating Fund, shall be invested in real property and the improvements thereon, income-producing securities listed on exchanges regulated by the United States Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC) or in banking institutions whose deposits are insured by the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation (FDIC).
- 6.13.5. Special Purpose Endowment Funds may be established by the General Executive Council. The Investment Committee shall be authorized to commingle and jointly invest two or more of said funds for the purpose of more efficient investment or more favorable return; provided that a separate accounting of the principal and income of each fund is maintained at all times.
- 6.13.6. The Investment Committee shall, with the assistance of General Headquarters if requested, prepare a written report on the status of the invested funds and activities of the Committee for each regular meeting of the General Executive Council and each General Convention and provide copies of said report for those in attendance at said meetings.
- 6.14. Heritage Promotion Committee. The committee shall also establish guidelines for and oversee the establishment or construction of suitable Confederate Memorials by the General Organization, such as, but not limited to public displays of Confederate Flags and shall undertake the raising of funds for said projects with the consent of the General Executive Council.

7. CHIEF OPERATING OFFICER

The Chief Operating Officer shall deposit all money in the name of and to the credit of the Sons of Confederate Veterans in such depositories as designated by the General Executive Council; collect and be the custodian of the operating funds of the Confederation; insure that the financial records are kept in good order, in such manner and according to such procedures approved by the General Executive Council; properly administer and record all receipts and disbursements; have custody of all monies and securities of the Confederation; he shall render to the Commander-in-Chief or the General Executive Council, whenever they may require it, an account of all transactions, and inventory of the assets in his care, and the financial condition of the Confederation. The chief operating officer and any others who handle the operating funds of the Confederation shall be bonded in an amount to be fixed by the General Executive Council. The chief operating officer under the supervision of the Commander-in-Chief shall maintain a complete roster of all active, inactive, and deceased members of the Sons of Confederate Veterans including their last known address and the status of their membership.

8. ANNUAL REPORTS

- 8.1. Each Camp Commander shall make an annual report, in duplicate; utilizing forms furnished by General Headquarters, giving such information as may be required by the General Executive Council. Reports must be submitted by the deadline fixed in advance by the General Executive Council, one copy forwarded to the Division Commander, the other to General Headquarters. A Camp in a separate Brigade will send a copy to the Division to which the Brigade is attached. Separate Camps in States where no Divisions have been formed will send a copy to the Army Commander of their Department. The report will include a Camp roster and payment of any per capita dues not previously submitted to General Headquarters. In addition, at his discretion, the Camp Commander may submit a final report at the expiration of his term of office.
- 8.2. Division Commanders shall make an annual report, in duplicate, using forms furnished by General Headquarters, giving such information as may be required by the General Executive Council. Reports must be submitted by the deadline fixed in advance by the General Executive Council, one copy to be mailed to the Army Commander of the Department in which the Division is located, the other to General Headquarters. At his discretion the Division Commander may submit a final report at the expiration of his term of office.
- 8.3. Department Commanders shall make an annual report, in duplicate, summarizing the information contained in their Camp and Division reports and commenting on the conditions of their Departments. Reports must be submitted by the deadline fixed in advance by the General Executive Council, one copy to General Headquarters and one copy to the Chief of Staff, who will prepare an abstract of the reports received from the departments, for transmittal with them to the Commander-in-Chief for his information.

9. PROHIBITIONS

- 9.1. No debts shall be contracted by this Confederation or any of its sub-divisions except upon approval of the General Executive Council.
- 9.2. The use of the seal, badges or name of this Confederation for business or advertising purposes without the consent of the General Executive Council and the giving of its badges to persons unauthorized to wear them are emphatically prohibited.
- 9.3. Military titles used in the Confederate armed forces shall not be given to or used by members or officers of this Confederation, by reason of their being such members or officers.
- 9.4. No one can be elected or appointed an officer of this Confederation, or its subordinate Departments, Divisions or Brigades, unless he is a member in good standing of one of its Camps.

- 9.5. No member, group of members, camp, division or any other subdivision of the Sons of Confederate Veterans may initiate any civil litigation wherein they act, or attempt to act, with standing and name (directly or indirectly) any member (in their capacity as a member or officer of the Sons of Confederate Veterans), any subdivision or the Sons of Confederate Veterans as a whole as a defendant or plaintiff without the prior express consent of the General Executive Council (GEC). The same shall apply to naming any member (in his capacity as a member or officer of the Sons of Confederate Veterans), subdivision or the Sons of Confederate Veterans as a whole as a third party in an already initiated civil litigation. Petitions for said approval shall be distributed in writing to all members of the GEC, stating the name(s) and address (es) of all parties in the proposed litigation, and a brief description of the nature and necessity of the proposed litigation. All reasonable administrative remedies (petitions, motions, hearings etc.. before camp/division executive councils, division conventions, etc.) available shall be attempted by petitioner(s) prior to submitting such petition to the GEC, or the GEC may refuse consideration of the petition. A majority vote of the GEC shall be required for approval of the petition. The GEC shall not delay consideration (other than for failure to attempt all available administrative remedies) on the petition to the point it would jeopardize the proposed litigation (such as past filing deadlines), and no later than the next regular meeting of the GEC. Failure to abide by this section is a serious offense and subject to discipline, including expulsion, in accordance with the Constitution and Standing Orders.

10. SEAL, BADGES, MEMORIAL DAY

- 10.1. The seal of the Confederation shall be a medal of the same dimensions as that of the "United Confederate Veterans," reproducing the great seal of the Confederate States of America, bearing the words "SONS OF CONFEDERATE VETERANS, Richmond, VA, July 1, 1896," inscribed between the wreath and margin; it shall be kept in the custody of the Adjutant-in-Chief.
- 10.2. The badge of this Confederation shall be a square three-quarters of an inch across, the center to contain the Army of Northern Virginia Battle Flag of the Confederacy, one-half inch square, enameled in its proper colors; on each of the four sides of the flag shall be painted bars one-eighth of an inch wide, and one-half of an inch long, and to contain, beginning at the left, the title of the organization, arranged in three equal divisions, and the date, "1896", on the bottom bar; the letters to be in gold, bars to be in white, with a narrow gold rim around the edges. The badges shall be ordered through the Adjutant-in-Chief.
- 10.3. A neat, inexpensive button, bearing a representation of the official badge may be furnished to the members at as low a price as possible.
- 10.4. It shall be the duty of the Commander of every Camp of the Sons of Confederate Veterans to call a meeting of his respective Camp upon the days appointed by the civil authorities for the commemoration of all Confederate armed services and statesmen, and to commemorate such day by appropriate services.

- 10.5. This Confederation shall observe, with proper solemnity, all Confederate Memorial Days, whether designated by civil authority or local custom.
- 10.6. March 4th of each year shall be designated and recognized as Confederate Flag Day. All Compatriots are encouraged to fly the current Confederate National Flag or any Confederate Flag of their choice.
- 10.7. The Month of April each year shall be designated and recognized as National Confederate History and Heritage Month. All Compatriots are encouraged to celebrate their state's historically recognized and designated Confederate holidays, but during the month of April, Compatriots are encouraged to take appropriate actions to properly honor the Confederate States armed forces, her elected and appointed officials, its citizens and innovations by creating educational programs, ceremonies and gatherings to appropriately honor these brave people.
- 10.8. The Confederate Memorial Tartan shall be designated and recognized as the Official Tartan of the Sons of Confederate Veterans.

11. PARLIAMENTARY AUTHORITY & RULES

- 11.1. The rules of the current edition of Robert's Rules of Order Newly Revised shall govern all meetings and conventions of the Sons of Confederate Veterans and its sub-divisions so far as they are applicable and not inconsistent with this Constitution and Standing Rules of the Confederation.
- 11.2. Another parliamentary authority may be adopted for an entire meeting, with twenty-four (24) hours prior notice having been given to all voting members of said meeting and by a majority vote.
- 11.3. Special Rules of Order of the Confederation may also be adopted by the convention which shall be and remain in effect until repealed or revised.
- 11.4. Departments, Divisions, Camps, and other sub-divisions may adopt rules special rules of order to govern their own proceedings, so long as they are not inconsistent with this Constitution and Standing Orders.

12. OTHER OFFICERS

- 12.1. Inspector-in-Chief. The Inspector-in-Chief shall have charge of all investigations ordered by the Commander-in-Chief for infractions of the Constitution and Standing Orders by any Camp, or for the conduct of any officer, Camp, or individual member. He shall perform such other duties as may be assigned to him by the Commander-in-Chief or the General Executive Council, while carrying on the normal functions generally assumed by his office.
- 12.2. Historian-in-Chief. The Historian-in-Chief shall collect from year to year all records and data of value and interest to the Confederation; compile during his term of office a complete history of the year's activities; and assist Division and Camp Historians so as to coordinate and unify the work of these officials. He shall perform such other duties as may be assigned to him by the Commander-in-Chief, while carrying on the normal functions generally assumed by his office.
- 12.3. Parliamentarian. The Parliamentarian shall, when requested, advise the Commander-in-Chief or the presiding officer in regard to proper procedure; assist in drafting special rules of order; and promote the use of proper parliamentary law in all meetings of the Confederation. He shall perform such other duties as may be assigned to him by the Commander-in-Chief, while carrying on the normal functions generally assumed by his office.
- 12.4. Sergeant-at-Arms. The Sergeant-at-Arms shall take charge of the meeting places of the Confederation, making all necessary preparation for the safety and security of the premises thereof; thereby assisting the Commander-in-Chief or the presiding officer, as the case may be, to maintain the dignity and majesty of the Confederation by enforcing good order and decorum at all times. The Sergeant-at-Arms may be given assistants as may be necessary to carry out the provisions of this section. While the Camps are sitting in convention, the Sergeant-at-Arms and his assistants shall meet, as directed, and escort distinguished guests and visitors in and about the convention and must be, during the hours of duty, dressed in a distinctive manner so as to be easily identified as such. He shall perform such other duties as may be assigned to him by the Commander-in-Chief, while carrying on the normal functions generally assumed by his office.
- 12.5. Color Sergeant. The Color Sergeant shall preserve, maintain, and display at appropriate times the colors, ensigns, and other emblematic appurtenances of

the Confederation. He shall perform such other duties as may be assigned to him by the Commander-in-Chief, while carrying on the normal functions generally assumed by his office.

- 12.6. Director of Public Affairs. The Director of Public Affairs shall, as directed by the Commander-in-Chief, act as public spokesman for the Confederation; prepare appropriate responses to media inquiries; be charged with publicly advocating the mission and purposes of the Confederation. He shall perform such other duties as may be assigned to him by the Commander-in-Chief, while carrying on the normal functions generally assumed by his office.
- 12.7. Genealogist-in-Chief. The Genealogist-in-Chief shall propose guidelines and procedures for determining the veracity of applications for membership; superintend the co-operative work of Division and Camp Genealogists; and promote the study of genealogy. He shall perform such other duties as may be assigned to him by the Commander-in-Chief, while carrying on the normal functions generally assumed by his office.
- 12.8. Chief of Protocol. The Chief of Protocol shall prescribe the forms, rules, and practices of deportment, decorum, and etiquette to be observed by all members, officers, and subdivisions of the Confederation. He shall superintend the preparations of all official ceremonies, events, banquets, and commemorations. He shall perform such other duties as may be assigned to him by the Commander-in-Chief, while carrying on the normal functions generally assumed by his office.
- 12.9. Editor-in-Chief. The Editor-in-Chief shall supervise the production of all general circulation publications and periodicals produced by the Confederation. He shall perform such other duties as may be assigned to him by the Commander-in-Chief, while carrying on the normal functions generally assumed by his office.

Professional staff. The General Executive Council may, on recommendation of the Commander-in-Chief, employ a chief operating officer, by whatever title. The chief operating officer shall employ all professional and other help necessary for the operation of General Headquarters and perform such other duties as may, from time to time, be prescribed by the General Convention, Commander-in-Chief, or the General Executive Council.

13. OFFICIAL LADIES

- 13.1. The Commander-in-Chief may appoint the following ladies to represent the Confederation for General Conventions and for such other occasions as he may deem advisable: Matron-in-Chief, Chaperon-in-Chief, Sponsor-in-Chief, and three Maids of Honor-in-Chief. He may make additional appointments not to exceed six ladies, who reside in the city and state where the General Convention is held.
- 13.2. Department, Division, Brigade and Camp Commanders may appoint only the following ladies to represent their Departments, Divisions, Brigades and Camps, respectively, for General Conventions, and for such other occasions as they may deem wise: Matron of Honor, Chaperon, Sponsor and three Maids of Honor. They may make additional appointments not to exceed six ladies who reside in the city and state where the Convention is held.

14. MINUTES OF MEETINGS

- 14.1. All subdivisions, committees, and other bodies of the Sons of Confederate Veterans shall keep and preserve written minutes of their meetings. Such minutes shall include but need not be limited to: the date, time and place of the meeting; the members present; and the substance of all matters proposed, discussed or decided and, at the request of any member, a record of any votes taken.
- 14.2. Any other information that any member of the body requests shall be included or reflected in the minutes by majority vote of the body.

CERTIFICATION

The Standing Orders were revised in convention assembled, in St. Augustine, Florida on 18 July 2020.

Revision –Richardson, Texas (July 15, 2016)
Sections 10.7 and 10.8 (Added)

Revision –Memphis, Tennessee (July 22, 2017)
Section 6.10 (Removed)

2018 and 2019 – no amendments or revisions

Revision – St. Augustine, Florida (July 18, 2020)
Section 6.11 (Amended), Section 6.14 (Removed)

Larry A. McCluney, Jr.
Commander-in-Chief



Dan A. McCaskill
Adjutant-in-Chief

