

# Sons of The American Legion



## Detachment of Florida Constitution

### **PREAMBLE**

Proud possessors of a priceless heritage, we, male descendants of veterans of the Great 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 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 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 Florida".

Section 2 - The Detachment of Florida Headquarters of the Sons of The American Legion shall be located at the site of The American Legion, Department of Florida Headquarters, located at 1912A Lee Road, Orlando, FL 32810 and whose mailing address is P.O. Box 547859, Orlando, FL 32854-7859 and at such residence as is occupied by the current Detachment Commander and Detachment Adjutant.

### **ARTICLE II**

#### **NATURE**

Section 1 - The Sons of The American Legion, Detachment of Florida, is a civilian organization. Membership therein does not affect nor increase liability for military or police procedure.

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

Section 3 - The Sons of The American Legion, Detachment of Florida, 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**

#### **MEMBERSHIP**

Section 1 - Eligibility for membership in the Detachment shall be governed by the provisions of the National Constitution of the Sons of The American Legion, relating thereto.

Section 2 - There shall be no form or class of membership except an active membership, and dues shall be paid annually.

## **ARTICLE IV**

### **DETACHMENT ORGANIZATION**

Section 1 - The Sons of The American Legion, Detachment of Florida, is organized under the jurisdiction and sponsorship of The American Legion, Department of Florida. The Detachment is a subsidiary organization and subordinate to The American Legion, a federal corporation organized by Act of Congress, and to The American Legion, Department of Florida organized and existing under the laws of Florida. The Detachment embraces and its jurisdiction extends the whole State of Florida.

Section 2 - The Detachment shall be divided into Areas, Districts, and Squadrons, organized and officered as hereinafter provided and shall conform with regulations and geographical limits of The American Legion, Department of Florida, Constitution and By-Laws, with regulations of the Department Executive Committee, the Department Convention, the National Executive Committee of The American Legion and with the National Constitution and By-Laws of the Sons of The American Legion.

Section 3 - The administrative and executive power shall be vested in the Detachment Executive Committee but all actions shall be subject to review and ratification by the Department Executive Committee. The Detachment shall be officered as herein provided.

Section 4 - There shall be one regular Annual Detachment Convention, to be held in conjunction with and during the Department Annual Convention. The Annual Detachment Convention shall be the legislative body of the Detachment Organization but all actions shall be subject to review and ratification by the Department Executive Committee. A special convention may be called in the manner hereinafter provided.

Section 5 - There shall be such standing Commissions and Committees as shall be provided in the Detachment By-Laws, membership of which shall be appointed by the Detachment Commander, he may also appoint such special committees as may appear necessary or desirable, subject to ratification by the Detachment Executive Committee.

Section 6 - By-Laws shall be adopted for the further government and regulation of the Detachment, not inconsistent with this Constitution, subject to review and ratification by the Department Executive Committee.

Section 7 - There shall be at least one or more Detachment Conferences between Detachment Convention, to be held in conjunction with and during the Department Conference of The American Legion, Department of Florida.

## **ARTICLE V**

### **DETACHMENT CONVENTION**

Section 1 - The legislative body of the Sons of The American Legion, Detachment of Florida shall be a Detachment Convention, to be held annually in conjunction with and during the Department of Florida Convention of The American Legion. All actions of the Detachment Convention are subject to review and ratification by the Department Executive Committee.

Section 2 - The Detachment Commander shall request the Department Headquarters of The American Legion to issue a call to the Detachment Convention to each Squadron not less than sixty (60) days prior to the opening of the Detachment Convention.

Section 3 - The Annual Detachment Convention shall have all of the administrative, legislative and judicial powers of the Detachment, subject to review and ratification by the Department Executive Committee.

Section 4 - The Annual Convention shall be composed of delegates and alternates from each chartered Squadron of the Sons of The American Legion in the Detachment of Florida. Each Squadron will be entitled two delegates and two alternates, for the first ten (10) members and one additional delegate and alternate for each additional ten members or major fraction thereof; and provided the per capita tax has been paid fifteen (15) days prior to the Detachment Convention and the Squadron has a minimum of ten (10) members. Alternate delegates shall be recognized in the numerical order certified.

Section 5 - Each delegate to the Detachment Convention shall be entitled to one vote. The vote of any delegate absent and not represented by an alternate shall be cast by the majority of the delegates present from his Squadron. Alternates shall have all the privileges of delegates except that of voting. In voting at the annual election of officers, the vote of the delegates shall be cast by one delegate whose name is certified to the Adjutant some time prior to the election of officers.

Section 6 - Each member of the Detachment Executive Committee shall be a delegate to any Detachment Convention during his term of office, under the same conditions as applied to the other delegates. Each Past Detachment Commander shall be a delegate for life to all Detachment Conventions, under the same conditions as applied to other delegates, provided that he shall be in good standing in a Squadron of the Sons of The American Legion, Detachment of Florida, and present on the floor of the Convention, with the vote to be exercised with their respective Squadron.

Section 7 - The convention shall be the final judge of election and qualifications of the delegates.

Section 8 - A quorum shall exist at a Detachment Convention when twenty (20) percent of the qualified Squadrons are represented as provided above.

Section 9 - The Detachment Executive Committee shall provide a Uniform Code of Procedure for orderly operation, organization, adopt or amend rules for the procedure and government of all Detachment Conventions and said code shall be applicable at all Detachment Conventions. Provided, however, the Convention rules that are contained within the Detachment Constitution and/or By-Laws may not be changed by this action.

Section 10 - A special convention may be held upon joint call in writing by the Detachment Commander and at least two of the Detachment Vice Commanders and a majority of District Commanders, or by a majority of the Detachment Executive Committee, or by a majority of the Squadrons. The same representation of Squadrons shall be required at a special convention to constitute a quorum as is required at the regular annual convention. No business shall be transacted at such special convention except such as is set forth in the call thereof.

## **ARTICLE VI**

### **DETACHMENT OFFICERS**

Section 1 - The Detachment Officers shall be: The Detachment Commander, the Detachment Vice Commanders, the Detachment Adjutant, the Detachment Assistant Adjutants, the Detachment Finance Officer, the National Executive Committeeman, the National Committeeman Alternate, the Detachment Judge Advocate, the Detachment Assistant Judge Advocate, the Detachment Historian, the Detachment Chaplain, Detachment Sergeant-At-Arms and the Detachment Assistant Sergeant-At-Arms.

Section 2 - Detachment Officers shall be elected at each Annual Convention, except that the Detachment

Commander shall appoint the Detachment Judge Advocate, the Detachment Adjutant, the Detachment Assistant Adjutants, the Detachment Finance Officer, the Detachment Assistant Sergeant-At-Arms and they shall be ratified by the Detachment Executive Committee. Such Officers shall serve until the adjournment of the succeeding Detachment Convention following their election.

Section 3 - One person may hold the office of Detachment Adjutant and Detachment Finance Officer.

Section 4 - The office of Detachment Commander may not be held by any one person for longer than two (2) terms consecutively, or a total of three (3) terms. Except by recommendation and approval of a 2/3 vote of the Detachment Executive Committee, this section may be waived.

Section 5 - In case of resignation, death, suspension or removal from office of the Detachment Commander, the immediate Past Detachment Commander in good standing and available shall immediately take office as Acting Detachment Commander until the Detachment Executive Committee shall meet to fill the vacancy or a mail ballot may be taken.

Section 6 - There shall be a National Executive Committeeman and an Alternate whose terms of office shall commence immediately upon the adjournment of the National Convention next ensuing after their election.

Section 7 - Detachment Officers shall be subject to trial, discipline suspension and removal from office as provided in the Detachment By-Laws, Article II, Sections 5 and 6.

Section 8 - In the event that any Detachment Commander, Detachment Vice Commander or District Officer absent himself from the State of Florida for a period exceeding sixty (60) days, he shall submit his resignation from such office within a reasonable time after his departure from the state, and upon his failure or refusal so to do, such office shall be declared vacant and the vacancy filled, as provided in Article VII, Section 7, of this Constitution.

Section 9 - Only the Detachment Officers listed under Article VI, Section 1, while serving in office, are authorized to wear the official French Blue bottom with Gold top Detachment Uniform Cap with Gold lettering designating their particular office.

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

## **ARTICLE VII**

### **DETACHMENT EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE**

Section 1 - Between Detachment Conventions the executive power of the Detachment shall be vested in the Detachment Executive Committee, which shall consist of the following: The Detachment Commander, the Detachment Vice Commanders, the District Commanders, one (1) District Vice Commander from each District, the Detachment Adjutant, the Detachment Finance Officer, the Detachment Judge Advocate, the Detachment Historian, the Detachment Chaplain, the Detachment Sergeant-At-Arms, and all Past Detachment Commanders.

Section 2 - The Detachment Adjutant, the Detachment Finance Officer and the Detachment Judge Advocate shall be members of the Executive Committee without vote.

Section 3 - All Past Detachment Commanders while in good standing in their respective Squadrons, shall be members for life of the Detachment Executive Committee. The District Representatives shall assume their duties on the Detachment Executive Committee at the same time as the Detachment Commander and other Detachment

Officers.

Section 4 - The Detachment Executive Committee shall be empowered to transact all essential business of the Detachment of Florida not otherwise provided for in this Constitution and By-Laws.

Section 5 - The Detachment Executive Committee shall hear and act upon appeals in cases of reprimand, suspension or removal of Squadron Officers, and it shall act as a trial court in the hearing and the trial charges against Detachment and District Officers, as elsewhere provided for in this Constitution or the Detachment By-Laws provided.

Section 6 - In cases of emergency, as elsewhere in this Constitution provided, the Detachment Executive Committee may provide a method and procedure for a special convention in lieu of the regular Annual Convention to elect officers, to make proposals for legislative enactment, to adopt and promulgate essential programs and to enunciate and proclaim matters of policy.

Section 7 - The Detachment Executive Committee shall have power to fill vacancies in any Detachment Office or in the Detachment Executive Committee until the next Convention, except as is herein otherwise provided; provided that any such vacancy occurring between meetings of the Detachment Executive Committee may be filled by appointment by the Detachment Commander subject to ratification or disapproval by the Detachment Executive Committee at its next meeting, and if the Executive Committee disapproves the appointment by the Detachment Commander, the Detachment Executive Committee shall fill the vacancy until the next Convention.

Section 8 - The Detachment Executive Committee shall meet within 24 hours after the Detachment Officers have taken office, as provided in Article VI hereof, and also shall convene in special meeting when called for the purpose stated in Section 7 of this Article, and immediately preceding the holding of a Detachment Convention, regular or special; and meet at such other times as in the By-Laws may be provided.

Section 9 -The Chairman of the Standing Commissions and Committees of the Detachment shall be ex-officio, non-voting members of the Detachment Executive Committee, with privilege of speaking on the subject of matters pertaining to their respective committees. They shall not be counted in constituting a quorum.

Section 10 - The Detachment Executive Committee, after due notice and a hearing may suspend, cancel or revoke the charter of any Squadron of the Sons of The American Legion over which it has jurisdiction in the event it violates the provisions of this Constitution or of the SAL National Constitution and By-Laws, subject to the approval of the Department Executive Committee of The American Legion, Department of Florida.

Section 11 - Members of the Detachment Executive Committee shall be subject to charge and trial for the same causes and in the same manner as Detachment Officers are charged and tried and in the event the charge is sustained they may be deprived of their status and privileges. They shall have the same right of appeal to the Detachment Convention as is provided for appeals in case of Detachment Officers.

Section 12 - Ten (10) members of the Detachment Executive Committee shall constitute a quorum.

Section 13 - The Detachment Executive Committee without meeting may transact business by mail, telegraph or telephone on matters of urgency not involving new policy and on which action cannot be delayed until the next regular meeting. Thirty (30) days shall be allowed for the return, by mail, telegraph or telephone, of the votes thereon by the Detachment Adjutant. The Detachment Adjutant shall notify the Detachment Commander of the results of the vote taken. The Detachment Executive Committee may also meet on the call of the Detachment Commander or on the written request of five (5) Squadrons in the Detachment of Florida, at any time during the year for sufficient reason to it appearing.

Section 14 - The Detachment Executive Committee shall meet prior to the Detachment Conferences held between Detachment Convention to transact all essential business of the Detachment of Florida and not otherwise provided for in this Constitution and the Detachment By-Laws.

Section 15 - All members of the Detachment Executive Committee shall provide Department Headquarters with proof of membership eligibility within thirty (30) days of adjournment of the Detachment Convention.

## **ARTICLE VIII**

### **AREA ORGANIZATION**

Section 1 - There shall be Detachment Areas known as the Western Area, the Northern Area, the Eastern Area, the Central Area, the Southwestern Area, and the Southern Area.

Section 2 - The Western Area shall embrace the 1st and 2nd Districts.

Section 3 - The Northern Area shall embrace the 3rd, 4th, 5th, and 17th Districts.

Section 4 - The Eastern Area shall embrace the 6th and 12th Districts.

Section 5 - The Central Area shall embrace the 7th, 15th, and 16th Districts.

Section 6 - The Southwestern Area shall embrace the 8th and 13th Districts.

Section 7 - The Southern Area shall embrace the 9th, 11th, and 14th Districts.

Section 8 - In each of the said Areas, there shall be a Detachment Vice Commander elected at each Annual Detachment Convention, who shall take office at the same time as the Detachment Commander, and the Detachment Vice Commanders shall serve without seniority. Such Detachment Vice Commander shall be a member in good standing of a Squadron in the Area for which he is elected, and shall be nominated at a caucus of Squadrons within said Area held during the Convention at which elected, and preceding the time set for the election.

Section 9 - The Detachment Vice Commanders shall have authority and perform such duties as shall be prescribed in the Detachment By-Laws and elsewhere in the Detachment Constitution.

Section 10 - An Area Conference may be held upon written call of the Detachment Commander and a majority of the District Commanders of the Area, or by the Detachment Vice Commander and a majority of the District Commanders of the Area, or by a majority of Squadrons in the Area. Such Conference shall be non-legislative and no action shall be taken thereat that invades the jurisdiction of the Detachment or of any Squadron.

## **ARTICLE IX**

### **DISTRICT ORGANIZATION**

Section 1 - The Detachment shall be divided into Districts bounded as follows: District 1: This District shall embrace the following Counties: Bay, Escambia, Holmes, Okaloosa, Santa Rosa, Walton and Washington. District 2: This District shall embrace the following Counties: Calhoun, Franklin, Gadsden, Gulf, Jackson, Leon, Liberty and Wakulla. District 3: This District shall embrace the following Counties: Baker, Columbia, Dixie, Hamilton, Jefferson, Lafayette, Madison, Suwanee and Taylor. District 4: This District shall embrace the following Counties: Alachua, Bradford, Citrus, Gilchrist, Levy, Marion and Union. District 5: This District shall embrace the following Counties: Clay, Duval, Nassau and St. Johns. District 6: This District shall embrace the following Counties: Lake, Orange,

Osceola, Seminole and Sumter. District 7: This District shall embrace all of Polk County and that portion of Pasco County East of Interstate 75 (The American Legion Highway). District 8: This District shall embrace the following Counties: Sarasota, Manatee, Highlands, DeSoto and Hardee. District 9: This District shall embrace all of Broward County. District 11: This District shall embrace the following Counties: Palm Beach, Okeechobee and Clewiston from Hendry County and Indiantown from Martin County. District 12: This District shall embrace the following Counties: Brevard, Indian River, Martin (except for Indiantown) and St. Lucie. District 13: This District shall embrace the following Counties: Charlotte, Collier, Glades, Hendry (except Clewiston) and Lee. District 14: This District shall embrace the following Counties: Miami-Dade and Monroe. District 15: This District shall embrace all of Hillsborough County, that portion of Pasco County, except New Port Richey, Hudson, Holiday, and Seven Springs West of Interstate 75 (The American Legion Highway), and all of Hernando County. District 16: This District shall embrace all of Pinellas County and New Port Richey, Hudson, Holiday and Seven Springs from West Pasco County. District 17: This District shall embrace the following Counties: Flagler, Putnam and Volusia.

Section 2 - There shall be a District Commander and one District Vice Commander on the Detachment Executive Committee from each District elected at a District Conference provided in Section 8 of this Article, and their election shall be ratified at the next following Detachment Convention. The Convention may vote for ratification of all District Officers at one time in the absence of objection. Such Officers shall be members in good standing in a Squadron of the District in which they are respectfully elected. They shall take office at the same time as the Detachment Commander. Two (2) or more active Squadrons are required in each District to hold election of District Officers.

Section 3 - When a vacancy in the office of District Commander occurs in any District, the Detachment Commander shall appoint his successor.

Section 4 - The Detachment Commander or several District Commanders within their respective Districts shall have the power to call Conferences of Squadrons at such times as they may deem advisable; provided, however, that at least ten (10) days notice of such Conference shall be given in writing to several Squadrons.

Section 5 - No District Conference shall have the right to take any legislative action or to bind the Detachment or District Officers by any such action taken, and any action taken in such Conference shall be considered merely advisory.

Section 6 - District Conferences shall be composed of Delegates and Alternates from each chartered Squadron in the District, each of which shall be entitled to two Delegates and two Alternates, for the first ten (10) members, and to add one additional Delegate and Alternate for each additional ten (10) members or major fraction thereof over and above ten members, Alternate delegates shall be recognized in the numerical order certified; and provided that the per capita tax has been received by Department Headquarters ten (10) days prior to the District Constitutional Conference. It shall be a further duty of the Detachment Adjutant to publish to the Squadron and District Officers of the respective Districts in the Detachment a bulletin listing the official voting strength of each Squadron not later than five (5) days prior to the District Constitutional Conference.

Section 7 - Each Delegate to a District Conference shall be entitled to one vote. No Delegate shall be accredited without proper certificate signed by the Commander and Adjutant of the Squadron represented by such Delegate.

Section 8 - In addition to any other conference that may be held in the several Districts of the Detachment, there shall be held in each District a District Constitutional Conference not more than sixty (60) nor less than ten (10) days prior to the date of the Detachment Convention, at a time and place to be designated by the District Commander, under the same regulations prescribed for other Conferences as set forth in Sections 4, 5, 6, and 7 of this Article.

Section 9 - At such District Conference, only those Districts that have a membership of over two hundred (200)

members, their shall be nominated one Delegate and one Alternate delegate to the SAL National Convention for each two hundred (200) members or major fraction thereof in said District, to serve for the term of one year, when ratified and confirmed by the Detachment Convention. Alternate delegates shall be recognized in the numerical order certified.

Section 10 - The District Commander shall within five (5) days after adjournment of such Conference, forward to the Detachment Adjutant a certified copy of the name and address of the District Commander and District Vice Commander on the Detachment Executive Committee elected, and the Delegates and Alternates to the SAL National Convention nominated at such District Conference.

Section 11 - A majority of Squadrons in a District, represented at such Conference by duly designated delegates, shall constitute a quorum.

Section 12 - District Caps (French Blue bottom with White top) may be worn during the term of office by only the following elected and appointed District Officers: District Commander, District Vice Commander, District Adjutant, District Assistant Adjutant, District Finance Officer, District Judge Advocate, District Sergeant-At-Arms, Assistant District Sergeant-At-Arms, District Chaplain, and District Historian.

## **ARTICLE X**

### **SQUADRON ORGANIZATION**

Section 1 - The local unit shall be termed the Squadron. The minimum membership for the formation of a Squadron of the Sons of The American Legion shall be ten (10).

Section 2 - No Squadron shall be received into this organization until it shall have received its charter. Those who desire to form a Squadron of the Sons of The American Legion shall make application for a charter to the Post Commander of the local Post of The American Legion in the area in which they reside. Upon approval by the Post Commander, the application shall be forwarded to the Department Commander of The American Legion, and upon his approval it shall be forwarded to the National Headquarters of The American Legion, where the charter may be issued by the National Commander and the National Adjutant of The American Legion in the same manner as prescribed for the issuance of charters for Posts of The American Legion.

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 No. \_\_\_\_\_, Department of Florida.

Section 4 - There shall be no more than one (1) Squadron of the Sons of The American Legion for each Post of The American Legion in the Department of Florida. The Squadrons sponsored by the Posts in the Department of Florida shall be organized into the Detachment, Area and Districts as set forth in this Constitution and shall not conflict with the Department of Florida Constitution and By-Laws.

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

Section 6 - Each Squadron shall be the judge of the qualifications of its members, provided such members are eligible for membership in the Sons of The American Legion and eligibility is certified by the Post Adjutant.

Section 7 - No person who has been expelled by a Squadron shall be admitted to membership in another Squadron without consent of the expelling Squadron, except that where such consent has been asked for and denied by such Squadron, he then may 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.



Section 8 - Such charter, when issued, shall be countersigned by the Department Commander and the Department Adjutant.

Section 9 - Such charter may be suspended or revoked by the Detachment Executive Committee for the reasons and in the manner provided in Article VII hereof.

Section 10 - Where only one Squadron has received a charter within a Municipality or other political subdivision, for which it is chartered it shall have exclusive jurisdiction therein in all matters pertaining to the work of the Sons of The American Legion. Where more than one Squadron is chartered for a Municipality or other political subdivision, a division of territory shall be arranged by the sponsoring Posts as set forth in the Department Constitution of The American Legion, Department of Florida, Article X, Section 10.

Section 11 - Each Squadron in the Detachment of Florida shall have its own Constitution and By-Laws, provided that it shall not conflict with the Constitution and By-Laws of the Sons of The American Legion, Detachment of Florida, the National Constitution and By-Laws of the Sons of The American Legion and the Constitution and By-Laws of The American Legion, Department of Florida. The Squadrons Constitution and By-Laws together with any subsequent Amendments, shall be approved by the Detachment Judge Advocate, such approval confirmed by the Department Judge Advocate and the Detachment Commander, and a copy filed with the Department Adjutant and the Detachment Adjutant, with certification of approval issued to the Squadron before becoming effective.

Section 12 - The Squadron officers of the Sons of The American Legion shall consist of a Squadron Commander, Squadron Vice Commanders (as many as may be required), Squadron Finance Officer, Squadron Adjutant, Squadron Sergeant-At-Arms, Squadron Historian, Squadron Chaplain, Squadron Judge Advocate and such other officers as may be required. The Squadron Adjutant and the Squadron Judge Advocate, who shall be appointed by the Squadron Commander-elect and whose names shall be placed before the Squadron or Squadron Executive Committee as the Squadron Constitution and By-Laws shall provide, at first meeting following their appointment, for confirmation by a majority of the members present.

Section 13 - All officers of Squadrons, except the Squadron Adjutant and the Squadron Judge Advocate, shall be elected and certified to the Department Adjutant and Detachment Adjutant, not more than sixty (60) days, nor less than ten (10) days prior to the Annual Detachment Convention, certification to be made on forms furnished or prescribed by the Department Adjutant. Squadron Officers shall be installed by the District Commander or his designated representatives, take office and enter upon their duties at a date to be fixed by the Squadron or Post, which date shall be subsequent to, but not later than sixty (60) days after the adjournment of the Annual Detachment Convention. In the event of a vacancy caused by death, resignation or removal from office, the name and address of the successor shall be reported to the Department Adjutant and the Detachment Adjutant within one week after such vacancy has been filled.

Section 14 - Members may be reprimanded, suspended or expelled from the Sons of The American Legion only upon proper showing of cause. Charges shall be based upon disloyalty, neglect of duty, dishonesty, and conduct unbecoming a member of the Sons of The American Legion. All charges must be made in writing and under oath by the accusers, and no member in good standing shall lose his membership until given a fair trial. Any Squadron that conducts disciplinary proceedings through a trial must notify the District Commander at least ten (10) days in advance of any such trial of the date, time, and location where the trial is to be held. The District Commander shall detail a District Officer to attend the trial as an observer. The decision at trial may be acquittal, reprimand, suspension, expulsion, or in the case of an Officer, removal from office and shall be reported to the Squadron forthwith and acted upon by the Squadron at its next meeting. The Squadron except for a decision of acquittal, may affirm, modify or reverse any decision by the trial.

Section 15 - Any member who has been suspended or expelled from the Sons of The American Legion shall have

the right to appeal to the Detachment Executive Committee or to the Detachment Convention. The decision of the Detachment shall be final. The provisions of Sections 14 and 15 do not apply to disciplinary procedures carried out in compliance with any state or local law, not affecting the right of a member to attend Squadron meetings.

Section 16 - Any member in good standing may transfer to another Squadron willing to accept him, subject to the provisions of Section 7 of Article X of this Constitution. Such member shall be entitled to a certificate of membership from his Squadron upon transfer and acceptance by another Squadron. The transfer shall be effective upon notice sent to the Department Adjutant.

Section 17 - Any Squadron in this Detachment shall have full power and authority to drop from the membership roll the name of any member not paying his annual dues, as provided in the Sons of The American Legion National Constitution and By-Laws.

Section 18 - Officers of the Squadron may be reprimanded, suspended or removed from office upon charges based on disloyalty to the Sons of The American Legion, The American Legion or to the National Government, neglect of duties, dishonesty, and conduct unbecoming a member or officer of the Sons of The American Legion. All charges shall be made in writing by an accuser and no officer shall be reprimanded, suspended or removed from office until given a fair trial. The procedures to follow are as in the Department of Florida Constitution, Article X, Section 18.

Section 19 - Each Squadron shall use and follow the Sons of The American Legion Squadron Handbook in conducting its meetings, initiation of members and other ceremonies prescribed therein. Squadron meetings shall be held no less than once a month in accordance with the ritual of the organization.

## **ARTICLE XI**

### **FINANCE**

Section 1 - The revenue of the Sons of The American Legion, Detachment of Florida, shall be derived from annual membership dues and from other sources as may be requested by the Detachment Executive Committee or Detachment Convention, subject to approval of the Department Executive Committee or Department Convention.

Section 2 - The amount of such annual dues shall be determined and requested by the Detachment Executive Committee or Detachment Convention, and shall be subject to approval by the Department Executive Committee or the Department Convention. The present annual dues remain in effect until changed by action of a subsequent Department Executive Committee meeting or a Department Convention.

Section 3 - The annual dues, both National and Detachment, shall be collected by each Squadron or Post and transmitted within thirty (30) days after receipt to the Department Finance Officer.

Section 4 - The failure on the part of any Squadron or Post for more than thirty (30) days to remit National or Detachment dues collected from members shall be cause for the suspension or revoking of the charter of such Squadron or Post.

Section 5 - All Detachment Officers responsible for National or Detachment funds shall furnish adequate bonds conditioned for the faithful performance of their duties. Said bonds shall be made and deposited as the Department By-Laws provide.

Section 6 - The fiscal year of the Detachment shall be July 1 to June 30, each date inclusive.

Section 7 - There shall be a complete audit of the finances, accounts, property and business affairs of the Detachment made at the same times as the Department of Florida has its audit, in the same manner as provided in

the Department Constitution, Article XII, Section 7.

Section 8 - No Squadron with past due accounts owing to the Department and unsettled before convening of the Annual Detachment Convention shall be entitled to seat their Squadron delegation in that Convention.

Section 9 - No member, officer or committee of the Detachment shall have the authority to bind it by contract or incur any obligation upon its behalf, except by express authority of the Department Convention or Department Executive Committee.

Section 10 - All contracts entered into on behalf of the Detachment shall be in writing approved by the Department Executive Committee or Department Convention, executed by the Department Commander and evidenced by its corporate seal which shall be affixed by the Department Adjutant and attested by his signature.

Section 11 - Such funds or deposit accounts may be established and maintained for the Detachment by the Department Finance Officer and shall be held and accounted for separately from other funds of the Department. Investments of money of such funds shall be as the Detachment Convention or Detachment Executive Committee determine and upon approval of the Department Convention or Department Executive Committee. No withdrawals from or reinvestments of such funds shall be made except by like authority. The Department Adjutant and Finance Officer shall collect the interest from such funds when due and deposit it to the SAL General Fund.

## **ARTICLE XII**

### **DELEGATES TO THE NATIONAL CONVENTION**

Section 1 - Representation at SAL National Convention shall be as follows: Delegates and Alternates nominated by the District Conferences as provided in Article IX, and elected at the next Convention. The Detachment Commander, by virtue of his office, shall automatically be a Delegate to the SAL National Convention, and shall be the Chairman of the Delegation. In the event the Detachment Commander cannot attend, the delegation will elect a chairman. The Detachment Adjutant shall be an Alternate delegate to the Chairman of the Delegation and Secretary to the Delegation. All other Delegates and Alternates to which the Detachment is entitled, after the Districts have been allotted their quota shall be appointed by the Chairman of the Delegation.

## **ARTICLE XIII**

### **DISCIPLINE**

Section 1 - Detachment Headquarters may suspend, cancel or revoke the charter of any Squadron of the Sons of The American Legion over which it has jurisdiction in the event it violates the provisions of this Constitution, subject, however, to the approval of the Department Executive Committee of The American Legion, Department of Florida, in which the Squadron and Detachment are geographically situated.

Section 2 - Upon the cancellation or revocation of the charter of any Squadron of the Sons of The American Legion, the property and assets belonging to such Squadron shall thereupon become the property of the Post of The American Legion to which Squadron is attached.

## **ARTICLE XIV**

### **MISCELLANEOUS**

Section 1 - The National Constitution and By-Laws of The American Legion, The National Constitution and By-Laws of the Sons of The American Legion and the Department Constitution and By-Laws of The American Legion,

Department of Florida shall govern in the event any provision of the Detachment Constitution or By-Laws conflict therewith. In the event no applicable provision appears in the Detachment Constitution or By-Laws to govern any matter that may arise in the Detachment, then the applicable provisions of the above designated Constitution and By-Laws shall govern.

## **ARTICLE XV**

### **AMENDMENTS**

Section 1 - This Constitution may be amended at any Detachment Convention by vote of two-thirds of the total authorized representation thereat, subject to ratification by the Detachment Executive Committee and approval of the Department Executive Committee. Provided, however, the proposed amendment must be typewritten, prepared in triplicate on forms provided and be submitted to the Detachment Adjutant at least forty (40) days prior to the date of the Annual Detachment Convention. The proposed amendment shall have been first submitted and approved by a Squadron in the Detachment of Florida, or the Detachment Executive Committee or the Detachment Constitution and By-Laws Committee.

Section 2 - Amendments to this Constitution proposed at the Annual Detachment Convention of which notice required by Section 1 of the Article shall not have been given, shall be adopted only by the unanimous consent of all delegates present at the Convention at which such amendments are voted upon.

## **ARTICLE XVI**

### **EFFECTIVE DATE**

Section 1 - This Constitution became effective upon its adoption by the Detachment and Department Convention, in June of 2015, in Orlando, Florida.