

**CONSTITUTION OF SONS OF THE AMERICAN LEGION  
DETACHMENT OF CALIFORNIA**

*As amended June 22, 2014*

**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 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 the organization shall be the Sons of The American Legion, Detachment of California.

**ARTICLE II- 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 or subsequent to honorable discharge from the service, who at the time of death would have been eligible for membership in the Sons of The American Legion, Detachment of California.

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

**ARTICLE III - NATURE**

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

Section 2. The Sons of The American Legion, Detachment of California shall be absolutely non-political and shall not be used for dissemination of partisan principles or for the promotion of the candidacy of any person or group seeking American Legion office, public office, or preferment. No candidate for, or incumbent of remunerative elected public office shall hold any office in the Sons of The American Legion, Detachment of California, or subdivision thereof.

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

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

#### **ARTICLE IV - DEPARTMENT ORGANIZATION**

Section 1. The Advisory-legislative body of the Detachment shall be the members of the Department Sons of The American Legion Commission, their acts before becoming finally effective, must be ratified by the Department Executive Committee of The American Legion, Department of California.

Section 2. The Department organization of the Sons of The American Legion shall be designated and comprised of the Detachment Executive Committee, and the Department Sons of The American Legion Commission that shall consist of the Department Adjutant and six (6) members of The American Legion, to be appointed for a three (3) year term by the Department Commander. The Commission Chairman shall be known as the Sons of The American Legion Commissioner.

#### **ARTICLE V- ORGANIZATION**

Section 1. The Sons of The American Legion in the department shall be organized as a Detachment, as a subordinate body to the national organization of the Sons of The American Legion, and only in accordance with the existing regulations within the Department of California of The American Legion.

Section 2. The Sons of The American Legion, Detachment of California shall be organized under the jurisdiction and sponsorship of the local post, district, county, area or state of The American Legion as follows: "The Sons of The American Legion, a unit of the Department of California, Detachment of California."

Section 3. The Department of the American Legion shall have jurisdiction over units of the Sons of The American Legion, organized within the Department of California.

Section 4. All units of the Sons of The American Legion in the Detachment of California shall be governed by such rules and regulations as may be prescribed by the National Executive Committee of the American Legion as approved by such further rules and regulations as may be prescribed by the Executive Committee of the American Legion, Department of California, not inconsistent with those prescribed by the National Organization.

Section 5. The Sons of The American Legion, Detachment of California, shall be divided into 30 Districts, and should coincide with the Districts of The American Legion, Department of California.

Section 6. The organization of Districts shall be under the jurisdiction and sponsorship of the local District of The American Legion. The District shall bear the name of the sponsoring District of the American Legion, maintain its headquarters in the same location as that of the sponsoring District, and shall conform with the regulations of the District of The American Legion having jurisdiction, along with the regulations of the National Executive Committee of The American Legion; the National Constitution and By-Laws of the Sons of The American Legion; the regulations of The American Legion, Department of California; the Constitution and By-Laws of the Sons of The American Legion, Detachment of California; and the regulations of the Detachment Executive Committee, Sons of The American Legion, Detachment of California.

Section 7. To form a new District, or to re-activate a District which is deemed inactive, a majority of squadrons, with a minimum of three (3), in each District must be in attendance and vote to organize a District at an organizational meeting which shall be called by the District Commander, of the District Sons of The American Legion Committee Chairman, of the sponsoring American Legion District. The sponsoring District must send a letter to the Adjutant of the Department of California certifying the organizational meeting and furthermore certifying that the District has voted to support the action of sponsoring a Sons of The American Legion District.

Section 8. All Sons of The American Legion Districts and Squadrons shall adopt a Constitution and By-Laws conforming to the Detachment and National Constitution and By-Laws of The Sons of the American Legion, and shall submit a copy of same to the Detachment Headquarters for approval by the Detachment Judge Advocate and filing by the Detachment Headquarters. All Districts shall also submit a copy of the Constitution and By-Laws to the District of The American Legion having jurisdiction for approval and filing.

## **ARTICLE VI - SQUADRON ORGANIZATION**

Section 1. Those who wish to form a squadron of the Sons of The American Legion shall make an application to the Post Commander of the local post of the American Legion, in which they reside. The aforementioned application shall be forwarded to the Commander of the Department of California, and upon his approval, the National Commander shall issue a charter and the National Adjutant of the American Legion in the same manner proscribed in the issuing of charters for posts in the American Legion.

Section 2. The minimum membership for forming a squadron of the Sons of The American Legion shall be ten (10) members.

Section 3. There shall be only one squadron of the Sons of The American Legion consisting of one or more sections for each post of The American Legion.

Section 4. The Officers of each squadron shall consist of Commander, First Vice Commander, Second Vice Commander, Adjutant, Finance Officer, Sergeant-at-Arms, Chaplain, Historian, and Executive Committee.

Section 5. The Commander of the sponsoring American Legion post shall appoint a committee to supervise the activities of the Sons of The American Legion squadron. The Chairman of this committee shall be known as the Squadron Advisor.

Section 6. All officers and members of the Executive Committee of each squadron shall be elected annually for the term of one year by the members of the squadron subject to final approval by the advisory committee of the local post of which the squadron is affiliated.

## **ARTICLE VII - ELECTIONS OF DETACHMENT OFFICERS**

Section 1. Elected Detachment Officers shall consist of the Commander, Senior Vice Commander, Junior Vice Commander, Chaplain, Sergeant-at-arms, National Executive Committeeman, Alternate National Executive Committeeman, and not more than six (6) Vice Commanders who will represent one each of the six (6) Areas in the Detachment.

Section 2. All elected officers will serve a term of one (1) year except for the office of National Executive Committeeman and Alternate National Executive Committeeman whose term shall be two (2) years.

Section 3. Election of Detachment Officers shall be at the annual convention of delegates of the squadrons in the Detachment of California.

Section 4. Voting strength of each squadron of The Sons of The American Legion at convention shall be three (3) votes for charter (which consists of ten (10) members and one (1) vote for every additional ten (10) paid up members or major fraction thereof. Each Past Detachment Commander, Past National Commander, and each duly elected District Commander, if present, shall have one (1) vote. There shall be no proxy voting.

A. The Annual Convention Delegate strength will be calculated by the total number of paid members of each squadron properly transmitted to, and received by, the Department Headquarters and verified by the Detachment Adjutant sixty (60) days prior to the start of the annual convention.

B. The Detachment Adjutant shall send to each squadron their voting strength and delegate registration form, which must be completed and returned to the Detachment Adjutant with delegate fees thirty (30) days prior to the annual convention

C. Only registered and paid delegates or chairman of said registered and paid delegation can vote at the annual convention. Deadline for registration of prepaid delegates in attendance shall be at the recess of the Friday business session.

D. The Detachment Commander shall appoint a Credentials Committee consisting of a chairman and two (2) other committee persons. The Chairman shall report at each session, the voting delegate's strength, and total delegates voting strength.

Section 5. Election of Detachment Delegates:

A. Elected in the same manner as Detachment officers shall be three (3) delegates representing the Detachment of California, and one (1) for every (500) five hundred members or major fraction thereof, whose current dues have been received by the National Treasurer of The American Legion, thirty (30) days prior to the meeting of said National Convention, and whose registration fees, as fixed by the National Executive Committee, for its total authorized delegate strength, have been paid, and to one alternate for each delegate of the Detachment of California to the National Convention of the Sons of The American Legion.

B. These Delegates (and Alternates) shall constitute the Detachment of California Delegation to the National Convention of The Sons of The American Legion. The National Executive Committeeman, Alternate National Executive Committeeman, Junior Past Commander, and the incoming Commander are automatically elected as Delegates to the National Convention

C. The Junior Past Detachment Commander is automatically elected to be the Chairman of the California Delegation. If the Junior Past Commander is unable to perform the duties of Chairman, then the duties shall fall upon the National Executive Committeeman from California; but if he cannot perform such duties, then the duties shall fall upon the Alternate Executive Committeeman from California; but if he is unable to perform such duties, then the duties shall fall to the incoming Detachment Commander. If he is unable to perform such duties, then the California Delegation shall elect a Chairman for the National Convention.

Section 6. Elected Officers in the Detachment of California may not succeed themselves for more than two (2) consecutive terms. The Commander, Senior Vice Commander, and Junior Vice Commander may not serve more than one (1) term as defined in "Article VI, Section 2."

Section 7. The Detachment Commander shall appoint a committee to instruct consisting of three (3) qualified members to instruct prospective candidates. Their duty shall be to educate all perspective nominees for Detachment office about their duties of their perspective office. Upon meeting with all perspective nominees, the Committee to Instruct shall report on its findings to the Detachment convention.

Section 8. Nominees are not required to meet with the committee, and may otherwise run for any office.

Section 9. The Detachment Commander, by and with approval of the Executive Committee, shall appoint a Detachment Adjutant, and a Detachment Finance Officer of legal age. And may also appoint assistant adjutants, and assistant sergeant-at-arms as are deemed necessary and /or desirable.

Section 10. In the event any office is not filled during the normal Detachment Convention, and / or any elected officer shall resign, or have the inability to perform the requirements of the Detachment Officer position, or otherwise leave or vacate his office, the Detachment Commander shall nominate a replacement. The nominee shall serve as the designate until the next regular Detachment Executive Committee Meeting, whereby that nominee shall be given a confirmation vote. The vote shall be by majority to either confirm or deny the nominee to that named position. Upon confirmation the new officer shall be duly installed. Should the nominee fail confirmation, the Detachment Commander shall name another candidate. The Detachment Executive Committee shall not adjourn until a nominee is confirmed.

## **ARTICLE VIII - SQUADRON ELECTIONS**

Section 1. Officers of the Squadron shall be elected annually, and the date of such election should conform if possible with the annual election of post officers of The American Legion.

Squadron officers elected shall be subject to the approval of the sponsoring American Legion Post. This sponsoring may be delegated by the post to a post Supervisory Committee or other designated body.

#### **ARTICLE IX - SQUADRON MEETINGS**

Section 1. Squadron meetings shall be held not less than one meeting each month.

Section 2. All squadron meetings shall be conducted in accordance with the rituals of the organization

Section 3. Only such activities shall be sponsored by the squadron as shall be for the benefit of the membership of the organization as a whole and approved by the squadron advisory committee.

#### **ARTICLE X -FINANCES**

Section 1. The revenue of the Sons of The American Legion, Detachment of California, shall be derived from the annual membership dues and from such other sources as may be approved by the National Executive Committee, the Department of California, and the Sons of the American Legion Commission.

Section 2. The Amount of the annual Detachment per capita tax shall be \$8.00 per member, and payable on July 1 each year. In addition, the National Executive Committee of the Sons of the American Legion shall proscribe the amount of such annual National dues.

Section 3. The annual membership dues, in addition to the National and Detachment dues, shall be proscribed by each individual squadron.

Section 4. The annual National dues shall be collected by each squadron and transmitted through the headquarters of each Detachment and be transmitted to the National Treasurer of the American Legion. All Detachment and National dues are to be transmitted to the Department headquarters of the American Legion.

Section 5. A "Call-In" check will be issued to elected and appointed Detachment Officers, Past Detachment Captains, and Past Detachment Commanders (including/and up to the two (2) Assistant Sergeant-At-Arms and the two (2) Assistant Adjutants) reporting at, and in attendance of the entire meeting of a duly called Detachment Executive Committee meeting. A two (2) tier Call-In system shall be used to compute payment amounts.

Tier One (1) shall be defined as any person subject to a call-in traveling two hundred twenty five (225) miles or more. He shall receive a check, draft, bill of exchange, or warrant in the amount to be fixed, and determined by the Finance Commission and approved by the Detachment Executive Committee.

Tier Two (2) shall be defined as any person subject to a call-in traveling under two hundred twenty five (225) miles. He shall receive a check, draft, bill of exchange, or warrant in the amount to be fixed, and determined by the Finance Commission and approved by the Detachment Executive Committee that is approximately equal to sixty (60%) percent of the value of Tier One (1). Officers excluded are the Detachment Commander and the Detachment Adjutant

Section 6. A line item will be set up in the budget to reimburse Delegates of National Conventions. The amount of said line item will be determined by the Detachment Finance Commission and approved in the general budget at the next Detachment Convention. It will be divided equally amongst all Delegates who met the following requirements:

A. Attend the National Convention as an official Delegate of the Detachment of California.

B. Register prior to roll call of States at the Saturday session.

C. Must be present during votes at the Sunday session.

D. The head of the delegation shall oversee the eligibility of the reimbursement and disbursement at the Close of the National Convention. This amount is not to exceed actual costs incurred by the Delegate.

Section 7. All requests for reimbursement shall be presented to the Detachment Finance Officer no later than sixty (60) days from the date that the expense was incurred. Expenses incurred less than sixty (60) days prior to the Pre-Convention DEC shall be presented to the Detachment Finance Officer no later than the day of the Pre-Convention DEC. Expenses incurred at or in connection with the Convention will be submitted to the Detachment Finance Officer no later than five (5) days after the Post Convention DEC. Requests for reimbursement that are untimely based upon the aforementioned requirements must be approved by the Detachment Finance Commission at their next regularly scheduled meeting

## **ARTICLE XI - DISCIPLINE**

Section 1. The Detachment of California may suspend or revoke the charter of any unit of the Sons of The American Legion, Detachment of California that violates this Constitution, subject to the approval of the Department Executive Committee.



Section 2. Upon the cancellation or revocation of the charter of any unit of the Sons of The American Legion, Detachment of California, the property and assets belonging to such units shall thereupon become property of the American Legion post to which it was attached.

Section 3. In the event that the sponsoring post of the American Legion to which the squadron was attached is no longer legally chartered, the property of that squadron shall therefore become the property of the Detachment.

Section 4. Members may be suspended or expelled under the same procedures provided for the suspension or expulsion of a member of The American Legion.

## **ARTICLE XII - AMENDMENTS**

Section 1. This Constitution may be amended at any Detachment Convention by the affirmative vote of two-thirds (2/3) of the registered delegates present and voting thereat.

**Date of last Amendments: June 27, 2014, per 76<sup>th</sup> Annual Convention Action**

ATTEST:

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DETACHMENT COMMANDER: **Michael Fox**

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DETACHMENT ADJUTANT: **Ned Fox**

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DETACHMENT JUDGE ADJUTANT: **Dr. George Curtis**

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SAL COMMISSION CHAIRMAN, DEPARTMENT OF CALIFORNIA

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Changes made by: Constitution and By-Laws Chairman **James Eubanks**

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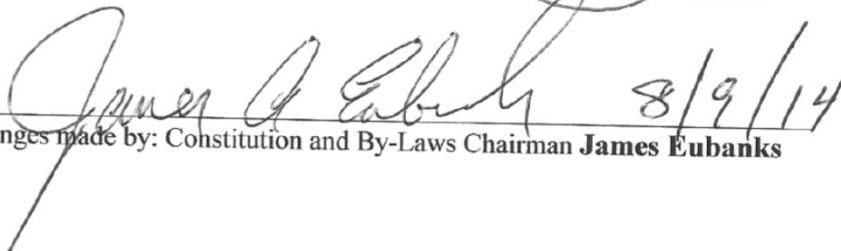
DETACHMENT ADJUTANT: **Ned Fox**



DETACHMENT JUDGE ADJUTANT: **Dr. George Curtis**



SAL COMMISSION CHAIRMAN, DEPARTMENT OF CALIFORNIA



Changes made by: Constitution and By-Laws Chairman **James Eubanks** 8/9/14

# **BY-LAWS FOR THE SONS OF THE AMERICAN LEGION**

## **DETACHMENT OF CALIFORNIA**

**(As amended, June 26, 2014)**

### **ARTICLE I - DUTIES OF OFFICERS**

Section 1. **COMMANDER:** The Detachment Commander shall preside at all Executive Committee Meetings and shall preside at the Annual Detachment Convention. The Commander will be the Chief Executive Officer of the Detachment and shall bear ultimate responsibility. To this end, the Commander will make all appointments as permitted by the Detachment By-Laws and approved by the Convention and/or Executive Committee. The Commander shall be in attendance at Committee/Commission meetings.

The Commander shall represent the Detachment of California at various events such as: Installations, Initiation Ceremonies, Flag Disposal Ceremonies, Funeral Services, Charter Presentations and other Special Ceremonies and Presentations. The Vice Commanders or other Detachment Officers may fill-in in his absence.

Section 2. **SENIOR VICE COMMANDER:** The Sr. Vice Commander will be available to represent the Commander in his absence. The Sr. Vice Commander will be responsible for Membership. The Membership Chairman shall report to the Sr. Vice Commander if they are not one and the same. The Sr. Vice Commander shall be responsible for communication between the Detachment and the National Membership Chairman. The Sr. Vice Commander shall keep the Commander advised on all matters regarding membership. The Sr. Vice Commander shall also perform such other duties as assigned by the Commander providing there is no conflict with the Detachment Constitution and By-Laws.

Section 3. **JUNIOR VICE COMMANDER:** The Jr. Vice Commander will be responsible for Americanism Programs. The Americanism Chairman shall report to the Jr. Vice Commander if they are not one and the same. The Jr. Vice Commander shall be responsible for communication between the Detachment and the National Americanism Chairman.

The Jr. Vice Commander shall keep the Commander advised on all matters regarding Americanism. The Jr. Vice Commander shall also perform such other duties as assigned by the Commander providing there is no conflict with the Detachment Constitution and By-Laws.

Section 4. ADJUTANT: The Detachment Adjutant shall be the Chief Administrative Officer of the Detachment. His duties will be performed in accordance with the Detachment Constitution and By-Laws, by maintaining the Detachment records, and publishing any necessary orders, announcements, and instructions. Both Regional Assistant Adjutants shall report to the Detachment Adjutant. The Detachment Adjutant shall also perform such other duties as assigned by the Commander providing there is no conflict with the Detachment Constitution and By-Laws.

Section 5. FINANCE OFFICER: The Detachment Finance Officer shall be the Chief Finance Officer of the Detachment. The Detachment Finance Officer shall not serve as the Chairman or Vice Chairman of the Detachment Finance Commission, but shall be one of the Technical Advisor of said Commission. The Detachment Finance Officer shall be Chairman of the Detachment Ways and Means Committee who shall in concurrence with the Chairman of the Department Commission on Sons of The American Legion, administer the Detachment Ways and Means Fund. The Detachment Finance Officer is required to make a full financial report annually at the Detachment Convention, interim reports at all Detachment Executive Committee meetings. His duties will be performed in accordance with the Detachment Constitution and By-laws. The Detachment Finance Officer shall also perform such other duties as assigned by the Commander providing there is no conflict with the Detachment Constitution and By-Laws. **(Amended by Resolution 6/27/13)**

Section 6. SERGEANT-AT-ARMS: The Detachment Sergeant-At-Arms will be responsible for preserving order at all meetings of the Detachment. He shall have custody of the Detachment Colors. He shall identify all persons at Detachment meetings and shall be responsible for the sign in roster and introducing dignitaries and guests at all meetings. The Assistant Sergeant-At-Arms will report to the Sergeant-At-Arms. He shall also be responsible for insuring that the meeting room is set up properly prior to meetings. The Detachment Sergeant-At-Arms shall also perform such other duties as assigned by the Commander providing there is no conflict with the Detachment Constitution and By-Laws.

Section 7. CHAPLAIN: The Detachment Chaplain shall perform such divine and nonsectarian service as outlined in the Detachment Constitution and By-Laws. The Detachment Chaplain shall be ready upon occasion to take part in dedication ceremonies and the funeral services of a comrade. The Detachment Chaplain shall also perform such other duties as assigned by the Commander providing there is no conflict with the Detachment Constitution and By-Laws.

Section 8. HISTORIAN: The Detachment Historian shall document all activities of the Detachment and also compile a history of the year. This history shall be submitted to National and available at the following years Detachment Convention. The Detachment Historian shall also perform such other duties as assigned by the Commander providing there is no conflict with the Detachment Constitution and By-Laws.

Section 9. JUDGE ADVOCATE: The Detachment Judge Advocate shall advise the Commander regarding parliamentary procedure when requested. The Detachment Judge Advocate shall also Chair the Constitution and By-Laws Commission and preside over the Trial Board Committee if necessary. The Detachment Judge Advocate shall also perform such other duties as assigned by the Commander providing there is no conflict with the Detachment Constitution and By-Laws.

Section 10. VICE COMMANDERS: The Area Vice Commanders shall have the duty to be the Detachments representative within their geographic areas. They shall work with the other officers and Commission/Committee Chairmen on Programs and projects within these geographic areas. They shall assist with membership and the distribution of membership cards after Convention. They shall assist the Americanism Chairman in deploying the Five Star Medal of Service Program. They shall assist the Commander in identifying those persons who could serve on Detachment Commissions/Committees. They shall make themselves available for providing resources and education to the Squadrons. The Area Vice Commanders shall be a part of any efforts to develop new Districts and Squadrons within their geographic areas with assistance from the Sr. Vice Commander. The Area Vice Commanders shall also perform such other duties as assigned by the Commander providing there is no conflict with the Detachment Constitution and By-Laws.

Section 11. NATIONAL EXECUTIVE COMMITTEEMAN: It shall be the duty of the National Executive Committeeman to represent the Detachment of California at all National Executive Committee meetings. He shall maintain a high level of professionalism, remembering that he represents the entire Detachment of California. He shall vote in the best interest of the Detachment of California, and will carry out the mandates of the Detachment of California without regard for personal feelings or the expediency of the moment.

The National Executive Committeeman shall advise the Detachment and especially the Detachment Commander and Department Sons of The American Legion Commission Chairman of all actions at the National Executive Committee meetings and National Conventions. He shall refer all recommendations for National appointments to the Internal Affairs Commission of the Detachment of California for a recommendation to the Detachment Executive Committee as to the worthiness of any given individual to perform the duties that this individual is being Nominated.

Section 12 ALTERNATE NATIONAL EXECUTIVE COMMITTEEMAN: The Alternate National Executive Committeeman shall serve in the case that the National Executive Committeeman should be absent, dies in office, is unable to complete his term of office, or is removed from office. The Alternate National Executive Committeeman shall perform the same duties and requirements as the National Executive Committeeman when called upon to serve. Otherwise, he should advise the Detachment Commander of all programs and actions that are taking place at the National Executive Committee, and National Convention.

## **ARTICLE II - EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE**

Section 1. The Executive Committee of the Detachment shall consist of the elected officers for the current year, and in addition, the Adjutant each Past Detachment Captain/Commander, Past National Commander, and each duly elected and certified District Commander, if present, shall have one vote. The appointment of the Detachment Adjutant shall be approved by the delegates of the Annual Detachment Convention.

Section 2. The Executive Committee, a two-thirds vote of said committee being necessary to effect such removal, may remove any Officer or Committeeman for inefficiency. An officer who is absent from two (2) or more Executive Committee meetings may be removed, upon due investigation of the Executive Committee.

Section 3. The Detachment Executive Committee of the Sons of The American Legion shall meet at least twice a year, at the call of the Commander. It shall also meet within 24 hours preceding the Detachment Convention, and within 24 hours following the Detachment Convention.

Section 4. The following Detachment Officers will receive an official call-in:

Senior Vice Commander

Junior Vice Commander

Finance Officer

Sergeant-At-Arms

Chaplain

Historian

Judge Advocate

Vice Commander for Area 1

Vice Commander for Area 2

Vice Commander for Area 3

Vice Commander for Area 4

Vice Commander for Area 5

Vice Commander for Area 6

National Executive Committeeman

Alt. N.E.C.

All duly elected and certified District Commanders

In addition to the above Officers, the following Commissions / Committees may be officially called in to report. Convention, Ways and Means, Children and Youth, Americanism if different from the Jr. Vice Commander, Membership if different from the Sr. Vice Commander. Any other Commission / Committee as deemed necessary may be called in by the Detachment Commander or Executive Committee as well as Past Detachment Captains and Past Detachment Commanders. In addition, the two (2) Assistant Sgt.-At-Arms and the two (2) Assistant Adjutants may be officially called in as deemed necessary by the Detachment Commander or Executive Committee. Under no circumstances will any one individual receive more than (1) one call-in voucher, no matter how many titles held.

The Detachment Commander and the Detachment Adjutant will receive a call-in, however, they are exempt from the voucher clause as they fall under a different budget line item number. An Official call-in is defined as a paid Call-In in accordance with Article VIII, Section 5 of the Detachment Constitution.

Section 5. The Detachment Commander shall have the full authority to call in members of the Department Sons of The American Legion Commission as necessary and they shall be entitled to the same "call-in" allowance as Detachment Executive Committee Members provided that they are not receiving or are entitled to any other type of compensation from any other source within the Department of California.

### **ARTICLE III - COMMISSIONS AND COMMITTEES**

Section 1. Upon taking office, the Detachment Commander shall, with the approval of the Detachment Executive Committee, appoint members to the open vacancies on the Standing Commissions and Committees.

All members of the Standing Detachment Commissions and Committees shall serve at the pleasure of the Detachment Commander. The Detachment Commander, with the approval of the Detachment Executive Committee, shall have the full authority to make any personnel changes for just cause on any Commission or Committee for the good of the Detachment of California.

A. The Standing Commissions of the Detachment of California shall be VA&R, Children and Youth, Americanism, Public Relations, Finance, and Internal Affairs. Standing Commissions shall be limited to a maximum of (5) members including the Chairman and shall serve for (3) years.

B. The Standing Committees of the Detachment of California shall be Ways and Means, Membership, Constitution and By Laws, Convention City, Leadership & Training, and National Guest Relations. Standing Committees shall be limited to a maximum of (3) members including the Chairman and shall serve for (1) year. The Membership Committee and the Ways and Means Committee shall be exempt from the (3) member rule.

C. The Detachment Commander shall have the full authority to call in any Commission or Committee, including the Technical Advisors to meet and report.

D. Any member of the Sons of The American Legion in good standing may be appointed by the Detachment Commander to any Standing Commission or Committee.

E. The Detachment Finance Commission shall not have any oversight regarding the Detachment Ways and Means funds.

F. Any conflicts between the Detachment Constitution and Bylaws, and the “Detachment Financial Guidelines” shall cause the “Detachment Financial Guidelines” to be automatically amended to conform to the Detachment Constitution and Bylaws.

G. One (1) person shall be appointed to serve a three year term as the Detachment Legislative Commissioner.

Section 2. The Commander shall have the full authority, not subject to approval of the Detachment Executive Committee, to appoint up to (2) two technical advisors to any Standing Commission or Committee. Said technical advisors will have full voice for recommendations, but no voting privileges on any actions taken by subject Standing Commissions or Committees.

Section 3. Each Standing Commission shall be appointed in odd numbers and have staggered terms.

Section 4. The appointments made for the initial year will have the length of service on the Commissions determined in the following manner.

A. The Commander shall nominate the members of each Commission.

B. Upon confirmation, the newly appointed member’s name shall be placed into a lottery for the initial length of service. The first two (2) names drawn shall serve an initial one (1) year term, the second two names shall serve an initial two (2) year term, and the final 2 names, shall be drawn and announced, and they shall serve a 3 year term. The next year’s incoming Commander shall fill any vacancies for three years.

Section 5. There shall be no limit on the number of times a member of a Commission or Committee may succeed themselves’ on any given Commission or Committee.

Section 6. The Commander shall appoint a chairman of each Commission and Committee. The Chairman shall serve as administrative head of said Commission or Committee for a period of one year and said appointment shall have no effect on the term of service on such Commission or Committee.

Section 7. Upon the first meeting, each Commission and Committee shall elect a Vice-Chairman subsequently approved by the Detachment Commander.

Section 8. The Commander has the authority to create any special Committees he may deem necessary for the operation of the Detachment Business and shall determine the number of members. These Committees shall be known as “Special Committees.” Any Committee created from this section shall expire at the close of the Detachment Convention immediately following the appointment or upon command of the Commander.



Section 9. Detachment Commissions and Committees shall subscribe to the following duties:

A. AMERICANISM: To administer the mandates and established goals of the National Americanism Commission within the Detachment of California. To coordinate any overlapping of Department programs dealing with Americanism; and to promote the program to the Squadrons in California.

B. CHILDREN AND YOUTH: To administer the mandates and established goals of the National Children and Youth Commission within the Detachment of California. To coordinate any overlapping of Department programs dealing with Children and Youth; and to promote the program to the Squadrons in California.

C. CONSTITUTION AND BY LAWS: To recommend to the Internal Affairs Commission new Squadron and District, Constitution and By-Laws documents and or Amendments to existing documents, and such other duties as delegated to it by the Commander of the Detachment. All actions of the Committee shall be approved by the Detachment Internal Affairs Commission prior to approval of the Detachment of California. **(Amended by Resolution 6/27/13)**

D. CONVENTION CITY: To investigate the facilities of cities designated by the Department to host a Department Convention; to recommend to the Detachment Convention any programs and entertainment to be held at Detachment Convention; and upon the convention being awarded to a city by the Department Convention, the Detachment Convention Committee may become the Detachment Commander's official representative, with the duties of coordination all phases of convention activities with the convention city or corporation. All actions of the Committee shall be approved by the Detachment Internal Affairs Commission prior to approval of the Detachment of California.

E. FINANCE: To perform such duties as are outlined in the "Detachment Financial Guidelines"; to generally care for the finances of the Detachment of California and report to the Detachment Executive Committee concerning the finances of the Detachment. The Finance Commission shall prepare a proposed budget for each and every year before each Detachment Convention for the approval by the Delegates, using financial data provided by the Department of California.

F. INTERNAL AFFAIRS, To review internal policies and programs to insure that they are meeting the goals established by the Detachment Executive Committee, Detachment Commander, and the Department of California Sons of The American Legion Commission; to provide as a defense from persons of an undesirable character; to review and recommend to the Detachment Commander and Detachment Executive Committee resolutions, programs, and policies, not in conflict the National Executive Committee of the Sons of The American Legion, that serve the goals of the Detachment and The American Legion Family. **(Amended by Resolution 6/27/13)**

G. LEADERSHIP & TRAINING: To offer members a comprehensive leadership program that emphasizes ethical behavior, leadership skills, leadership education, and leadership development. The Leadership Committee shall develop all curriculums for all Detachment of California training programs. The Leadership Committee shall determine qualifications and shall make recommendations to the Detachment Internal Affairs Commission for all educational opportunities at the National Level. All actions of the Leadership and Training Committee shall be approved by the Detachment Americanism Commission prior to approval of the Detachment of California.

H. LEGISLATIVE ADVOCATE: To consider legislative matters, make recommendations to the Detachment Convention and the Detachment Executive Committee, and generally supervise the legislative program of the Detachment during the session of the State Legislature. All actions of the Detachment Legislative Advocate shall be consistent with the Department of California's legislative Program.

I. MEMBERSHIP: To promote membership in the Sons of The American Legion; to provide programs to encourage Sons of members of The American Legion to join the Sons of The American Legion program. To administer the mandates and established goals and goals of the National Membership Committee within the Detachment of California. To coordinate any overlapping of Department programs dealing with membership; and to promote the program to the Squadrons in California. The Membership Committee with the consent of the Detachment Commander shall establish the membership goals at the beginning of each membership year. Detachment Membership goals shall never be less than the National membership goal. The Detachment Membership Committee shall be composed of all Area Vice Commanders and all duly certified District Commanders. All actions of the Committee shall be approved by the Detachment Internal Affairs Commission prior to approval of the Detachment of California.

J. NATIONAL GUEST RELATIONS: To provide a welcome Committee to National guests; to escort National Guests to various functions and excursions; to adhere to the financial guidelines for visiting guests. The National Guest Relations Committee shall recommend and approve in advance all invitations of National Officers and National Candidates. All actions of the Committee shall be approved by the Detachment Internal Affairs Commission prior to approval of the Detachment of California.

K. PUBLIC RELATIONS: Through the media of newspapers, radio, and other means of dissemination of news, to spread the program of The American Legion and Son of The American Legion; to foster and maintain an adequate speaker's bureau. To be responsible for the publication and distribution of the Detachment Newsletter.

L. VETERANS ASSISTANCE AND REHABILITATION: To administer the mandates and established goals of the National VA&R Commission within the Detachment of California. To coordinate any overlapping of Department programs dealing with VA&R; and to promote the program to the Squadrons in California.

M. WAYS AND MEANS: The duties of this Committee shall be confined to the development of plans, ideas, and promotions to secure additional funds by and for the Detachment. The number of members of this Standing Committee shall be determined each year by the Detachment Commander with the approval of the Detachment Executive Committee. All plans, ideas, and promotions of said Committee must be presented to the Detachment Commander and the Detachment Executive Committee for approval.

#### **ARTICLE IV –MEMBERS IN ARREARS**

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

#### **ARTICLE V - RULES OF ORDER**

Section 1. Robert's Rules of Order shall govern the procedures of all Detachment meetings

#### **ARTICLE VI - DETACHMENT CONSTITUTION AND BY-LAWS**


Section 1. In formation of the Constitution and By-Laws governing the Detachment, there shall be no conflict with the National Constitution and By-Laws governing the Sons of The American Legion.

#### **ARTICLE VII - AMENDMENTS**

Section1. These By-Laws may be amended at any Detachment Convention by the affirmative vote of two-thirds (2/3) of the registered delegates present and voting there-at.


Date of last Amendments: June 27, 2014, per 76<sup>th</sup> Annual Convention Action

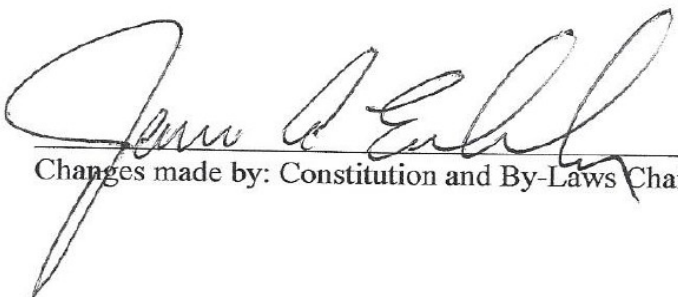
ATTEST:

  
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DETACHMENT COMMANDER: **Michael Fox**

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
DETACHMENT ADJUTANT: **Ned Fox**

  
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DETACHMENT JUDGE ADJUTANT: **Dr. George Curtis**

  
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SAL COMMISSION CHAIRMAN, DEPARTMENT OF CALIFORNIA

 8/9/14  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Changes made by: Constitution and By-Laws Chairman **James Eubanks**

Copy of original Signature sheet inserted by James Eubanks 08/18/2014 and I do attest to their validity.