



DEPARTMENT OF MICHIGAN



DEPARTMENT
BYLAWS

• AMENDED AND REVISED •
April 27, 2024

**DEPARTMENT BYLAWS
DEPARTMENT OF MICHIGAN
SONS OF UNION VETERANS OF THE CIVIL WAR**

Preamble

We, the descendants of Soldiers, Sailors, Marines who served in the Army, Navy, Marine Corps, or Revenue Cutter Service of the United States of America during the War of the Rebellion of 1861 -1865, have joined this Patriotic and Fraternal Order for the purposes and objects set forth by the National Organization, Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War, and in so doing pledge ourselves to commemorate our forefathers ' deeds, to render loyal service to our country and to promote the maintenance of unqualified American citizenship with respect for and honor to the flag.

ARTICLE I - Organization

The Department shall be constituted and remain constituted as provided by the Constitution and Regulations (C&R) governing the National Organization, Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War, and shall be known as the DEPARTMENT OF MICHIGAN, SONS OF UNION VETERANS OF THE CIVIL WAR). The Department is organized as an unincorporated association under the laws of the State of Michigan. The organization is organized exclusively for charitable, religious, educational, and scientific purposes under section 501 (c) 3 of the Internal Revenue Code, or corresponding section of any future tax code.

ARTICLE II- Meetings

Section 1. The Annual Michigan Department Encampment shall be held on a day between the first day of January and the first day of July.

Section 2. In the event of the failure to fix the time and place of the Annual Michigan Department Encampment before February 1, the Department Commander shall appoint a committee of three Brothers to provide a recommendation by March 15th in any year for three dates and three locations to the Department Commander for his decision as to selecting the time and location of the Annual Michigan Department Encampment.

Section 3. Special meetings of the Department may be called by the Commander, with the consent of the Council; and shall also be convened by the Commander upon the petition of a majority of the Camps, approved by their Brothers; provided that not less than fifteen (15) days notice of said meeting shall be given each Camp, but no business shall be transacted at any special meeting other than that for which it was called -and the call for all special meetings shall state the object and purpose of same.

Section 4. The National Council of Administration shall have authority to grant exceptions to the dates prescribed by these Regulations for Camp elections and installations of Officers and for Annual Michigan Department Encampments, when requested, for adequate reasons, by a Department. Request for permission to hold the Annual Michigan Department Encampment must be submitted to the National Council if the Annual Michigan Department Encampment cannot be held by July 1st.

ARTICLE III - Officers and Their Duties

Section 1. The elected officers of the Department shall be as follows: Department Commander, Senior Vice Commander, Junior Vice Commander, Department Secretary, Department Treasurer, and three (3) members of the Council. They shall serve for the term of one (1) year or until their successors are duly elected and installed. The terms of office of the Department Secretary and Department Treasurer (or Department Secretary-Treasurer) shall be for three (3) years.

The Commander and the Treasurer or Secretary-Treasurer shall not serve on the Council. The same member may hold the office of Secretary and the office of Treasurer simultaneously. All subsequent officer and committee references in these Bylaws shall be regarded as Department related unless described otherwise.

Section 2. The Commander, after his election, shall appoint other officers for a term of one (1) year as per the C&R. The appointed officers shall include, but not be limited to, the following: Chief of Staff, Patriotic Instructor, Chaplain, Counselor, Camp Organizer, Historian, Graves Registration Officer, Civil War Memorials Officer, G.A.R. Records Officer, Signals Officer, Guide, Color Bearer, Guard, Aide de Camp, Ceremonies and Rituals Officer and any other positions required by the C&R, these Bylaws and/or the Order's Ceremonials and Ritual.

Section 3. All officers shall be Brothers of the Department of Michigan and shall perform the duties as specified by the C&R, Ritual, these Bylaws, and the orders of the Commander. The officers shall have such other duties, which are prescribed in the official Department Officer's Job Descriptions as adopted by the National Encampment.

Section 4. If a vacancy should occur in any elected office, the Council shall convene and, by a majority vote of said Council, elect a Brother of the Department of Michigan to fill said vacancy until the next Annual Michigan Department Encampment. If a vacancy should occur in any appointed office, the Commander may appoint another Brother of the Department to fill said vacancy until the next Annual Michigan Department Encampment. The removal from office of any elected or appointed Officer for misconduct of duty shall be as provided by the C&R and these Bylaws.

Section 5. It shall be the duty of the Commander and Secretary, jointly, to make arrangement for temporary Headquarters. The Site Selection Committee shall select the time and place for the Annual Michigan Department Encampment.

Section 6. All officers (elected and appointed) shall, upon their retirement from office, turn over to their successors, all property of the Department within ten (10) days after leaving office.

Section 7. Pursuant to the C&R, a sufficient number of Brothers of the Department of Michigan shall be elected as Delegates and Alternates to attend and represent the Department of Michigan at the Annual National Encampment of the Order. Said election shall occur at the Annual Michigan Department Encampment preceding the National Encampment in question. All delegates and alternates shall be brothers of the Department of Michigan.

ARTICLE IV - Authorized Expenditures

Section 1. The Commander, Senior Vice-Commander, Junior Vice-Commander, Secretary, Treasurer (or Secretary/Treasurer) may be entitled to reimbursement of certain expenses necessary for the conduct of their offices. The amount of reimbursement shall be approved by the Council in their review of the budget proposed by the Treasurer. Typical expenses may include but are not limited to postage and mileage.

ARTICLE V-Bonds

Section 1. The Treasurer shall, within fifteen (15) days from the date of his installation, furnish a bond in an amount to be fixed by the Council which sum shall not be less than one thousand dollars (\$1,000), for the faithful performance of his duties, and a just accounting for all funds and property of the Department that may come into his hands, said bonds to be taken in the name of the Department of Michigan, Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War and to be held in trust for the Department of Michigan.

Section 2. The bond shall be taken in a reliable surety company, authorized to conduct and conducting business in the State of Michigan, and shall be paid out of the funds of the Department of Michigan.

ARTICLE VI – Council

Section 1. The Council shall meet after their installation and elect a chairman, vice-chairman, and Secretary. They shall have charge and supervision of all investments of funds and property of the Department. They shall convene no later than the first day of the Annual Michigan Department Encampment [at nine o'clock a.m. (9:00 am)] for the purpose of inspecting and examining the Department books and accounts for accuracy, and accounting for all Department property; and to review a budget, prepared by the Treasurer, for the ensuing year; and for the consideration of such other business as may be brought to its attention.

Section 2. The Treasurer shall have all necessary books, papers, etc., at the time and place designated and shall render assistance for the purpose of inspecting and examining the Department books and accounts for accuracy. The Treasurer shall develop an annual budget to be reviewed by the Council and presented to the Annual Michigan Department Encampment for approval and adoption. Failure to comply without just cause or prior arrangements may result in disciplinary measures as set forth in the C&R and these Bylaws.

ARTICLE VII - Reports

Section 1. All officers shall present an Annual Report, in writing, at the Annual Michigan Department Encampment.

Section 2. The Secretary shall make and keep a record of the proceedings of the Annual Michigan Department Encampment and provide a copy of the proceedings to all Department Officers, Camp Commanders, and Secretaries, as well as all attendees of the Annual Michigan Department Encampment within 60-days, following. He shall make a regular report of the correspondence received and sent, and other activities as required by his office, to the Commander as often as required by the C&R. He shall also make special reports, as may be deemed necessary by the Commander and/or Council.

Section 3. The Treasurer shall prepare and maintain a record of the finances of the Department; reporting the total receipts, expenditures, and balances on hand. This report shall be presented at the Annual Michigan Department Encampment. He shall make reports to the Commander as often as required by the C&R. He shall also make special reports, as may be deemed necessary by the Commander and/or Council.

ARTICLE VIII - Camp Charter Fees and Per Capita

Section 1. The Charter fee for new Camps (full and provisional) shall be twenty-five dollars (\$25) and shall be paid before approval of the Charter by the Department Commander. The fee shall also cover the cost of the Camp Packet.

Section 2. The Camp Packet shall consist of one (1) Ritual, five (5) Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War application forms, two (2) transfer forms, two (2) charter application forms, two (2) organizer's report forms, one (1) Department Bylaws, one (1) Constitution & Regulations, one (1) Document entitled, "Job Descriptions for Department and Camp Officers -Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War," and a listing of the current Camps within the Department.

Section 3. The Per Capita for the ensuing year shall be fixed at the Annual Michigan Department Encampment.

Section 4. Camps shall be exempt from Department Per Capita assessment on Real Sons, Life Members, and Juniors, and Brothers serving in the Armed Forces in an active combat zone as defined by the United States Department of Defense.

ARTICLE IX - Committees

Section 1. The Standing Committees shall be as follows: Bylaws, Legislative, Membership, Graves Registration, Civil War Memorials, G.A.R. Records, Communications and Technology, Nominating, Ceremonies and Rituals, Credentials, Outreach, Military and Veterans Affairs, and Annual Michigan Encampment Site.

Section 2. Special Committees may be created by action of the Commander and shall exist for the period of time designated in the creation thereof. Duties and responsibilities shall be defined at the time of Committee creation.

Section 3. All Standing and Special Committees shall, except as where otherwise noted, consist of Brothers of this Department in good standing within their respective Camps. The Commander shall appoint the Chairman of each Committee unless otherwise specified. The Commander shall serve as member ex-officio on all Standing and Special Committees unless otherwise noted.

Section 4. The **Bylaws Committee** shall be chaired by the Senior Vice Department Commander and also include the Department Counselor and Department Secretary. Additional Brothers may be added to the Committee as necessary by the Senior Vice Department Commander with consent of the Department Commander. Camps and Brothers may bring recommendations for changes in the Bylaws to the Bylaws Committee. The Bylaws Committee shall include these recommendations in their report to the Annual Michigan Department Encampment with the Bylaws Committee's recommendations. The Committee shall annually review these Bylaws, bringing any necessary revisions to the attention of the Department membership. The Senior Vice Department Commander shall submit any approved amendments to the Department Commander for his signature and forward a copy of the revised Bylaws to the Commander-in-Chief for approval and signature within 60-days following the Annual Michigan Department Encampment. The Bylaws Committee shall, after the approval of the Commander-in-Chief, submit a copy of revised Bylaws to the Department Signals Officer in electronic format for posting on the Department Website. Camp Commanders and Secretaries shall also receive an electronic copy of the newly amended Bylaws.

Section 5. The **Legislative Committee** shall keep itself informed of all legislation which may be introduced in the Michigan Legislature, of such a nature as to affect the interest of this Order and/or the other Allied Orders of the Grand Army of the Republic, or the patriotic interest of the people, and may recommend to the Camps, subject to the approval of the Department Commander, any action that the Committee deems advisable or expedient. The Legislative Committee shall consist of the Department Commander, Secretary, and three other Brothers of the Department, appointed by the Commander.

Section 6. The **Membership Committee** shall be chaired by the Junior Vice Department Commander and consist of all Camp Junior Vice Commanders. The purpose of the Committee shall be to put forth proposals and implement programs for the recruitment of Brothers into the Order.

Section 7. The **Graves Registration Committee** shall seek and identify all graves of Civil War veterans in the State of Michigan. The Committee shall bring to the attention of the Department any disrespect or lack of attention shown to any Civil War grave. The Committee shall be chaired by the Graves Registration Officer.

Section 8. The **Civil War Memorials Committee** shall seek and identify all monuments and memorials dedicated to Civil War veterans and the Grand Army of the Republic in the State of Michigan. The Committee shall bring to the attention of the Department any disrespect or lack of

attention shown to any Civil War monument or memorial. The Committee shall be chaired by the Civil War Memorials Officer.

Section 9. The G.A.R. Records Committee shall seek, locate, catalog, and promote preservation of all surviving G.A.R. records in the State of Michigan. The Committee shall be chaired by the G.A.R. Records Officer.

Section 10. The Communications and Technology Committee shall advise officers and committees about the latest computer and related technologies pertinent to the Department. The Committee shall be chaired by the Signals Officer.

Section 11. The Ceremonies and Rituals Committee shall assist Camps with appropriate use of the Ritual in performing ceremonies at Camp functions. It shall help Camps to organize Camp Guards and provide training for these groups in effective presentations and programs. It shall provide guidance and assistance in regard to dress and appearance of Brothers participating in ceremonial functions. The Rituals and Ceremonies Officer shall chair the Committee.

Section 12. The Nominating Committee shall consist of five Brothers who are NOT currently elected to an office of the Department. A Nominating Committee Chair shall be appointed by the Department Commander and shall not vote except when there is a tie vote of the Nominating Committee for any given candidate. There shall not be more than one Brother from one Camp within the Department on the Nominating Committee. The Committee's purpose shall be to prepare a slate of officers, listing one or more Brothers for each elected office of the Department, for the presentation at the Annual Michigan Department Encampment. A Brother(s) nominated for Department Commander must be qualified to be elected by virtue of having served as Past Camp Commander or is currently seated as a Camp Commander. A candidate nominated for any elected office other than the Department Commander shall have demonstrated his ability to responsibly and capably serve in any office to which he has been nominated. The Nominating Committee shall exercise due diligence in ascertaining via peer review or other methodologies that the candidate so selected by the Nominating Committee has demonstrated his abilities for good service and leadership.

Further, any Brother who is a member of the Nominating Committee shall, in the event a candidate who is a member of his Camp are selected for nomination, shall recuse himself for voting for that candidate.

Nominations from the floor will continue to be accepted at the Annual Michigan Department Encampment.

Section 13. The Credentials Committee shall consist of three appointed Brothers, with one designated as the Chair. The Chair will handle the process of pre-registration of Delegates as prescribed before the Annual Michigan Department Encampment. At the Annual Michigan Department Encampment, the Credentials Committee will ascertain that all Delegate Credentials are in order and issue each approved Delegate a voting card and Delegate ribbon. All Delegates

who have not pre-registered will be required to register with the Credentials Committee at the Annual Michigan Department Encampment to receive their Delegate ribbon and voting card. Upon Completion of Delegate registration, the Credentials Committee will prepare a record of the statistics of the Delegates, along with the allowed voting strength of each Camp within the Department.

Visitors to the Annual Michigan Department Encampment may receive a Delegate ribbon as a souvenir if sufficient quantities are available. Visitors will not be provided with a voting card as they are not eligible to vote.

Section 14. The Outreach Committee shall consist of the Department Senior Vice Commander as (chair.) the Junior Vice Department Commander and any other brother(s) of the Department as the Senior Vice Department Commander deems necessary, with the consent of the Department Commander. The committee shall cultivate activities related to the outreach needs of the Department of Michigan. including liaison with Civil War Roundtables. Genealogy clubs. veteran's organizations and other such organizations., for our mutual benefit.

Section 15. The Military and Veterans Affairs Committee shall advise the Department and Camps of items of interest or that concern Veterans and current members of the U.S. Armed forces. The committee may seek opportunities and recommend actions in which the Department can aid Veterans and current members of the U. S. Armed Forces. The committee shall consist of the Military and Veteran Affairs Officer (if so appointed) as Chair. with no fewer than four additional Brothers (with preference to Veterans or current members of the U. S. Armed Forces when possible) of the Department appointed by the Commander.

Section 16. The Annual Michigan Encampment Site Committee shall recommend the time and place for an Annual Michigan Department Encampment to the Department Commander no later than March 1 of the year before the proposed Department Encampment. If approved. the Department Commander shall sign all contracts necessary. Any funds that may be required as a deposit for securing or as a condition of the contract shall be paid by the Department Treasurer. in the event of the failure of the Annual Michigan Encampment Site Selection Committee to fix the time and place of an Annual Michigan Department Encampment by the deadline. the Department Commander shall select the time and location of that Annual Michigan Department Encampment. In any event, the date and location of the next Annual Michigan Department Encampment shall be announced by the conclusion of each year's Annual Department Encampment. The Annual Michigan Encampment Site Committee may make recommendations for two years or more years in advance of the next Department Encampment. Once a contract is signed, the Department Commander may appoint an Encampment Coordinator for that Encampment, to assist the Department Commander in working out details and coordinating with the host hotel and other Allied Orders that may be attending.

ARTICLE X - Permanent Fund

Section 1. A "Restricted Account" shall be established and managed for the purposes of the Department of Michigan. This restricted account shall be known as the "Department of Michigan Permanent Fund."

Section 2. The purpose of this Fund is to preserve the principle and encourage Brothers of the Department and interested patrons to increase the principle through the generosity of their gifts. The Department Permanent Fund must be administered per the requirements of a tax-exempt nonprofit corporation, per the Internal Revenue Code, as amended. The use of the fund must be in accordance with the Constitution and Regulations of the National Organization, Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War.

Section 3. The Department Council is charged to invest the principle of the Department of Michigan Permanent Fund in order to achieve an income yield. The Department Treasurer will administer the account. Reports to the Annual Michigan Department Encampment will include decisions made and a balance sheet of the account's status.

Section 4. The Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War, Department of Michigan Officer signatories of the Department of Michigan Permanent Fund shall be the Department Treasurer and such Assistant Treasurers that shall be designated for such purpose by an Annual Michigan Department Encampment.

Section 5. Any funds donated to and received for the Department of Michigan Permanent Fund shall be deposited directly into this restricted account by the Treasurer. An acknowledgment of the gift to the donor will be sent conforming to applicable IRS regulations. Such funds shall be kept on deposit in one or more institutions whose deposits are fully insured to the amount of the deposit or invested in obligations of the United States or in the securities of corporations or trusts located in the United States, which securities are listed or admitted to trading privileges on the New York Stock Exchange, American Stock Exchange or NASDAQ, as directed by the Department Council. No investment shall be made in the securities of any corporation or trust which has not paid regular dividends on its common stock or on its capital stock if it has only one class for at least three years prior to such investment.

Section 6. Subject to the restrictions governing any such funds, the income of the permanent fund or any portion thereof, as determined by affirmative vote of an Annual Michigan Department Encampment, may be transferred to the General Fund and used for the expenses and purposes of the Order, but any income not so transferred shall be added to the principal.

Section 7. Activities not in furtherance of exempt purposes: No part of the net earnings, if any, of this unincorporated association, shall inure to the benefit of, or be distributable to its members, trustees, officers, or other private persons, except that the unincorporated association shall be authorized and empowered to pay reasonable compensation for services rendered and to make payments and distributions in furtherance of the purposes described in section 501(c)3. No substantial part of the activities of the unincorporated association shall be the carrying on of propaganda, or otherwise attempting to influence legislation, and the unincorporated association

shall not participate in or intervene in (including the publishing or distribution of statements) any political campaign on behalf of or in opposition to any candidate for public office.

Notwithstanding any other provision of these bylaws, the unincorporated association shall not carry on any other activities not permitted to be carried on (a) by an unincorporated association exempt from federal income tax under section 501 (c)3 of the Internal Revenue Code, or the corresponding section of any future federal tax code, or (b) by an unincorporated association, contributions to which are deductible under section 170(c)2 of the Internal Revenue Code, or the corresponding section of any future federal tax code.

ARTICLE XI - Camps

Section 1. The Department Commander may annually inspect each Camp for the purpose of ascertaining the condition of same.

Section 2. The use of ritualistic ceremonies in the conducting of regular Camp meetings is encouraged of all Camps.

Section 3. The initiation of candidates into the Order is encouraged to be done as per the Ritual of the Order at a regular Camp meeting.

Section 4. Camps are encouraged to meet at least quarterly throughout the year in regular Ritual session.

ARTICLE XII - Camp-at-Large

Section 1. While applicants are encouraged to join Camps in their local areas, authorization is provided for the establishment of a Camp-at-Large within the Department of Michigan to accommodate Brothers of the Order who do not reside within a reasonable distance of a local Camp.

Section 2. The Commander shall appoint a Camp-At-Large Coordinator. The Coordinator will perform the duties generally associated with a Camp Secretary for the Camp at-Large. Applications for membership shall be directed to him, and he shall accept or reject the same, keeping a record of such Brothers.

Section 3. All fees and dues collected by the Camp-At-Large Coordinator shall be forwarded to the Treasurer. The Treasurer shall maintain the funds for this Camp as a liability account in the General Fund of the Department. The Treasurer shall remit per capita payments based on the membership report from the Camp-At-Large Coordinator.

Section 4. Membership fees shall apply to Camp-at-large Brothers in the same manner as for Brothers in a local Camp. Annual dues for the Camp-at-Large shall be set yearly by the Council.

Section 5. All Brothers with National Membership-at-Large status within the confines of the State of Michigan shall be encouraged to transfer into a Camp within the Department of Michigan.

ARTICLE XIII -Associates

Section 1. Associates may be enrolled only into existing Camps within the Department pursuant to the Order's C&R.

Section 2. The Associate applicant shall observe all procedures of application, membership, and dues structures as the Member applicant.

Section 3. A rejected applicant for Associate enrollment shall not be eligible to apply again for Associate enrollment until six (6) months have elapsed after such rejection.

ARTICLE XIV - Juniors

Section 1. Camps may provide for Juniors as defined by the Constitution & Regulations of the Order.

Section 2. Juniors may not hold any elected office in any Camp or the Department, nor shall they be eligible to serve in any appointive office of the Department.

Section 3. Juniors shall not be counted in determining the number of delegates a Camp may have to a Annual Michigan Department Encampment.

Section 4. The Department shall not impose the per capita tax on Juniors.

Section 5. Juniors shall not be counted toward the required number of Brothers to establish a new Camp. However, the names of Juniors may appear on the Camp Charter and be so designated as Charter Juniors of the Camp.

Section 6. Camps may impose further restrictions on Juniors and provide for their organization in accordance with the provisions in the Constitution & Regulations of the Order.

Section 7. Camps may adopt amendments to their Bylaws which prohibit the establishment of Juniors within their Camp.

Section 8. The Department Membership-at-Large Coordinator is hereby authorized to establish Juniors within the Department Membership-at-Large.

Article XV - Junior Associates

Section 1. Camps may provide for Junior Associates as defined by the Constitution & Regulations of the Order.

Section 2. Junior Associates may not hold any elected office in any Camp or the Department, nor shall they be eligible to serve in any appointive office of the Department.

Section 3. Junior Associates shall not be counted in determining the number of delegates a Camp may have to the Annual Michigan Department Encampment.

Section 4. The Department shall not impose the per capita tax on Junior Associates.

Section 5. Junior Associates shall not be counted toward the required number of Brothers to establish a new Camp. The names of Junior Associates may not appear on the Camp Charter nor be designated as Charter members of the Camp.

Section 6. Camps may impose further restrictions on Junior Associates and provide for their organization in accordance with the provisions of the Constitution & Regulations of the Order.

ARTICLE XVI - Elections and Installations

Section 1. The Camps of this Department shall elect Camp officers between the first meeting of the Camp during the month of September and the first meeting of December, inclusive. Elections shall conform to any regulations established by the C&R.

Section 2. The Camps of this Department shall install Camp Officers between the first meeting of the Camp during the month of September and the first meeting of the Camp in January, inclusive. The installation shall conform to any regulations established by the C&R and shall be performed by proper authority, that being the Department Commander or his designee.

Section 3. Should the C&R establish dates for the election and/or the installation of Camp Officers that might be more restrictive than those established in Sections 1 and 2, said restrictions shall take precedence.

ARTICLE XVII - Amendments

Section 1. The Bylaws shall only be amended, altered, or added to by a two-thirds vote of the Brothers present and entitled to vote at any Annual Michigan Department Encampment.

Section 2. Any proposed amendment, alteration, or addition to these Bylaws shall be printed and mailed or sent electronically to the Commander of each Camp for review, at least sixty (60) days prior to the Annual Michigan Department Encampment. All Camps shall take action on same and instruct their delegates accordingly. Motions to alter or modify any printed proposed amendment may be heard on the floor of the Annual Michigan Department Encampment.

Section 3. These Bylaws and any amendments, alterations, or additions thereto, after their adoption by the Annual Michigan Department Encampment, and subsequent approval by the Commander-in-Chief, shall be effective immediately.

Section 4. All Bylaws heretofore adopted by the Department of Michigan are hereby repealed

ARTICLE XVIII - Ritualistic Equipment

Section 1. Camps are encouraged to secure appropriate ritualistic equipment and to use same in the conducting of Camp meetings.

Section 2. Camps are encouraged to provide at least three (3) flags. The first two flags shall be the United States and State of Michigan flags. The third flag shall be blue bearing a gold badge of the Order no smaller than 8 X 10 inches centered with the names in gold lettering of the Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War and the name and number of the Camp. The size of all three flags and poles, respectively, shall be the same. The fringe on all three flags shall be yellow.

Section 3. The Department is encouraged to provide three (3) flags. The first two flags shall be the United States and State of Michigan flags. The third flag shall be red bearing a gold badge of the Order no smaller than 8 x 10 inches centered with the names in gold lettering of the Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War and Department of Michigan. The size of all three flags and poles, respectively, shall be the same. The fringe on all three flags shall be yellow.

Section 4. All flags of the Camps and/or the Department shall be displayed, if practicable, at all regular meetings of the respective body, at parades, and when ordered by the Department Commander.

Section 5. All Camps and the Department shall make all efforts possible to secure and use the ritualistic equipment provided for in the C&R, Ritual, and Bylaws; including, but not limited to, station banners, ballot box, altar cloth, seals, badges, etc.

ARTICLE XIX-Awards and Insignia

Section 1. The Department of Michigan may adopt a Badge or Insignia provided that the adopted Badge or Insignia does not conflict with the C&R. All National Organization Badges and Insignia shall be governed by the C&R.

Section 2. Authorization for two (2) Department membership awards is provided. The Department may confer an award upon the Camp within the Department of Michigan that initiates the most new Brothers during the twelve (12) months preceding (March to March) the Annual Michigan Department Encampment. This award shall be designated as the Governor Austin Blair Membership Award. The Department may also confer an award upon the Camp within the Department of Michigan that demonstrated the largest percentage growth during the twelve (12) months preceding (March to March) the Annual Michigan Department Encampment. This award shall be designated as the Orlando Le Valley Membership Award.

Section 3. Authorization for a Department certificate of appreciation award is provided. The award shall be known as the Abraham Lincoln Certificate of Appreciation Award. The Department Commander shall confer the award upon any individual or entity who, in the judgment of a three-member panel appointed by the Department Commander, has through his/her/their actions, words, and/or deeds significantly contributed to and supported the furtherance of the memory of the Grand Army of the Republic; the Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War, and has demonstrated significantly in keeping Green The Memory of Michigan

Soldiers, Sailors, Marines who served in the Army, Navy, Marine Corps or Revenue Cutter Service of the United States of America during the War of the Rebellion of 1861-1865, including but not limited to remembrance ceremonies, gravesite restoration, erection of monuments, scholarship and educational efforts concerning the understanding and causes of the Civil War, publications, and efforts by the media within the State of Michigan.

Recommendations for possible recipients of said award shall be submitted, along with a one---page description of the contribution made, to the Committee Chair, whose email address shall be included with the notice that nominations are open, no later than two (2) months prior to the Annual Michigan Department Encampment. Recipients of the award shall be publicly announced, and a certificate presented at the Annual Michigan Department Encampment. No more than three (3) recipients shall be selected for the award in any one year.

Section 4. Authorization for a Department Doctor Mary Edwards Walker Appreciation Award is provided. The Department Commander may confer the award, which is presented to Sisters of the Allied Orders in recognition of outstanding, sustained, and conspicuous service to the SUVCW, Department of Michigan, in furtherance of its mission and goals. The medal and certificate is to be presented to a recipient with a red ribbon to denote it was presented by a Department.

Recommendations for the Mary Walker Award may be made by any Department of Michigan Past Department Commander, current Camp Commander, current Department elected Officer, or a current National Elected Officer. Recommendations are to be submitted in writing to a Court Of Honor consisting of three Brothers of the Department as appointed by the current Department Commander. The Department Commander shall not be a member of the Court of Honor. The Court of Honor will be empaneled to review any nominations and recommend to the Department Commander their decision to concur with or reject any nomination. For those nominations for which the Court of Honor approves, the Department Commander may then present up to two (2) Awards annually during his term of office.

Section 5. Authorization for a Department J. Richard Greene Award is provided. A three-member panel consisting of the Department Secretary, Department Newsletter Editor, and Department Chaplain shall decide the most outstanding Camp newsletter based on review of Camp newsletters voluntarily sent to them over the course of a year, Encampment to Encampment, with a majority decision made 30 days prior to the Annual Michigan Department Encampment. A certificate shall be awarded with the winning Camp's name and the newsletter editor listed.

Section 6. Authorization for a Department Keith G. Harrison Outstanding Social Media Online Presence Award. A three member panel consisting of three Brothers appointed by the Department (Commander shall decide which Camp has the most outstanding website within the Department of Michigan based on review of Camp websites as nominated by Camps of the Department via the Department Secretary and/or Department Commander and thusly forwarded to the three member panel for review over the course of a year. Encampment to Encampment, with a majority decision made 30 days prior to the Annual

Michigan Department Encampment. Items to be evaluated by the three-member panel may include visual aesthetics and design of the website, functionality of the website, inclusion of interesting information. case of contracting the Camp, up-to-date Camp information such as events and activities, cross-referencing links to Camp social media channels, new features, and activities. A certificate shall be awarded with the winning Camps name and webmaster listed

ARTICLE XX - Discipline

Disciplinary activities are addressed and governed by the National Constitution and Regulations (C&R) in Chapter IV, Articles 1-17 (Discipline).

ARTICLE XXI - Sons of Veterans Reserve and Camp Guards

Section 1. The Department of Michigan will encourage the establishment of a military unit known as the Sons of Veterans Reserve (SVR) as outlined within the Constitution and Regulations of the Order.

Section 2. The Department Commander may call upon the SVR Officer commanding within the Department and request the SVR to provide an appropriate appearance and military participation on behalf of the Department.

Section 3. The Senior Officer of any SVR unit existing within the Department, present at any Department function, shall assume overall command of the military aspects of the Department function. The senior Officer of each Camp Guard participating in the Department function shall place himself and his Camp Guard under the command of the SVR Officer.

Section 4. Camps may maintain an Independent Camp Guard under the auspices of the Camp. Said Camp Guards would not be governed by the Standard Operating Procedures of the National Military Department, SVR. The highest-ranking officer of any Camp Guard shall be Captain.

Section 5. Each member of any Camp Guard may wear upon their kepi or appropriate headgear of their choice, the insignia as adopted by the Department, being the VII Corp Badge. The Badge shall contain a silver, five-point star (point down). There shall be a crescent moon around the top of said star touching. The moon shall be red in color and trimmed in gold.

Section 6. The Department Commander shall appoint a Department Aide who has knowledge of Civil War infantry drill and of the various ceremonies used by the Order wherein uniformed Camp Guards participate. The Department Aide shall serve as a coordinator between various Camp Guards as they participate in Department functions and shall serve as Commanding Officer of the combined Camp Guards at Department functions. The Department Aide shall also coordinate uniformed activities with any SVR units participating in Department activities and shall place himself under the authority of the senior SVR officer present at such events. The Department Aide may offer instruction to the various Camp Guards in practices, protocols, and procedures in conducting public ceremonies of all types.

Section 7. The Department may call upon the various Camps and request that the Camps provide an appropriate appearance and military participation at a Department function.

Section 8. For the purposes of these Bylaws, the presentation of the Colors at Department and Camp meetings are not to be considered a military activity.

Section 9. Each Camp with a Camp Guard may regulate the amount of dues for members of such a unit.

Section 10. There shall be no money paid out from the Department Treasury to the Sons of Veterans Reserve (SVR) or any Camp Guard, unless it is approved by a two-thirds vote of the Brothers present and entitled to vote at an Annual Michigan Department Encampment.

ARTICLE XXII - Inclusion of Other Regulations

Section 1. Included herein by reference and made a part of these Bylaws are the following rules and regulations and any subsequent amendments or modifications thereto: Constitution and Regulations of the National Organization of the Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War and Regulations and Standard Operating Procedures of the National Military Department of the Sons of Veterans Reserve.

ARTICLE XXIII - Annual Michigan Department Encampment

Section 1. All delegates to the Annual Michigan Department Encampment shall be charged a Registration Fee, unless waived in Article XXIII, Section 2. Delegates who pre-register with Credentials Committee, that Committee having a Brother as a Chair of the Credentials Committee, shall be charged a discounted registration fee, as described in the Department of Michigan Operating Guidelines. Only those properly registered and properly credentialed as a Delegate or an Alternate Delegate replacing a Delegate shall be entitled to vote at the Annual Michigan Department Encampment. Registration fees for the next Annual Michigan Department Encampment shall be reviewed annually and may be revised by the current Annual Michigan Department Encampment. Fee structures, if changed, will be published via Department Order following the Annual Michigan Department Encampment.

Section 2. Present and Past Elected National Officers shall be exempt from paying the Encampment Registration Fee.

Section 3. Present and Past National Officers who are not Brothers of the Department of Michigan shall not be entitled to vote at the Annual Michigan Department Encampment.

Section 4. Regardless of the number of Camp, Department and/or National offices, past or present, held by any registered Michigan Brother to the Annual Michigan Department Encampment, he shall only be entitled to one vote on any issue to come before the Annual Michigan Department Encampment.

Section 5. The Department Commander may appoint an Assistant Department Secretary-Proceedings, to help the Department Secretary compile the official record of each Annual Michigan Department Encampment. The Department Proceedings shall include the minutes of the business meeting, each officer's report, and other such items so as to make a complete record of the Annual Michigan Department Encampment. The proceedings of each Annual Michigan Department Encampment, when approved by the outgoing and incoming Department Commander, when published, become the official record of that Annual Michigan Department Encampment. The official record of that Annual Michigan Department Encampment shall be published to the Brothers of the Department in an electronic format.

Section 6. Election of Officers shall be by roll call of Camps or any other method approved by the Annual Michigan Department Encampment.

ARTICLE XXIV - Separation, Dissolution, and Disposition of Assets

Section 1. Organization:

The Department shall be constituted and remain constituted as provided by the Constitution and Regulations (C&R) governing the National Organization, Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War, and shall be known as the Department of Michigan SONS OF UNION VETERANS OF THE CIVIL WAR. The Department is organized as an unincorporated association under the laws of the State of Michigan. The organization is organized exclusively for charitable, religious, educational, and scientific purposes under section 501 (c)3 of the Internal Revenue Code, or corresponding section of any future tax code.

Section 2: Activities Not In Furtherance of Exempt Purposes:

No part of the net earnings, if any, of this unincorporated association, shall inure to the benefit of, or be distributable to its members, trustees, officers, or other private persons, except that the unincorporated association shall be authorized and empowered to pay reasonable compensation for services rendered and to make payments and distributions in furtherance of the purposes described in section 501(c)3. No substantial part of the activities of the unincorporated association shall be the carrying on of propaganda, or otherwise attempting to influence legislation, and the unincorporated association shall not participate in or intervene in (including the publishing or distribution of statements) any political campaign on behalf of or in opposition to any candidate for public office. Notwithstanding any other provision of these bylaws, the unincorporated association shall not carry on any other activities not permitted to be carried on (a) by an unincorporated association exempt from federal income tax under section 501 (c)3 of the Internal Revenue Code, or the corresponding section of any future federal tax code, or (b) by an unincorporated association, contributions to which are deductible under section 170(c)2 of the Internal Revenue Code, or the corresponding section of any future federal tax code.

Section 3: Separation, Dissolution, and Disposition of Assets:

In the case of surrender or forfeiture of the Department Charter, all Department property and assets shall be turned over to the National Commander-in-Chief of the Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War via the Department Commander of the affected Department acting as his duly authorized representative to collect and hold all such property in trust for the National Organization, Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War, an organization exempt from taxes under section 501 (c)3 of the Internal Revenue Code.

Section 4 All property of the Department shall be held for the National Organization, Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War, as a charitable trust that is held and used for the purpose for which the Order exists. Any such transfer or disposal within six months of disbandment or surrender of the Department Charter without the written consent of the National Commander-in-Chief of the Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War is prohibited. The property and funds of the Department shall not be divided among its members.

Section 5. In the event the National Organization, Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War, no longer exists, said property and funds shall revert to the benefit of the first and any remaining organization of the Allied Orders of the Grand Army of the Republic or in their absence, to the State Archives of Michigan.

Section 6. Notwithstanding the above language, upon the dissolution of this organization, assets shall be distributed for one or more exempt purposes within the meaning of section 501 (c)3 of the Internal Revenue Code, or corresponding section of any future federal tax code, or shall be distributed to the federal government or to a state or local government for a public purpose.

ARTICLE XXV - Minors

Section 1. The Department of Michigan and all subordinate Camps shall remain in full compliance with General Order 22, Series 2013-2014; the National Policy Regarding Minors adopted by the Council of Administration 11 July 2014, plus any subsequent policy, General Order, and/or Regulation of the Order regarding a minor's participation in any and all activities of the Order occurring within the Department. Regarding this issue, Departments and Camps will, at a minimum, comply with all State and local laws dealing with Child Protection until such time as the Order can complete this task. Consideration should be given having parents or legal guardians attend meetings and events.

Section 2. These are the initial objectives of the policy that all Brothers should use as MINIMUM requirements for having Juniors and Junior Associates in our Camps and at our events include:

- A. All Brothers under the age of 18 years of age should be accompanied by a parent or person designated as a Guardian (Grandfather, Brother over the age of 18 years, or Uncle) when participating in ANY SUVCW activity.
- B. At no time will a non-related Brother be permitted 'one on one' contact with a Brother under the age of 18. Any interaction with a Brother under the age of 18 must include at least two (2) Brothers over the age 18 at all times.
- C. Any Brother who witnesses or suspects in good faith any type of physical, mental or sexual abuse of any member under the age of 18 will immediately report such suspicion to local authorities first and local Camp and Department Commanders immediately.
- D. Every Brother over the age of 18 who may have contact with a Brother under the age of 18 should complete training related to protecting children from abuse of any type. Free

training is available from the Boy Scouts of America at <http://www.myscouting.org>. You will need to create an account, then select the Training, E-Training, then choose the youth protection training. It takes about 30 minutes to complete. Upon completion, you will be able to print a certificate along with a wallet-size certification card which is good for a period of 2 years.

While this training is not a requirement, it is highly suggested that it is completed to be used as a tool to protect our youth and Brothers.

- E. Ultimately, all Brothers also need to comply with all applicable local and state laws pertaining to child abuse.

These Bylaws of the Department of Michigan were amended on April 27, 2024, in Okemos, Michigan, during the Annual Michigan Department Encampment.

ATTACHMENT(s):

- Appendix A: Bylaws Certification Page – Department of Michigan

APPENDIX A


SONS OF UNION VETERANS OF THE CIVIL WAR DEPARTMENT OF MICHIGAN

BYLAWS CERTIFICATION PAGE

The foregoing Bylaws were amended and adopted in Lansing, Michigan on the 27th day of April, 2024 by the Department of Michigan, Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War and shall become effective upon the approval of the Department Commander and subsequent acceptance by the Commander in Chief, Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War.

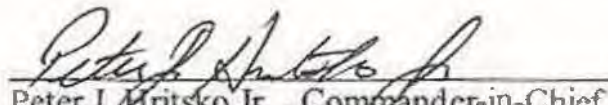

Steve Martin, Department Commander

Date: 5-19-2024


Attest - Richard Denney, Department Secretary

Date: 02 May 24

The foregoing BYLAWS of the Department of Michigan, Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War, amended on April 27, 2024, are found to be in accordance with the Constitution and Regulations (C&R) of the National Organization, Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War and are hereby approved.


Peter J. Mritsko Jr, Commander-in-Chief
Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War

Date: 19 May 24