

DEPARTMENT of the CHESAPEAKE

SONS of UNION VETERANS of the CIVIL WAR

DEPARTMENT BY-LAWS



April 24, 2012

REVISION HISTORY

Rev	Description of Change	Author	Date
1	First recorded revision date – changes unknown	Unknown	04/22/1973
2	Second recorded revision date – changes unknown	Unknown	04/27/1996
3	<p><u>Article I, Section 1</u> - make naming consistent</p> <p><u>Article II, title</u> - since they are called encampments, we should just call them that</p> <p><u>Article II, Section 1</u> - this gives us more leeway in scheduling the encampment and the selection of the dates was moved from Section 3 into this Section</p> <p><u>Article II, Section 2</u> - establishes the commander or the Council as who determines the location of the encampment</p> <p><u>Article II, Section 3</u> - moved the original Section 3 into Section 1 and used this section to define who are delegates to the encampment, which was never defined in the by-laws before</p> <p><u>Article II, Section 5</u> – naming consistency</p> <p><u>Article III, all</u> - Removed the three sections and added nine sections (modified from another department’s by-laws) to better define department officers, which were not defined in the original by-laws; also defines terms of office and removal from office</p> <p><u>Article IV, Section 1</u> – just changed the wording slightly</p> <p><u>Article IV, Section 2</u> - changed “mailing” and “mail” to “distributing” and “distribute” to allow for emailing of department correspondence</p> <p><u>Article IV, Section 3</u> - removed this section, “THE BANNER” mailing is a function of national</p> <p><u>Article VI, Section 5</u> - moved this from Article III (where it didn’t belong) to this Article and made it so that the funds could be placed in multiple banks or investments (the wording comes straight from the national C&R</p> <p><u>Article VII, section 1</u> – the department now pays the charter fee, so we note it here</p> <p><u>Article VIII, Section 1</u> – grammatical changes</p> <p><u>Article VIII, Section 2</u> – lists budget coming from treasurer or secretary/treasurer</p> <p><u>Article VIII, section 3</u> – defined officers as elected and appointed to submit budgets</p> <p><u>Article X, Section 1</u> – gives a bit more leeway on creation of committees</p> <p><u>Article XI</u> – added sections 1 and 2 to better define a member-at-large, going into Harpers Ferry Camp and noting transfer from Harpers Ferry to an established camp; renumbered existing Section 1 to Section 3 and removed specific reference to amount of annual dues to allow the amount to “float” and listed options for a member whose camp disbands</p> <p><u>Article XIII, Section 1</u> – modified to make it consistent with National definition allowing Associates to hold office</p> <p><u>Article XIII, Section 3</u> – national says the minimum for Junior is 6 – this brings us in line with National</p> <p><u>Article XIV, Section 1</u> – added line to define who may swear in officers per instructions of CinC</p> <p><u>Article XV, section 4</u> – this was added to allow is to suspend the by-laws – per suggestion from national outline for by-laws</p>	Steve Hammond	04/05/2008
4	<p><u>Title Page</u> - “Department of Maryland” to “Department of the Chesapeake”</p> <p><u>Article I, Section 1</u> - “Department of Maryland” to “Department of the Chesapeake”</p>	Proposals	04/24/2012

ARTICLE I — Name and Jurisdiction

SECTION 1. The name of this Department shall be “Department of the Chesapeake, Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War.”

SECTION 2. It shall act under the authority of it’s Charter as granted from the National Organization and shall include all Camps in the states of Delaware, Maryland, West Virginia, the Commonwealth of Virginia, the District of Columbia, and/or such territory as shall be assigned to the Department by the National Organization and/or Commander-in-Chief.

ARTICLE II — Encampments

SECTION 1. The Department shall meet annually between January 1 and June 30, inclusive. The exact dates of said Encampment shall be selected by the Officers in charge.

SECTION 2. The location of the Encampment shall be determined by the Department Commander and/or the Department Council.

SECTION 3. The membership of the Department Encampment shall be: all Past Commanders-in-Chief, Past Department Commanders and Past Camp Commanders, in good standing, who have served a full term or having been elected to fill a vacancy have served to the end of that term, the sitting Department Commander, and the sitting Camp Commanders; one delegate from each Camp, whatever its membership and one additional delegate for every ten Brothers, or major fraction thereof, based upon the report for the annual report next preceding the Encampment; its own elective and appointive officers (except Aides). Any Brother serving as Camp Secretary or Camp Treasurer continuously in office for a period of ten years may have conferred upon him the rank of Past Camp Commander with its voting privileges at Department Encampments.

Appropriate credentials for all Past Commanders-in-Chief, Past Department Commanders and Department elective and appointive officers shall be issued by the office of the Department Secretary. Appropriate credentials for all Camp Commanders, Past Camp Commanders, delegates and alternates shall be issued by their respective Camp Secretaries.

SECTION 4. Vacancies in delegate representation to and at the time of the Department Encampment may be filled by a vote of delegates from the Camp in attendance at the Encampment; the Camp Commander having the prior right to appoint Brothers to fill vacancies.

SECTION 5. A Camp which fails to pay its per capita tax or other indebtedness or fails to make reports, shall not be entitled to representation in Department Encampments.

SECTION 6. Special Encampments of the Department may be convened by the Department Commander with the approval of the Department Council and shall be convened by the Department Commander upon petition of any combination of seven (7) Department Officers and Past Department Commanders, provided that not less than thirty (30) days notice shall be sent to all Camps, all Department Officers and all Past Department Commanders, stating the purpose of said meeting.

ARTICLE III — Officers

SECTION 1. The elected officers of the Department shall be the Department Commander, Department Senior Vice Commander, Department Junior Vice Commander, Department Secretary, Department Treasurer, and a three member Department Council.

SECTION 2. The offices of Department Secretary and Department Treasurer may be combined and assumed by one member when approved by a majority vote of the encampment. The combined office shall retain only one vote in any departmental procedure. No other elective offices may be combined nor may any elected department officer serve concurrently in any other elected department office.

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SECTION 4. The term of all elected and appointed officers and aides shall be for one year and each shall serve until the convening of the next Department Encampment except as noted below. The Department Encampment may choose to elect its Secretary and Treasurer (or Secretary-Treasurer) and fix the term(s) of office to a period not exceeding three years. Department Council members are elected to a term of one year.

SECTION 5. Any vacancy that may occur in an elected office of the Department during the time preceding the next Department Encampment shall be filled by a majority vote of the Department Council. Any and all such replacements shall serve until the next regular Department Encampment.

SECTION 6. Any vacancy that may occur in an appointed office of the Department shall be filled by appointment of the Department Commander. Any and all such replacements shall serve until the next regular Encampment of the Department.

SECTION 7. All department officers shall understand the responsibilities and perform the duties of their respective offices as defined in these by-laws, in our Rituals, and in our National Constitution and Regulations. In addition, the Department Patriotic Instructor shall be responsible for the raising of the Department Patriotic Instructor's Fund from which he shall present a Grand Army of the Republic Memorial in the Encampment City, said gift to be not less than twenty-five dollars (\$25.00) and the unused balance shall be turned into the Department at the Encampment simultaneously with his annual report and to be deposited in the Grand Army of the Republic Memorial Endowment Fund as hereinafter provided.

SECTION 8. The Department Commander may remove any department officer delinquent in or failing to perform the duties of his office. The Commander-in-Chief of the National Organization may remove any department officer at his discretion. Any vacancies of office as a result of such removals shall be filled as outlined in Sections 5 and 6 of this Article.

SECTION 9. No Brother may be elected to more than three consecutive terms as Department Commander. Nor may any Brother be elected to a term as Department Commander that would result in his serving more than 45 consecutive months.

ARTICLE IV — Orders

SECTION 1. The Department Commander shall issue at least two (2) Department Orders; the first within 30 days of taking office, listing the elected and appointed officers and the second at least 90 days prior to the Department Encampment establishing the date, time and place of the Department Encampment. He shall issue Special Orders on the death of a Department Officer or a Past Department Commander at the earliest possible date after learning of said death.

SECTION 2. The Department Commander shall be responsible for the distribution of said Department Orders at the time as above noted and shall distribute copies (one to each) to all Camps, all Department Officers and all Past Department Commanders, provided they are in good standing.

ARTICLE V — Department Council

SECTION 1. The Department Council shall meet immediately after the installation of officers to elect a Chairman and a Secretary, fix the amount of bond required of the Department Secretary-Treasurer and transact such other business presented thereto.

SECTION 2. The Department Council shall meet prior to and at the same place of the Department Encampment and perform such duties as specified in the Constitution and Regulations and transact such other business as shall be necessary.

ARTICLE VI — Finances

SECTION 1. There shall be fixed at each annual meeting of the Department, by a majority vote of the members present and voting, a per capita tax to be paid by the Camps and forwarded with required reports, based upon the number of members reported. Such reports and tax shall be forwarded by the Camps to reach the Department Secretary-Treasurer not later than the tenth day after the close of the period for which reports are required.

SECTION 2. Should the National per capita tax (payable to the National Organization by the Department) be increased at any time it would become effective prior to the meeting of the Department Encampment, the amount of increase shall automatically be applicable to the Camps of the Department and shall be so levied in the quarter and/or period said increase is due and payable.

SECTION 3. The Camps shall pay to the Department, in addition to the per capita tax, such fee as shall be fixed by the Regulations or by the National Organization as payable to the National Organization, on applications for memberships.

SECTION 4. Camps having been dropped 1 year or less, may be reinstated upon the payment of a fee of ten dollars (\$10.00).

SECTION 5. Such funds shall be kept on deposit in one or more bank 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, and 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.

ARTICLE VII — Charter Fee

SECTION 1. The Charter fee for a new Camp at institution shall be twenty-five dollars (\$25.00). This fee shall be paid from the Department's funds.

ARTICLE VIII — Budget

SECTION 1. The Department Council shall prepare and present to each annual Department Encampment, a budget of the amounts required to conduct the affairs of the Department. The budget shall include an appropriation to conduct the business of the Department of which the Department Secretary-Treasurer shall receive \$25.00 and necessary stationary or forms for all Department Officers as well as any and all incidental expenses. It shall also include an appropriation for the conducting of the Department Encampment to include a nominal room rental and for the lodging and meal expenses of the Department Commander and the Commander-in-Chief, only, while attending the annual Department Encampment, not to exceed one (1) night.

SECTION 2. At least one month prior to the Department Encampment, the Department Treasurer or Secretary/Treasurer shall make a report to the Department Council outlining the financial status of the Department to that point for the year.

SECTION 3. All elected and appointed officers shall, at least one month prior to the Department Encampment, make recommendations to the Department Council in writing relative to the financial needs of the Order related to their office.

ARTICLE IX — Expenses

SECTION 1. There shall be no transportation, hotel and/or per diem expenses paid to any Department Officer other than that provided in Article VIII, attending any Encampment.

ARTICLE X — Committees

SECTION 1. The Department Commander shall appoint such committees as directed by the Department Encampment and may appoint other such committees as he may see fit to carry out the work of the Order. The duties and responsibilities of said committees shall be set at the time of creation as should the duration of their service.

ARTICLE XI — Members-at-Large

SECTION 1. Any Brother (Member, Associate or Junior) living within the jurisdiction of the Department who is not affiliated with an established Camp within the Department shall be designated as a Department Member-at-Large and a member of Harpers Ferry Camp #6. Any Department Member-at-Large shall pay the appropriate per capita dues as required. Said dues shall be set annually by the Department Encampment. Minimum dues for a Member-at-large will be the sum of the National and Department per capita tax.

SECTION 2. Any Member-at-Large may transfer his membership from Harpers Ferry Camp #6 to an established camp in the Department by stating his intention to that camp's Commander, Secretary and the Department Secretary.

SECTION 3. A member in good standing, if his Camp disbands, will be automatically transferred Harpers Ferry Camp #6. Such a member will be given the option to join another Camp within the Department (paying any dues as required by the camp), remain a Member-at-Large or allow his membership to expire and leave the Order.

ARTICLE XII — Endowment Fund

SECTION 1. There shall be upon the adoption herewith, created a Department Permanent Fund and it shall be known as the Grand Army of the Republic Memorial Endowment Fund.

SECTION 2. In addition to the fund referred to in Article III, Section 2, all dues received from Members-at-large after the payment of per capita tax and/or any other legitimate Department expenses, shall be deposited and credited to the principal. In addition thereto personal contributions may be made to this fund and shall be so designated by the contributor.

SECTION 3. The principal shall remain intact but may be subject to Department disposition by giving notice of such intent to all Camps, Department Officers and Past Department Commanders, all of whom must be in good standing. Said notice must be given at least thirty (30) days prior to the annual meeting of the Department when effort is to be made to reduce the principal, provided, however, that a three-fourths (3/4) vote of the members present and voting shall be required to expend any portion of said principal.

ARTICLE XIII — Associates and Junior Members

SECTION 1. In accordance with Article VII of the Constitution of the Order, provision is herewith made for Associates in the Department. Said Associates in addition to being governed by the aforementioned Article, are entitled to all privileges of membership, including the right to vote, and may hold Department office.

SECTION 2. The membership of juniors is permitted within the Camps of Department. It shall remain up to each Camp to choose to establish a Junior membership program or refrain from doing so.

SECTION 3. Juniors shall be male decedents who are at least six (6) years of age but less than fourteen (14) years of age who meet the requirements stipulated in Article III of the Constitution and Regulations and Section 5 of the Articles of Incorporation. They shall be governed by Article X of the Constitution and Regulations.

ARTICLE XIV — Camp Elections and Installations

SECTION 1. The election of Officers of Camps shall be held at the first meeting of December each year. Installation shall be held at the first meeting of January, succeeding. Camps meeting less than once each month shall elect at the last meeting prior to the end of each calendar year and install officers the same meeting, unless meeting again in January in which event installation shall be held in January. The Installing Officer may be named by the Camp Commander-elect who shall be a member in good standing in the Order, provided the Installing Officer is an elected or appointed National or Department Officer or a Past Camp Commander.

ARTICLE XV — Additions, Alteration and/or Amendments

SECTION 1. These By-laws may be altered and/or amended by a two-thirds (2/3) vote of

the members present and voting at any annual meeting of the Department, provided at least twenty-five (25) days notice of any proposed additions, alterations and/or amendments shall be sent to each Camp, each Department Officer and each Past Department Commander, all of whom must be in good standing.

SECTION 2. These By-laws and/or any additions, alterations, and/or amendments hereinafter adopted, shall be effective, immediately after approval by the Commander-in-Chief.

SECTION 3. Any and all By-laws heretofore adopted by this Department are hereby repealed.

SECTION 4. These By-laws may be suspended by a 3/4 affirmative vote of the delegates attending the Department Encampment.