



BY-LAWS

DISTRICT 4, DEPARTMENT OF GEORGIA

VETERANS OF FOREIGN WARS OF THE UNITED STATES

ARTICLE I SUBORDINATION

Sec. 1. The supreme power of this association is vested in the National Convention and this District shall be at all times governed by the Congressional Charter and By-Laws of the Veterans off Foreign Wars of the United States, the By-Laws of the Department of Georgia, orders issued by authority of the National Convention, National Council of Administration, the Commander-in-Chief, the Department Convention, Department Council of Administration and the orders and directives of the Commander of the Department of Georgia. For the purpose of this Article and Section, Resolutions adopted by the National Convention are held to be lawful orders.

ARTICLE II COMPOSITION

- Sec. 1. The District Convention governs this District. The District Convention and District meetings shall consist of:
1. The Commander-in-Chief and Past Commanders-in-Chief who are members in good standing in a post in the District.
 2. The National Council of Administration member who is in good standing in a Post in the District.
 3. The Department Commander and Past Department Commanders who are members in good standing in a Post in the District.
 4. The District Commander, all Past District Commanders who are members in good standing in a Post in the District, all elective officers of the District and the District Adjutant.
 5. All Post Commanders throughout the District. In the absence of the Post Commander, the Post Senior Vice Commander, or, in his absence the Post Junior Vice Commander may function as a member of the Convention or meetings.
 6. Delegates elected by the Posts.

ARTICLE III CONVENTIONS

Sec. 1. This District shall hold an annual District Convention for the purpose of electing District Officers and for the transaction of the business, such Convention to be held not less than ten (10) days nor more than seventy-five (75) days prior to the convening of the Department Convention.

**ARTICLE IV
REGULAR AND SPECIAL MEETINGS**

- Sec. 1. In addition to the annual District Convention, this District shall hold at least three regular meetings each administrative year, one of which shall be for the purpose of promoting schools of instruction for Post officers and for discussion of problems affecting the welfare of members of the Veterans of Foreign Wars and other matters as may be appropriate to the purposes of the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States. The dates, times, and locations of the three District Meetings and the date, time, and location of the next District Convention will be set annually by the District Convention.
- Sec. 2. The District Commander shall call a special meeting within fourteen (14) days after:
- (a) Properly signed, written request of a majority of the posts in this District; or, (b) a majority vote of the delegates present at a regular meeting; or, (c) the date upon which the District Commander determines that a special meeting may be necessary.
- Sec. 3. In the event a special meeting is called, the District Adjutant shall give notice, in writing, to Post Commanders of Posts within the District and District Officers of the time and place of any special meeting and of the business to be transacted, such notice to be given in such manner as to reasonably reach each Post Commander and District Officer at least forty-eight (48) hours in advance of the time set for the meeting. No business shall be transacted at any special meeting except that for which the meeting was called.

**ARTICLE V
QUORUM**

- Sec. 1. The minimum number of delegates required to constitute a quorum for the transaction of business at a District Convention or at a regular or special meeting shall not be less than one delegate each from fifty (50) percent of the Posts in the District; unless the Department By-Laws reflects a different number of delegates to constitute a quorum for the transaction of business.

**ARTICLE VI
DUES**

- Sec. 1. All Posts in the District shall remit annual dues to the District Quartermaster no later than December 31 of the year of the District Convention. The delegates of any Post failing to remit such dues by the deadline date shall be deprived of all representation at all District meetings and District, Department and National Conventions. Such representation shall be restored promptly upon proper adjustment of such deficiency.
- Sec. 2. Delegates assembled at the District Convention may assess annual dues not to exceed five dollars per member based on membership reported as of June 30 of the previous Membership Year. Thirty percent per member of annual dues may be used for District awards.

**ARTICLE VII
DELEGATES**

Sec. 1. Delegates to the District meetings and District Convention shall be elected in accordance with Section 222 of the National By-Laws.

**ARTICLE VIII
FUND RAISING PROMOTIONS/SOLICITATIONS**

Sec. 1. This District may solicit funds or contributions or otherwise engage in fund-raising activities and projects by prior vote of the District agreeing to such solicitations, activities and projects and in accordance with Section 414 of the Manual of Procedure.

Sec. 2. This District will engage in the following:

- A. Voice of Democracy
- B. Patriot Pen
- C. Teacher Award
- D. Department Hospitality/Refreshments
- E. Program Book Ad
- F. J. Miller Memorial Fish-o-Rama

Monetary amounts will be paid to the winners as follows:

- a) Voice of Democracy – first, second and third place
- b) Patriot Pen – first, second and third place
- c) Teacher Award – first place

**ARTICLE IX
ELIGIBILITY TO OFFICE**

Sec. 1. Any member in good standing in a Post in this District shall be eligible to any office in this District; provided, no member shall hold two (2) elective District offices at the same time, but may hold one (1) elective and one (1) or more appointive offices.

Sec. 2. District officers, elected or appointed, shall be eligible to hold office in a higher or lower body, and such offices may be held concurrently except that the District Commander may not hold an additional elective office at Department-level.

**ARTICLE X
DISTRICT OFFICERS**

Sec. 1. The elective officers of this District shall be the Commander, Senior Vice Commander, Junior Vice Commander, Quartermaster, Judge Advocate, Surgeon, Chaplain and three (3) Trustees.

Sec. 2. The Commander shall appoint the Chief of Staff, Adjutant, Officer of the Day, Service Officer, District Inspector, and other officers, as deemed appropriate to

properly conduct the affairs of the District.

- Sec. 3. District officers, elected and appointed, shall submit proof of eligibility to the District Adjutant and shall not be installed or assume the duties of their office until such proof of eligibility has been submitted and properly reviewed. Such proof of eligibility shall be open to and reviewed by the District Commander, Adjutant and Quartermaster prior to installation of office. Proof of eligibility for the District Commander, Senior Vice Commander, and Junior Vice Commander shall be forwarded to the Department Adjutant expeditiously after the District installation.
- Sec. 4. In the event an elected or appointed officer fails to submit proof of eligibility within sixty (60) days of election or appointment, any right of the officer to hold the office shall be forfeited and the office declared vacant. The eligibility qualifications of such office shall be questioned in accordance with the provisions of Section 108 of the National By-Laws.

ARTICLE XI NOMINATION, ELECTION, INSTALLATION, TERM OF OFFICE

- Sec. 1. The District officers shall be nominated, elected and installed at the District Convention in the manner prescribed in the National By-Laws and Manual of Procedure.
- Sec. 2. District Officers shall be elected for a term of one year except that three Trustees shall initially be elected for terms of one, two and three years and thereafter one trustee shall be elected each year for a term of three years. District Officers shall take office upon the confirmation of election and installation of the Department Commander by the Department Convention.

ARTICLE XII OFFICERS-POWERS & DUTIES

- Sec. 1. The officers of this District, elective and appointive, shall have such powers and duties as prescribed in the Department By-Laws and Section 416 of the National By-Laws and Manual of Procedure.
- Sec. 2. No compensation shall be paid to any officer of this District for their services, except as hereafter maybe provided. The District Quartermaster shall be allowed to pay without special authorization for stationery and incidentals, provided he provides receipts for such expenditures.

ARTICLE XIII PAST OFFICERS

- Sec. 1. A Past Officer is one who has been elected and installed, appointed or succeeds to a vacancy in a District office and (1) has served to the end of his term; (2) died before the expiration of his/her term; (3) ceased to hold office by reason of a consolidation of units; or (4) resigned to enter active military service or, while in active military, resigns office due to receipt of permanent change of station orders.

Sec. 2. Past Officers include those who served in District office in a District other than this District provided that he/she served as indicated above and belonged to a Post that subsequently has been realigned to this District in accordance with Section 719, of the National By-Laws.

**ARTICLE XIV
VACANCIES AND REMOVAL OF ELECTIVE OFFICERS**

Sec. 1. The District shall remove elective officers and fill vacancies in accordance with Section 418 of the National By-Laws and Manual of Procedure.

**ARTICLE XV
VOTING**

Sec. 1. Each member of the District Convention or District Meeting as defined in Article II of these By-Laws, except delegates elected by the Posts, present at a District Convention or meeting shall be entitled to one vote, and an individual possessing more than one qualification for membership in the District Convention on meeting shall have no more than one vote. The delegate or delegates of a Post present at a District Convention or meeting shall be entitled to vote the full delegate strength to which the Post is entitled. The delegate strength for a Post shall be one (1) delegate for each fifteen (15) members based on the membership strength of the Post at the time of the District meeting/convention or as provided in Section 421 of the National By-Laws.

Sec. 2. Should there be a division among the delegates representing the Post, each delegate present shall have his/her pro-rata share of the total voting strength of the Post. For the purpose of this section, a Post Commander shall be considered a delegate.

Sec. 3. A roll call vote may be required and entered upon the record at the call of any three officers or delegates representing three different Posts.

**ARTICLE XVI
BY-LAWS**

Sec. 1. These By-Laws shall become effective after adoption by the District Convention and reviewed by the Department Commander and the Commander-in-Chief of the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States.

Sec. 2. These By-Laws may only be amended or altered by the District Convention by a two-thirds (2/3) vote of the delegates present provided that such amendments have been forwarded through proper channels and written notice thereof, together with a copy of the proposed amendment being given to the District Commander and Adjutant for proper notice to all concerned at least thirty (30) days prior to the convening of the District Convention. All approved amendments shall be forwarded through channels and reviewed by the Department Commander and the Commander-in-Chief before becoming effective.

Sec. 3. Wherever these By-Laws or subsequent amendments may be found to be in conflict with the present or any future Department or National By-Laws the latter shall prevail and be binding on this District as though written herein.

These By-Laws were adopted, subject to the review of the Department Commander and the Commander-in-Chief of the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States on April 18, 2010 at the District Convention in the city of Thomson and County of McDuffie, State of Georgia.

**District No. 4
Department of Georgia
Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States**

**By: _____
District Commander**

OFFICIAL:

District Adjutant

The District 4 By-Laws were Reviewed and Approved on May 12, 2010