

*Sons of The American Legion
Detachment of Michigan
Constitution*

PREAMBLE

PROUD POSSESSORS OF A PRICELESS HERITAGE, we male descendants of veterans of the Great Wars, associate ourselves together as "Sons of The American Legion" for the following purposes:

To uphold and defend the Constitution of the United States of America; to maintain law and order; to foster and perpetuate a true spirit of Americanism; to preserve the memories of our former members and the association of our members and our forefathers in the Great Wars; to inculcate a sense of individual obligation to the Community, State, and Nation; to combat the autocracy of both the classes and the masses; to make right the master of might; to promote peace and good will on earth; to safeguard and transmit 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 this organization shall be "Sons of The American Legion, Detachment of Michigan".

SECTION 2:

The Detachment Headquarters of the Sons of The American Legion shall be located at the site of The American Legion, Department of Michigan, in the city of Lansing, Michigan.

ARTICLE II
NATURE

SECTION 1:

The Sons of The American Legion is a civilian organization. Membership therein does not affect nor increases liability for military or police service.

SECTION 2:

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

SECTION 3:

The Sons of The American Legion shall be absolutely non-sectarian.

SECTION 4:

Each member shall perform his full duty as a citizen according to his own conscience and understanding in accord with the Law, State and Nation.

ARTICLE III *ORGANIZATION*

SECTION 1:

The Sons of The American Legion, in the Department of Michigan, shall be organized as a Detachment of Michigan, a sub-ordinate body of the National organization of the Sons of The American Legion.

SECTION 2:

The Sons of The American Legion, in the Detachment of Michigan, shall be organized under the jurisdiction of the Local Post's of The American Legion, Department of Michigan, and shall bear the name of the Post as follows: Sons of The American Legion, Squadron #, Detachment of Michigan.

SECTION 3:

The American Legion, Department of Michigan, shall have jurisdiction over all Squadrons of the Sons of The American Legion, organized by a Post of The American Legion, in the Department of Michigan.

SECTION 4:

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

ARTICLE IV *ELIGIBILITY*

SECTION 1:

Any male descendant, adopted sons and stepsons of members of The American Legion, and such descendants of male and female veterans who died in service during the Great Wars, as defined in the Constitution of The American Legion, or who died subsequent to honorable discharge for such service, *SHALL* be eligible for membership in the Sons of The American Legion, Detachment of Michigan.

SECTION 2:

There shall be no form or class of membership except as an active member.

ARTICLE V
DEPARTMENT LIAISON

SECTION 1:

Sons of The American Legion, Detachment of Michigan, shall have a Department Liaison, to be appointed by the Department Commander of The American Legion, Department of Michigan.

SECTION 2:

The Detachment Liaison shall consist of one (1) member of The American Legion, Department of Michigan. The one member, to be appointed at-large, shall be known as the Department Liaison.

SECTION 3:

The Detachment Commander of the Sons of The American Legion, Detachment of Michigan, shall work with the Department Liaison, for the entire term of his office.

SECTION 4:

The term of office of the appointed member known as the Department Liaison shall expire at the close of the Annual Department Convention of The American Legion, Department of Michigan, each year.

ARTICLE VI
DETACHMENT ORGANIZATION

SECTION 1:

The Department Liaison shall set-up a Detachment organization, as provided in the National Constitution of the Sons of The American Legion.

SECTION 2:

The annual meeting of the Sons of The American Legion, Detachment of Michigan, shall be a convention. The Annual Convention will be held in the month of June prior to the Department of Michigan Annual Convention. The Annual Convention will not be held on a Fathers Day weekend, unless absolutely necessary with the approval of the Detachment Executive Committee. Notice of the Annual Convention shall be given by the Detachment Adjutant of the Sons of The American Legion, Detachment of Michigan, to all Squadrons of the Detachment. This notice shall be mailed or posted in the Detachment of Michigan Newspaper and sent to the Commanders or Adjutant of all Squadrons at least (30) days prior to the opening date of the convention. The Department Adjutant shall be advised of the dates of the convention at least sixty (60) days prior to the opening of the convention by the Department Liaison.

SECTION 3:

Delegates Representation at the Detachment Convention shall be by delegates and alternates, elected by the Squadrons, and in addition, all Past Detachment Commanders, Captains, and current Detachment Officers with voting power will be delegates. Each member present can

only have one vote. A member cannot be a Squadron delegate and have a Detachment Officers vote at the same time.

SECTION 4;

Each Squadron having ten (10) or more paid up members at the Department Headquarters thirty (30) days prior to the opening of the Detachment Convention shall be entitled to one delegate. The delegate shall be the newly elected Squadron Commander and one delegate for each additional twenty five (25) members or major fraction thereof. An alternate shall be elected for each delegate. Each Squadron represented at the Detachment Convention shall be entitled to cast the entire voting strength of the Squadron, providing that all debts and convention registration fees for each vote have been paid to the Detachment of Michigan.

SECTION 5:

Robert's Rules of Order (revised) shall govern except for specific rules adopted by the convention.

SECTION 6:

To constitute a quorum for the legal transaction of business at the Detachment Convention, there shall be present, five (5) or more squadrons of this Detachment which are wholly or partially represented and five (5) voting members of the Detachment Executive Committee.
Under ACTICLE V of the Detachment By-Laws.

SECTION 7:

All actions of the Detachment Convention shall be subject to review and approval of the Department Executive Committee of The American Legion, Department of Michigan, through the Department Internal Affairs Committee.

SECTION 8:

The Detachment Convention shall elect the following Detachment Officers, Commander, five (5) Zone Commanders, Chaplain, Historian, Finance Officer and Sergeant-At-Arms. The Detachment Convention shall also elect the following National Officers in the even numbered years, for two year terms: National Executive Committeeman and Alternate National Executive Committeeman. All vacancies in offices which have an alternate shall cause the second in command to move up in office. Vacancies in all other elected offices *will* be filled by the Detachment Commander subject to approval of the Detachment Executive Committee.

SECTION 9:

The Squadrons of each Zone, as established by The American Legion, Department of Michigan, shall elect one (1) Detachment Zone Commander for each Zone, to be elected at a Zone caucus by the delegates of that Zone only. If a Zone is not represented at the Detachment Convention, it is the responsibility of the Department Liaison to call a Zone caucus as soon as possible after the Convention adjourns, for the purpose of conducting such an election and to advise the Detachment Commander and Adjutant of who was elected. Immediately following the adjournment of the Detachment Convention, the newly elected and installed Zone Commanders shall meet for the purpose of electing a Chairman among their number.

SECTION 10:

All Detachment Officers with a contested election will be by secret ballot and a plurality vote will win the election.

SECTION 11:

The newly elected Detachment Commander shall appoint the following non-voting Detachment Officers: Adjutant, Assistant Adjutant, Judge Advocate and Assistant Sergeant-at-Arms. The Adjutant, Assistant Adjutant and Judge Advocate must receive an official call to all meetings. The Assistant Sergeant-at-Arms will receive an official call only in the absence of the Sergeant-at-Arms.

SECTION 12:

All appointments of Officers and Committee Chairman are subject to the formal approval of the Detachment Executive Committee.

SECTION 13:

All elected and appointed Officers of the Sons of The American Legion, Detachment of Michigan, shall sit on the Committee to be known as the Detachment Executive Committee. Also, the immediate three (3) Past Detachment Commanders shall serve on this Committee. If a member serves on the Committee in two capacities (i.e. Finance Officer and Past Detachment Commander), he would only cast one vote. He has to be present to cast his vote. All Past Commanders and Past Captains in attendance who are not in the immediate Past three (3) will have a voice, but without vote, on the Detachment Executive Committee.

SECTION 14:

Installation of Officers shall be the last order of business of the Detachment Convention, and shall be done according to ritual and by a team selected by the Detachment Commander.

SECTION 15:

All Officers shall hold their office from the close of the Annual Detachment of Michigan Convention to the next annual close of the Detachment of Michigan Convention the next year. Any Officer may be removed for written cause by the joint meeting of the Department Liaison and the Detachment Executive Committee. The vacancy would then be filled by the Joint Committee, subject to the approval of The American Legion, Department of Michigan, Internal Affairs Committee.

SECTION 16:

The administrative powers of the Detachment between conventions shall be vested in the Detachment Executive Committee. The Committee shall meet at least three times a year, preferable concurrent with The American Legion, Department of Michigan conferences and convention, by the official call of the Detachment Commander. In addition to the above regular meetings, the Detachment Executive Committee may meet on a special call of the Detachment Commander or a majority vote of the Detachment Executive Committee. The Detachment Executive Committee, without meeting may transact business by mail, E-Mail, telephone or fax

on matters of urgency not involving new policy and on which action cannot be delayed until the next regular meeting. Such business shall be recorded by the Detachment Adjutant and reported to the Detachment Commander.

SECTION 17:

The Detachment Finance Officer shall hold office for the budget year (July 1 to June 30), which is the same as The American Legion, Department of Michigan budget year. The newly elected Finance Officer will not have a vote until the beginning of the new fiscal year.

ARTICLE VII
DISTRICT ORGANIZATIONS

SECTION 1:

Intermediate Organizations may be formed, as provided by the National Constitution and By-Laws, to be known as District Associations.

SECTION 2:

Each Association will carry the same numeric designation and area boundaries as The American Legion District in which it is located.

SECTION 3:

The purpose of these Associations is to act as liaison groups between Squadrons and the Detachment and to promote the overall program in their areas through common effort.

SECTION 4:

Squadrons thus associated shall elect Officers from among their members. Titles, duties and terms of office shall generally conform to those of a Squadron Organization.

SECTION 5:

Each Association shall, as soon as practicable, formulate a Constitution and By-Laws to govern its functions in realization of its purpose. Initially, copies of this document, as well as a certification of Officers elected, shall be submitted to the Detachment of Michigan for approval. Thereafter, an annual certification of Officers elected and any amendments to the Association Constitution and By-Laws shall follow the same course.

ARTICLE VIII
FINANCE

SECTION 1:

The revenue of the Sons of The American Legion shall be derived from annual membership dues and from such other sources as may be approved by the Department Executive Committee of The American Legion, Department of Michigan.

SECTION 2:

The amount of such annual Detachment dues shall be fixed by The American Legion, Department of Michigan, and the National dues shall be fixed by the National Organization, and shall be payable on or after October 20th of each year for the succeeding calendar year.

SECTION 3:

The amount of annual Squadron dues shall be determined by the Squadron, which sum shall include Detachment and National dues as set forth in Section 2 of this Article.

SECTION 4:

The annual National and Detachment dues shall be collected by each Squadron and transmitted to the Department Headquarters.

SECTION 5:

The American Legion, Department of Michigan, shall distribute the funds of the Sons of The American Legion upon the advice of the Department Liaison.

SECTION 6. :

The Detachment Executive Committee may establish a registration fee to be paid by all attendees at Convention and all Conferences. (See Standing Rules)

ARTICLE IX
DISCIPLINE

SECTION 1:

The American Legion, Department of Michigan, may suspend or revoke the charter of any Squadron of the Sons of The American Legion in the Department of Michigan, which violates it's Constitution or take such other disciplinary measures as may be for the benefit of the Squadron, District or Detachment as a whole. The actions, however, are subject to the review of the Department Executive Committee through the Department Internal Affairs Committee.

SECTION 2:

Any Squadron that does not pay its annual membership dues to the Department of Michigan, which sum shall include Detachment and National dues as set forth in Section 2, Article VIII of Finance. For a period of Two (2) consecutive years shall have its charter suspended until good standing status is returned by said Squadron. The actions, however, are subject to the review of the Department Executive Committee through the Department Internal Affairs Committee.

SECTION 3:

Each Squadron shall approve and endorse a Squadron Constitution and By=Laws. Which together with any subsequent amendment therto, shall be approved by the endorsement of the sponsoring American Legion Post, District Sons of The American Legion Judge Advocate (when District Sons are formed) and Detachment Judge Advocate before becoming effective. Upon endorsements a copy shall be placed on file with The American Legion, Department of Michigan.

ARTICLE X
AMENDMENTS

SECTION 1:

This Constitution is adopted, subject to the provisions of the Constitution of the National Organization of which this Detachment is a subordinate member. Any amendment to the National Constitution which is in conflict with any provision hereof shall be regarded as automatically repealing or modifying the provisions of this Constitution to the extent of such conflict.

SECTION 2:

This Constitution may be amended at the annual Detachment Convention by a vote of two-thirds of the delegates attending, provided that proposed amendment (s) shall have been submitted in writing to all Detachment Officers and Squadrons sixty (60) days prior to the opening of such Convention.

SECTION 3:

It is further understood that approved amendments shall subsequently be-submitted without delay to the Department Internal Affairs Committee for consideration and modification and/or approval and thence on to the Department Executive Committee for final approval to any implementing action on the part of the Detachment of Michigan.

Constitution of the Detachment of Michigan
Sons of The American Legion
Revisions approved by;
Detachment Executive Committee, February 21, 2009
Sons of The American Legion Convention Body, June 7, 2009
Department of Michigan, Internal Affairs Committee, Fall Conference, February 21, 2009
Department Executive Committee, Fall Conference, February 21, 2009
Sons of the American Legion Convention Body, June 2017