

Constitution of _____,
attached to _____ Post
No. _____, Department of California.

PREAMBLE

Proud possessors of a priceless heritage, we male descendants of veterans of the Great Wars, associate ourselves together as "Sons of The American Legion" for the following purposes:

To uphold and defend the Constitution of the United States of America; to maintain law and order; to foster and perpetuate a true spirit of Americanism; to preserve the memories of our former members and the associations of our members and our forefathers in the Great Wars; to inculcate a sense of individual obligation to the community, state and nation; to combat the autocracy of both the classes and the masses; to make right the master of might; to promote peace and goodwill 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 sprit 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 the Sons of The American Legion Squadron, attached to _____ Post No. _____, Department of California.

ARTICLE II

NATURE

Section. 1. The Sons of The American Legion Squadron, attached to _____ Post No. _____, Department of California, is a civilian organization. Membership therein does not affect nor increase liability for military or police service.

Section. 2. The Squadron 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 seeking public office or preferment.

Section. 3. The Squadron 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.

ARTICLE III

ORGANIZATION

Section. 1. This Squadron is organized as a subordinate body of the Sons of The American Legion, Detachment of California, and under the sponsorship and jurisdiction of _____ Post No. _____, Department of California, The American Legion.

Section. 2. This Squadron shall be governed by such rules and regulations as may be prescribed by the National Executive Committee of The American Legion, By such rules and regulations as may be prescribed by the Detachment Headquarters, approved by the Department Executive Committee of The American Legion, and by such rules and regulations as may be prescribed by its sponsoring Post of The American Legion, not inconsistent with those prescribed by the National Organization.

ARTICLE IV

ELIGIBILITY

Section. 1. All male descendants, adopted sons and stepsons of members of The American Legion, and such male descendants of veterans who died in service during World War I, World War II, the Korean War, the Vietnam War, Lebanon, Grenada, Panama, and the Persian Gulf War, as defined in the Constitution of The American Legion, or who died subsequent to their honorable discharge from such service, shall be eligible for membership in the Sons of The American Legion.

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

ARTICLE V

OFFICERS

Section. 1. The officers of this Squadron shall be a Commander, First Vice Commander, Second Vice Commander, Adjutant, Finance Officer, Sergeant-at-Arms, Chaplain, Historian, and Judge Advocate.

Section. 2. The elected officers of this Squadron shall be the Commander, First Vice Commander, Second Vice

Commander, Finance Officer, Sergeant-at Arms, Chaplain, and Historian.

Section. 3. The appointed officers of the Squadron shall be the Adjutant, and Judge Advocate. To be appointed by the Commander under the terms set forth in Article 2., Section 4. of this Squadrons Bylaws.

ARTICLE VI

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Section. 1. Between Squadron Meetings, the administrative power of the Squadron shall be vested in the Squadron Executive Committee, which shall consist of all elected and appointed officers for the current year, and in addition the immediate Past Commander.

Section. 2. All other Past Squadron Commanders shall be members of the Squadron Executive Committee without vote.

ARTICLE VII

DUES

Section. 1. The annual membership dues of this Squadron shall be _____ for under the age of 21, Dual members shall be _____, over the age of 21 years of age shall be _____ per year payable after the close of the Detachment Convention for each year, for the following year. Members who pay their dues on or before Veterans Day shall be entitled to an "early bird" for the following year.

Section. 2. A member whose dues for the current year have not been paid by January first shall be classed as delinquent. If his dues are paid on or before February first, he shall be automatically reinstated. If he is still delinquent after February first, he shall be suspended from all privileges. If he is still under such suspension on June Thirtieth of such year, his membership in the Sons of The American Legion shall be forfeited. A member so suspended or whose membership has been so forfeited may be reinstated to active membership in good standing by a vote of the Squadron and payment of current dues for the year in which reinstatement occurs. Provided, however, that the Squadrons; Detachments, and the National Organization may waive the provisions hereof, upon payment of dues for the year in which reinstatement occurs, with reference to former members who have been prevented from the payment of dues by reason of active military service.

ARTICLE VIII

AMENDMENTS

Section. 1. This Constitution is adopted, subject to the provisions of the National Constitution and the Detachment Constitution of which this Squadron is a subordinate member. Any amendment to the National or Detachment Constitutions 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 any regular Squadron meeting by vote of two-thirds of the members attending such regular meeting; provided, that the proposed amendment shall have been submitted by resolution, and read at the immediate preceding Squadron meeting, and provided further, that written notice shall have been given to all members at least five days in advance of the date which such amendment is to be voted upon, notifying said members at such meeting a proposal to amend the Constitution is to be voted upon.

Section. 3. Only members in good standing will be privileged to participate in the business of a meeting, vote or hold office.

ATTEST:

Sig: _____ Date: _____

Commander
Sons of The American Legion
_____ Squadron _____

Sig: _____ Date: _____

Adjutant
Sons of The American Legion
_____ Squadron _____

Sig: _____ Date: _____

Judge Advocate
Sons of The American Legion
_____ Squadron _____

Sig: _____ Date: _____

Post Advisor
The American Legion _____ Post _____

Bylaws of _____ Squadron attached to
_____, Post No. _____,
Department of California.

ARTICLE I

MEMBERSHIP

Section. 1. Applications for membership shall be made in writing on blanks prescribed therefore by the National Organization.

Section. 2. All applications for membership shall be acted upon at the next meeting of the General Membership following the making of such application. Applicants over the age of 21 must present themselves to the General Membership when their application is considered and no exceptions will be allowed except by vote of the General Membership. If 51% or more Squadron members cast their vote against the acceptance of such applicant, then such applicant shall be recorded as rejected. A rejected applicant shall not again be considered until the expiration of six months from the date of such rejection.

Section. 3. Members may be suspended or expelled under the same procedures provided for the suspension or expulsion of a member of The American Legion.

ARTICLE II

NOMINATION AND ELECTION OF OFFICERS

Section. 1. At the _____ regular meeting in _____, the Commander shall accept first nominations for elected offices. Candidates for office shall be Squadron members in good standing and may not decline nomination at such time. At the _____ regular meeting in _____, the Commander will accept second nominations for elected offices.

Section. 2. Any Squadron member may present the name of any Squadron member in good standing for nomination to any office, and upon said nomination being seconded, the same shall be considered by the Squadron as being nominated.

Section. 3. At the _____ regular meeting in _____, candidates nominated at the _____ regular meeting in _____ may decline their nomination at such time.

Section. 4. Prior to election, nominees shall be present at said meeting or shall furnish acceptance of said nomination in writing to the Squadron Adjutant. Nominees may, under emergency conditions, verbally notify the Squadron Adjutant subject to the approval of the members present at said meeting.

Section. 5. Those officers shall be declared elected who have by secret ballot received a majority of the votes of the Squadron members in good standing present at the meeting at which the election takes place.

Section. 6. Subsequent to the election of the Commander elect, the Commander elect shall call a meeting of the newly elected officers and immediate Past Commander. The Commander shall at that time, appoint the Adjutant and Judge Advocate subject to the approval of the officers elect at said meeting. The Commander will announce his appointments at the first regular Squadron meeting in _____.

Section. 7. The newly-elected and appointed officers and members of the Executive Committee shall take office at the next regular meeting following the Detachment Convention, at which time they shall be installed by proper authority.

ARTICLE III

DUTIES OF OFFICERS

Section. 1. Commander: The Commander, who corresponds to the President of an organization, shall be the executive head of this Squadron of the Sons of The American Legion with full power to enforce the provisions of the local Constitution and Bylaws and the policies and mandates of the National and of the Department Committees on the Sons of The American Legion and of the Executive Committee of the Squadron.

Section. 2. First Vice Commander: The First Vice Commander, who corresponds to the First Vice President of an organization, shall act as a representative of the Commander on all matters referred to him and shall specifically be in charge of Squadron Membership. He shall perform such other duties as are usually incident to the office.

Section. 3. Second Vice Commander: The Second Vice Commander, who corresponds to the Second Vice President, shall likewise act as a representative of the Commander, and he shall specifically be in charge of Squadron activities. He shall perform such other duties as are usually incident to the office.

Section. 4. Adjutant: The Adjutant, who corresponds to the Secretary of an organization, shall be charged with the administrative duties required in carrying out the policies and

mandates of the National and Department Committees on the Sons of The American Legion and of the Executive Committee of this Squadron and administer the funds associated with operating the requirements of that office.

Section. 5. Finance Officer: The Finance Officer shall be the custodian of the funds of the Squadron. He shall be charged with receiving and disbursing the funds of the Squadron, monitoring the Adjutant's financial account, and shall make reports upon the condition of the Squadrons treasury when called for by the Commander or Executive Committee; provided, however, that all disbursements shall first be approved by the Squadron Executive Committee. He shall perform such other duties as are usually incident to the office.

Section. 6. Judge Advocate: The Judge Advocate shall provide professional advice to the Commander on the conduct of the members of the Squadron, he shall be the keeper of the Squadron Constitution and Bylaws, and shall interpret such Constitution and Bylaws when requested by the Squadron Commander; he shall advise the Commander on rules of parliamentary procedure; he will be the presiding officer at all formal proceedings where discipline of a Squadron member will take place and perform other such duties as are usually incident to the position.

Section. 7. Sergeant-at-Arms: The Sergeant-at-Arms shall be charged with the responsibility of preserving order at all Squadron meetings and he shall be given the custody of the Squadron Colors. He shall perform such other duties as are usually incident of the office.

Section. 8. Chaplain: The Chaplain shall perform such divine and non-sectarian service as may be necessary, adhering to such ceremonial rituals as may be described by the National Membership and Post Activities Committee of the American Legion.

Section. 9. Historian: The Historian shall collect from year to year all records and such data of value and interest to the Sons of The American Legion, and Shall compile during his term of office a complete history of the years activities.

ARTICLE IV

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Section. 1. Any officer or executive committeeman may be removed for inefficiency by the Executive Committee, a two-thirds vote of said committee being necessary to effect such removal. An officer or executive committeeman who absents himself for three or more consecutive Squadron meetings can, on due investigation, by the Executive Committee, be held to

be sufficient proof of inefficiency, warranting such removal, subject to two-thirds vote of the Squadron membership.

ARTICLE V

POST SUPERVISORY COMMITTEE

Section. 1. The jurisdiction of _____ Post No. _____, Department of California, The American Legion, over this Squadron shall be exercised through a committee of three or more members of said Post appointed annually by the Post Executive Committee on nomination of the Post Commander.

ARTICLE VI

STANDING COMMITTEES

Section. 1. Upon nomination of the Squadron Commander, the Executive Committee shall annually appoint such standing committees, as it shall deem advisable for the benefit of the membership of the Squadron as a whole.

Section. 2. This Squadron shall have a Budget and Finance Committee, a Constitution and Bylaws Committee, a Children and Youth Committee, a V.A. and R. Committee, and an Auditing Committee to be appointed by the Squadron Commander with the approval of the General Membership.

ARTICLE VII

MEETINGS

Section. 1. The annual meeting of this Squadron shall be held on the _____ regular meeting day of _____ in each calendar year of said date.

Section. 2. The regular stated meeting of this Squadron shall be held on the _____ of each and every month.

Section. 3. Special meetings shall be called upon a majority of vote of the Executive Committee or upon the written request of ten Squadron members.

Section. 4. Every member shall furnish to the Adjutant his address, to which all notices and documents may be sent, and the same shall be held to have been duly sent to or served upon a member if mailed to such address so furnished. In default of a address having been furnished by a Squadron member, any notice or documents will be held to have been duly served upon such member five days after the same shall

have been deposited in the local post office addressed to such member at such post office address.

Section. 5. Notice of all special meetings of the Squadron shall be mailed to each Squadron member ninety-six (96) hours previous to the holding of such meeting, and notification of the annual meeting shall be made by _____ and or direct mail to each Squadron member.

Section. 6. The notice of special meetings shall state the object and purpose thereof, and no business shall be transacted at such special meeting except such business as contained in the notice therefore.

Section. 7. The Executive Committee shall meet for organization and such business as may come before it within ten days after the annual election on the call of the Commander, thereafter the Executive Committee shall meet at the call of the Commander at least every three months, and as often as the Commander deems necessary. The Commander shall call a meeting of the Executive Committee upon the written request of five members of the Executive Committee.

ARTICLE VIII

QUORUM

Section. 1. Four Squadron members, besides a qualified presiding officer, shall constitute a quorum at any meeting of the Squadron.

Section. 2. Five members of the Executive Committee shall constitute a quorum for the legal transaction of business at Executive Committee Meetings.

ARTICLE IX

FINANCES

Section. 1. This Squadron shall maintain a general operating account and an Adjutant's administrative account. These accounts shall have a budget associated with said accounts.

Section. 2. The officers authorized to sign on these accounts shall be the Commander, Adjutant, and Finance Officer. All disbursements against these accounts shall be signed by two of the three officers authorized to sign on such accounts.

Section. 3. All Squadron and Post officials handling Squadron moneys shall be properly bonded with a good and solvent bonding and surety company, as surety, to cover

double the average amount of moneys handled in a single year.

Section. 4. Disbursements from Squadron accounts shall be made only after receipt of a properly completed and approved voucher requesting said disbursement as outlined in Article III, Section 5, of these Bylaws.

Section. 5. The Squadron finance committee shall develop a budget for Squadron accounts prior to the beginning of the fiscal year. These budgets shall contain line items for required disbursements. Changes to the budget must be approved by the general membership.

Section. 6. An audit shall be made thirty days after state convention. Officers in attendance shall be the Sons of The American Legion Commander, Finance Officer, Past Finance Officer, with Legion Commander and Legion Sons of the American Legion Post Supervisor/Committeeman in attendance.

ARTICLE X

RULES OF ORDER

Section. 1. The procedure at all Squadron meetings shall be governed by Robert's' Rules of Order.

ARTICLE XI

CONVENTION

Section. 1. Delegates to the Detachment Convention shall be elected by the general membership at the first general membership meeting in May. The Squadron Commander and Adjutant shall be automatic delegates, and the Commander will be the leader of the Squadron delegation.

Section. 2. The number of delegates sent will be determined by the general membership upon recommendation by the Squadron Executive Committee.

Section. 3. To be a delegate to the Detachment convention a member must attend at least 50% of the Squadron general membership meetings; and two District or Area meetings, and submit an activities report to the Squadron Adjutant verifying said attendance at such meetings to be qualified as a reimbursed delegate.

Section. 4. Delegates must attend all Detachment convention meetings or must reimburse all moneys allocated.

Section. 5. Lodging for authorized delegates shall be provided by the Squadron. The Squadron will determine the type and location of such lodging; lodging will be based on double occupancy. Delegates who choose not to accept lodging provided by the Squadron shall be reimbursed up to

an amount not to exceed 50% of the double occupancy rate paid for Squadron approved lodging.

Section 6. Expenses for transportation and meals will only be reimbursed if approved in advance of such convention by the general membership.

Section. 7. All provisions set forth in Sections 4 and 5 of this Article will be based on funds available for that year.

ARTICLE XII

DISTRICT

Section. 1. The Squadron Commander subject to the Approval of the Squadron General Membership shall appoint Delegates and Alternates to the District. The number of Delegates and Alternates appointed shall be consistent with the Constitution and Bylaws of the District.

ARTICLE XIII

AMENDMENTS

Section. 1. These Bylaws are adopted subject to the provisions of the National Bylaws and the Detachment Bylaws, of which this Squadron is a subordinate member. Any amendment to the National or Detachment Bylaws which is in conflict with any provision hereof shall be regarded as automatically repealing or modifying the provisions of these Bylaws to the extent of such conflict.

Section. 2. These Bylaws may be amended at any Squadron meeting by vote of two-thirds of the members attending such regular meeting, provided that the proposed amendment shall have been submitted by resolution and read at the immediate preceding Squadron meeting, and provided further, that written notice shall have been given to all members at least five days in advance of the date when such amendment is to be voted upon, notifying such members that at such meeting a proposal to amend the Bylaws is to be voted upon.

ATTEST:

Sig: _____ Date: _____

Commander
Sons of The American Legion
_____ Squadron _____

Sig: _____ Date: _____

Adjutant
Sons of The American Legion
_____ Squadron _____

Sig: _____ Date: _____

Judge Advocate
Sons of The American Legion
_____ Squadron _____

Sig: _____ Date: _____

Post Advisor
The American Legion _____ Post _____

