

**BY-LAWS, INDIANA DEPARTMENT,  
SONS OF UNION VETERANS OF THE CIVIL WAR**

Initially adopted on 8 June 1974 and revised on 7 January 1995, 25 January 2003, June 6, 2009 and June 3, 2017;  
January 26, 2019.

**Article I  
Organization**

Sec. 1 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 INDIANA, SONS OF UNION VETERANS OF THE CIVIL WAR. The department is organized as an unincorporated association under the laws of the State of Indiana. 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  
Activities Not in Furtherance of Exempt Purposes**

Sec. 1 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 by-laws, 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 III  
Objects and Principles**

Sec. 1. We have a firm continuing faith in the fundamental principles of the Government of the United States of America; we believe them to be right and just; and we pledge our allegiance and loyalty to those fundamental principles. The objects and principles of this organization shall be to carry out loyalty and faithfulness to the Constitution and the laws of the United States and at all times and upon all occasions to be ready and willing to show and demonstrate our allegiance to our country by our actions, both individually and collectively and at all times to be loyal to objects and principles of the Son of Union Veterans of the Civil War as set forth in the Constitution and Regulations of our organization.

Sec. 2. To perpetuate the memory of the services and sacrifices of our forefathers for the maintenance of our Federal Union.

Sec. 3. To observe Memorial Day, and to commemorate America's heroic dead through patriotic and historical programs and exercises.

Sec. 4. To teach patriotism, the duties of citizenship, the history of the United States of America, the love and honor of our flag, and to see that is displayed in all public schools.

#### **Article IV Membership**

Sec. 1. All membership classes and criteria for membership shall follow the National Constitution and Regulations of the Order.

Sec. 2. All members of the Indiana Department shall belong to a Camp of their choice or be assigned to the nearest Camp, if the brother does not choose a Camp. At-Large Members are not allowed in the Department of Indiana.

#### **Article V Encampments**

Sec. 1. To make every sincere effort to meet in annual Memorial Encampments to the Grand Army of the Republic (G.A.R.) with members of the "Allied Orders" – The Woman's Relief Corps, Daughters of Union Veterans of the Civil War, Ladies of the G.A.R., and Auxiliary to the Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War. To maintain working relations and rapport with all these groups as well as other organizations and individuals who seek to perpetuate the memory of Union Veterans of the American Civil War.

Sec. 2. It shall be the duty of the Department Commander to notify all Camps in his Department, in writing, of the Annual Encampment and any other meetings at the Department level, starting in said notice the time and place of holding such meetings, at least fifteen days before such meetings are to be held.

#### **Article VI Officers**

Sec. 1. The officers of the Department shall be chosen at the Annual Encampment, as provided in Article IV, and there shall be selected such officers of this Department as designated in the Constitution and Regulations of the SUVCW, except that the office of Department Secretary and the Department Treasurer may be combined and may be called and designated as the Department Secretary/Treasurer, and he may perform the duties prescribed as those of the Secretary and also the duties of the Treasurer. The term of all department officers will be one (1) year.

Sec. 2. The Department Secretary/Treasurer shall keep and maintain a detailed record of all receipts and of all expenditures to be reported on at each Annual Encampment. He shall be obliged to keep a detailed and complete file of vouchers for all expenditures made.

#### **Article VII Finance**

Sec. 1. The Charter fee to be paid by a new Camp shall be twenty-five dollars (\$25.00), which fee shall cover the cost of a Charter and Camp packet. The said fee must be paid at the time application is made for the Charter. Any sum which remains after paying for the Charter and the Camp packet may be used in the work of the organizing new Camps at the discretion at the Department Commander.

Sec. 2. Any Camp which has been dropped for less than a year may be reinstated upon the payment of ten dollars and may, by being reinstated, retain their original Charter.

Sec. 3. The Department Encampment shall assess a per capita tax per annum on each member reported in good standing at the end of March. The term member includes all classifications of membership, including life members, associates, and regular members, but excludes juniors and associate juniors. Such tax shall be payable by the individual camps payable in one annual installment and forwarded to the Department Secretary/Treasurer on or before the first day of May.

Sec. 4. The Department, in regular session, shall fix the rate of per capita tax for the ensuing year. Upon existence, however, of an emergency during the year, the Department Council may regulate the rate of per capita tax.

Sec. 5. All expenditures for the Department shall be made upon the approval of the Department Commander or Department Council, subject to the ratification of the Department in regular session.

#### **Article VIII Committees**

Sec. 1. It shall be the duty of the Department Commander to appoint each year a committee of two or more Brothers in good standing as a Committee of Visitation to visit the Veterans' Home at Lafayette, Indiana, at least once a year. Preferably timing said visit to coincide with a joint visitation by other groups of the GAR family if at all possible. The said Committee will also report to the next Annual Encampment on this visitation as well.

Sec. 2. Upon the death of any Department Officer, Past Department Commander, or sitting Camp Commander, it shall be the duty of the Department Commander to at once appoint a Committee of Memorial, who shall prepare a suitable memorial and send a copy to the family of the departed Brother together with a copy to the *Banner* and a copy to the next ensuing Department Encampment.

#### **Article IX Reports**

Sec. 1. All Department Officers and all standing and special committees shall report in writing at each Annual Encampment the results of their efforts and activity during the term then closing and with any recommendation they may have for the future welfare of the Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War.

#### **Article X Amendments**

Sec. 1. Any amendment or alteration, proposed to be made to these Bylaws, shall be presented in writing to the Department Commander, who will forward the proposed amendment to each Camp Commander, at least 60 days prior to the next Department Encampment. The proposed amendment will be read and acted upon by the Encampment when in session. Such amendments shall require a two-thirds vote of all voting members present at the Encampment, to secure its passage.

## **Article XI**

### **Repeal**

Sec. 1. All laws, Bylaws or resolutions in conflict herewith for the government of the Indiana Department, SUVCW, are hereby repealed. The laws and Bylaws herein contained in this instrument shall be effective and in full force upon their adoption by the Department and approval by the Commander-in-Chief.

## **Article XII**

### **Minors**

Sec. 1. The Department of Indiana 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 July 11, 2014, plus any subsequent Policy, General Order and/or Regulation of the Order regarding minor's participation in any and all activities of the Order occurring within the Department.

## **Article XIII**

### **Separation, Dissolution and Disposition of Assets**

Section 1: 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 2: 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 3: 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 Indiana.

Section 4: 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.

Adopted at the 26<sup>th</sup> Memorial Encampment of the Indiana Department held in Indianapolis, Indiana, on 8 June 1974. The document was prepared by a Committee consisting of Argus E. Ogburn, Donald C. Kelly, and Elmer R. Meek.

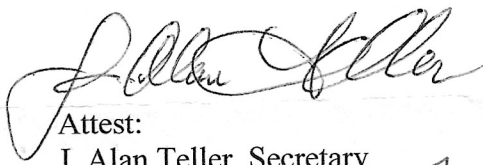
Revised at the Mid-Winter Encampment of the Indiana Department held in Kokomo, Indiana, on 7 January 1995.


Revised at the Mid-Winter Encampment of the Indiana Department held in Huntington, Indiana, on 25 January 2003.

Revised at the Annual Encampment of the Department of Indiana held in Kokomo, Indiana, on the 6 day of June 2009.

Revised at the Annual Encampment of the Department of Indiana held in Kokomo, Indiana on the 3 day of June 2017.

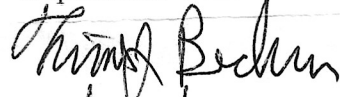
Revised at the Midwinter Encampment of the Department of Indiana held in Valparaiso, Indiana on the 26<sup>th</sup> day of January 2019.

  
Attest:  
J. Alan Teller, Secretary

  
Donald W. Shaw  
Commander-in-Chief

3/4/19

Timothy Beckman  
Department Commander

  
1/26/19