

# BYLAWS OF THE DEPARTMENT OF KANSAS

(As revised April 25, 2009)

## PREAMBLE

**W**e, the descendants of the Soldiers, Sailors, and Marines who served in the Army and Navy of the United States of America during the War of the Rebellion of 1861-1865, have joined this Patriotic and Fraternal Order for the purposes and objectives set forth by the National Organization, Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War, and in doing so pledge ourselves to commemorate our forefather's deeds, render loyal service to our country, and to promote the maintenance of unqualified American citizenship with respect for and honor to the flag.

### Article I: NAME

The name of the Order shall be the **Department of Kansas, Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War**, hereafter referred to as the Department.

### Article II: PURPOSE

**Section A.** To perpetuate the memory of the Grand Army of the Republic and of the men who saved the Union 1861 - 1865; to assist in every practicable way in the preservation and making available for research of documents and records pertaining to the Grand Army of the Republic and its members; to cooperate in doing honor to all who have patriotically served our country in any war; to teach patriotism, and the duties of citizenship, the true history of our country, and the love and honor of our Flag; to oppose every tendency or movement that would weaken loyalty to, or make for the destruction or impairment of our constitutional Union; and to inculcate and broadly sustain the American principles of representative government, of equal rights, and of impartial justice for all.

**Section B.** The Ritual and Ceremonies of the Order are an integral and historic part of the Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War. As such, all Camps within the Department of Kansas shall conduct meetings as provided in the Rituals and Ceremonies of the Order, except when circumstance are prohibitive.

### Article III: PROHIBITED ACTIVITIES

**Section A.** The Department shall not be conducted for profit.

**Section B.** The Department, being strictly non-sectarian and non-partisan, shall not introduce, discuss or foster sectarian or partisan topics.

### Article IV. FORMATION AND DISBANDMENT

**Section A.** A Camp may be formed by authority of the Department Commander with the approval of the Commander-in-Chief.

**Section B.** The Department Commander shall have the authority to recommend to the Commander-in-Chief the revocation of the Charter of any Camp which does not conform to the Constitution and Regulations of this Order.

**Section C.** Upon the formation of a Camp, there shall be issued to it a Charter, which shall be signed by the Department Commander, attested by the Department Secretary, and approved by the Commander-in-Chief. The Charter fee for a new Camp

shall be as established by the National Organization. The fee shall be paid to the Department and shall accompany the application for a Charter.

**Section D.** No Charter shall be surrendered by any Camp, so long as ten brothers thereof, in good standing, demand its continuance; and provided further, the Department Commander and each and every brother of the Camp shall receive at least twenty (20) days notice, in person or by mail, of the intention to surrender the Charter.

**Section E.** In case of the surrender or forfeiture of a Charter, all of the Camp property and money shall be turned over to the Department Commander or to his duly authorized representative, and become the property of the Department. Any transfer or disposal of any of its property by a Camp in arrears for its per-capita tax shall be fraudulent and void, and any such transfer or disposal by a Camp of its property in contemplation of disbandment or surrender of its Charter shall also be fraudulent and void. All property of a Camp is held by it as a charitable trust that is to be held and used for the purpose for which this Order exists, and any such transfer or disposal within six months of disbandment or surrender of its Charter without written consent of the Department shall be conclusively presumed to be in contemplation of such disbandment or surrender. No Camp shall divide its property among its brothers.

**Section F.** A Camp one year or more in arrears in the payment of per-capita tax and failing or neglecting to forward reports, may be disbanded and the Charter thereof revoked.

**Section G.** Camps having been dropped may be reinstated upon payment of a required fee of \$25.00 and may retain their original Charter.

**Section H.** A Camp failing to pay per-capita tax or neglecting to forward reports within the time specified by law, may be suspended by the Department Commander. Suspended Camps may be reinstated by forwarding reports and paying all arrearages of per-capita taxes.

**Section I.** The Department permits Camps to admit Associates and Junior Associates to the Camp, provided the Camp complies with all of the provisions of the Constitution of the Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War. Camp bylaws must permit Associates and Junior Associates in the camp in order to allow Associates and Junior Associates to join the camp.

**Section J.** In accordance with Chapter II, Article X, Section 1, National Regulations, the Department shall not maintain Members at Large (MAL). When applications are received from

the National Organization for MAL, the Department Junior Vice Commander shall contact the brother and give him the opportunity to select one of the Camps in the Department to join. If the new MAL does not elect to choose a Camp, he shall be assigned to the Camp closest to his place of residence. The Department Council shall develop and maintain a map of the Department to serve as a guideline for Camp assignment.

**Article V: MEMBERSHIP**

**Section A.** The Department shall be governed by its Department Encampment, subordinate to the National Organization.

**Section B.** The membership of the Department Encampment shall be constituted as follows:

- 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, and its 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 annual report ending March 31 immediately prior to the Department Encampment. As such, the camp annual reports must be submitted to the Department Secretary so as to arrive no later than three (3) days prior to the scheduled date of the Department Encampment.
- Its own Elective Officers.

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 the Department Encampment.

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

**Section D.** A Camp which fails to pay its per-capita tax or other indebtedness or fails to make reports, shall not be entitled to representation at the Department Encampment.

**Section E.** To obtain restoration of rank of Past Camp Commander the brother shall make request in writing to the Camp of which he is a brother. If acted upon favorably by the Camp in regular session, said request shall be forwarded to the Department Commander, setting forth the causes of loss of rank, and reasons for the request of restoration. The Department Commander shall present same to the Department Encampment where, if acted upon favorably, such rank shall be restored.

**Article VI: MEETINGS**

**Section A.** The Department shall meet in Annual Encampment. Said Annual Encampment shall be held on the 4th weekend in April each year. If, for any reason, the "Host Camp"

(as defined in Article VI, Section F) determines that it needs the date(s) of the Annual Encampment to be changed on a "one-time" basis, then the Department Commander shall call for a Special meeting of the Department Encampment (as defined in Article VI, Section B), at a time and place of the Department Commander's choosing, by and with the consent of the Department Council, for the express purpose of changing the date(s) of the Annual Department Encampment.

**Section B.** Special meetings of the Department Encampment may be called by the Department Commander, by and with the consent of the Department Council; but no business shall be transacted at any special meeting other than that for which it was specifically called, which call shall state the purpose and object of said meeting.

**Section C.** A majority of the membership reported present and entitled to vote shall constitute a quorum.

**Section D.** All meetings of the Department shall have a United States Flag, the Department Flag, and the Department Charter displayed.

**Section E.** All meetings of the Department shall be conducted via the guidelines of the Constitution and the Rules and Regulations of the National Organization of the Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War, the Ritual of the Order, and the current edition of Robert's Rules of Order, in that order.

**Section F. Host Camp.**

(a) A camp which wishes to host the Annual Department Encampment, shall submit a proposal to the Spring Council Meeting the year preceding the subject encampment.

(b) Proposals to host the Annual Department Encampment shall include the proposed location, the ability to meet the facility needs for the encampment, to include meeting facility for the LGAR, primary point of contact for additional information, and estimated cost of Noon meal, if provided.

(c) Camps who intend to submit proposals shall notify the Department Secretary at least one week prior to the Spring Council Meeting in order that adequate time may be allocated during the meeting.

(d) In the event that no proposals are submitted, the Department Council will solicit proposals from one or more camps.

(e) The Department Council shall review submitted proposals and submit them to the Annual Department Encampment for final approval.

**Section G.** In the event that the designated "Host Camp" for that year's Annual Encampment shall be unable, for any reason, to host that year's Encampment they shall notify the Department Commander, in writing, as soon as this information becomes available. The Department Commander may call a special meeting of the Department Encampment in accordance with Article VI, Section B, to resolve the situation.

**Section H. FALL COUNCIL MEETING.** The officers of the Department shall conduct the "Fall Council Meeting" each year on the **third Saturday of October**. The location and time

for the meeting shall be determined by the Department Commander.

(1) **Purpose.** The Fall Council Meeting shall be for the purpose conducting the routine business of the Department, to include approving expenditures, policies, and procedures. The Department Council will not take actions which are reserved for the Department Encampment. Likewise, any action of the Department Council may be overruled by action of the next Department Encampment.

(2) **Voting Members.** The elected offices of the Department and the immediate Past Department Commander are the voting members of the Department Council.

(3) **Non-voting Members.**

(a) All appointed Department Officers are members of the Council, without vote, and should be in attendance.

(b) All brothers of the Department holding the honor of Past Department Commander are members without vote, and, as such, encouraged to attend the meeting.

(4) **Other Attendees.**

(a) Camp Commanders, or their designated representative, should attend. They should be prepared to report on the activities of their camp. This provides an opportunity for communication between the Department Officers and the camps. Camp Commanders or representatives are attendees without membership on the Council and without vote.

(b) All brothers of the Department are permitted and encouraged to attend the meeting without voice or vote. Any attendee may request of the Department Commander to present an item to the meeting or to provide discussion or comments on an item being discussed at the meeting. It shall be the decision of the Department Commander as to whether this shall be permitted.

**Section I. WINTER TRAINING SESSION.** The Winter Training Session for the Department shall be conducted on the **second Saturday of January**. The location and time for the meeting shall be determined by the Department Commander. The purpose of the Winter Training Session is to provide updated information and training to the elected officers of the Camps. This meeting is scheduled to have the greatest impact on the newly elected camp officers.

(1) Trainers/Presenters will be the elected Department officers or designee.

(2) Attendees should be the Camp Commanders, Camp Senior Vice Commanders, Camp Junior Vice Commanders, and Camp Secretaries/Treasurers.

**Section J. SPRING COUNCIL MEETING.** The officers of the Department shall conduct the "Spring Council Meeting" each year on the **second Saturday of March**. The location and time for the meeting shall be determined by the Department Commander, with preference given to locating it at the camp which will be the host camp for the upcoming

Department Encampment. The attendees, purpose, and limitations are as described for the Fall Council Meeting, above.

**Article VII: OFFICERS**

**Section A. Department Officers.**

(1) The Officers of the Department shall be the Department Commander, Senior Vice Department Commander, Junior Vice Department Commander, three brothers of the Department Council, Department Patriotic Instructor, Department Chaplain, Department Secretary, Department Treasurer, Department Historian, Department Counselor, Department Graves Registration Officer, and Department Civil War Memorials Officer, Guide, Color Bearer, and Guard. The offices of Department Secretary and Department Treasurer may be combined into the office of Department Secretary/Treasurer. The incoming Department Commander may delay appointing brothers to the offices of Guide, Color Bearer, and Guard until the next Department Encampment, at which time he will appoint them *pro tempore*.

(2) The combined office of Department Secretary/Treasurer may be replaced with the separate offices of Department Secretary and Department Treasurer.

(a) Such change shall require a majority vote of the Department Annual Encampment, with such vote occurring prior to the official call for nominations for the office.

(b) Such change shall only occur at the end of the normal term of office for the then current Department Secretary/Treasurer.

(c) Such change shall not require further amendment to the Bylaws of the Department of Kansas to implement.

(3) The separate offices of Department Secretary and Department Treasurer may be replaced with the combined office of Department Secretary/Treasurer.

(a) Such change shall require a majority vote of the Department Annual Encampment, with such vote occurring prior to the official call for nominations for the offices.

(b) Such change shall only occur at the end of the normal term of office for the then current Department Secretary and Department Treasurer.

(c) Such change shall not require further amendment to the Bylaws of the Department of Kansas to implement.

**Section B. Election of Officers, Delegates, and Alternates.**

(1) The Department Commander, Senior Vice Department Commander, Junior Vice Department Commander, Department Council, Department Secretary/Treasurer Treasurer or Department Secretary and Department Treasurer, Delegates and Alternates to the National Encampment shall be elected at the annual encampment by a roll-call of Camps in numerical order.

(a) A majority of all the votes cast shall be necessary to elect Department Commander, Senior Vice

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Department Commander, Junior Vice Department Commander, and Department Secretary/Treasurer.

(b) Delegates and Alternates will be elected by a plurality of the votes.

(c) When electing Department Council Members for terms of office with differing length of terms, or when filling an unexpired term, The positions will be elected separately, as follows. Positions being elected for two-years terms will be elected first. All Council Members for two-year terms may be elected in the same vote. Next, any positions for one-year terms, normally to fill a vacancy in an unexpired term, will be elected. All Council Members for one-year terms may be elected in the same vote. Council Members will be elected by a plurality of the votes cast.

(d) If there is but one nominee for an office the Department may elect by viva voce vote.

(2) Provided, that no brother shall be eligible for election to the office of Department Commander unless he has served as a Camp Commander. No brother shall be eligible for election to the office of Department Commander who is not present and entitled to vote at the Department Encampment.

(3) No brother shall be eligible for election to the Department offices of Senior Vice Department Commander or Junior Vice Department Commander unless he has served, or is currently serving, as a Camp Commander. No brother shall be eligible to be nominated for election to the office of Senior Vice Department Commander or Junior Vice Department Commander who is not present and entitled to vote at the Department Encampment. In the case of a nominee for Senior Vice Department Commander or Junior Vice Department Commander, the nomination of a brother to these offices, and the election thereto, may occur in his absence provided that:

(a) A motion to nominate in his absence is made and approved by two-thirds(2/3)of the voting membership present at the Department Encampment; and

(b) The brother to be nominated has submitted, in writing, a statement, that, if he is elected to the position for which he is to be nominated, he will provide satisfactory service during his term of office; and

(c) The brother to be nominated has stated in writing that he knows of no reason to prevent him from performing his duties during the coming year, and that he will attend the following Department Encampment.

**Section C.** On assuming office, the Department Commander shall appoint all other Department Officers not elected; and may appoint an Assistant Secretary and/or Assistant Secretary/-Treasurer. The duties of appointed positions, for which no appointee is designated, shall be retained by the Department Commander.

**Section D.** The term of all elective and appointed officers shall be as follows:

(1) The Department Commander, Senior Vice Department Commander, and Junior Vice Department Commander shall be

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elected for a term of one year. No Department Commander may be reelected to that position for more than three (3) consecutive terms, or if such election will result in him serving as Department Commander for more than 45 consecutive months.

(2) The term of all elective and appointed officers, except the office of Secretary/Treasurer or Department Secretary and Department Treasurer, shall be for one year. The term of office for Secretary/Treasurer or Department Secretary and Department Treasurer shall be for three (3) years, commencing with the 2008 term.

(3) Department Council Members will be elected for a two-year term of office, with one position being elected in odd-numbered years and two positions being elected in even-numbered years. Any Council Member vacancy which should occur between Department Encampments shall be filled in accordance with Section F, below. In the case where the term of office for that position would normally extend beyond the next Department Encampment, the remainder of the term shall be filled by a brother elected at that Department Encampment. This provision shall be implemented at the 14th Department Encampment in 2010, with two positions being elected for two-year terms of office and one position being elected for a one-year term of office at that time.

(4) Appointed officers of the Department shall be appointed by the Department Commander to serve for a period of up to one year, unless sooner relieved. All appointments shall expire automatically at the end of the next Department Encampment, unless otherwise defined by these Bylaws.

**Section E.** The installation of Department Officers shall be performed at the Encampment by some person chosen by the Department Commander Elect.

**Section F.** Any vacancy which may occur in an elective office of the Department shall be filled by a majority vote of the Department Council for the period until the next regular meeting of the Department Encampment.

**Section G.** Any officer delinquent in or failing to perform the duties of his office may be removed from office by the Department Commander or by the Commander-in-Chief.

## Article VIII. DUTIES OF OFFICERS

**Section A.** The Department Commander shall be the executive officer of the Department, charged with the duty of administering the affairs of the Department. He shall preside at all meetings of the Department Encampment; appoint all the standing and other committees (of which he shall be a member ex-officio) unless otherwise prescribed by the Encampment. He shall supply to each Camp Secretary and Camp Treasurer an adequate supply of report blanks. He shall at frequent intervals contact Camps, their Officers, Department Officers, and issue Department Orders and official communications. He should perform all other such duties as prescribed for his position in "*Job Descriptions for Camp and Department Officers*", prepared by the National Organization, Committee on Program and Policy.

**Section B.** The Senior Vice Department Commander shall temporarily and respectively perform the duties of the

Department Commander in the case of the senior officers' incapacity or inability to perform his duties. The Senior Vice Department Commander should also perform such other duties as are described for his own position in "*Job Descriptions for Camp and Department Officers*", prepared by the National Organization, Committee on Program and Policy.

**Section C.** The Department Secretary or Secretary/Treasurer, in his capacity as Secretary, shall keep a true and accurate record of the proceedings of the Department Encampment. He shall keep and be the custodian of the files and membership records of the Department, and shall keep such other records in connection with his office as may be required by the Department Commander or the Department Encampment. He shall, by the due date established in National Regulations, make a consolidated report of the Camp Secretary's reports to the Department Commander, and forward a copy of same to the National Executive Director, together with the amount due for per-capita and application fees. He shall, by the fifteenth day of each month, forward to the National Executive Director all Camp Status Reports received from Camps for the previous month. He shall forward a report of the election of officers, delegates and alternates to the National Secretary and National Executive Director within thirty (30) days after such election, and perform all other duties pertaining to his office as described in "*Job Descriptions for Camp and Department Officers*", prepared by the National Organization, Committee on Program and Policy.

**Section D.** The Department Treasurer or Secretary/Treasurer, in his capacity as Treasurer, shall hold the funds of the Department and pay out the same upon requisition in due form from the Department Secretary, approved by the Department Commander. He shall have charge of all property of the Department not otherwise provided for, shall keep a true and accurate account of all receipts and expenditures, and perform such other duties as described in "*Job Descriptions for Camp and Department Officers*", prepared by the National Organization, Committee on Program and Policy.

**Section E.** The Department Council, immediately after its installation, shall meet and elect a Chairman and Secretary. It shall devise and recommend such measures as will enable the Department to meet all of its necessary expenditures, and shall audit the receipts, expenditures and books of account of the Department and make a report, thereof, to the Department Encampment. Any permanent vacancy in a Department elective office shall be filled for the remainder of the term by a Brother elected via majority vote of the Department Council. The Department Council shall perform such other duties as described in "*Job Descriptions for Camp and Department Officers*", prepared by the National Organization, Committee on Program and Policy. The Department Council shall also meet during the Fall for the purpose of auditing the records of the Department and discussing the state of the Department. This meeting shall normally be in October at a time and place determined by the Department Commander.

**Section F.** The Department Patriotic Instructor shall prepare letters of instruction for the observance of Memorial Day and other patriotic occasions and events and perform such other duties as pertain to his office as described in "*Job Descriptions*

*for Camp and Department Officers*", prepared by the National Organization, Committee on Program and Policy.

**Section G.** The Department Chaplain shall have charge of the devotional exercises of the Department Encampment, shall prepare letters of instruction for the observance of Memorial Day, and perform such other duties as pertain to his office as described in "*Job Descriptions for Camp and Department Officers*", prepared by the National Organization, Committee on Program and Policy.

**Section H.** The Department Counselor shall act as a legal advisor to the Department Commander and the Department on matters concerning the Department or Camps and perform such other duties as described in "*Job Descriptions for Camp and Department Officers*", prepared by the National Organization, Committee on Program and Policy.

**Section I.** The Assistant Department Secretary shall perform such duties as prescribed by the Department Secretary.

**Section J.** The Department Civil War Memorials Officer shall serve as the Department point of contact for all matters pertaining to the Memorials and Monuments program and perform such duties as described in "*Job Descriptions for Camp and Department Officers*", prepared by the National Organization, Committee on Programs and Policy.

**Article IX: FINANCES**

**Section A.** The Department shall regulate its own dues and revenues. The amount of said dues shall be set by the Department Encampment.

**Section B.** The Department shall pay to the National Organization, the appropriate fee, as established by the National Organization, for the Department Charter and for each Camp Charter, which amount shall accompany the application and shall be forfeited if the Camp is not instituted within six (6) months from the date of application. The Department shall pay to the National Organization, the appropriate fee, as established by the National Organization, for the reinstatement of Camps which have been dropped.

**Article X: COMMITTEES**

**Section A.** The Department Commander shall appoint the members of all committees of the Department.

**Section B. Mine Creek Battlefield Committee.** The Mine Creek Battlefield Committee, established by the Tenth Annual Department Encampment, shall be responsible for working with both the Mine Creek Battlefield Foundation and the Kansas State Historical Society for the purpose of bettering the Mine Creek Battlefield. Such committee shall keep the Department Commander informed of its activities. The chairman of the committee shall report annually to the Department Encampment. The committee shall consist of five brothers appointed by the Department Commander, one of whom shall be a brother with Mine Creek Camp 6.

**Section C.** (*Deleted*)

**Section D.** The Department Commander, at his discretion,

may appoint Special Committees whose duties and life span shall be directed by the Department Commander in the orders establishing said committees.

**Section E.** Each committee shall consist of no more than five members and shall prepare a report to be presented to the Department Encampment on their activities for the year. A copy of the committee report shall be forwarded to the Department Commander and the Department Secretary who shall include such reports in the minutes of the Department Encampment.

**Article XI: BOOKKEEPING**

**Section A.** The fiscal year of the Department shall begin on 01 January and end on 31 December of each year.

**Section B.** Annual financial statements of the Department, prepared with generally accepted accounting principles, shall be prepared after the end of each fiscal year and shall be presented to the Department Encampment. All financial statements shall be subjected to an annual audit; the results of which shall be reported to the Department Council and the Department Commander.

**Section C.** All Department funds shall be deposited in a reliable depository as the Department Council may direct. The Department may have a checking and a savings account. The Department Secretary/Treasurer may disburse funds from the checking account. The Department Secretary/Treasurer may not disburse checking account funds in excess of \$50.00 for any one single item without written approval on a Department Voucher. Approval shall be secured from the Department Commander or the Department Council. The Department Secretary/Treasurer may not withdraw or transfer funds from the savings account without written approval on a Department Voucher from the Chairman of the Department Council.

**Section D.** Department Officers may be entitled to reimbursement of certain expenses necessary for the conduct of their respective office provided, however, that a written request is presented to and approved by the Department Commander. In the case of a request from the Department Commander, approval for reimbursement of expenses must be secured from the Department Council. Typical expenses would include, but not be limited to, long distance telephone costs, postage and mileage.

**Article XII. DEPARTMENT AWARDS**

**Section A.** Authorization for Department Awards are provided. The name and type of awards shall be determined by the Department Commander. A copy of the citation presenting any award to a brother of the Department of Kansas shall be placed in the recipient’s file with his Camp Secretary along with being recorded in the minutes of the Department Encampment for the award year by the Department Secretary.

**Section B. Emeritus Status.** In accordance with National Regulations of the Order, a brother who has served as an elected Department officer may be granted Emeritus status, subject to provisions listed below. Such status shall be in recognition for contributions and length of service as an elected officer of the Department of Kansas.

a. Granting of Emeritus status must be approved by vote of the membership at a regular Department Encampment. Request for granting of Emeritus status may be made by camp resolution, or a letter of recommendation from another brother. Request must be received by the Department Secretary prior to the beginning of the Department Encampment.

b. Emeritus status shall not be granted to a currently serving elected officer of the Department nor to a brother who has been elected as an officer and is about to take office. It may be awarded to current officers who is leaving office at the end of the current encampment.

c. Emeritus status is granted permanently; however, such status may later be withdrawn for cause by action of a subsequent Department Encampment.

d. A brother who has received Emeritus status and is elected to a Department office at a subsequent Department Encampment or is appointed to fill an unexpired term of an elected Department office shall retain Emeritus status.

e. A brother so granted Emeritus status is entitled to wear the badge of a Department elected officer, as described in the National Regulations of the Order.

**Section C.** The following awards, having been well established within the Department of Kansas by precedent, are established as permanent awards of the Department. These awards, and their criteria, are as follows:

(1) **CORPORAL LEONIDUS B. DAVIS AWARD FOR RECRUITER OF THE YEAR.** This award may be presented by the Department Commander to the brother who has recruited the most new brothers (Members, Associates, Junior Members, and Junior Associates) since the previous Department Encampment. The determination of which brother is to receive credit for a new brother is based upon the name entered on the application for membership as “Recommended by SUVCW Brother.” Applications received from the National Junior Vice Commander-in-Chief are not considered when determining the number of “recruits.” The Department Commander may determine not to present the award any year he feels no one has recruited enough brothers to set him apart in this regard.

(2) **CAPTAIN PATRICK H. CONEY AWARD FOR BROTHER OF THE YEAR.** This award is presented by the Department Commander to the brother whom the Department Commander has determined to have performed significant service to a camp or the Department within the past year. The Department Commander shall seek recommendations from the various Camp Commanders for this award.

(3) **LEANDER STILLWELL OUTSTANDING ACHIEVEMENT AWARD.** This award may be presented by the Department Commander to the brother who has performed significant service to the Department of Kansas or the organization as a whole over an extended period of time. The Department Commander may seek recommendations from Camp Commanders, Department Officers, Past Department Commanders, and others. This award is neither required nor expected to be awarded each year.

(4) **WILLIAM W. NIXON AWARD FOR CAMP OF THE YEAR.** This award is presented by the Department Commander to the camp within the Department which demonstrated the greatest degree of support to the goals and ideals of the Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War in such areas as community involvement, memorial ceremonies, public education, conduct of camp meetings, and such. The Department Commander shall seek recommendations from the various Camp Commanders for this award.

**Article XIII. INCLUSION OF NATIONAL RULES AND REGULATIONS**

Included herein by reference and made a part of these Bylaws are the following rules and regulations, and any subsequent amendments or modifications thereto:

- 1. Constitution and Regulations of the Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War,
- 2. Rules and Regulations, Sons of Veterans Reserve.
- 3. Job Descriptions for Camp and Department Officers.
- 4. Policies and Procedures of the Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War.

**Article XIV. SUSPENSION OF BYLAWS**

There shall be no suspension of these Bylaws during any meeting of the Department.

**Article XV. BYLAWS AMENDMENTS**

**Section A.** These Bylaws may be amended at any meeting of the Department Encampment by a 2/3 vote of the voting brothers present at said meeting, subject to the following:

- The Department Commander shall appoint a Bylaws Committee, or designate that the full council shall function as the committee, for the purpose of reviewing and/or proposing changes to the Department Bylaws. Copies of proposed changes to the bylaws, as recommended by the Bylaws Committee, shall be forwarded to each camp secretary no later than 30 days prior to the Department Encampment.

- Proposed amendments may be submitted to the Bylaws Committee, through the Department Secretary, no later than 45 days prior to the Department Encampment. All proposed amendments must be submitted by the Camp Commander, attested by the Camp Secretary, after having been voted on at a previous meeting of the proposing Camp.

- A proposed amendment not previously submitted, as above, may be introduced at the Department Encampment by any Voting brother of the Encampment. The proposed amendment shall be reviewed by an Encampment Bylaws Committee during a break in the business meeting. Such committee shall present its recommendation concerning the amendment to the encampment where the encampment will then act upon the proposal.

- Before becoming effective, all Bylaws and Bylaw amendments shall be approved by the Commander-in-Chief in writing.

**Section B.** All Bylaws heretofore adopted by the Department are hereby repealed.

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**Department Bylaws****Department of Kansas**

*These Bylaws are hereby adopted by a Special Encampment of the Department of Kansas, Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War, held this Third day of August, Nineteen Hundred Ninety Six in Salina, Kansas.*

/s/ Dean K. Speaks  
Dean K. Speaks, P.C.C.  
Department Commander

Attest:

/s/ Christopher R. Horn  
Christopher R. Horn  
Department Secretary

*Approved by Commander-in-Chief Danny L. Wheeler.*

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*Revisions Adopted by the 5th Annual Encampment of the Department of Kansas this Seventh Day of April, Two Thousand and One in Hutchinson, Kansas.*

/s/Kenneth D. Strader  
Kenneth D. Strader, P.C.C.  
Department Commander

Attest:

/s/Dean K. Speaks  
Dean K. Speaks, P.D.C.  
Department Secretary

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*Revisions Adopted by the 7<sup>th</sup> Annual Encampment of the Department of Kansas this Twenty-Sixth Day of April, Two Thousand and Three in Wichita, Kansas.*

/s/Alan L. Russ  
Alan L. Russ, P.C.C.  
Department Commander

Attest:

/s/Dean K. Speaks  
Dean K. Speaks, P.D.C.  
Department Secretary

*Reviewed and approved as to form by National Counselor James H. Paul, December 16, 2003.*

*Approved by Commander-in-Chief Kent Armstrong on December 30, 2003.*

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Amendments 2006-01, 2006-02, 2006-03, 2006-04, 2006-05, 2006-06, and 2006-07 were adopted by the 10<sup>th</sup> Annual Encampment of the Department of Kansas this Twenty-Second Day of April, Two Thousand and Six in Topeka, Kansas, and are incorporated into these bylaws.

Signed: /s/James R. Knopke  
James R. Knopke, P.C.C.  
Department Commander

Attest:

/s/Alan L. Russ  
Alan L. Russ, P.D.C.  
Department Secretary

*Approved by Commander-in-Chief Donald Darby on May 14, 2006.*

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Amendments 2008-01, 2008-02, 2008-03, 2008-04, 2008-05, 2008-06, and 2008-07 were adopted by the 12<sup>th</sup> Annual Encampment of the Department of Kansas this Twenty-Sixth Day of April, Two Thousand and Eight, in Lawrence, Kansas, and are incorporated into these bylaws.

Signed: /s/ Roy A. Lafferty  
Roy A. Lafferty, P.C.C.  
Department Commander

Attest:

/s/Thomas E. Schmidt  
Thomas E. Schmidt, P.D.C.  
Department Secretary

*Approved by Commander-in-Chief Charles E. Kuhn, Jr., on 6/29/2008.*

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**Department Bylaws****Department of Kansas**

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Amendments 2009-01, 2009-02, 2009-03, and 2009-04 were adopted by the 13<sup>th</sup> Annual Encampment of the Department of Kansas this Twenty-Fifth Day of April, Two Thousand and Nine, in Olathe, Kansas, and are incorporated into these bylaws.

*Signed:*           /s/ Craig A. Sundell        
Craig A. Sundell, P.C.C.  
Department Commander

Attest:  
      /s/Alan L. Russ        
Alan L. Russ, P.D.C.  
Department Secretary

*Approved by Commander-in-Chief David V. Medert on 5/9/2009.*

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