

CONSTITUTION
LOUISIANA DIVISION
SONS OF CONFEDERATE VETERANS
(as last amended through May 15, 2021)

PREAMBLE

In the name of a reunited Country, the Louisiana Division, Sons of Confederate Veteran declare the following: An unquestioned allegiance to the Constitution of the United States of America largely written and expounded by Southern men, the very Magna Carta of our liberties, a strict construction of all sections conferring powers upon the Federal Government, the implied and understood reservation to the States arising there from and a general attitude of opposition to further amendment thereof. We adhere to the principles of the Great Charter of England granted at Runnymede in 1215 A. D. and the Anglo-Saxon rights and personal liberties transmitted to us there under to associate in one united compact body all men of Confederate ancestry and to cultivate, perpetuate and sanctify the ties of fraternity and friendship entailed thereby; to aid and encourage the recording and teaching with impartiality of all Southern history and achievement from Jamestown to the present era, seeing to it especially that the events of the War Between the States are authentically and clearly written, and that all documents, relics and mementos produced and handed down by the active participants therein are properly treasured and preserved for posterity; to comfort succor and assist needy Confederate Veterans' sons, their wives, widows and orphans; to urge, aid and assist in the erection of suitable and enduring monuments and memorials to Southern valor, military and civil, wherever done and wherever found, particularly stressing that our Confederate ancestors who, by their sacrifices, perpetuated unto us and our descendants that glorious heritage of valor, chivalry and honor which we now hold and venerate; to instill in our descendants a devotion to and a reverence for the principles represented by the Confederate States of America and to the honor, glory and memory of our ancestors who fought in that Cause.

The Sons of Confederate Veterans, commit to ensure that the aforementioned impartial Southern history will be taught to each generation, current and future, in accordance with the "Charge" given to the Sons of Confederate Veterans by Lt. Gen. Stephen Dill Lee, Commander General of the United Confederate Veterans, in his speech at the 16th Annual Meeting and Reunion of the United Confederate Veterans held in New Orleans, Louisiana on April 25, 1906.

"To you, Sons of Confederate Veterans, we will commit the vindication of the cause for which we fought. To your strength will be given the defense of the Confederate soldiers' good name, the guardianship of his history, the emulation of his virtues, the perpetuation of those principals which he loved and which you love also, and to those ideals which made him glorious, and which you also cherish."

This will be the mission statement for all current and future members of the Sons of Confederate Veterans organization, as defined within this Constitution, we, the representatives of the Camps of the Louisiana Division Sons of Confederate Veterans, in Convention assembled, to adopt, ordain and establish the following Constitution.

ARTICLE I: TITLE

The name of this organization composed of male descendants, either lineal or collateral, of Confederate veterans shall be THE LOUISIANA DIVISION SONS OF CONFEDERATE VETERANS.

ARTICLE II; NATURE AND PURPOSE

Section 1. This organization shall be historical, patriotic, educational and benevolent. It shall not engage in partisan political activity, but this shall not at any time prevent it from taking nonpolitical action in accordance for which the Louisiana Division Sons of Confederate Veterans was established.

Section 2. Each member of a Camp shall be encouraged to fully participate in the affairs of his community, State and Nation as an individual and in accordance with dictates of his conscience. The Division shall also encourage public interest in government affairs in keeping with the Preamble of this Constitution.

Section 3. The Louisiana Division, Sons of Confederate Veterans, is a subordinate organization of the Sons of Confederate Veterans, Inc., a Texas Nonprofit Corporation.

ARTICLE III: MEMBERSHIP

Section 1. Membership in the Louisiana Division shall be predicated upon membership in one of the Camps of the Division.

Section 2. Membership shall be in one of the locally-chartered Camps of the Division. No member shall be under the age of 12.

Section 3. Membership shall be open to male descendents, lineal or collateral, of those men who served honorably in the armed forces of the Confederate States of America or one of the States thereof, and whose service terminated honorably.

Section 4. No one shall be admitted to membership in any Camp until satisfactory proof of the foregoing qualifications be submitted in duplicate on official forms prepared for that purpose. The applications must be forwarded to General Headquarters for recording and permanent preservation. A member may, at any time, request from Headquarters a copy of his membership application.

Section 5. Life Membership in the Division shall be made available. Said Life Membership shall be granted upon payment of a Life Membership Fee, as specified in this Constitution, to the Adjutant of the Division. The Division Life Membership Fee shall be forfeited if the Division Life Member's membership in the International SCV ceases for any reason.

ARTICLE IV: FINANCE

Section 1. The revenues of the Division shall be derived from annual membership dues, from Life Membership Fees, from donation, legacies, bequests, and from such other sources as the Division Convention may from time to time provide or authorize.

Section 2. Each member of every Camp shall pay dues of \$5.00 per year, payable by the due date set for national dues by the National Constitution. For purposes of enumeration of delegates for a Camp to the Division Convention, there shall be a deadline of 30 days prior to the Division Convention for new members and reinstatements.

Section 3. The Fee for Life Membership for applicants between the ages of 12 and 49 years shall be \$150.00. The fee for Life Membership for applicants between the ages of 50 and 69 years shall be \$100.00. The fee for Life Membership for applicants who are 70 years of age or greater shall be \$50.00. The fees collected for Life Memberships shall be deposited in the Division's interest-bearing account. The aggregate principal Life Membership fees shall not be available for the use of the Division. All interest earned on the aggregate Life Membership fees may be transferred to the operating funds of the Division and used in accordance with the provision of this Constitution relative to expenditures by the Division.

Section 4. A financial report with reference to the disbursement of these funds shall be given by the Division Adjutant at the Division Convention. This report shall itemize all receipts and disbursements during the reporting period.

ARTICLE V: ANNUAL REPORTS

Section 1. Each Camp Commander shall make an annual report, using forms furnished by General Headquarters, and giving such information as may be required by the General Executive Council. Reports must be submitted by the deadline fixed in advance by the General Executive Council, one copy forwarded to the Division Commander, one copy forwarded to the Division Adjutant, and one copy forwarded to General Headquarters. The report will include a

Camp roster and payment of any per capita dues not previously submitted to General Headquarters. In addition, at his discretion, the Camp Commander may submit a final report at the expiration of his term of office.

Section 2. Division Commanders shall make an annual report, in duplicate, using forms furnished by General Headquarters, giving such information as may be required by the General Executive Council. Reports must be submitted by the deadline fixed in advance by the General Executive Council, one copy to be mailed to the Army Commander of the Department in which the Division is located, and the other to General Headquarters. At his discretion, the Division Commander may submit a final report at the expiration of his term of office.

Section 3. The Division Commander shall submit a written report to the General Convention each year giving in detail the accomplishments of the Division under his command.

ARTICLE VI: BRIGADES

Section 1 – The Division shall be divided into four (4) Brigades, which shall be called Northwest Louisiana, Northeast Louisiana, Southwest Louisiana, and Southeast Louisiana. At each Division Convention held in an even-numbered year, the Camps comprising each Brigade shall elect by ballot vote from among themselves a Commander. In the election of Commander, each Camp in the Brigade shall be entitled to cast the number of votes equal to the number of delegates to which it is entitled. When there is only one candidate for Brigade Commander, by general consent, a formal ballot may be dispensed with and the candidate elected by acclamation. These officers shall be elected for a term of two (2) years or until their successors assume office. A Brigade Commander may succeed himself.

Section 2. The Northwest Louisiana Brigade shall include the Parishes of Claiborne, Bienville, Natchitoches, Red River, DeSoto, Webster, Bossier, Caddo, Grant, Winn, and Sabine.

Section 3. The Northeast Louisiana Brigade shall include the Parishes of Lincoln, Union, Jackson, Caldwell, Tensas, Madison, Franklin, Richland, Ouachita, Morehouse, West Carroll, East Carroll, Catahoula, Concordia, and LaSalle.

Section 4. The Southwest Louisiana Brigade shall include the Parishes of St. Landry, Allen, Beauregard, Calcasieu, Cameron, Jeff Davis, Vermilion, Evangeline, Lafayette, Acadia, St. Martin, Iberia, St. Mary, Vernon, Rapides, and Avoyelles.

Section 5. The Southeast Louisiana Brigade shall include the Parishes of West Feliciana, East Feliciana, St. Helena, Tangipahoa, Washington, St. Tammany, West Baton Rouge, East Baton Rouge, Iberville, Assumption, Terrebonne, Lafourche, St. James, St. John, St. Charles, Plaquemines, St. Bernard, Jefferson, Orleans, Livingston, Ascension, and Point Coupee.

Section 6 - A Brigade Commander may appoint such staff as he deems necessary in accordance with the staff titles which are used in the Confederation and shall fill any vacancy which occurs in a staff position.

ARTICLE VII: DIVISION EXECUTIVE COUNCIL

Section 1. A permanent Executive Council shall be composed of all Brigade Commanders, the Division Commander, First Lieutenant Commander, Second Lieutenant Commander, Adjutant, Chief of Staff, Judge Advocate and the immediate Past three (3) Division Commanders with the incumbent Division Commander as Chairman. All members of the Executive Council enumerated in this Section shall be members in good standing of the Louisiana Division and of the National SCV. The number required for a quorum in order to conduct Division business shall be seven (7), which is a majority of the thirteen (13) Executive Council Members described in this section.

Section 2. No member of the Division Executive Council shall hold more than one voting position, either elective or appointive, on the Council; provided, however, that the Past Division Commander, his position being neither elective nor appointive, shall be allowed to serve in either an elective or appointive position on the Council. If the Past Division Commander serves in an elective or appointive position on the Council, he shall have one, and only one vote.

Section 3. All past Division Commanders, with the exception of the immediate past three (3), will hold advisory, non voting positions on the Division Executive Council in open or closed sessions of the council. The provision of Section 2 hereof shall not apply to the individuals holding these positions.

Section 4. Meetings of the Division Executive Council shall be held subject to the Call of the Division Commander. A reasonable length of time shall pass between notice of a meeting and the meeting of the Division Executive Council with seven (7) days being desirable.

Section 5. The duties of the Division Executive Council shall be:

- a. To transact business as necessary between Division Conventions.
- b. To initiate action in formulating a code of ethics that will act as guidelines for the safeguards of our public image.

Section 6. At meetings of the Division Executive Council no one may be appointed ad hoc to the Council to act in the absence of a voting member of the Council.

ARTICLE VIII: DIVISION CONVENTION

Section 1. The legislative body of the Louisiana Division shall be the Division Convention which shall be held annually on a weekend in the month of May or June at a place and time to be announced by the Division Commander. However, if emergency or critical circumstances prevent the Division from holding its convention in accordance with the rules, the Division Executive Council may vote to cancel the convention. They may then set a new date and place in accordance with the rules pertaining to special conventions. Article VIII Sections 2 and 3.

Section 2. The Division Commander, at the request of a majority of the Camps or of the Division Executive Council, shall convene the Division in special Convention.

Section 3. Notice of the holding of a Convention shall be forwarded to the Commander of each Camp of the Division at least thirty (30) days prior to the Convention meeting.

Section 4. All members of the Louisiana Division may attend sessions of the Louisiana Division Convention whether certified as Delegates to the Convention representing Camps or not and shall be given all privileges of the meeting except the right to vote when not certified.

Section 5. No Camp shall take part or vote in the Division Convention unless said Camp is in good standing with the General Confederation and has paid the recording fees and per capita assessment on all its members as prescribed by the National Constitution or the General Confederation and provided further that it has paid dues and fees levied upon Camps by the Division Convention.

Section 6. Each Camp shall have one voting Delegate for each five (5) members or the greater fraction thereof.

Section 7. Notwithstanding to the contrary herein provided, each Camp shall be entitled to a minimum of two (2) Delegates and two (2) Alternate Delegates at any Division Convention. Each Alternate shall be entitled to vote only in the absence of his principal Delegate.

Section 8. A quorum shall be present when one-third (1/3) of the Camps of the Division are represented by Delegates present at the Convention.

Section 9. All Past Commanders of the Division, who have served a full term as such, shall be Delegates for Life to Division Conventions with voting privileges so long as they remain members in good standing in the General Organization and in the Louisiana Division.

Section 10. The Convention may be coordinated with other activities so long as those activities lend to the dignity of the Convention and do not conflict with the business of the Convention.

Section 11. One or more Camps shall be designated to host/co-host the Division Convention by the previous Division Convention or by the Division Executive Council. One or more Camps may also be designated to host/co-host the Division Convention two(2) years subsequent to the Division Convention at which their bid to host the Division Convention was submitted. The arrangements entered into by the host Camp(s) shall be subject to approval, at his option, of the Division Commander who is the ex-officio Chairman of the Division Convention. The status of

the Division Commander as ex-officio Chairman of the Division convention shall not preclude the host Camp(s) from designating a General Chairman or General Co-Chairman of the Convention. The Division Convention shall be financed by fees collected from those attending the Convention. The goal of the host Camp(s) shall be to plan a Convention to be paid for with the projected revenue to be collected from the fees of those attending. Prior to the Convention the host Camp(s) may request a loan from the Louisiana Division to help cover initial expenses of the Convention, not to exceed \$750 and subject to approval by the Division Executive Council. Any loan money issued to the host Camp(s) shall be repaid to the Louisiana Division. Upon completion of the Convention, and after payment of all Convention expenses and any Division loan money, all additional money earned from the Reunion shall belong to the host Camp(s). In the event the revenue collected for the Convention does not cover the approved Convention expenses incurred by the host Camp(s), the host Camp(s) may request a reimbursement from the Louisiana Division for their losses not to exceed \$750, minus any Division loan money not repaid. In requesting a reimbursement for Convention losses the host Camp(s) shall submit a summary of all revenues and expenses for the Convention, showing the total amount of the loss and an explanation for the loss, to the Division Commander. Upon review the Division Commander will recommend an amount to be reimbursed, subject to approval by the Division Executive Council. The Division Executive Council may determine that due to extraordinary circumstances beyond the control of the host Camp(s), an amount greater than \$750 may be granted as loan money or reimbursed to the host Camp(s) for their loss.

Section 12. There shall be a Fall Division Assembly which shall be held on a weekend in September, October or November. The date and location of the Fall Assembly shall be fixed by the Division Commander subject to the approval of the Division Executive Council. Notice of the Fall Assembly shall be given to all Camps, Division Officers and active Past Commanders of the Division at least thirty (30) days in advance. At the Fall Assembly there shall be no elections or consideration of business matters which would otherwise come before the Division Convention. The Fall Assembly shall follow an agenda made by the Division Commander and shall devote itself to workshops, seminars and panel discussions.

Section 13. The rules set forth in the most current edition of Robert's Rules of Order, Newly Revised shall govern the Division in all cases to which they are applicable and in which they are not inconsistent with this Constitution, any Bylaws the Division may adopt and any special rules of order the Division may adopt.

ARTICLE IX: DIVISION OFFICERS AND THEIR DUTIES

Section 1 – At each Division Convention held in an even-numbered year, the Camps in convention assembled shall elect by ballot vote a Division Commander, a First Lieutenant Commander, and a Second Lieutenant Commander. In the election of officers, each Camp shall be entitled to cast the number of votes equal to the number of delegates to which it is entitled. When there is only one candidate for an office, by general consent, a formal ballot may be dispensed with and the candidate elected by acclamation. These officers shall be elected for a term of two (2) years or until their successors assume office, and may not succeed themselves. Other officers shall be appointed by the Division Commander as he deems necessary. Elected officers shall be installed at the end of the Division Convention at which they are elected but shall fully assume office at the close of the General Convention following the Division Convention at which they are elected.

Section 2 - The Division Commander shall appoint his staff, which shall consist of an Adjutant, Chief of Staff, Chaplain, Historian, and such other officers as he may deem necessary. The Division Commander shall fill any vacancy in his staff and shall have the power to suspend any officer he appoints, subject to the suspended officer's right of appeal to the Division Executive Committee and then to the Division Convention. During the suspension, the Division Commander shall appoint an acting officer to fill the office. The Division Commander, with the consent of the Division Executive Committee, shall fill any vacancy occurring in the offices of

First Lieutenant Commander, Second Lieutenant Commander, or Brigade Commander until an election to fill the unexpired term of office can be held at the Division's next Convention.

Section 3 – The Division Convention shall elect a Division First Lieutenant Commander who shall be second in command of the Division and shall have, as a particular duty, liaison with other organizations. In the event of a vacancy in the office of Division Commander, the First Lieutenant Commander shall become Division Commander with full title and privileges pertaining thereto for the unexpired term of office.

Section 4 - The Division Convention shall elect a Division Second Lieutenant Commander. The Division Second Lieutenant Commander shall perform such duties as usually pertain to his Office. The Division Second Lieutenant Commander shall, in addition, perform such duties as may be assigned to him by the Division Commander. In the event the Division First Lieutenant Commander is unable to succeed to the Office of Division Commander, in case of a vacancy in the Office of Division Commander, the Division Second Lieutenant Commander shall become Division Commander with full title and privileges pertaining thereto for the unexpired term of office. If the Division Second Lieutenant Commander is unable to serve, the command of the Division shall fall in the order of the Division Commander's Staff as they are listed in Section 2 hereof.

Section 5. The Division Adjutant shall perform such administrative functions as the Division Commander may direct and as authorized by this Constitution. He shall be the custodian of all Division funds. He shall keep a record of all meetings and conventions and shall keep a record of all Camps in the Division and their membership. He shall make an annual report to the Division Convention.

Section 6. The duties of other Officers shall be in accordance with this Constitution or by the direction of the Convention or the Division Commander.

Section 7. At Division Conventions in even-numbered years, the Division Commander shall appoint a Committee on Nomination which, to the extent possible, shall be composed of Past Commanders of the Louisiana Division. Said Committee shall have a minimum of three (3) members but shall have an odd number if greater than three.

ARTICLE X: COMMITTEES

Section 1. Committees other than the Division Executive Council shall be appointed by the Division Commander. Such committees may be appointed as and when required. The following are listed committees:

- A. Credentials
- B. Nominations
- C. Resolutions
- D. Time and Place

These committees shall be formed and shall function with proper Camp representations at all Conventions.

ARTICLE XI: AMENDMENTS

Section 1. This Constitution may be amended by any Division Convention by a two-thirds' (2/3) vote of the total authorized voting Delegates in attendance.

Section 2. Any amendment proposed at a Division Convention may, on proper motion and majority vote, be carried over to the next succeeding Convention.

Section 3. Any amendment proposed at a Division Convention must first have been sent to each Camp within the Division thirty (30) days prior to the Convention.

Section 4. Any part of this Constitution found to be in conflict with the Constitution of the National Association of the Sons of Confederate Veterans is automatically repealed.

ARTICLE XII: DISSOLUTION

Section 1. This Division shall not be dissolved or disbanded so long as five (5) Camps shall vote to sustain it.

Section 2. In the event of the dissolution of the Louisiana Division, any flags or emblems shall be turned over to the General Headquarters of the Sons of Confederate Veterans. None of the property, or any proceeds, shall be distributed to or divided among any of the officers or members of the Division, or inure to the benefit of any individual. After all liabilities and obligations have been paid and discharged, the residual assets, including all moneys, real or personal property, investments, credits, endowments, financial records, and any other appurtenances, or things of pecuniary value, shall be turned over to the General Headquarters of the Sons of Confederate Veterans.