NATIONAL EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE
OF
THE AMERICAN LEGION
Indianapolis, Indiana
May 3, 1972

Resolution No. 13: SAL Constitution and By-Laws Revised to Provide Framework for a National Organization
Origin: Resolution No. 28 (NEC) October 1971
Submitted by: Subcommittee on Resolutions

WHEREAS, The Fourteenth National Convention of The American Legion, Portland, Oregon, September 12-15, 1932, created an organization known as the Sons of The American Legion; and

WHEREAS, The National Executive Committee of The American Legion, as the governing body of the Sons of The American Legion, adopted a National Constitution and By-Laws for this organization at its meeting of May 4-5, 1933, and has subsequently amended that Constitution and By-Laws on several occasions; and

WHEREAS, Members of the Sons of The American Legion have met in Annual Workshops for the past nine years at the time of the National Convention of The American Legion and held National Caucuses at the time of the 1970 and 1971 National Conventions, and from these meetings there has been developed a recommended new, updated National Constitution and By-Laws of the Sons of The American Legion; and

WHEREAS, The National Sons of The American Legion Committee and the National Internal Affairs Commission have reviewed these recommendations and made certain changes which were approved by the 1971 SAL Caucus; and

WHEREAS, The Constitution and By-Laws as presented in the Resolved portion of this resolution now have the approval of the SAL Committee and the Internal Affairs Commission of The American Legion and of the SAL Caucus held August 28 in Houston, Texas; and

WHEREAS, The major purpose of the recommended new Constitution and By-Laws is to establish a National Organization of the Sons of The American Legion under the full supervision and control of the National Executive Committee of The American Legion, as well as to correct certain inconsistencies and remove obsolete portions of the existing Constitution and By-Laws; and

WHEREAS, The steady growth in SAL membership the development of Department and District organizations, the experience which its member-leaders have had in the management of SAL Workshops and Caucuses, and the desire of its members to increase both the effectiveness and the size of the Sons of The American Legion under the continued supervision and control of The American Legion at all levels justify the creation of a national organizational framework for the SAL; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, By the National Executive Committee of The American Legion in regular meeting assembled in Indianapolis, Indiana, on May 3, 1972, That there is created and recognized a National Organizational framework for the Sons of The American Legion under the continued supervision and control of the National Executive Committee of The American Legion; and, be it finally

RESOLVED, That the National Constitution and By-Laws of the Sons of The American Legion, as adopted by the National Executive Committee at its meeting of May 4-5, 1933, and subsequently amended, is rescinded in its entirety and the following substituted therefor:

SONS OF THE AMERICAN LEGION
NATIONAL CONSTITUTION

Preamble

Proud possessors of a priceless heritage, we, male descendants of veterans of World War I, World War II, the Korean War; and the period of the Vietnam hostilities, 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 masses; to make right the master of might; to promote peace and good will on earth; to safeguard and transmit to posterity the principles of justice, freedom and democracy; to consecrate and sanctify our friendship by our devotion to mutual helpfulness; to adopt in letter and spirit all of the great principles for which The American Legion stands; and to assist in carrying on for God and Country.

Article I
Name

Section 1. The name of this organization shall be the "Sons of The American Legion."

Section 2. The National Headquarters of the Sons of The American Legion shall be located at the site of the National Headquarters of The American Legion in the city of Indianapolis, Indiana.

Article II
Nature

Section 1. The Sons of The American Legion is a civilian organization. Membership therein does not affect nor increase liability for military or police service.

Section 2. The Sons of The American Legion shall be absolutely non-political and shall not be used for the dissemination of partisan principles nor for the promotion of the candidacy of any person or group seeking public office or preferment. No candidate for or incumbent of a remunerative elective public office shall hold any elective or any appointive remunerative office in the Sons of The American Legion, or in any Detachment or Squadron thereof. Provided that members of Squadron, Detachment or National standing or special committees shall not be affected.

Section 3. The Sons of The American Legion shall be absolutely non-sectarian.

Section 4. Each member shall perform his full duty as a citizen accord-ing to his own conscience and understanding in accord with the law.

Article III
Organization

Section 1. The local unit of the Sons of The American Legion is the Squadron and one (1) Post of The American Legion may sponsor not more than one (1) Squadron. With the approval of the Department of The Amer-ican Legion having jurisdiction, Squadrons sponsored by the Posts of that Department may be organized in Detachments.

Section 2. The organization of Detachments and Squadrons shall con-form with regulations of the Department of The American Legion having jurisdiction, with regulations of the National

Executive Committee of The American Legion, and with the National Constitution and By-Laws of the Sons of The American Legion.

Section 3. The National Executive Committee of The American Legion may establish Detachments in territorial possessions of the United States and in foreign countries provided such territories and foreign countries pres-ently are organized as American Departments and provided further that the appropriate American Legion Department recommends their formation.

Section 4. The Sons of The American Legion Squadron shall be organ-ized under the jurisdiction and sponsorship of a local Post of The American Legion and shall bear the name of such sponsoring Post as follows: "Sons of The American Legion Squadron _____ of Post No. _____ Department of _____."

Section 5. Detachments, when organized, shall have jurisdiction over the Squadrons within the Detachment's geographical area, subject to such limitations as may be prescribed by the Department of The American Legion having jurisdiction over the Detachment.

Section 6. The Sons of The American Legion shall be governed by such rules and regulations as may be prescribed by the National Executive Committee of The American Legion.

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, or the period of the Vietnam hostilities, during the delimiting periods set forth in Article IV, Section 2, of the National 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 forms or class of membership except an active membership.

Article V
Legislative Body

Section 1. The legislative body of the Sons of The American Legion shall be the National Convention, to be held annually in conjunction with the National Convention of The American Legion. All acts of the National Con-vention are subject to ratification by the National Executive Committee of The American Legion.

Section 2. The National Headquarters of The American Legion shall issue a Call to the National Convention to each Detachment Headquarters not less than sixty (60) days prior to the opening day of the National Conven-tion.

Section 3. In the National Convention, each Detachment shall be entitled to one (1) delegate and one (1) additional delegate for each two hundred (200) members or major fraction thereof, whose current dues have been received by the National Treasurer of The American Legion, thirty (30) days prior to the meeting of said National Convention and one (1) alternate for each delegate.

Section 4. Each duly registered delegate shall be entitled to one (1) vote. The vote of any registered delegate absent and not represented by an alternate shall be cast by the majority of the registered delegates present from his Detachment. Alternates for registered delegates shall have all the privileges of registered delegates except that of voting. A registered delegate is one who has received his credentials and has paid such registration fee as may be required.

Section 5. Delegates from five (5) Detachments shall constitute a quorum.

Section 6. The National Executive Committee of the Sons of The American Legion. shall provide a Uniform Code of Procedure for the orderly organization and operation of National Conventions with continuing power of revision, and said Code shall be applicable at all National Conventions unless it is amended, suspended, or repealed by a two-thirds vote of the registered delegates at a National Convention. The National Executive Committee of the Sons of The American Legion may establish in the Uniform Code a registration fee to be paid by delegates to a National Convention and may determine the amount of said fee.

Section 7. All Past National Chairmen (those who have served as per-manent chairmen of a National Workshop) and all Past National Commanders of the Sons of The American Legion shall be delegates to the National Convention with vote to be exercised with their respective Detachments. The National Commander, National Vice Commanders, and National Chaplain of the Sons of The American Legion shall be delegates to the National Con-vention with vote to be exercised with their respective Detachments.

Article VI
National Officers

Section 1. The National Convention shall elect a National Commander, two (2) National Vice Commanders, who shall serve without seniority; and a National Chaplain. No person shall be eligible for re-election to the office of National Commander, National Vice Commander or National Chaplain. There shall be one (1) Vice Commander from each of the following areas:

- **A. EAST: Alabama, Canada, Connecticut, District of Columbia, Delaware, Florida, France, Georgia, Illinois, Indiana, Italy, Kentucky, Maine, Maryland, Massachusetts, Michigan, Mississippi, New Hampshire, New Jersey, New York, North Carolina, Ohio, Pennsylvania, Puerto Rico, Rhode Island, South Carolina, Tennessee, Vermont, Virginia, West Virginia and Wisconsin.**
- **B. WEST: Alaska, Arizona, Arkansas, California, Colorado, Hawaii, Idaho, Iowa, Kansas, Louisiana, Mexico, Minnesota, Missouri, Montana, Nebraska, Nevada, New Mexico, North Dakota, Oklahoma, Oregon, Panama Canal Zone, Philippines, South Dakota, Texas, Utah, Washington and Wyoming.**

Section 2. Such officers shall serve until the adjournment of the succeeding National Convention following their election and thereafter until their successors are chosen. Vacancies in these offices, occurring between National Conventions, shall be filled by election by the National Executive Committee of the Sons of The American Legion, and for this purpose a mail ballot may be taken. Any member of the Sons of The American Legion, in good standing, shall be eligible for election to such vacancy.

Section 3. The National Commander by and with the approval of the National Executive Committee of the Sons of The American Legion shall appoint a National Adjutant, National Judge Advocate, National Historian, and a National Sergeant-at-Arms, who shall hold office at the pleasure of the appointing power.

Section 4. The Sons of The American Legion shall recognize an individual or individuals designated by the National Commander of The American Legion as National Advisor or Advisors to the Sons of The American Legion, and he or they shall be ex-officio members of all committees or commissions of the National Organization of the Sons of The American Legion.

Section 5. The National Commander and the National Adjutant of The American Legion, and the staff members of The American Legion at the National Headquarters responsible for the

routine administrative work for the Sons of The American Legion, shall be recognized as ex-officio Advisors to the National Organization of the Sons of The American Legion.

Section 6. In fulfilling their duties and responsibilities the National Officers of the Sons of The American Legion shall be responsible to the National Executive Committee of The American Legion, or to a subordinate body by it designated.

Article VII
National Executive Committee

Section 1. The National Executive Committee of the Sons of The American Legion shall meet at least twice each year. It shall meet immedi-ately preceding the National Convention to establish the agenda for that National Convention, and immediately following the National Convention to approve the National Commander's appointments. Between National Conventions the administrative power shall be vested in the National Executive Committee of the Sons of The American Legion, the membership of which shall be composed of the National Commander, National Vice Commanders, National Chaplain, the immediate Past National Commander or Chairman, and one (1) National Executive Committeeman and one (1) Alternate National Executive Committeeman from each Detachment, to be selected as such Detachments shall determine. The Alternate National Executive Committeeman may act only in the absence of the National Executive Committeeman from his Detachment. All Past National Workshop Chairmen and all Past National Com-manders shall be non-voting members of the National Executive Committee. Actions of the National Executive Committee of the Sons of The American Legion shall be subject to ratification by the National Executive Committee of The American Legion.

Section 2. The National Executive Committee of the Sons of The American Legion without meeting may transact business by mail, telegraph or telephone on matters of urgency not involving new policy and on which action cannot be delayed until the next regular meeting. Thirty (30) days shall be allowed for the return, by mail or telegraph or telephone, of the votes thereon by the National Adjutant. The National Adjutant shall notify the National Commander of the results of the vote taken. The National Executive Committee may also meet on the call of the National Commander of the Sons of The American Legion or on the written request of at least five (5) Detachments, at any time during the year for sufficient reason to it appearing.

Article VIII
Detachment Organization

Section 1. Detachments shall be comprised of the Squadrons within their respective geographical areas, which shall coincide with the boundaries of the appropriate Department of The American Legion.

Section 2. Each Detachment shall have a Detachment Commander, one or more Detachment Vice Commanders, a Detachment Adjutant, and a De-tachment Executive Committee, and may have a Chaplain and such other officers as the Detachment shall determine.

Section 3. Detachments shall have authority to create intermediate bodies between the Squadrons and Detachment to act as a liaison between such or-ganizations and for the purpose of promoting the program of the Sons of The American Legion. Such intermediate bodies shall conform to the framework within The American Legion Department in which the Detachment is geo-graphically located.

Section 4. The Detachment Executive Committee shall define the powers of such intermediate groups, but in no event shall such powers invade the prerogatives now vested in the Squadron or Detachment or National Organization.

Article IX
Squadron Organization

Section 1. Those who desire to form a Squadron of the Sons of The American Legion shall make application for a charter to the Post Commander of the local Post of The American Legion in the area in which they reside. Upon approval by the Post Commander the application shall be forwarded to the Department Commander of The American Legion, and upon his approval it shall be forwarded to the National Headquarters of The American Legion, where the charter may be issued by the National Commander and the National Adjutant of The American Legion in the same manner as prescribed for the issuance of charters for Posts of The American Legion.

Section 2. The minimum membership for the formation of a Squadron of the Sons of The American Legion shall be ten (10).

Section 3. There shall be no more than one (1) Squadron of the Sons of The American Legion for each Post of The American Legion. Squadrons may be organized into sections based upon age.

Section 4. The Squadron officers of the Sons of The American Legion shall consist of a Squadron Commander; Squadron Vice Commander or Vice Commanders, Adjutant, Finance Officer, Chaplain, Sergeant-at-Arms, Historian, and such other officers as may be required.

Section 5. Officers of the Squadron shall be elected annually, and the date of such election should conform if possible with the annual election of Post officers of The American Legion. Squadron officers elected shall be subject to the approval of the sponsoring American Legion Post. This authority may be delegated by the Post to a Post Supervisory Committee or other designated body.

Section 6. Squadron meetings shall be held not less than once a month in accordance with the ritual of the organization.

Article X
Finances

Section 1. The revenue of the Sons of The American Legion shall be derived from annual membership dues and from such other sources as may be approved by the National Executive Committee of The American Legion.

Section 2. The amount of such annual National dues shall be seventy-five cents (75¢) per member and shall be payable October 20 of each year for the succeeding year.

Section 3. The amount of annual Detachment dues shall be determined by the Detachment organization of the Sons of The American Legion under such procedures as The American Legion Department having jurisdiction over the Detachment provides; such funds shall be transmitted to the officer charged with the custody of Department funds and shall be held and accounted for separately from other funds of such Department.

Section 4. The amount of such annual Squadron dues shall be determined by the Squadron.

Section 5. The annual National dues shall be collected by each Squadron and transmitted through the Department Headquarters of The American Legion in which the Squadron is geographically located and thence to the National Treasurer of The American Legion.

Article XI
Discipline

Section 1. A Detachment Headquarters may suspend, cancel or revoke the charter of any Squadron of the Sons of The American Legion over which it has jurisdiction in the event it violates the provisions of this Constitution, subject, however, to the approval of the Department Executive Committee of The American Legion Department in which the Squadron and Detachment are geographically situated.

Section 2. Upon the cancellation or revocation of the charter of any Squadron of the Sons of The American Legion, the property and assets belonging to such Squadron shall thereupon become the property of the Post of The American Legion to which such Squadron is attached.

Article XII
Amendments

Section 1. This Constitution may be amended at any National Conven-tion by the affirmative vote of two-thirds (2/3) of the registered delegates thereat, subject to ratification by the National Executive Committee of The American Legion.

NATIONAL BY-LAWS

Article I
Duties of Officers

Section 1. Commander: The Sons of The American Legion Commander is the executive head of the organization at his level with full power to carry out the mandates and policies of the Sons of The American Legion as approved by The American Legion. He shall perform such other duties as are usually incident to the office.

Section 2. Vice Commander: The Vice Commander or Vice Commanders shall act as representative of the Commander on all matters referred to them by him, and shall, on his request, preside over meetings and perform such other duties as are usually incident to the office.

Section 3. Adjutant: The Adjutant, who corresponds to the secretary of an organization, shall be charged with the usual duties of an adjutant or secretary. He is the administrative officer of the policies and mandates of the organization.

Section 4. Finance Officer: The Finance Officer shall be the custodian of the funds of the organization. He shall be charged with the receiving and disbursing of the funds of the Squadron, intermediate level, or Detachment and shall make reports on the condition of the treasury at each regular meeting, and when called for by the Commander or Executive Committee; provided, however, that all disbursements shall first be approved at the ap-propriate level of The American Legion. He shall perform such other duties as are usually incident to the office.

Section 5. Sergeant-at-Arms: The Sergeant-at-Arms shall be charged with the responsibility of preserving order at all meetings and shall be given the custody and responsibility of the colors of the organization. He shall perform such other duties as are usually incident to the office.

Section 6. Chaplain: The Chaplain shall perform such divine and non-sectarian service as shall be necessary adhering to the ceremonial rituals as may be prescribed.

Section 7. Historian: The Historian shall collect from year to year all records and data of value and interest to the Sons of The American Legion and The American Legion, and shall compile during his term of office a complete history of the year's activities.

Section 8. All officers of the Sons of The American Legion in the per-formance of their duties shall be governed by The American Legion at the. appropriate level. All actions of the Sons of The

American Legion at the Squadron level, intermediate level, and at the Detachment level shall be subject to review and ratification at the appropriate level of The American Legion.

Article II
Squadron and Detachment Constitution and By-Laws

Section 1. Each Squadron, intermediate group and Detachment may adopt a Constitution and By-Laws.

Section 2. In the formation of the Constitution and By-Laws referred to in Section 1 hereof there shall be no conflict with the National Constitution and By-Laws governing the Sons of The American Legion.

Article III
Executive Committee

Section 1. The Constitution of a Squadron or Detachment may create an Executive Committee and define the powers and composition thereof.

Article IV
Membership

Section 1. Membership in the Sons of The American Legion is member-ship in the National Organization of the Sons of The American Legion by affiliation with a Squadron.

Section 2. Each Squadron shall be the judge of its own membership, subject to the restrictions of this Constitution and By-Laws.

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 V
Membership and Arrears in Dues

Section 1. Applications for Squadron membership shall be verified by the designated officials of the sponsoring Post of The American Legion having jurisdiction over the Squadron.

Section 2. Members in arrears four (4) months in payment of dues shall be classified as delinquent. Any member who has not paid his dues for six (6) months shall automatically be suspended from all privileges, and fail-ure to pay dues for one (1) year shall automatically cause forfeiture of membership in the Sons of The American Legion. Any delinquent or sus-pended member may be reinstated to active membership in good standing by a majority vote of the Squadron upon payment of all dues in arrearage, in addition to the payment of dues for the current year in which the rein-statement occurs, and any member whose membership has been forfeited for non-payment of dues for one (1) year may be reinstated by a majority vote of the Squadron upon payment by such member of · one (1) year's dues in arrears in addition to the payment of dues for the current year in which such reinstatement occurs.

Article VI
Amendments

Section 1. These By-Laws may be amended by any National Convention by the affirmative vote of two-thirds (2/3) of the registered delegates thereat, subject to ratification by the National Executive Committee of The American Legion.

This Constitution and By-Laws have been amended and brought up to date as of____.