

Sons of the American Revolution



24 March 2012

CONSTITUTION AND BY-LAWS
THE MISSISSIPPI SOCIETY
SONS OF THE AMERICAN REVOLUTION
ORGANIZED MAY 10, 1909

PART I CONSTITUTION

ARTICLE I
NAME

1. The name of this Society shall be THE MISSISSIPPI SOCIETY SONS OF THE AMERICAN REVOLUTION (MSSAR).
2. The Constitution and By-Laws of The Mississippi Society Sons of the American Revolution, shall, in general, conform to the Constitution of The National Society of the Sons of the American Revolution.

ARTICLE II
AIMS AND PURPOSES

1. The Aims and Purposes of The Mississippi Society Sons of the American Revolution shall be Patriotic, Educational, Historical and Benevolent.
2. To preserve and add to the Historical Records of the American Patriots who achieved our Independence and established these United States of America.

ARTICLE III
MEMBERSHIP

Any male descendant, eighteen years or older, and is of good repute is eligible for membership, who submits proof that his ancestor served in the American Revolutionary War, in any capacity.

Regular: A member age 18 or older who pays annual dues. Only regular members may vote and hold office in the SAR and receive *The SAR Magazine* at no additional cost.

Junior: A member under age 18 who pays annual dues at a reduced rate. He is not eligible to vote or hold office and does not receive *The SAR Magazine*.

ARTICLE IV OFFICERS

The Mississippi Society Sons of the American Revolution shall elect the following Officers:

President,
First Vice President
Second Vice President
Secretary
Treasurer
Registrar

(The Secretary is one officer: The Treasurer is another officer)
(Treasurer and Registrar may be held by the same person)

Chancellor
Chaplain
Genealogist
Historian
National Trustee
Alternate National Trustee
Sergeant-At-Arms
Color Guard Commander

Article V Executive Committee

1. There shall be an Executive Committee, comprised as follows: The President, the First and Second Vice Presidents, the Secretary, the Treasurer, the Registrar, the Chancellor, the National Trustee, the Alternate Trustee, the immediate past President, and all Presidents of Local Chapters.
2. In case of a vacancy for any cause in the membership of this Committee the President shall fill said vacancy, with the advice and consent of the Executive Committee.
3. The Executive Committee shall act as a Counsel, assisting the President in his supervision of the business and affairs of the Society.
4. It shall review proposed budgets; develop plans for the Society; confer with Committee Chairmen; review the reports of the Officers charged with joint control over the assets of the Society.
5. In addition the Committee shall perform such duties as may be committed to it by an Annual Convention of the Society. It shall promote membership and assist in organizing chapters.

6. In case of death, disability or failure to serve of any Officer of the Society, the President shall have the power to appoint an acting successor to fill the unexpired term of Office, with the advice and consent of the Executive Committee. Said appointee shall have the status of a duly elected officer and shall be vested with all rights, privileges and duties of an elected Office.
7. In the event of the death, disability or failure to serve of the President, the First Vice President shall be installed as Acting President and shall serve until the next meeting of the Executive Committee at which meeting the automatic appointment of the acting President, as provided for herein, shall be subject to confirmation by a majority of the Executive Committee present and voting.
8. The Executive Committee shall meet quarterly (March to March) with the **Annual Convention** to be held during the fourth quarter. Meetings will be held on the dates and at the location as voted on during the previous Convention.
9. The President may call a meeting of the Executive Committee at any time, and shall call such a meeting upon written request of five members thereof. Such meeting may be for a specific time and place or for a conference telephone call for a specific time. At least ten days written notice shall be given of all meetings of such committee. All agenda items to be placed before the Executive Committee, should be received by the Secretary at least thirty (30) days before the Annual Convention.

ARTICLE VI ELECTION OF OFFICERS AND TERM

1. The President shall serve for period of One Year. He shall be eligible to succeed himself in office but shall not serve for a period of more than Two Consecutive Years.
2. Any officer who removes from the State Society shall automatically relinquish his office.
3. All Officers shall be elected at the Annual State Convention.
4. All members in good standing in The Mississippi Society Sons of The American Revolution shall have the right to vote on any and all matters presented for consideration at the Annual State Convention.
5. Elections shall be by Secret Ballot if there are nominations from the floor. The persons receiving a majority of the votes shall be declared elected and shall hold office until the next Annual State Convention.
6. Members present shall constitute a Quorum at all meetings of The Mississippi Society Sons of the American Revolution.

ARTICLE VII DISSOLUTION

In the event of the dissolution of The Mississippi Society Sons of the American Revolution, the assets of the Mississippi Society shall be placed in escrow with a local Mississippi Bank(s), as selected by the Executive Committee, and will be held in escrow for a period of five (5) years or upon re-establishment of the State Society.

ARTICLE VIII
AMENDMENTS

1. This Constitution may be altered or amended by a two-thirds vote of the members present and voting at an Annual State Convention, or at a Special Meeting of this Society, provided that:
 - a. such amendment shall have been proposed to the Secretary at a prior Annual State Convention or prior Special Meeting of the Society;
 - b. or by the Executive Committee of the Society;
 - c. or by a Local Chapter;Thirty (30) days' notice of such proposed amendment shall have been sent by the Society Secretary to each of the Officers, members of the Executive Committee and to the President and the Secretary of each of the Local Chapters.
2. Said notice shall be deposited in the United States Mail at the place residence of the Secretary and the notice period shall be computed from the date of such mailing.

PART II By-Laws

ARTICLE I
DUTIES OF OFFICERS

1. President:
 - a) The President shall preside at all meetings of the said State Society. If absent, the First Vice President shall preside.
 - b) The President serves as the Chief Executive Officer of the Society and manages the business affairs of the Society, appoints all Committees and Committee members, including but not limited to those mentioned in this bylaw, with the advice and consent of the Executive Committee.
 - c) He serves as Chairman of the Executive Committee.
 - d) He serves as a member of each Committee as set forth in these Bylaws and shall have authority to fill any vacancy which may occur in any Office, the Executive Committee, the Chairmanship of any Committee and members, subject to the approval by the Executive Committee.
 - e) The President, with the advice and consent of the Executive Committee may appoint Area Directors to serve SAR Chapters in assigned areas of the State. The term of these Area Directors shall expire at the time of the election of State Officers. He shall provide written guidance to the Area Directors as to their goals, objectives and reporting procedures upon appointment.
 - f) The President shall prepare a report on the state of the Society and present it to the Executive Committee at the Spring and Fall meetings of the Executive Committee, and to delegates and members at-large at the Annual Convention. A copy of these reports shall be available to any member of the Society on written request to the Secretary, and a copy of the reports shall be placed in the archives of the Society for future reference.
 - g) The President must attend the National Congress and the Spring and Fall Leadership meetings of the National Society.
 - h) He must attend the Spring and Fall meetings of the Southern District at such locations as

scheduled. If he is unable to attend for any reason, then the First Vice President will represent the Society in his stead, with the authority and voting privileges of the President.

- i) He must attend two thirds of the State Conventions within the Southern District on an annual basis.
- j) He must agree to all of these duties before nomination and acceptance of office.

2. First Vice President:

- a) He shall act in an official capacity for the President in the Presidents absence.
- b) He shall be responsible for the planning, coordination and execution of the Annual Convention.
- c) He should utilize his home Chapter as the host Chapter for support of the Annual Convention.
- d) He shall establish a Convention Support bank account which is separate and aside from the Societies revenues to accommodate the funding for the Convention.
- e) He shall ensure that funding for the Convention is self- supporting and the only Society funds that are utilized are for the purchase of awards.
- f) He shall be an ex-officio member of all committees.
- g) He shall perform other duties as assigned.
- h) He must agree to these duties before nomination and acceptance of office.

3. Second Vice President:

- a) He shall be responsible for planning, coordinating and executing an Annual membership drive for the society.
- b) He shall be the Societies designated point of contact for liaison with the MSDAR and CAR Societies.
- c) He shall be the second signatory for the State Society Checking account.
- d) He shall chair the Audit Committee
- e) He shall perform such other duties as assigned.
- f) He must agree to these duties before nomination and acceptance of office.

4. Secretary:

- a) The Secretary shall serve as a member of the Executive Committee and he shall serve as the Secretary of all Society meetings, including those of the Executive Committee, and such other meetings of the Society as may be required in the conduct of the Society's business. He shall be responsible for the minutes of all such meetings and shall insure that copies of the minutes are distributed to the appropriate officers of the Society in a timely manner.
- b) He shall insure that copies of the minutes are placed in the Society's archives for future reference.
- c) The Secretary shall conduct correspondence relating to the Society's interest.
- d) He shall keep a record of the membership and give notice of regular and special meetings.
- e) He shall prepare for signature the Society Annual Report to the National Society. (NSSAR Handbook, Vol. 2, Revision 2010, Page 16, "Annual Reports")
- f) He shall report the election of officers following the Annual Convention.

- g) He shall provide notification of Society member deaths as required.
- h) He shall be responsible for coordinating the Committee which files the IRS Form 990-N e-Post Card for both the Society and individual chapters.
- i) He shall be the custodian of the Constitution and By-Laws and shall perform such other duties as may be properly requested of him by the Executive Committee.
- j) He shall be the State Society designated point of contact and his name will be placed as such on the National and State Web sites.
- k) He shall maintain a record of all pending applications and assist in their prosecution.
- l) He shall forward the nominees for Trustee and Alternate Trustee to represent the State Society to the Secretary General at least thirty (30) days prior to the Annual Congress.
- m) He shall forward State nominees to the Council of State Presidents for possible inclusion as members of the National Nominating Committee.
- n) He shall perform other duties as assigned.
- o) He must agree to these duties before nomination and acceptance of office.

4. Treasurer:

- a) The Treasurer shall collect all dues and fees for both the State and National Societies, Sons of the American Revolution and all checks should be made payable to the "Mississippi Society SAR."
- b) All funds collected shall be deposited in the name of The Mississippi Society Sons of The American Revolution in a State or National Bank, whose deposits are insured by the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation.
- c) The type of accounts for deposit and the selection of the bank and method of control shall be made by the Executive Committee of the Society.
- d) From such account or accounts, the Treasurer shall pay all charges and accounts due by the Society, when such accounts are due or action is authorized by the Executive Committee or by such person as may be authorized by them so to act.
- e) He shall chair the Finance Committee, supported by the Second Vice President and additional members appointed by the President.
- f) The Treasurer shall be under a Twenty Five Thousand dollar (\$25,000) Corporate Bond, the premium of which shall be paid by the Society.
- g) The Treasurer shall maintain the Society checking account which will have two authorized signatories: the Treasurer and Second Vice President.
- h) The Treasurer shall make a full report of the financial condition and affairs of the Society at each Annual State Convention of the Society and at each regularly scheduled meeting of the Executive Committee.
- i) He shall perform other duties as assigned.
- j) He must agree to these duties before nomination and acceptance of office.

5. Registrar:

- a) The Registrar shall examine all applications for membership and, if in proper order and duly approved, shall immediately forward them to the National Society for approval and acceptance.
- b) He shall have the care and custody of all duplicate applications and shall keep a register by name of all members and former members of the Society, listing their dates of birth, dates of admission, resignation, transfer or death.

- c) He shall perform other duties as assigned.
- d) He must agree to these duties before nomination and acceptance of office.

6. Historian:

- a) The Historian shall preserve the Historical Records and Items of Interest to the State Society.
- b) He shall provide a written report to the Executive Committee at the Annual Convention.
- c) He shall perform other duties as assigned.
- d) He must agree to these duties before nomination and acceptance of office.

7. Chancellor: The Chancellor serves as legal advisor to the Society and as a member of the Executive Committee.

- a) The Chancellor shall render legal opinions on Society matters upon request by the President and shall report on legal matters of concern to the President and the Executive Committee.
- b) He shall make a detailed report on such matters to the Executive Committee at each regularly scheduled meeting of the Executive Committee.
- c) He shall perform such duties as provided elsewhere in the current edition of the Constitution and Bylaws.
- d) A copy of the Chancellors reports shall be made available to any member of the Society upon written request.
- e) The Chancellor must be a licensed attorney-at-law and a member in good standing with the Mississippi Bar Association.
- f) He shall be familiar with the latest edition of Roberts Rules of Order.
- g) He must agree to these duties before nomination and acceptance of office.

8. Genealogist:

- a) The Genealogist shall assist the Registrar in the review of all applications for membership in the Society and in coordination with the Registrar provide genealogical research support as required.
- b) The Genealogist shall provide genealogical research to the Secretary in the prosecution of pending applications.
- c) The Genealogist shall serve in an Advisory capacity to The Mississippi Society Sons of the American Revolution.
- d) He shall perform other duties as assigned.
- e) He must agree to these duties before nomination and acceptance of office.

9. Chaplain:

- a) The Chaplain shall conduct the Religious Services for the State Society as required consistent with the Liturgical duties at his home church.
- b) He must agree to these duties before nomination and acceptance of office.

10. Sergeant-At-Arms:

- a) The Sergeant-At-Arms shall maintain good order and discipline at all regularly scheduled meetings.
- b) He must agree to these duties before nomination and acceptance of office.

11. Color Guard Commander

- a) The Color Guard Commander will be responsible for the coordination of the State Society Color Guard and will plan the schedule of supported events
- b) The Color Guard Commander must have or be able to obtain a Revolutionary War Uniform.
- c) He shall care for and maintain the State Society Flags, Charter, and other accoutrements used for support of Executive Committee meetings and the Annual Convention.
- d) He must agree to these duties before nomination and acceptance of office.

12. National Trustee:

- a) The National Trustee shall be the Representative of the State Society at all meetings of the Board of Trustees, The National Society Sons of the American Revolution.
- b) The National trustee will be elected by the State Delegates at the Annual Convention.
- c) The names of the nominees for Trustee and Alternate Trustee to represent the State Society shall be communicated to the Secretary General at least thirty (30) days prior to the Annual Congress.
- d) The President of the State Society shall be considered the nominee for the Office of Trustee to represent his State Society if the Society fails to notify the Secretary General of a nominee in a timely manner.
- e) The State Society's Alternate Trustee shall function as Trustee if the elected Trustee is absent for any reason and cannot fulfill the duties of his office.
- f) The nominees for Trustee and Alternate Trustee shall be elected at the Annual Convention.
- g) He must agree to these duties before nomination and acceptance of office.

11. Alternate National Trustee: Same duties as National Trustee.

12. Area Directors:

- a) The Area Directors will work closely with Chapters in their assigned area by contacting members and proposed members, attending local and area meetings and performing such other duties as the President may assign them.
- b) They shall provide written activity reports to the Executive Committee at each regularly scheduled Executive Committee meeting.
- c) They must agree to these duties before nomination and acceptance of office.

**ARTICLE II
ORGANIZATION OF CHAPTERS**

1. Application may be made by TEN or more members to form a Chapter.
2. Application shall be referred to the Officers of the State Society for approval.
3. Local Chapters must conform to the Constitution and By-Laws of The Mississippi Society Sons of the American Revolution, and The National Society Sons of the American Revolution.
 - 1) The formation of any new chapter within the MSSAR shall:
 - a. Result in a new category or status of chapter to be designated as provisional Status.
 - b. Any newly organized chapter shall remain in a Provisional Status for a minimum

of two (2) years following the chapter's organization, and such chapter may be continued in a Provisional Status for an indefinite period thereafter at the discretion of the MSSSAR.

- c. Before any newly organized chapter may be removed from Provisional Status and placed on full active status, it must add to its membership, within the two (2) year Provisional Status period, a minimum of at least five (5) new members who were not previously members of the National Society Sons of the American Revolution.
 - d. Newly organized chapters not meeting this new membership requirement within the two (2) year Provisional Status period shall remain on Provisional Status. This will insure the formation of new, healthy chapters with a commitment to membership growth essential to the health of both the chapters and the MSSSAR.
 - e. Except as to the words "Provisional Status" being added after the name of any chapter that is in Provisional Status, said Chapter shall enjoy all of the rights, privileges and duties of other chapters in the Mississippi Society Sons of the American Revolution.
 - f. Provisional Status of any chapter may be terminated at any meeting of the Executive Committee upon recommendation of the state president with the concurrence of a majority of the members of the executive committee in attendance at the meeting where the removal of Provisional Status is proposed.
4. Chapters of the MSSSAR are authorized to sponsor or colonize new chapters in selected target areas of the state. Sponsoring or colonizing chapters shall be designated by the MSSSAR at either the State Convention or at Executive Committee meetings. The President of each sponsoring or colonizing chapter will provide assistance and guidance to the newly organized chapters within his designated target area by appointing a chapter sponsor representative. The chapter sponsor representative will be responsible for coordinating activities within the target area and will report the results of his efforts to chapter meetings, as well as submitting quarterly reports to the President of the MSSSAR.

ARTICLE III ADMISSION FEE-ANNUAL DUES

1. The admission fee for SAR membership shall be as set by the NSSAR in addition to a handling charge which shall be set by the Executive Committee of the Mississippi Society.
2. Annual dues for the National Society for each member shall be as set by NSSAR.
3. Annual dues for the State Society for each member shall be as set by the membership of the MSSSAR at the Annual State Convention.
4. All checks in payment of fees and dues to the National and State Societies shall be made payable to "Mississippi Society, SAR" and delivered to the Treasurer of the Mississippi Society, SAR. The state dues for a new "member at large" will be set by the Executive Committee at the Annual Convention. Those members currently associated with a state Chapter and desiring to transfer to "membership at large" must pay a one-time transfer fee as set by the Executive Committee at the Annual Convention.
5. Local Chapter dues will be set by the Executive Committee of the Mississippi Society. These dues will be collected from each member of the Mississippi Society by the State Treasurer each year along with State and National dues. Members of the Mississippi Society may choose a

chapter to be a member of or if no preference is made the State Treasurer will determine a Chapter affiliation based upon the member's address and a map of the State of Mississippi which has been divided into districts, one for each chapter. The map which is to be divided into chapter districts must be approved by the majority of the Executive Committee of the MSSSAR. A check representing Chapter dues and a list of Chapter members will be mailed to the Chapter treasurer prior to the first day of May each year by the State Treasurer-Registrar.

6. All dues for National and State Societies are payable in advance and must be paid before **November 1st** for the ensuing year. Any member who fails to pay his dues on or before **January 1st** shall be declared delinquent and his name removed from the Membership Roster.

ARTICLE IV COMMITTEES

1. The President shall appoint all Committees in accordance with constitution Article 1, 1(b).
 - a) The President shall appoint a nominating committee and said appointment to be not later than 180 days prior to the annual State Convention.
 - b) The committee shall serve through the next State Convention and the President shall appoint the chairman thereof.
 - c) The President may serve as an ex-officio member of all committees.
 - d) The committee, after joint consideration of members of the committee, shall present to the President its recommendations for nominees to all elected state offices at least thirty days prior to the State Convention.

Standing Committees:

Rumbaugh Oration Contest
Knight Essay Contest
Eagle Scout Award
ROTC Awards
History Teacher Award
Flag
Medals and Awards

Specific Committees

Veterans
IRS Reports
Finance
Audit
Publicity
Long Range Planning

ARTICLE V CHAPTER RESPONSIBILITIES

1. All Chapters of the Mississippi Society are responsible for providing the following reports to the State Secretary each year before the Annual State Convention.
 - a) Mississippi Chapter Annual Report.
 - b) Alphabetical list of names and addresses of paid chapter members.
2. Chapter Meetings: All Chapters of the Mississippi Society shall meet no less than four (4) times during the calendar year and shall devise a meeting schedule to meet this requirement.
 - a) Any Chapter that fails to hold four (4) meetings within a calendar year shall be declared DORMANT.
 - b) The President of The Mississippi Society Sons of the American Revolution shall appoint a President and Secretary for the said Chapter for the purpose of reactivating the said Chapter.

- c) The reactivation of any chapter of the MSSSAR that has been declared DORMANT will result in the placing of that chapter in a Provisional Status for a period of two (2) years following its reactivation.
 - d) The requirement for the removal of Provisional Status and the designation of such chapter into full active status shall be the same as that of a new chapter.
 - e) All chapter Presidents, or a duly designated representative shall be in attendance at all Executive Committee meetings and at the State Convention.
3. Chapter officers will be elected prior to the Annual Convention. In conjunction with the Annual State meeting, a training session will be held for Chapter Officers. Chapter officers will take office at the Annual Convention.
4. Chapter By-Laws will be in conformance with the State Society by-Laws.

ARTICLE VI AMENDMENTS

These By-Laws may be amended by a two-thirds vote of the members present and voting at an Annual State Convention or at a Special Meeting of this Society, provided that:

- a) such amendment shall have been proposed to the Secretary at a prior Annual State Convention or prior Special Meeting of the Society;
- b) or by the Executive Committee of the Society;
- c) or by a Local Society;

Thirty (30) days, notice of such proposed amendment shall be sent by the Secretary to each of the State Officers, members of the Executive Committee and to the President and the Secretary of each of the Local Chapters. Said notice shall be deposited in the United States Mail at the place of residence of the Secretary and the notice period shall be computed from the date of such mailing.

- 1. March 16, 1996-Revision
- 2. March 14, 1998-Revision
- 3. March 13, 1999-Revision
- 4. March 11, 2000-Revision
- 5. March 24, 2012-Revision

James L Roberts Jr.
President, MSSSAR

Charles F Garrison
Secretary, MSSSAR

Addendum (A) to
MSSAR By-Laws of 24 March 2012

This addendum concerns the establishment of approved monetary awards for the various participants in the youth programs at the State level:

Rumbaugh Oration Award:

- \$250 cash award
- Expenses for participation at NSSAR up to \$500

Knight Essay Contest Award

- \$250 cash award

Eagle Scout Award

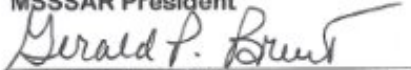
- \$250 cash Award

American History Teacher Award

- \$100 cash Award

These cash award levels are proposed as the MSSAR established levels and this addendum will be included with the current addition of the MSSAR by-laws. Approved by two thirds members present at the Executive meeting 8 June 2013.

MSSAR President



Gerald Page Brent

Secretary



Charles Franklin Garrison

