

1 **Federal Volunteer Brigade**

2 **By-Laws**

3 January 17th, 2026

4
5 **Article 1 Mission**

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7 The Federal Volunteer Brigade (FVB) is formed as a living memorial, to provide living historians
8 a means to honor the soldiers who fought to preserve the Union during the War of the
9 Rebellion from 1861 through 1865, and the families who supported them. The Federal
10 Volunteer Brigade members pledge to accurately portray the Civil War period with honor,
11 dignity and respect to themselves, each other and to the memory of those they represent.

12 **Article 2 Definitions**

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14 *Brigade Commander (BC)* –elected by eligible Companies for a period of three years. The
15 elected BG is the absolute commander of all FVB field events and is expected to exercise
16 command and control as authority mandates. This authority does not extend to individual
17 Company sponsored/hosted events unless invited to command. The BG manages FVB
18 governance and business matters in cooperation with the Board of Company Commanders
19 (BCC). The BG serves as the non-voting Chairman of the Board of Company Commanders (BCC).
20 He is permitted a tie-breaker vote in the event of an impasse on any issue.

21
22 *Company* – Defined as the base foundational unit of any Infantry, Cavalry, Artillery, Civilian,
23 Engineering and Medical groups in service with the FVB. A Company obtaining full FVB
24 membership must contain, at least, 6 members and one commander. Companies will continue
25 in probationary status until this requirement is met.

26
27 *Unless specifically stated in these by-laws, staff personnel appointed by the elected BG*
28 *are not to be considered a “Company” and do not have individual or collective voting*
29 *rights. Their vote is expressed through their parent Company. These non-voting positions*
30 *include Chief of Staff or Deputy Chief of Staff, Provost Marshall, Regimental*
31 *Commanders and all other appointed staff positions.*

32
33 *Board of Company Commanders (BCC)*– a quorum of Company Commanders, or their designee,
34 as defined by each individual company, eligible to vote on FVB governance issues and business
35 affairs. Each eligible commander, or their designee, has one vote. This includes all Companies
36 assigned to the Brigade. The board is chaired by the elected Brigade Commander (BC), or a
37 member of their staff; however if the BC or a member of their staff is unavailable, the BCC may
38 meet without either. The BCC shall strive to meet at every Brigade event.

40 *Field Events* – All FVB designated reenactments, parades, living history and other
41 Brigade/Regimental level activities being conducted to portray soldiers and civilians of the Civil
42 War period.

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44 *Eligible commander* – Any FVB Company Commander or designee whose Company has
45 participated in at least two (2) brigade level events (not to include meetings) during the one
46 calendar year prior to any subject vote.

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48 *Quorum* – The FVB establishes that two thirds of the eligible company representatives will
49 constitute a quorum.

50
51 *Drug and alcohol policy*- The FVB has a zero-tolerance policy for the use of any illegal drugs or
52 underage drinking.

53
54 *Standard Operating Procedure*-All members of the Brigade shall abide by the safety SOPs of the
55 FVB

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57 *Member* – A member of a company is a person at an event dressed in period attire who
58 contributes to the portrayal of 19th century life during the American Civil War.

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60 **Article 3 Company Membership**

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62 The FVB welcomes and encourages all perspective Companies and/or Regiments which share
63 our vision and support our mission to apply for membership. No dues or entrance fees will be
64 charged by the FVB.

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66 A) All impressions and military sub-components must adhere to FVB authenticity
67 standards.

68 B) Each new perspective Company will serve one year probation and be assigned a
69 mentor Company by the BC to ensure their successful transition into the FVB. A
70 perspective Company must be voted into full membership by a majority vote of the
71 BCC after a period of one year probation.

72 C) The FVB strongly encourages participation in all Brigade events.

73 D) Organization within a Company is the sole responsibility of that Company

74 E) Member Companies will obtain their own insurance, either through the FVB provider
75 or other company, and be responsible for the conduct of their members

76 F) Individual persons seeking membership will be referred to a member Company or
77 Companies within their geographical area

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Article 4 FVB Business Meetings

FVB business will be conducted at winter meetings or during emergency meetings requested by the BC or membership of the BCC. All meetings will be operated under the provisions of Robert’s Rules of Order, Newly Revised.

- A) A meeting will be held each year in November and in January/February.
 - 1) The purpose of the November meeting is to review the previous year performance and to present by-law amendments and other proposals for discussion. Items presented and deemed appropriate by the BCC for a vote will be placed on the January/February meeting agenda. Every third year beginning 2014, candidates for the Brigade Commander (BC) position will present themselves for nomination by the November meeting with elections in January. No nominations for Brigade Commander will be accepted after the November meeting.
 - 2) The January/February meeting is the primary voting meeting of the FVB. A two-thirds vote of Company commanders, or their designee, (BCC) is required for a vote on:
 - i. By-law amendments,
 - ii. Removal of a Company from membership
 - iii. Removal of an elected Brigade commander (BC).
 - 3) A majority vote is required to:
 - i. Accept a new Company/Regiment into membership
 - ii. Elect a new Brigade Commander (BC) every third year beginning in 2015 or in the year immediately following any BC removal for cause
 - iii. Select annual events for FVB participation
 - iv. Any other business not otherwise defined
 - 4) Voting in January will be in person through the Company Commander or their designee, or proxy. Voting on all non-emergency matters will occur only during the January/February meeting.
 - i. All designees or proxy voters must be made known in writing or via electronic means to the BC no later than 24 hours in advance of the meeting.

117 B) Meetings may be called at any time by members of the BCC or the Chairman (BC)
118 to address emergency/interim appointments, removal of a Company, removal of the
119 elected BC, problems with appointed staff or other matters of immediate concern.
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121 **Article 5 Selection and authority of the Brigade Commander**
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123 Brigade Commanders are elected by a majority vote of eligible Company commanders or their
124 designee (BCC) The Brigade Commander will carry the rank appropriate to the size of the
125 Brigade, from Colonel up to and to include Major General, at the direction of the BCC, and have
126 absolute authority during field events (reference Article #2). Candidates for the position of BC
127 must have displayed a commitment to the FVB and have demonstrated the appropriate
128 experience and knowledge to hold the position as determined by the BCC. The Brigade
129 Commander will Chair the BCC and can convene this body as required.
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131 A) The Brigade Commander will appoint Brigade staff from within the FVB as he deems
132 appropriate, and affirmed by the BCC. The appointed staff serves at the pleasure of
133 the BC. A Brigade is more than one Regiment. Primary Staff shall be limited to:

134 1) Chief of Staff with a rank no higher than Colonel and four Personal Staff
135 officers of the BC's choosing with rank no higher than Major. (Ex: Chief of Staff,
136 Adjutant, Etc.). The BC may also appoint additional enlisted staff as needed with
137 rank no higher than Sergeant. All current members of Brigade staff, as of
138 January 24, 2020, are grandfathered in position and rank. As positions become
139 vacant, the bylaws will apply to future appointments.

140 2) Departmental Staff, with ranks at the discretion of the BC, to consist of:

- 141 i Surgeon
- 142 ii Engineer
- 143 iii Quartermaster
- 144 iv Provost

145 3) When the FVB is in overall command of an event, Departmental Staff may
146 be breveted for the duration of that event to sufficient rank in order to fulfil their
147 duties in command of their respective departments.
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149 B) Regimental Commanders will have served as a field commander prior to
150 appointment and hold the rank of Lt. Colonel or Colonel, be appointed by the BC and
151 be approved by the BCC.

152 C) Regimental Commanders will appoint their staff. A Regiment is two or more
153 Companies. Regimental Commanders do not have independent votes in FVB
154 business, but instead their views must be represented by their parent Companies.
155 Regimental Commanders have absolute authority over their Regiments during field
156 events; superseded only by the BC. In the Regimental Commander's absence, the
157 regiment will be commanded by the ranking regimental officer present. Regimental

158 Staff may be, but are not limited to, or may be appointed at the discretion of the
159 regimental commander on an as needed basis:

- 160 1) One Adjutant with rank of Lt/Captain
- 161 2) One Sergeant Major
- 162 3) Wing Commanders as necessary with rank of Captain/Major/Lt. Col.
- 163 4) Quartermaster Officer with rank of Lt/Captain
- 164 5) Provost Officer with rank of Lt/Captain

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166 D) If the Brigade Commander (BC) is unable to attend an event, must leave the field or
167 is delayed while executing command staff business, he has full authority to
168 temporarily delegate his authority down to the Regimental Commander he
169 determines suitable to assume his role and will notify the Brigade by writing in
170 advance of the event. In the event that the BC fails to attend an event and no
171 notifications were made, the Senior ranking line officer will assume command.

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173 **Article 6 Board of Company Commanders – Authorities**

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175 The BCC is comprised of all Company Commanders, or their designee, whose Companies
176 have attended at least two (2) FVB events during the preceding one calendar year prior
177 to any vote. (See above). Member Companies who have not met the two (2) FVB field
178 event attendance requirement will not have voting rights until attendance requirements
179 are met unless waived by the BCC for extraordinary circumstances. The BCC is charged
180 with deciding all organizational and administrative matters of the FVB not specifically
181 assigned to the BC. The following authorities are specifically assigned to the BCC:

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- 183 A) Voting for the BC every three years beginning in 2015 – requires majority vote
- 184 B) Acceptance of a new Company/Regiment into membership – requires majority vote
- 185 C) Voting for FVB events annually – majority vote
- 186 D) FVB By-Law Amendments – two-thirds vote required
- 187 E) Removal of a Brigade Commander (BC), their respective Regimental Commander, or
188 a member Company – two-thirds vote required
 - 189 a. Removal of a BC or member Company must be for “cause”. Exhibited lack of
190 integrity, poor performance, incompetence, or legal problems which portray
191 the FVB in a negative light are some, but not all, examples of “cause”
 - 192 b. Upon proposed removal of a member Company or the elected BC, the BCC
193 will be established
 - 194 c. A quorum, as described in Article 2, must be obtained for any vote to occur
195 and before the BCC is formed. Voting eligibility will be determined according
196 to Article 6, and be attested to by the appropriate member of the staff who
197 has final word on BCC eligibility.

- 198 i. If the vote concerns removal of a Company, the BCC Chairman (BC)
199 will manage the meeting, vote and process
200 ii. If the vote involves the removal of the BC, the meeting will be
201 chaired by a BCC member chosen by the group
202 d. Reasons for proposed removal will first be provided in writing by the BCC.
203 e. All involved persons will be given the opportunity to present their position to
204 the BCC
205 f. A two-thirds vote of the BCC is required to remove a Company from
206 membership or an elected Brigade Commander from his position (reference
207 Article 4, Section A, sub-section 2). These proceedings and subsequent vote
208 can occur in-person or electronically within a prescribed period of time
209 g. If a BC is removed from his position or resigns, nominations must be taken
210 and an election held immediately to fill the void until the next
211 January/February permanent election. During emergency elections, BCC
212 member's nominations and votes may be taken in person. A mutually
213 acceptable member of the BCC will be chosen from the FVB to coordinate the
214 emergency election and report the results.
- 215 F) The BCC is authorized to form committees deemed necessary for the betterment of
216 the FVB
- 217 G) The BCC shall designate a Treasurer and Assistant Treasurer, both active members of
218 the FVB, to administer the funds upon approval from the BCC. Both will serve the
219 same term length as the BC.
- 220 a. The Treasurer is responsible for presenting a report on FVB finances at the
221 annual business meetings, or as requested.
- 222 b. In conjunction with the bylaws review, the BCC will appoint a committee of
223 three, separate from the Treasurer and Co-Signer, to audit the finances of
224 the FVB. The audit shall coincide with each election of the BC.
- 225
- 226 H) Other business as determined to be appropriate and within the scope of
227 responsibilities outlined
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229 **Article 7** **Dissolution Clause**

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231 Dissolution of the FVB may only occur by a two-thirds vote of the BCC at the
232 January/February meeting. Written notice must be provided to all Companies at
233 least 30 days prior to the scheduled meeting and vote on dissolution. Prior to the
234 voting on dissolution being taken the BCC will decide by majority vote where all
235 remaining assets, after the payment of final bills, will be donated should the vote
236 on dissolution pass; remaining assets may only be donated to a Civil War related
237 non-profit organization.
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239 These By-Laws are ratified this 20th day of October, 2014, revised/reviewed in 2019, 2020, and
240 2026, by a quorum of the Federal Volunteer Brigade and shall remain so until a mandatory
241 review every five years from the last revision or such time as deemed appropriate by the Board
242 of Company Commanders.
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