

CONSTITUTION OF THE SOUTH CAROLINA SOCIETY,
SONS OF THE AMERICAN REVOLUTION
As Amended on APRIL 17, 2010

ARTICLE I - Authority, Name, Jurisdiction

SECTION 1 - The organization has been created by authority of Article 11 of the Bylaws of the National Society of the Sons of the American Revolution.

SECTION 2 - The name of this organization shall be the South Carolina Society of the Sons of the American Revolution.

SECTION 3 - The jurisdiction of this Society shall be the territorial limits of the State of South Carolina unless otherwise directed by the National Society of the Sons of the American Revolution.

ARTICLE II - Objects

The objects of this Society are declared to be patriotic, historical, and educational, and shall include those intended or designed to perpetuate the memory of those who, by their services or sacrifices during the war of the American Revolution, achieved the independence of the American people; to unite and promote fellowship among their descendants; to inspire them and the community at large with a more profound reverence for the principles of the government founded by our forefathers; to encourage historical research in relation to the American Revolution; to acquire and preserve the records of the individual services of the patriots of the war, as well as documents, relics, and landmarks; to mark the scenes of the Revolution by appropriate memorials; to celebrate the anniversaries of the prominent events of the war and of the Revolutionary period; to foster true patriotism; to maintain and extend the institutions of American freedom, and to carry out the purposes expressed in the preamble of the Constitution of our country and the injunctions of Washington in his farewell address to the American people.

ARTICLE III - Eligibility for Membership

SECTION 1 - Any male shall be eligible for membership in this Society who, being a citizen of good repute in the community, is the lineal descendant of an ancestor who was at all times unflinching in loyalty to, and rendered active service in the cause of American Independence, either as an officer, soldier, seaman, marine, militiaman, or minute man, in the armed forces of the Continental Congress, or of any one of the several Colonies or States; or as a signer of the Declaration of Independence; or as a member of a Committee of Safety or Correspondence; or as a member of any Continental, Provincial, or Colonial Congress or Legislature; or as a recognized patriot who performed actual service by overt acts of resistance to the authority of Great Britain; provided, that he shall be found worthy and that he does not advocate the overthrow of the government of the United States by use of force or violence.

There shall be the following classes of members:

- (1) A Regular, or Regular Life Member, shall be any member of the age of eighteen years and over who meets all the requirements for membership as defined in this Constitution and in the Bylaws of the State Society.
- (2) A Junior Member shall be a male under the age of eighteen years who has met the membership requirements of both the Sons of the American Revolution and the Children of the American Revolution. A Junior Member shall not have the right to vote or hold office until he attains the age of eighteen years.
- (3) A Youth Registrant shall be a male under the age of eighteen years whose Youth Registrant application has been submitted and approved in accordance with the Bylaws of the National Society.
- (4) A Youth Life Member shall be a male under the age of eighteen years who has applied for and been accepted to Youth Life Membership and has paid the applicable fee for Life Membership.

SECTION 2 - Admission to membership in the South Carolina Society shall be either through a chapter or as a member at large.

Article IV – Administration of the State Society

Section 1: General Administration

The administration of the general affairs of the Society shall be entrusted to the Board of Governors, the Executive Committee, and the Officers of the Society. Whenever the Board of Governors is not in session, the administration of the Society shall be vested in the Officers or the Executive Committee.

Section 2: Board of Governors

- (a) The Board of Governors shall consist of the National Trustee, the Alternate National Trustee, the elected officers of the Society during their terms of office, all living past presidents of the Society, and two members from each Chapter in the Society consisting of the chapter president and one additional member selected by the Chapter, and the chairs of each committee appointed by the President of the Society.
- (b) The Board of Governors shall perform such duties as defined by the Constitution and Bylaws and as may be committed to it at any meeting of the Society.
- (c) The Board of Governors or President of the Society may delegate specific duties or responsibilities to permanent or ad hoc committees that are established by either the Board of Governors or the President of the Society. The President shall appoint the chairman, except where such chairmanship is defined within the Constitution and/or Bylaws, and approve the membership of the following committees.
 - (i) Americanism
 - (ii) Historic Sites & Patriot Graves
 - (iii) Medals & Awards
 - (iv) Membership & Retention
 - (v) Nominating
 - (vi) Publicity & Communications
 - (vii) Such other committees as may be deemed advisable.

Section 3: Executive Committee

- (a) The Executive Committee shall consist of the President, Senior Vice President, Secretary, Treasurer, and a Past President of the Society appointed by the President.
- (b) The Executive Committee shall be the custodian of all property, real and personal, belonging to the Society. The Executive Committee shall meet from time to time as necessary between the meetings of the Board of Governors to manage the business and affairs of the Society and perform such duties as may be committed to it by any meeting of the Society, provided, that it shall not have power to sell, convey, or encumber any real estate belonging to the Society or incur any liability other than for ordinary current expenses, except when it be ordered at a meeting of the Society by a two-thirds (2/3s) vote of the members present.
- (c) Any actions of the Executive Committee shall be subject to ratification at the subsequent meeting of the Board of Governors.

Section 4: Officers

- (a) The officers of this Society shall be a President, a Senior Vice President, five (5) regional Vice Presidents, a Vice-President for Chapter Renewal and Revitalization, a Vice-President for Chapter Formation and Development, a Secretary, a Treasurer, an Endowment Trust Treasurer, a Registrar, a Chaplain, a Historian, a Chancellor, a Genealogist and an Auditor.
- (b) The officers shall be elected by a majority vote of the members present at the annual meeting of the Society; and shall hold office for one year or until their successors are qualified, elected, and installed.
- (c) The officers shall serve without compensation in such capacities except for the reimbursement of ordinary expenses incurred in the performance of their office as provided for in the annual budget of the Society.
- (d) The duties of the officers shall be such as their titles shall, by custom, indicate and as may be defined within the Bylaws of the Society or as assigned by the President, the Board of Governors, or the Executive Committee.
- (e) No officer of the South Carolina Society shall hold any elective or ex officio office of any other State Society.

Section 5: National Officers and Delegates

- (a) National Trustee: The Society shall nominate one (1) member each year to be elected by the Annual Congress of the National Society of the Sons of the American Revolution to serve as National Trustee. The National Trustee shall be considered the Head Delegate to the Annual Congress from the Society.
- (b) Alternate National Trustee: The Society shall nominate one (1) member each year to be elected by the Annual Congress of the National Society of the Sons of the American Revolution to serve as Alternate National Trustee.
- (c) Delegates to Annual Congress: The Society shall elect a Delegate At Large to attend the Annual Congress of the National Society of the Sons of the American Revolution and such other Delegates as it may be entitled to as defined and assigned by the National Society. Said delegates to be selected in the manner prescribed by the Constitution and Bylaws of the National Society.

Article V – Meetings and Quorum

Section 1 – Board of Governors Meetings

- (a) The Board of Governors shall meet at least quarterly, including the Annual Meeting. The normal quarterly meeting shall be on the third Saturday of each quarter except when such dates conflicts with a National Society event, commemoration, or religious holiday. In the event of a conflict the State President shall have the discretion to move the date of the meeting by seven (7) days.
- (b) The business of the Board of Governors Meeting shall consist of the reception of quarterly activity reports by the officers, chapters, and committee chairmen as well as other such business that needs to be transacted unless specifically defined within another meeting.

Section 2 – Annual Meeting

- (a) The Annual Meeting of the Society shall be held each year between January 1 and forty (40) days prior to the Annual Congress of the National Society of the Sons of the American Revolution on a date, excepting Easter weekend, and at a place designated by vote of the Board of Governors.
- (b) The business of the Annual Meeting shall consist of the reception of the annual reports of the officers, chapters, and committee chairmen, the election and installation of officers, the amendment of the Constitution and Bylaws, and any other business that needs to be transacted.
- (c) Notice of the Annual meeting will be given to each member within the Spring Edition of The Palmetto Patriot at least thirty (30) days prior to the meeting specifying time and place.
- (d) The Annual Meeting shall conclude with an Awards Banquet, the Installation of Officers, and an address by the incoming State President.

Section 3 – Special Meetings

- (a) Special meetings may be called by the President, and shall be called by him when so directed by the Board of Governors or when so requested by fifteen (15) members of the Society representing at least twenty-five (25%) of the Chapters in the Society.
- (b) Notice of a Special Meeting must be given to each member specifying the date and place of the meeting as well as the business to be transacted at least seven (7) days prior to the meeting. This notice can include, but is not limited to, publication in The Palmetto Patriot or a notice mailed to each member whether by regular mail or by electronic format.
- (c) The business of a Special Meeting shall be limited to the business published in the required meeting notice.

Section 4 – Quorum

- (a) Provided that no member can be counted more than once in establishing the quorum, a quorum will be defined as having a minimum of fifty percent (50%) of the elected officers including either the President or Senior Vice President and at least one (1) representative from twenty-five percent (25%) of the chapters of the Society.
- (b) A quorum shall be established at the beginning of a meeting. In the event of the failure to meet a quorum, the only action that can be taken is an adjournment.

ARTICLE VI - Amendments

This Constitution may be altered or amended by a two-thirds vote at an Annual or Special Meeting of the membership of the society, provided that notice of such proposed amendment shall have been sent to each member at least fifteen (15) days prior to the said meeting.

BYLAWS OF THE SOUTH CAROLINA SOCIETY, SONS OF THE AMERICAN REVOLUTION **As Amended on APRIL 17, 2010**

ARTICLE I - Membership

SECTION 1 - Application for membership shall be made through the Secretary of this Society in accordance with Article I of the Bylaws of the National Society and upon duplicate blank form prescribed by the National Board of Trustees, and shall in each case be accompanied by the application fee and dues for the current year. The dues will be returned in case of rejection.

SECTION 2 - An applicant for membership must be endorsed by two members of this society in good standing.

SECTION 3 - Upon receipt of an application, the Secretary shall present the same, if in the proper form, to the Board of Governors as represented by their Membership Approval Committee. If the Board of Governors Committee accepts the application, the Secretary shall so certify. Then the Registrar shall verify and approve the application. The original copy of the application shall be submitted to the Registrar General of the National Society by the Secretary, who shall retain the second copy for the state records. The applicant shall not be deemed elected to membership until the Registrar General shall have notified the Secretary of his approval of the application, and the Membership Numbers, National and State, have been assigned to the new member.

SECTION 4 - Members who are able to establish their eligibility on the services of more than one revolutionary ancestor may file Supplemental Applications. Supplemental Applications must be filed in duplicate with the Secretary of the Society on forms provided by the National Society and must be accompanied by the fees to the State and National Society.

SECTION 5 - A member may transfer his membership from this State Society to another or from another State Society to this Society, provided that he is in good standing at the time of the transfer. An out of state applicant for membership must be endorsed by two members of this society in good standing. The transfer is effected through use of a transfer form, which is first signed by the Secretary of the State Society of which the Compatriot is a member and then is signed by the Secretary of the State Society to which he is being transferred. The transfer is then sent to the office of the Registrar General with the transfer fee.

SECTION 6 - A compatriot may establish membership in more than one State Society by applying for dual membership. He is required to pay annual dues to each State Society to which he belongs.

SECTION 7 - Male members of the Children of the American Revolution may apply for dual membership in the Sons of the American Revolution at any time. They must present a Certificate in Good Standing, which shall be accepted in lieu of the admission fee, provided that the application is submitted not later than one year after his twenty-first (21st) birthday. Such transfers are required to pay the fee, prescribed by the National Society, for their membership certificates.

SECTION 8 - The son of a member of the Society, or the son of a member of the Daughters of the American Revolution, who is between the ages of eighteen and twenty five, may be admitted without payment of the admission fee, provided that his parent is a member in good standing, or if deceased, was a member in good standing at the time of death. Such an applicant shall pay the fee, prescribed by the National Society, for his membership certificate.

SECTION 9 - The Board of Governors as represented by their Membership Approval Committee shall have the power to drop from the rolls any member who shall be in arrears in his dues on January 1 of the current year provided he has been given 30 days prior notice by first class mail. He may be reinstated in his membership by the Membership Approval Committee of the Board of Governors upon payment of his indebtedness to the society.

SECTION 10 - The Membership Approval Committee of the Board of Governors shall judge the qualifications of all candidates for admission in the Society and vote upon the same.

SECTION 11 - The Board of Governors shall have full power and authority, after due notice, impartial trial and by a two-thirds vote of the members of the Board of Governors, to expel any member who, by conduct unbecoming a gentleman, shall render himself unworthy to remain a member of our Society.

SECTION 12 - Resignation from membership in this Society may be granted only when all dues are paid to date.

SECTION 13 - The official designation of members of this society shall be "Compatriots".

ARTICLE II - Dues

SECTION 1 -The annual dues of this Society will be determined from year to year by the Executive Committee with approval of the Board of Governors.

SECTION 2 - The Executive Committee may, in its discretion, remit the annual dues of any member.

SECTION 3 - Any Chapter in this Society may assess and collect from its members such dues as it may deem advisable beyond the minimum described in Section 1 of this Article.

SECTION 4 - The fiscal year of this Society shall conform to that of the National Society.

SECTION 5 – Current life memberships shall be maintained during the life-time of those currently enrolled. No additional life memberships shall be established by this Society. The life membership fees shall provide for the payment of the National Society dues and State Society dues in the amount of \$15.00 (USD). Chapter dues shall remain the responsibility of the individual members.

SECTION 6 – Upon reaching the age of 90, any SCSSAR member whose primary membership is in this Society will no longer be charged State dues. National and Chapter dues will still apply.

ARTICLE III - Chapters

SECTION 1 - Ten (10) or more members of this Society, residing in any community within the Society's jurisdiction may form themselves into a Chapter of this Society with the approval of the Executive Committee.

SECTION 2 - Each Chapter shall regulate all matters including membership, pertaining to its own affairs, subject to the provisions of the Constitution and Bylaws of the National Society and the Constitution and Bylaws of the South Carolina Society.

SECTION 3 - Whenever in any community within the jurisdiction of this Society, a Chapter does not exist, or in which a Chapter has become inactive, ten or more persons duly qualified for membership in this Society may associate themselves as a Chapter, and may organize in accordance with this Constitution and Bylaws; they may be admitted by the Executive Committee of the South Carolina Society as "The _____ Chapter of the South Carolina Society of the Sons of the American Revolution", and shall thereafter have exclusive local jurisdiction in the community in which they are organized, subject to the provisions of this Constitution and Bylaws and the Constitution and Bylaws of the National Society.

SECTION 4 - Application for Chapter Charter shall be by written petition to the Executive Committee, setting forth the name of the locality, the proposed name of the Chapter and the names of the petitioners. The Executive Committee may grant a Charter authorizing the adoption of a Constitution and Bylaws conformable with those of this Society and of the National Society. A copy of such Constitution and Bylaws, a list of the officers elected hereunder and a roster of the membership shall be filed with the Secretary of the Society.

SECTION 5 - No person shall be a member of any Chapter unless he is a member of the State Society.

SECTION 6 - Chapter Charters may be revoked for cause by two-thirds vote of the Board of Managers.

SECTION 7 - Each Chapter shall:

- (a) Notify the State Secretary promptly of the election and appointment of all officers.
- (b) Notify the State Secretary promptly of all deaths of members.
- (c) Annually report a list of officers and members in good standing with their addresses to the State Secretary by October 31.

- (d) The State Secretary may, at any time, require a report from Chapters, giving lists of officers, members, and meetings held, and an account of activities for the period covered

SECTION 8 - Membership in Chapters shall not in any way change the relations of members to the State Society, nor impair obligations of payment of dues and other requisitions of the Constitution and Bylaws of the Society.

ARTICLE IV - Officers

SECTION 1 - The duties of the officers of the Society shall be such as usually appertain to their offices, and they shall have such other duties as are hereinafter imposed and such powers as shall be delegated to them by an Annual or Special Meeting of the Society, the Board of Governors, or the Executive Committee.

SECTION 2 - The President, in addition to his general duties, shall maintain a general supervision over the affairs of the Society; he shall appoint all committees unless otherwise provided for, and shall be chairman of the Board of Governors and a member of all committees. The President will be considered the designated National Trustee nominee under normal circumstances.

SECTION 3 - The Senior Vice President

- (a) The Senior Vice President shall assist the President in the general supervision of the affairs of the Society and shall represent the Society at Chapter meetings or other affairs when the President is unable to attend.
- (b) In the absence of the President, he will preside over meetings of the Society and, in the event of death, disability or resignation of the President, he will assume the duties of the President until a new President is elected at a special meeting of the Society. Such service as an interim president shall not disqualify the Senior Vice President from serving a full term as President at the conclusion of his term as Senior Vice President.
- (c) The Senior Vice President shall serve as the chairman of the Membership & Retention Committee and the Publicity & Communications Committee.
- (d) The Senior Vice President will be considered the designated nominee for President under normal circumstances. No member of the Society shall be nominated for Senior Vice President unless he has served at least one (1) term in another office of the Board of Governors within the past five (5) years.

SECTION 4 - The Regional Vice Presidents shall seek in every manner to promote the interest and activities of the State Society; visit and be responsible for the chapters in his area; encourage the formation of new chapters and the enrollment of new members.

SECTION 5 - The Vice President for Chapter Renewal and Revitalization shall direct and assist chapters on probation or non-functioning chapters with renewal and revitalization efforts and shall have direct oversight of these Chapters.

SECTION 6 - The Vice President for Chapter Formation and Development shall direct and assist in the development of new chapters within the Society and shall have direct oversight of these chapters.

SECTION 7 - The Secretary shall have charge of all the records of the society, shall give notice of all meetings of the Society, Executive Committee or Board of Governors and shall give due notice to all State Officers, and Chapters of all votes, orders and proceedings affecting or appertaining to their duties. The Secretary shall obtain name and address mailing labels as required for all members, a local permit for bulk mail and distribute the Palmetto Patriot newsletter. He shall provide a list of the new members to update the State Society Roster annually. He shall distribute all pamphlets, circulars, rosettes, and supplies as directed by the Board of Governors. He shall also serve as Secretary of the Board of Governors. He shall issue certificates of membership to members entitled thereto.

SECTION 8 - The Treasurer shall have custody of the General Fund of the Society. He shall collect all money due the Society, including application fees and dues, and keep account of the same. He shall pay to the Treasurer General the annual dues as required by the National Society. He shall keep a true account of his receipts and expenditures. He shall deposit all uninvested funds in the name of the South Carolina Society of the Sons of the American Revolution in a reliable bank or savings institution. He shall prepare and submit a budget for approval and adoption at the Annual Meeting. General budget line items may only be added to the budget at the Annual Meeting of the Society. Expenditure of funds for items not budgeted for may only be made from the General

Fund, any Contingency Fund, Special Designated Fund, or gifts to the Society upon a two-thirds (2/3) vote of the Board of Governors.

SECTION 9 - The Endowment Trust Treasurer shall have custody of the Endowment Trust and Life Membership Fund of the Society. If authorized by the Board of Governors, the income of the Endowment Trust shall be paid to the Secretary and applied to the current expenses of the society or as otherwise directed. No part of the Endowment Trust shall be expended except by recommendation of the Executive Committee. The income from the Life Membership Fund shall be paid to the Secretary for the annual dues of the life members. Any excess income shall be reinvested in the Life Membership Fund or as the Executive Committee shall direct. The Endowment Trust Treasurer shall keep a true account of receipts and expenditures. The accounts of the Society may be audited at the end at a time and by persons selected by the Board of Governors.

SECTION 10 - The Registrar shall examine all applications for membership and if found acceptable approve them before submission to National Headquarters for final approval and registration. A duplicate copy of all applications of all members shall be retained for the records of this Society by the Secretary or the Registrar. The Secretary, or Registrar, shall keep a Register of the names and dates of election, transfer, resignation and death of all active members.

SECTION 11 - The Chaplain (preferably a regular ordained minister) shall open and close meetings of the Society with the services usual and proper for such occasions.

SECTION 12 - The Historian shall have the care and custody of all historical papers, manuscripts and documents belonging to and pertaining to the Society, and shall keep a correct list of the same including, but not limited to, collecting copies of *The Palmetto Patriot*, chapter newsletters, minutes of the state and chapter meetings, and all other material related to the activities and events of the Society. He shall endeavor to be present at all exercises of the Society, and call attention to, and give information regarding, points of historic interest. He shall keep records of his historical and commemorative meetings, and shall supervise the preparation and printing of any historical publications of this Society. He shall be a member of the Americanism Committee. He shall prepare a summary of activities for presentation at the annual State Convention.

SECTION 13 - The Chancellor shall be an attorney at law and shall give opinions on legal matters affecting the Society when such questions are referred to him by the proper officers.

SECTION 14 - The Genealogist shall provide assistance to prospective members in preparing applications and in reviewing applications when requested by the Registrar or Secretary.

ARTICLE V - Special Funds

SECTION 1 - There are four special funds of the State Society the Endowment Trust, the Life Membership Fund, the Education Fund and the Colonial Ball Fund. The Endowment Trust is the successor of the Permanent Fund, which no longer exists in name, and its assets were transferred to the new name. The functions of these funds are defined in the following sections.

SECTION 2 - The Endowment Trust is authorized to receive gifts, legacies, bequests, memorials, honoraria, and other contributions in the form of money, stocks, bonds, real or Personal Property or other negotiable assets. The purpose of the Trust is to build a sufficient fund that the income will be of material help in promoting the objects of the Society as set forth in its Constitution, or to meet emergency needs.

SECTION 3 - The Life Membership Fund will receive all fees paid for life memberships. Annually, at the time appropriate for payment of dues, sufficient funds will be transferred to the State Treasurer to pay the current dues for all qualified life members.

SECTION 4 - The Education Fund receives contributions from members and non-members. The proceeds of the Fund shall be used to promote the educational goals of the Society.

SECTION 5 - The Colonial Ball Fund will receive all fees paid for participation in the Colonial Balls sponsored by the Society as well as any contributions made specifically to the Ball or the Fund. The Fund shall be used to pay for costs incurred in producing the Colonial Ball. Proceeds of the Ball shall be used to fund the SCSSAR Scholarship Contest.

SECTION 6 - Trustees, three in number, will be elected by the Society in the same manner as other officers. The term of office will be three years; initially, one trustee will be elected for each of one, two and three year terms;

thereafter, one trustee will be elected annually for a three-year term. Trustees will be eligible for reelection, without time limitations. Trustees will elect the Chairman from among their members.

SECTION 7 - Trustees will be responsible for the receipt, protection and investment of all moneys and properties received by the Endowment Trust and Life Membership Fund. Properties may be retained in the form received or converted to cash, in the considered judgment of the Trustees. Investments will be in insured accounts and expenditures will be made only as provided in Sections 2 through 5, above, or as directed by the Executive Committee or Board of Governors. Periodic reports on the status of the accounts will be made to the Board to Governors and annually to the State Convention.

ARTICLE VI - Elections

SECTION 1 - Nominations for officers and the National Trustee shall be made by the Nominating Committee provided for in Article IV, Section 12 (d) of the Bylaws. Additional nominations may be made from the floor at the time of the election.

SECTION 2 - Election of officers shall be by ballot at the Annual Meeting, and a majority of all votes cast shall be required for election.

SECTION 3 - The term of office shall be for one year and until a successor shall be elected.

SECTION 4 - Vacancies occurring during the year shall be filled by presidential appointment.

SECTION 5 - Voting by proxy shall not be permitted.

SECTION 6 - Members in good standing with the Society shall be entitled to attend and vote at the Annual Meeting of the Society and at any properly called meeting of the Society unless specifically prohibited by National or State Bylaws. Such voting members must be registered and pay any applicable fees prior to the meeting. No member shall be allowed to cast more than one ballot irrespective of hold multiple offices on a chapter, state, or national level. The presiding officer shall be allowed to vote in any meeting.

ARTICLE VII - Order of Business of the Annual Meeting

- (1) Calling the meeting to order by the President.
- (2) Opening prayer by the Chaplain.
- (3) Pledge to the S. A. R.
- (4) Address by the President.
- (5) Appointment of necessary committees.
- (6) Reading minutes of last meeting.
- (7) Reports of Officers.
- (8) Reports of Committees.
- (9) Unfinished business.
- (10) New business.
- (11) Address by Special Guests.
- (12) Election of Officers.
- (13) Installation of Officers.
- (14) Adjournment and Benediction.

Provided that the President may suspend this order of business.

ARTICLE VIII - Parliamentary Authority

The Parliamentary Authority for all meetings of the Society, the Board of Governors and Committees shall be Robert's Rules of Order, Recently Revised, except as otherwise provided by this Constitution and Bylaws.

ARTICLE IX - Amendments

The Bylaws may be altered or amended by a two-thirds vote at an Annual or Special meeting of the membership of the Society provided that notice of such proposed amendment shall have been sent to each member at least fifteen (15) days prior to the said meeting.