

**Veterans of Foreign Wars
of The United States
Department of California District 2
By-Laws**

Article I

1. This District shall be known as the Second District, Department of California, Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States.
2. This District shall consist of the County of Orange.

Article II

1. This District shall be governed by a District Convention, subordinate to the Department of California and National Convention.
2. Composition: This District Convention shall consist of the following:
 - a) The Commander-In Chief and Past Commanders-In-Chief who are members in good standing in a Post in this District.
 - b) The National Council of Administration member who is a member in good standing in a Post in this District.
 - c) The Department Commander and Past Department Commanders who are members in good standing in a Post in this District.
 - d) The District Commander, all elective officers of the District, the District Adjutant, and all Past District Commanders who are members in good standing in a Post in this District.
 - e) All Post Commanders throughout the District. In absence of the Post Commander, the Post Senior Vice Commander, or in his absence, the Post Junior Vice Commander may function as a member of the District for the purpose transacting business.
 - f) Delegates elected by Posts in this District as provided in Article V of these By-Laws.

Article III

1. This District shall hold an annual District Convention for the purpose of electing District Officers for the transaction of business. Such Convention to be held not less than ten (10) days, nor more than sixty (60) days prior to the convening of the Department Convention.
2. This District, in addition to the annual District Convention, shall hold at least three stated meetings each year for the purpose of promoting Schools of Instruction for Post Officers and for discussion of problems affecting the welfare of the Veterans of Foreign Wars within the District.
3. The District Commander may call special meetings when in his judgment it shall appear to be for the best interest of the members, or when instructed by a majority vote of the members present at a Convention or stated meeting.

Article IV

1. Regular business meetings shall be conducted for the following purposes:
 - a) To discuss and act upon matters pertaining to the welfare of the Veterans of Foreign Wars and Posts in the District.
 - b) To promote Schools of Instruction of Post Officers.
 - c) To act upon resolutions initiated in the District which require endorsement and/or action of by the Department of California and/or National organization.
2. All regular meetings shall be designated by the District Commander by notification in writing to all District Officers and to all Post Commanders in this District not less than fifteen (15) days prior to the date set for such meetings.
3. Special meetings may be called by the District Commander upon his own recommendation and/or when so ordered by a majority vote of the members present at a Convention or regular meeting or when so ordered by two-thirds of the Posts in this District.
4. All District Officers and Commanders of all Posts in the District shall be notified of special meetings, in writing, not less than fifteen (15) days prior to the date set for such special meeting.

Article V

1. Delegates to the District Convention shall be elected at a regular Post meeting not less than 30 days prior to Convention.
2. One delegate shall be elected for each fifteen (15) members or fraction thereof in the Post at the time of election.
3. Posts instituted subsequent to April 30th shall elect delegates to the District Convention as soon as practicable.
4. Each Post Commander shall, within thirty (30) days after election of Officers and delegates submit to the District Commander a list of delegates with addresses.

Article VI

1. The minimum number of delegates required to constitute a quorum for the transaction of business at a District meeting or Convention shall be not less than one (1) delegate each from one-fourth (1/4) of the Posts in the District. For the purpose of this section, the Post Commander shall be considered a delegate.

Article VII

1. The elective Officers of the District shall be a Commander, Senior Vice Commander, Junior Vice Commander, Quartermaster, Advocate, Surgeon, Chaplain, and three Trustees.
2. As deemed necessary by the District Commander, for the effective functioning of the District, he may appoint the following Officers: an Adjutant, a Chief of Staff and as many Deputy Chiefs of Staff as necessary to carry out the work of that office, a Public Relations Officer, a Legislative Officer, an Officer of the Day, a Guard, a Service Officer, a Hospital, Americanism, Community, Youth Activities Chairman, an Executive Committee, Color Guards, Color Bearers, and such other Officers he may consider necessary.

Article VIII

1. Any member of the District, in good standing in a Post, shall be eligible to hold any District Office, provided no member shall hold more than one elective office in the District at the same time, but may hold one elective and one or more appointed offices concurrently.

Article IX

1. Nominations, elections, voting, installation and term of office shall be as follows:
 - a) The elective District Officers shall be nominated, elected and installed at the annual Convention, and shall serve for a period of one year beginning on the date of confirmation of the District Commander at the succeeding Department Convention.
2. In balloting for District Officer, a majority of all votes cast shall be necessary to elect. If there be no election on the first two ballots, the name of the comrade receiving the lowest number of votes shall be dropped and so on in successive ballots until a majority is achieved and an election is made.
3. Each member of the District convention, as provided in Article II, shall be entitled to one vote and also the District Adjutant. The delegate or delegates, of a Post present at a meeting of the District, shall be entitled to vote the full delegate strength to which the Post is entitled. Delegates may not cast the vote of an absent Post Commander.
4. An officer elected and installed shall continue to hold office for the period for which elected and until his successor is duly installed. Officers appointed shall hold office for one year and all appointed officers terms shall expire upon the conclusion of the term of office of the District Commander and/or whenever the District Commander shall vacate his office for any reason whatsoever. The District Commander has the power to terminate any appointment made by himself at any time.

Article X

1. Vacancies in offices shall be filled at regular meetings. In the event of a vacancy in the Office of District Commander, the Senior Vice Commander shall succeed to the title and duties of that office; likewise in the event of a vacancy in the office of Senior Vice Commander, the Junior Vice Commander shall at once succeed to the title and duties of said office, and a new Junior Vice Commander shall be elected at the next regular meeting, due notice being sent to all Posts and District Officers.
2. A District Convention or meeting may be two-thirds (2/3) majority vote of the delegates present declare vacant the position of any District Officer; except District Commander, who has absented himself, without valid excuse for two (2) consecutive meetings. A District Commander who absents himself without valid excuse for three consecutive meetings may be removed from office by Department Commander.

Article XI

1. The District Officers, elective and appointive, shall have such powers and duties as provided herein and consistent with the Ritual, Manual of Procedure and the Constitution and By-Laws of the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States.
2. The duties of the District Commander shall be to preside over the District Convention; to hold no less than three (3) regular meetings each year; to promote Schools of Instruction for Post Officers; to act as liaison between Posts in the District and the Department; to aid in establishing new Posts in the District; to aid any Post requesting assistance; to bring to the aid of Posts requesting assistance the help of District Officers necessary to provide such aid; and to report to the Department Commander any and all actions he deems to be in conflict with the National Constitution and By-Laws and the District By-Laws.
3. The Executive Committee shall function as interim committee between meetings and conventions and to aid in effectively carrying out the mandates of the District and the duties of the Commander. The Executive Committee shall consist of the following; Commander, Senior Vice Commander, Junior Vice Commander, Quartermaster; Adjutant and three (3) members at large to be appointed by the District Commander and removed from that capacity at his discretion. The powers of the Executive Committee shall be limited to action upon matters, which the District has previously authorized the committee to act; and to make recommendation to the District for action.
4. The Resolutions Chairman shall draw up all resolutions adopted by the District for transmittal to the Council of Administration and or Department Convention.
5. The Public Relations Chairman shall carry out the publicity program outlined by the Department and secure all possible publicity, covering activities of Posts in their area, and covering publicity for District meetings and Conventions.
6. The District Hospital Chairman shall act as liaison officer between the District Commander and the District Ladies Auxiliary in any and all activities concerning hospital projects and carry out such Hospital programs as is deemed practicable and consistent with the program outlined by the Department Hospital Director. The District Hospital Chairman will also coordinate with the Post Hospital Chairman and all functions and events pertaining to the Hospital programs.
7. The District Service Officer will assist the Post Service Officer by providing information and assistance in preparing claims for benefits for Veterans, their widows and children.
8. The District Trustees shall audit the books of the District Quartermaster at each District meeting and the reports of such audit shall be furnished to the Department. The duties of all other appointed chairmen will be as outlined in the Officer's Handbook.

Article XII

1. A past District Officer is one who, having been elected or appointed and installed, has served to the end of his term or ceased to hold office by reason of death before the expiration of his term, or one who resigns his office to enter active duty in the Armed Forces of the United States.

Article XIII

1. The delegates present at a District Convention may assess annual dues on Posts in the District.
2. The annual dues shall be assessed at a rate of one dollar (\$1.00) per Post member. The District Quartermaster shall bill each Post on the first day of July, or immediately thereafter, and dues will be paid to the Quartermaster not later than September 30. Dues shall be based on the Post membership at the end of the previous administration year (July 1st to June 30th) as reported received by Department.

Article XIV

1. A Post shall be deprived of its participation in District functions and its delegates, and Commander, deprived of their votes if:
 - a) The District Commander shall be in possession of notice from the Department Commander that a Post is delinquent in payment of per capita taxes.
 - b) The District Commander shall be in possession of notice from the Department Commander that a Post is delinquent in payment of Buddy Poppy orders.
 - c) The District Quartermaster declares a Post delinquent in payment of annual District dues.
 - d) The District Inspector declares a Post delinquent in their current audit.

Article XV

1. At any Post meeting, District Officers will be recognized by the presiding officer and shall be granted sufficient time during the meeting to carry out the duties of their office.
2. The Commander shall wear a distinctive cap to aid in recognition. The caps will conform to regulations issued by National as to color and trim. They shall also bear the title of the office and the word "District 2". No other caps shall be worn by District Officers except those authorized for National or Department Officers who are members in good standing of this District. All District Officers may wear a District cap bearing their titles.

Article XVI

1. The District shall not solicit funds or donations except by prior vote of the District delegates at a regular or special meeting called for such purpose. All Posts shall be notified if District solicits funds in their area.
2. The District shall never solicit funds outside its jurisdiction without the consent of the Department Council of Administration, if statewide, and the Commander-in-Chief, if nationwide.
3. Posts of the District shall be permitted to solicit funds or donations only by prior vote of the Post agreeing to the proposition. A Post shall not solicit donations of any kind OUTSIDE THE JURISDICTION OF THE POST unless it has obtained the consent of the District Convention or District Meeting if District wide; the Department Council of Administration if Statewide; and the Commander-In-Chief if Nationwide. This shall not be construed as barring any Post whose territory is part of a city from soliciting funds within the entire city limits.

In the event a Post receives the necessary approval to solicit contributions and shall employ or enter into agreement with a promote or promoters, a surety bond shall be exacted before the agreement is entered into and the provision of the National Constitution and By-Laws, Section 412, shall be adhered to relative to the handling of all funds collected.

4. Upon approval of solicitation by a Post by the District Convention, such approval shall be given with the reservation that all local Posts where solicitations are to be made must first be consulted and their permission secured before any actual solicitations are engaged in.

Article XVII

1. The Quartermaster shall order the Past Commander's pin to be presented at the first District meeting after Department Convention to the Junior Past Commander.
2. If the Junior Past Commander is currently a Life Member, a Life Membership Bar will be ordered on the Past Commander's pin.

Article XVIII

1. If the District attains 100% membership by Department Convention time, the District Commander is to receive a Life Membership-or-if already a Life Member, \$100 in lieu therefore.

Article XIX

1. Posts in the District having a bar or lounge will adhere strictly to the following rules:
 - a) The bar will be closed five (5) minutes prior to the start of any District or Post meeting and will not be reopened until the meeting has ended or recessed.
 - b) No alcoholic drinks or beverages of any kind will be permitted in the meeting.

Article XX

1. These By-Laws may be amended or altered only by a majority vote of the members present at a regular District Convention.
2. Amendments must be forwarded through proper channels to the Adjutant-General for approval of the Commander-In-Chief.
3. Whenever the By-Laws and/or subsequent amendments to the By-Laws of this District are found to be in conflict with the present or future National By-Laws the latter shall prevail and be binding upon this District as though written herein.

Commander District II

Adjutant District II

May 22, 2005

District Convention