

Constitution of the Nebraska Society of the Sons of the American Revolution and By-laws

Omaha, Feb. 8th 1896 – Wm. A. Webster, Secretary

Article I. – Name

The name of this Society shall be the Nebraska Society of the Sons of the American Revolution.

Article II. – Objects.

The objects of this Society shall be to perpetuate the memory of the men 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 wa, as well as documents and relics; to celebrate the anniversaries of the prominent events of the war; to foster true patriotism; to maintain and extend the institutions of American freedom; and to carry out the purposes expressed in the Preamble to the Constitution of our Country and the injunctions of Washington in his farewell address to the American people.

Article III. – Membership

Any man shall be eligible to membership in this Society, who, being of the age of twenty-one years or over, and a citizen of good repute in the community, is the lineal descendant of an ancestor, who was at all times unflinching in his loyalty to and rendered actual service in the cause of American Independence, either as an officer, 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 civil officer, either of one of the Colonies or States or of the National Government; or as a recognized patriot who performed actual service by overt acts of resistance to the authority of Great Britain.

Article IV. – Officers

The officers of the Society shall be a President, a Senior Vice-President, a Junior Vice-President, a Secretary, a Treasurer, a Registrar, and a Board of Managers consisting of the above mentioned officers and seven other members who shall be elected upon ballot by a majority of

the members present at the annual meeting of the Society and who shall hold office for one year, and until their successors shall be elected. Nominations for office shall be by informal ballot.

Article V. – Meetings.

The annual meeting of the Society for the election of officers and the transaction of business shall be held in the City of Omaha on the twenty-second day of February in each year, except when that date falls on Sunday, in which case the meeting shall be held on the following day.

Special meetings may be called by the President or Board of Managers at any time for the purpose of celebrating historical events of the Revolution, and for other patriotic purposes, and for the transaction of necessary business.

Article VI. – Amendments.

This constitution may be amended or repealed, provided written resolutions to that effect are first presented to, and approved by, a majority of the Board of Managers present at any meeting of said Board; and provided, said amendments are subsequently approved by a majority of the members present at any meeting of the Society; and provided further, that whenever this Constitution is to be amended, repealed or in any way changed, notice thereof, specifying said changes in full shall be sent to each member of the Society at least thirty days before such action is to be taken.

BY-LAWS

1. Applications for membership shall be made in duplicate, upon blank forms prescribed by the National Society, and shall in each case set forth the name, occupations and residence of the applicant, line of descent, and the name, residence and services of his ancestor or ancestors in the Revolution, from whom he derives eligibility, and such other particulars as the National Society may require. The applicant shall make oath that the statements of his application are true, to the best of his knowledge and belief.
2. The admission fee shall be Three Dollars, which amount must either accompany the application for membership or be paid before the applicant can be voted upon. If the application be rejected, the fee shall be returned to the applicant.
3. The annual dues shall be Two Dollars, payable in advance on the twenty-second day of February in each year. The admission fee shall be considered as payment of dues until the next annual meeting following the date of a candidate's admission.
4. The payment at one time of fifty dollars by or for a member in good standing shall constitute a life member, exempt from payment of annual dues thereafter.

5. Sons of Revolutionary soldiers wh are regularly accepted by the Board of Management whil be admitted to full membership without payment of the admission fe, and shall be exempt from annual dues.
6. If at any time any of the essential statements given in a member's application papers are found to be untrue, then shall the said member's election be declared null and void.
7. A certificate of membership issued by the National Society will be furnished to each newly admitted member.
8. Whenever a member in good standing changes his residence to the jurisdiction of another State Society, he shall be entitled, if he so elects, to a certificate of honorable demission, in order that he may be transferred to said Society; provided that no such certificate shall be given unless all dues and fees are paid, and said membership in this Society shall not cease until membership in the other society be established.
9. A member in good standing of another State Society shall, upon satisfactory proof thereof or upon the presentation of letters demission there from, be eligible to membership by affiliation in this Society. There shall be no fee for affiliation.
10. Any member failing to pay his annual dues for two consecutive years shall forfeit his membership upon vote to that effect by the Board of Managers. A member so dropped may be re-instated by the Board of Managers upon payment of all arrears and all annual dues since the date of his loss of membership, provided there are no charges unbecoming a gentleman recorded against him remaining undetermined or determined finally against him.
11. If for any reason a member demits, resigns or is dropped from the rolls of this Society, the number of his insignia shall be cancelled, and his name shall no longer appear in the year book of the Society as a member.
12. It shall be the duty of every member to inform the Secretary, by written communication, of his place of residence, and of any change thereof, and of his post office address.

Service of any notice under the Constitution, or under these By-Laws upon any member of the Society, addressed to him at the last recorded plce of residence or post office address, and forwarded by mail shall be deemed sufficient service of such notice.

13. The President, or in his absence a Vice-President, or in his absence a Chairman, pro Tempore, shall preside at all meeting of the Society or Board of Managers, and shall have a casting vote. He shall exercise the usual functions of a presiding officer, and shall enforce a strict observance of the Constitution, By-laws, regulations and rules of the Society and Board of Managers.

14. The Secretary shall conduct the general correspondence of the Society, and shall have charge of the seal, certificate of incorporation, By-laws and records of meetings of the Society. He, together with the presiding officer, shall certify all acts of the Society. He shall enforce a strict observance of the Constitution, By-Laws, regulations and rules of the Society and Board of Managers. He, together with the presiding officer, shall certify all acts of the Society. He shall under the direction of the President or Vice-President, give due notice of the time and place of all meetings of the Society, and attend the same. He shall keep fair and accurate records of all the proceedings and orders of the Society. He shall collect all moneys due the Society, giving proper receipts for the same, and shall promptly pay them over to the Treasurer, taking his receipt therefore. He shall keep a letter book of copies of all official letters; a ledger to contain the accounts of the Society with its members; a cash book, and a receipt book, in which to take the Treasurer's receipts. He shall give notice to the several officers and members of all votes, orders, resolves and proceedings of the Society, affecting them or appertaining to their respective duties, and he shall forward to the officers of the National Society such reports and information as may be required by them. He shall keep a correct list of the names and addresses of all members in good standing. He shall report to the Society at the annual meeting.

In like manner he shall act as Secretary of the Board of Managers, reporting to them whenever called upon.

He shall give such bond as the Board of Managers may require, and on the election of his successor he shall turn over to him, within ten days, all books, papers and property of the Society in his possession.

15. The treasurer shall receive from the Secretary the funds and securities of the Society. They shall be deposited in some bank or savings institute in this State to the credit of the Nebraska Society of the Sons of the American Revolution, and shall be drawn thence for the purposes of the Society only, by checks signed by the President and countersigned by the Secretary and Treasurer. He shall keep a true account of his receipts and disbursements, and at each annual meeting shall render the same to the Society. He shall report when required to the Board of Managers and shall give such bond as they may require.

His books shall at all times be open to the inspection of the President, Board of Managers and Auditing Committee.

16. The Registrar shall receive all applications for membership and proofs of eligibility, and shall assist in perfecting and completing the same. When the applications are satisfactory to him he will note his approval thereon and refer them to the Board of Managers for final action. If the applicant is accepted, the Registrar will forward one copy to Registrar

General of the National Society, and file the original with the accompanying proofs in his own office. He shall keep copies of such similar documents as the owners thereof may not be willing to leave permanently in the keeping of the Society. He shall have the custody of all the historical, geographical and genealogical papers, books, manuscripts and relics of which the Society may become possessed, and shall keep an official record of same. He shall issue certificates of membership and insignia to members entitled thereto. He shall keep a register of the names and dates of admission, transfer, resignation and death of members, and shall perform such other duties as may be assigned to him by the society or Board of Managers.

17. The historian shall keep a record of all the historical and commemorative celebrations of the Society, prepare and edit the same for publication under direction of the Board of Managers. He shall submit at each annual meeting a list of the members who may have died during the year, accompanied by biographical memoirs, and at the annual dinner he shall present or deliver a written address.
18. The Board of Managers shall recommend plans for promoting the objects of the Society and shall authorize the disbursement and expenditure of unappropriated money in the treasury for the payment of current expenses of the Society. In general they shall watch over the interest of the Society, suggesting from time to time such measures as they deem conducive to its prosperity, and shall report to the Society at the annual meeting.

They shall appoint a Delegate at Large, and such other Delegates as the Society may be entitled to by the Constitution of the National Society.

They shall have power to fill any vacancy occurring or existing in the Society or Board of Managers, and an officer so appointed shall act until the following annual election, or until his successor shall be chosen.

19. The Board of Managers shall judge of the eligibility of applicants for membership in the Society, and elect them if deemed worthy, to negative votes being necessary for a rejection. Each member of the board shall be notified of all proposed elections to membership and may send his vote thereon in writing to the Secretary.

They shall be competent to consent to and to accept the resignation or voluntary withdrawal from membership or transfer of any enrolled member of the Society.

They shall have power to suspend or expel any member of the Society for sufficient cause, by a vote of two-thirds of the members of the Society for sufficient cause, by a vote of two-thirds of the members of the Board present at any regular or special meeting; provided, that at least two weeks' notice of such proposed action shall have been given to such member by notice mailed to him at his last known address. A member so suspended

or expelled shall have the right of appeal to the Society from the action of the Board of Managers.

20. The Board of Managers shall meet as often as they desire, or at the call of the President, or upon the written request of any three members of the Board.

Three members of the Board shall be a quorum for the transaction of business.

They shall, through the Secretary, call special meetings of the Society at any time upon the written request of fifteen members of the Society, and at such other times and places as they themselves may see fit, and they may arrange for commemorative celebrations and for the annual meeting of the Society.

They shall, at least one month before the annual meeting of the Society appoint an Auditing Committee of three, who shall examine and audit the books and accounts of the Treasurer and Secretary, and report thereon at said annual meeting.

21. The Board of Managers shall supervise all publications issued in the name of the Society. They shall also perform such other duties as may be prescribed by the Constitution or By-Laws, or required by any resolve or standing regulation of the Society.

22. The receipts each year from admission fees and annual dues shall be devoted by the Board of Managers to the objects and no other viz:

1. Payment of the annual dues to the National Society.
2. Payment of current expenses.
3. Publication of such documents as may be deemed advisable.
4. Payment of such special expenses as may be authorized by the vote of two-thirds of the Board of Management.

All receipts from life membership shall be set aside and invested under the direction of the Board of Managers as a permanent fund, of which only the income may be used for payment of ordinary expenses.

23. At all annual meeting of this Society, the following order of business shall be observed, viz:

1. Opening exercises.
2. Calling roll of officers and members.
3. Reading minutes of last meeting.

4. Reports of officers:

President

Secretary

Treasurer

Registrar

Board of Managers

Other official reports

5. Reports of committees

6. Unfinished business

7. Election and installation of Officers and Board of Managers,

8. New Business.

9. Final adjournment

24. The ayes and nays shall be called at any meeting of the Society or upon the demand of five (5) members.

25. No question involving the party politics of the day within the United States shall ever be discussed or considered in any meeting of the Society.

26. Ten or more members of this Society, resident in any county or locality in this state, as may be approved by the Board of Managers, may form themselves into a Chapter to be called by such name as said members may assume. A charter may be granted to such Chapter by the Board of Managers, of such form as the Board may provide, upon the application made in writing by ten or more members of the Society, stating the name to be assumed, the location and the names and residences of its proposed members. Such Chapter may enact such By-Laws and Regulations as will not conflict with the rules and requirements of the National Society or of this Society, and it may be required to pay a per capita tax to this Society.

No person may be admitted to such Chapter unless he be a member in good standing of this Society. If any member of such Chapter should cease to be a member of the Nebraska Society his membership in the Chapter shall cease.

Local Chapters shall be known as The _____ Chapter of the Nebraska Society of Sons of the American Revolution, No. _____

27. The seal of the Society shall be the same as the Seal of the National Society, S. A. R., except the lettering which shall be as follows;
28. The insignia of this Society shall be the same as that of the National Society.
29. These By-Laws may be altered, amended or repealed in the manner hereinbefore provided for changing the constitution of this Society.

To Members of the Nebraska Society S. A. R.:

The foregoing Constitution and By-Laws were presented to the Society at a Meeting held this date b the Committee appointed at a previous meeting to revise the Society's Constitution and By-Laws.

To facilitate prompt action at the annual meeting, Feb. 22, 1896, when the question of adopting the above proposed constitution will be considered it was decided by the Society that any member desiring to suggest a change in the above constitution, etc., should reduce his amendment to writing and number it to fit the place he may wish it to occupy, and thus bring it more directly before the Society for action.

Wm. A. Webster, Secretary.

Omaha, Feb. 8th, 1896