

*2021 Bylaws*  
of  
*The Military Order of the Stars & Bars*

An Order of the blood relations of Confederate Officers, as amended through the General Convention of July 17, 2021

**Article I**  
**Rules & Procedures**

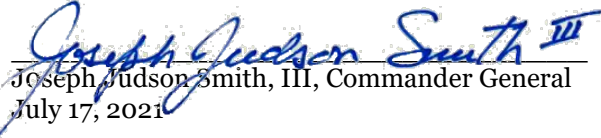
**Section 1.** The rules contained in the current edition of Robert's Rules of Order Newly Revised shall govern the Order in all cases in which they are applicable and in which they are not inconsistent with the Constitution and Bylaws of the Order or any special rules of order which the Order may adopt. The Judge Advocate General shall determine the current edition in event of a dispute.

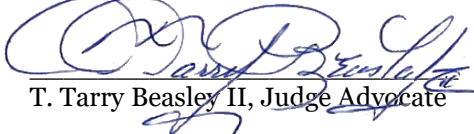
**Section 2.** In furtherance of the constitutionally ascribed purposes and principles of this Order, the following salutary and honorific practices are adopted for all meetings and activities of the Order or any organized division:

- a.) The appropriate display of a flag of the United States of America, the Stars and Bars Confederate flag and, if applicable, the state flag wherein the function is located.
- b.) The recitation of the Pledge of Allegiance to a Flag of the United States
- c.) The recitation of the Salute to the Confederate Flag
- d.) The delivery of an appropriate prayer and recitation in unison with the MOS&B Pledge

*"We, the posterity of the Officer Corps and civil officials of the Confederacy, do pledge ourselves to commemorate and honor the service of leadership these men rendered in the cause of the fundamental American principles of self-determination and states' rights and to perpetuate the true history of their deeds for the edification of ourselves, our order, and for generations yet unborn."*

- e.) To conclude the event or meeting, if appropriate, with the MOS&B Confederate

  
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Soldier's Prayer or other benediction.

**Section 3.** The General Executive Council (hereinafter GEC) and the Order may enact all policies and procedures, as they deem necessary, for the orderly function and day-to-day business operations for the Order and its organizational divisions.

## **Article II Fiscal Year**

**Section 1.** For accounting purposes and preparing financial statements, the fiscal year of the Order shall be the calendaryear.

## **Article III Duties of Officers**


**Section 1.** The duties of the Order's Officers shall be such as usually appertain to their offices, and they shall have such other duties as shall be delegated to them by the annual General Convention, Commander General, or the General Executive Council.

**Section 2.** The Commander General shall be the chief executive officer of the Order with full powers to enforce the provisions of the Constitution and Bylaws and the will of the General Convention. He shall preside at the General Convention and shall be chairman of the General Executive Council and ex-officio member of all committees. He shall be empowered to act for the good of the Order as circumstances in his judgment require in cases not provided for by the Constitution and Bylaws, subject in all such decisions and acts to appeal to the General Convention. Vacancies occurring among elected officers shall be filled by him until the next General Convention when an election shall be held to fill the vacancy. He shall appoint all committees and shall perform all other duties as are usually incidental to this office.

If the office of Commander General becomes vacant by the death, disability, resignation, or removal from office of the Commander General, the office shall be filled by the Lieutenant Commander General for the remainder of the term of the Commander General who vacated the office. A Commander General may not serve for two (2) consecutive elected terms in said office nor more than two (2) terms in a lifetime.

**Section 3.** The Lieutenant Commander General shall seek in every way to promote the interests and activities of the Order, encourage the enrollment of new members, and act in the absence of the Commander General on proper occasions but at all times under his direction and control.

If the office of Lieutenant Commander General becomes vacant by the death, disability, resignation, or removal from office of the Lieutenant Commander General, the Commander General shall nominate a compatriot in good standing to serve until the next General Convention, at which a compatriot shall be elected to fill the unexpired term. Said nomination

  
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shall require the advice and consent of the General Executive Council.

**Section 4.** The Adjutant General shall be charged with the administration of the policies and mandates of the General Convention, the General Executive Council, and of the Commander General. He shall keep a record of all the proceedings of the Order, standing committees, and the General Executive Council. He shall also be in charge of all records and papers of the General Executive Council. He shall also be in charge of all records and papers of the Order and shall issue the necessary orders under the direction of the Commander General. He shall make a report to each General Convention showing the work performed by his office and shall perform other duties as are usually incident to the office. He shall also perform such other duties as the Commander General may direct.

**Section 5.** The Chief of Staff shall be responsible for such duties as may be assigned to him by the Commander. He shall be a member of the General Executive Council. At each General Convention, he shall make an annual report on the condition and functioning of the Order together with such recommendations as he may deem proper.

**Section 6.** The Historian General shall collect from year to year all records and data of value and interest for the International Headquarters (hereinafter Headquarters) relating to the Order or its members and shall compile during his term of office a complete record of the year's historical activities.

**Section 7.** The Judge Advocate General shall be a learned member of the bar and shall advise the General Officers and the General Executive Council on all legal matters including the construction and interpretation of the Constitution and Bylaws and shall perform such other duties as are usually incidental to that office.

**Section 8.** The Chaplain General shall be a regularly ordained member of the ministry and shall open and close all meetings of the Order with the services usual and proper on such occasions and perform such divine and nonsectarian services as may be necessary in connection with this office.


**Section 9.** The Inspector General shall conduct all investigations for infractions of the Constitution and Bylaws by members and officers. All investigations of charges shall be initiated by the Commander General. The Inspector General shall make written reports of all investigations to the General Executive Council. He shall also perform such other duties as the Commander General may direct.

**Section 10.** The Quartermaster General shall manage all aspects of the online store as well as provide sufficient merchandise and inventory for sale at the General Conventions. He shall reconcile all accounts annually with the Treasurer General and perform such other duties as the Commander General may direct.

**Section 11.** The Communications General shall perform such duties as the Commander General may direct.

  
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**Section 12.** The Editor General shall perform such duties as the Commander General may direct.

**Section 13.** The Comptroller General shall be a member of, and Chairman of, the Finance Committee; he shall see that all financial statements which are provided for in these Bylaws are made available as provided for herein; he shall see to it that all tax matters are completely attended to by all parties which are required by these Bylaws to attend to those matters; he shall be a member of any standing or ad hoc audit committee; and he shall perform such other duties regarding financial matters as he may be directed by the Commander General.

**Section 14.** The Treasurer General shall be the Chief Financial Officer of the Order. He shall collect and be the custodian of the funds and property of the Order, shall sign all checks disbursing its funds, and, with the approval of the General Convention, shall invest and reinvest the same. He shall make all such corporate financial reports, governmental filings, and tax returns as are incidental to the office of corporate treasurer. All such reports shall be remitted to each General Convention showing the work performed by his office. He shall perform all other duties as are usually incident to the office.

At each regular meeting of the General Executive Council and at each regular General Convention after the Opening Ritual and before the receipt of any other reports or the consideration of any other items of business, there shall be a report, prepared by the Treasurer General and distributed in print and verbally by the Treasurer General or his designee on the status of all funds of the Order of any kind, wherever situated, covering the period since the last meeting of the General Executive Council or the last General Convention, respectively. Said report shall include receipts and expenditures and balances at the end of the reporting period.

The Investment and Endowment Committee shall provide the detailed data with which the Treasurer General shall prepare that part of his report dealing with the invested funds of the Order, especially beginning balances, transactions, and balances at the end of the reporting period and the location of the accounts comprising the invested holdings of the Order.

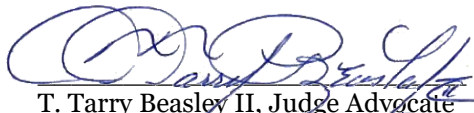
The Treasurer General shall report the status of financial reports which are required to be filed with any and all governmental entities.

All checks drawn on the Order's Demand Deposit Account(s) shall bear the signature of either the Treasurer General or the Commander General. Any checks in excess of Five Thousand Dollars (\$5,000.00) shall bear the signatures of both the Treasurer General and the Commander General or the Lieutenant Commander General.

**Section 15.** The Genealogist General shall ensure that all genealogical conventions and standards as adopted by the General Executive Council are observed. He shall be responsible for working closely with the Headquarters to ensure an orderly and efficient review for each membership applicant.

  
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**Article IV**  
**The General Executive Council**

**Section 1.** General Executive Council

- a.) The Commander General, the Lieutenant Commander General, the Chief of Staff, the Adjutant General, the Judge Advocate General, the three (3) Department Commanders, the six (6) Department Councilors elected from their respective departments and all Past Commanders General present shall constitute the General Executive Council. The term of office for all elected or appointed members of the General Executive Council shall commence immediately upon adjournment of the last business session of the General Convention at which they were elected to office, provided that the retiring members shall remain in command until every function of the General Convention at which their terms expire is discharged.
- b.) Between General Conventions, the administrative and executive power shall be vested in the General Executive Council. The General Executive Council shall have the power and authority, in case of an emergency, to call a General Convention, providing that thirty (30) days' notice is given, and the reason stated for calling same.

**Section 2.** All questions affecting the election, eligibility, and conduct of General, State Society, and Chapter officers, except as otherwise provided herein, shall be referred to and determined by the General Executive Council. The General Executive Council shall be the final authority.

**Section 3.** A majority of the members, excepting Past Commanders General, shall constitute a quorum of the General Executive Council and the members may conduct business via mail, electronic mail, teleconference, or other electronic formats, at the discretion of the Commander General.

**Section 4.** There shall be no voting by proxy allowed in the General Executive Council.

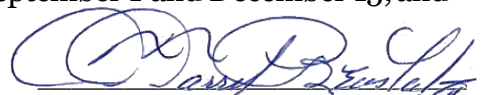
**Section 5.** The General Executive Council shall conduct hearings for any member or officer whose membership and/or office is suspended, removed, or revoked.

**Section 6.** The General Executive Council shall create commissions and appoint members to commissions as they deem necessary.

**Section 7.** Meetings.

- a.) Regular Meetings of the General Executive Council shall be held:  
- at least 1 Regular meeting between September 1 and December 15; and

  
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- at least 1 Regular Meeting between March 1 and May 30; and,
  - at least 1 Regular meeting during the General Convention.
- b.) Special meetings may be called at the written request of three (3) members of the General Executive Council, delivered to either the Commander General or the Adjutant General. Special meetings shall provide the date, time, place, and specific purpose of the proposed meeting.
- c.) Notice of meetings of the General Executive Council may be attempted by U. S. Mail or other technological means, at least 30 days before the commencement of any such meeting. Notice shall provide the date, time, place, and specific purpose of the proposed meeting.

**Section 8.** Membership fees and dues collection dates shall be set by the General Executive Council. Notice of the expiration of memberships shall be communicated or attempted, at least 30 days before the expiration of said membership.

**Section 9.** The General Executive Council may create interim officer and council positions as they deem necessary. The General Executive Council shall provide advice and consent to any officer nominees, as may be presented by the Commander General or his designee.


**Section 10.** The General Executive Council may authorize other badges, insignia, medals, and awards that it deems proper, subject to change by the voting members of the General Convention.

**Section 11.** Each Commander General who has served a full term and does not continue to hold the office shall have the title of Past Commander General. He shall take rank in parades and in all other respects next to the Commander General. Those who shall not have served a full term may have these privileges conferred upon them by motion, receiving four-fifths (4/5) of the votes cast at any General Convention.


**Section 12.** The Order in convention assembled may elect Honorary Commanders General from among those who have rendered distinguished and notable service to the Order, or to the state or nation. No Past Commander General shall be elected Honorary Commander General.

## Article V Standing Committees

**Section 1.** The Commander General shall appoint committees and members of committees as he may deem advisable. All committees shall present a written report of their activities to the Commander General thirty (30) days before the annual General Convention or as may be requested

  
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**Section 2.** The Commander General shall present prior to the GEC meeting any appointees and committees as he may deem advisable. The committee's formation will be communicated to the GEC in writing of the committee's purpose, responsibilities, and reporting structure. This section shall not prevent the appointing or constituting of committees in the GEC meetings by the Commander General or the General Executive Council.

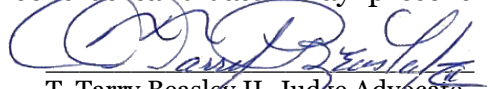
**Section 3. Membership and Retention Committee.** The Membership and Retention Committee shall review and present policies and procedures for recruiting members for the Order. The Committee shall explore methods for retaining members and providing better services to the Order.

**Section 4. Constitution and Bylaws Review Committee**  
The Constitution and Bylaws Review Committee shall review and present proposed changes to the Constitution and Bylaws of the Order.

**Section 5. Nominating Committee.** The Nominating Committee will seek and interview officer candidates for the elected positions of the Order. The Committee will be composed of five (5) members in good standing with the Chairman being the incumbent Commander General. The Commander General shall fill any vacancies by appointment.

- a.) The Commander General shall designate five (5) members in good standing with three (3) members from the incumbent General Executive Council to serve on the committee one of which shall be the Commander General and he shall endeavor to appoint members to the Nominating Committee who do not intend to offer themselves as candidates for office. The Commander General with a vote shall be the Chairman of the committee.
- b.) All candidates under consideration for the post of Commander General and Lieutenant Commander General shall be interviewed by the Nominating Committee. The committee shall determine from this conference the willingness of the candidates to serve. Any nominee presented to the members as the choice of the Nominating Committee shall have received a majority vote of the members of the Nominating Committee.
- c.) For a candidate to be considered for office, he must present himself in person and declare his candidacy at the spring General Executive Council meeting immediately preceding the annual General Convention. In the alternative, a candidate may present a notice of candidacy for the respective office to the Chairman of the Nominating Committee before the convening of the General Executive Council meeting.
- d.) The Nominating Committee will meet concurrently and at the same place and date as the spring Executive Council meeting so that candidates may present

  
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themselves to the Nominating Committee.

- e.) Only candidates who have presented themselves for consideration to the Nominating Committee shall be eligible for election at the General Convention.
- f.) All issues pertaining to elections, nominations, and candidacy shall be referred to the General Executive Council which is the final authority.

**Section 6. The Scholarship Committee.** The Scholarship Committee shall administer and present those awards approved by a vote of the General Executive Council, as such scholarships -may become available from the Endowment Fund

**Section 7. The Awards Committee.** The Awards Committee shall administer and present those awards approved by a vote of the General Executive Council, and such other awards as the committee and the GEC may direct the Commander General to oversee.

**Section 8. Rules and Credentials Committee.** The Rules and Credentials Committee shall, in conformity with these Bylaws, formulate rules and procedures for the registration of members at the General Convention.

**Section 9. Resolutions Committee.** The Resolutions Committee shall prepare and submit resolutions to the General Convention.

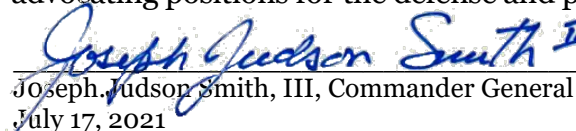
**Section 10. Time and Place Committee.** The Time and Place Committee shall establish the sites and dates for the annual General Convention. This committee should have, if possible, the three (3) chairmen of the previous respective conventions with the Chairman appointed by the Commander General.

**Section 11. Communications Committee.** The Communications Committee shall formulate and establish better communication methods between officers, members, and non-members.

**Section 12. Handbook Committee.** The Handbook Committee shall formulate and update a handbook for use by officers and members of the Order.

**Section 13. Genealogical Committee.** The Genealogical Committee, if needed as determined by the Commander General and the Genealogist General, shall coordinate and assist officers, members, and the Genealogist General in genealogically-related inquiries and research.

**Section 14. Council of Southern Attorneys.** The Council of Southern Attorneys, if needed as determined by the Commander General and the Judge Advocate General, shall be composed of jurists, attorneys, and other legal professionals for purposes of researching and advocating positions for the defense and preservation of Confederate heritage

  
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**Section 15. Investment & Endowment Committee.** This Committee shall oversee and maintain a responsible fiscal and investment policy for all non-operational accounts of the Order. The Committee shall explore alternative methods of funding and new sources of funding.

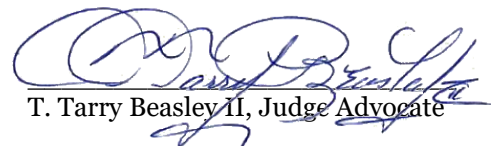
**Section 16. General Conventions Committee.**

- a.) The Time and Place - The General Convention Committee shall be charged with the planning, production, and execution of all aspects for the annual national convention of the Order. Committee responsibilities shall include meals, tours, speakers, registration, medals, vendors, displays, security, entertainment, lodging, seating, transportation, and all other necessary and proper activities related to the national convention. A ledger of convention expenses and revenues shall be maintained by the convention chairman.
- b.) When a chapter or society is designated as the “host” for a specific year, by either the General Executive Council or the Order’s Convention, that chapter/society is charged with the execution of the above-stated responsibilities.
- c.) Drawing on the ledger of convention expenses and revenues provided for in subsection(a) of this Section, the Convention Host Committee shall prepare an after-action financial report and transmit same to the General Executive Council, in care of the Adjutant General, within three (3) months after each General Convention.

**Section 17. The Literary Awards Committee** shall act as judges for the various literary awards.

**Section 18. The Executive Committee.** The Executive Committee shall be composed of the Commander General, Lieutenant Commander General, Adjutant General, Chief of Staff, Treasurer General, and Judge Advocate General. The Executive Committee shall be authorized to meet and make executive-level decisions. Meetings of said Committee shall be called only by the Commander General. Diligent effort shall be made to have a meeting at such a time when all the aforementioned members of said Committee may participate in the meeting. The Committee shall be authorized to meet by telephone or electronically. Detailed minutes of any and all meetings of the Executive Committee shall be taken, compiled, and transmitted to all members of the General Executive Council within five (5) business days of a meeting of said Committee.

  
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## **Article VI Business Operations**

**Section 1.** Notice of meetings of committees and councils may be by U. S. Mail or electronic means at least thirty (30) days before the commencement of any such meeting. Notices shall provide the date, time, place, and specific purpose of the proposed meeting.

**Section 2.** Agenda items for any meeting of any committee or council may be submitted at or before the commencement of such meeting. An agenda may then be prepared and made available to any participating member of that committee or council. The chairman of each committee or council will prepare or designate the preparation of the agenda. Agenda items may be added by unanimous consent of the committee or council members present.

**Section 3.** Accurate minutes of committee or council meetings shall be prepared and submitted to the Adjutant General for inclusion with the official records of The Military Order of the Stars and Bars. The chairman of each committee or council will prepare or designate preparation of the minutes.

## **Article VII Membership Applications**

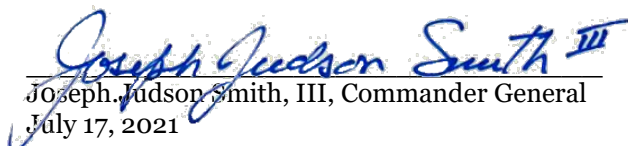
**Section 1.** Applications for membership or supplemental membership in the Order shall be submitted as a single original copy, complete with supporting documentation and required signatures, using the current form posted on the website or provided by the Genealogist General. Payment of the appropriate application fees shall be enclosed with the application. A Chapter or State Society shall forward to the MOS&B Headquarters all applications received within thirty (30) days. The General Executive Council shall be the final authority if the application is contested. Background checks may be made on each applicant for membership submitted to the Order.

**Section 2.** Where no State Society or Chapter is organized, or, if an application submitted to a Chapter or State Society is rejected, application for membership may be made to another Chapter or to the MOS&B Headquarters.

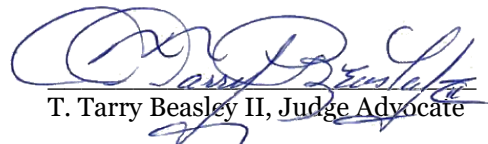
**Section 3.** Where a State Society has been organized, application shall be made directly to a Chapter or to the State Society. If an individual does not desire to be a member of the State Society, he may make application directly to the MOS&B Headquarters to be a member-at-large either on an annual basis or as a life member.

**Section 4.** All applications shall bear the signed endorsement of one recommending member in good standing of the Order.

**Section 5. State Society Genealogist.** Each State Society shall appoint a State Society Genealogist who shall examine and verify all applications for membership in that Society. The

  
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State Society Genealogist shall be a member in good standing of the Society in which he is appointed as Genealogist. The State Society Genealogist shall be a member who is known by the State Society Commander to be proficient in genealogical matters and have access to the genealogical library and to the Confederate service records of his State. The State Society Genealogist shall, after examination and verification, transmit all applications, whether approved or referred for further examination, to the MOS&B Headquarters within thirty (30) days of receipt of the application.

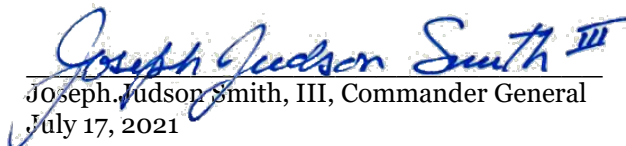
**Section 6.** All applications received by the MOS&B Headquarters, as provided for hereinabove, shall be scanned by MOS&B Headquarters, and the scanned application and all supporting documentation shall be electronically forwarded to the Genealogist General for consideration.

**Section 7.** Applications for membership that cite the same genealogical lineage as a member in good standing shall cite the name, membership number of the member and provide proof of the relationship to the member as proof of eligibility for membership. Acceptable legacy relationships are father to son, son to father, grandfather to grandson, grandson to grandfather, and brother to brother.

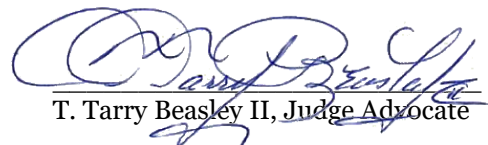
**Section 8.** Copies of applications shall not be retained by any individual other than the applicant. The original copy shall be filed in the official Archives by the Archivist General. All applications shall be digitized and electronically maintained by the Archivist General in a separate and secured location specified by the Commander General to prevent total loss of records in the event of a natural or man-caused disaster.

**Section 9.** If a member wishes to transfer from one sub-entity of the Order to another, he shall complete the Transfer Form as prescribed by Headquarters. Said Transfer Form shall contain four (4) sections, member information, demitting Chapter/Society information, receiving Chapter/Society information, and Headquarters' information. Each section shall bear the signature of the member or officer, respectively, who is authorized of record to sign. If the demitting Chapter fails to forward the endorsed Transfer Form within thirty (30) days of receipt, the MOS&B Headquarters shall make the transfer without the demitting Chapter's action.

**Section 10.** All submitted applications and supporting documentation shall be considered confidential and privileged information and shall be unavailable for any purpose other than genealogical and historical reviews. Any completed applications may only be accessed by the member himself, Commander General, Adjutant General, Genealogist General, and Archivist General. Such access may only be undertaken after a 30-day notice has been sent to the applicant/member.

  
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## Article VIII Honorary and Associate Members

**Section 1. Honorary Members.** A candidate for Honorary Membership shall be sponsored by an active member in good standing of the Order. An application for Honorary Membership shall be filled out by the candidate. The sponsor shall submit a biographical sketch of the candidate with emphasis on those qualities and accomplishments that would make the candidate an asset to the Order. The sketch should enumerate any services the candidate has performed in furtherance of the goals of the Order or protecting the South or our Southern culture and history. The candidate must be ineligible for regular membership in the Order. He may be elected by the General Convention or chosen by a majority vote of the General Executive Council. All rights of an Honorary Member shall cease at his death.

- a.) Honorary Members are entitled to wear the insignia of the Order and purchase merchandise. They shall not be required to pay dues and do not have the right to vote or to hold office.
- b.) Honorary Members shall be entitled to receive the published communications of the Military Order of the Stars and Bars as distributed to the membership.
- d.) The Honorary Member shall be accounted for on all membership reports as a member of a Chapter, State Society, or the National At-Large Chapter.

**Section 2. Associate Members.** An Associate Member is an individual who does not have a blood relationship with a qualifying ancestor and is not eligible for regular membership in the Order. The candidate for Associate Membership shall be sponsored by an active member in good standing of the Order. An application for Associate Membership shall be filled out by the candidate. The sponsor shall submit a biographical sketch of the candidate with emphasis on those qualities and accomplishments that would make the candidate an asset to the Order. The sketch should enumerate any services the candidate has performed in furtherance of the goals of the Order or protecting the South or our Southern culture and history. He may be elected by a Chapter, the General Convention, or chosen by a majority vote of the General Executive Council. All rights of an Associate member shall cease at his death.

- a.) Associate Members are entitled to wear the insignia of the Order and purchase merchandise. They shall be required to pay dues but do not have the right to vote or to hold office. They are otherwise entitled to all benefits of membership in the Order.
- b.) The Associate Member shall be accounted for on all membership reports as an associate member of a Chapter, State Society, or the National At-Large Chapter.

## Article IX

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## Memberships

**Section 1.** All memberships in the Order and organizational divisions are "At-Will." At-Will shall be defined as being terminable by either the member or the Order, by and through its organizational divisions or the General Executive Council. The Order and organizational divisions may disassociate with a member by return of his prorated current remitted membership dues. Such disassociation shall not be considered a disciplinary matter and may be undertaken if it in the best interests of the Order or organizational division for such action. Should a member be disassociated from a Chapter, he may be transferred, if accepted for membership, to another chapter inside that State Society or a chapter in another state, or the National At-Large Chapter. If a member is disassociated from the State Society, he shall by default be disassociated from his Chapter. He may be transferred, if accepted for membership, to a chapter in another state or the National At-Large Chapter.

**Section 2.** Memberships processed during the fiscal year, shall be deemed regular members upon approval of Headquarters.

**Section 3.** Life Membership dues shall be set by the General Executive Council. Expelled Life Members shall have the unused prorated balance of their life membership dues returned as calculated from the termination date.

**Section 4.** Members with twenty or more years of paid membership in the Order shall, upon the attainment of ninety (90) years of age, be granted the permanent status of Senior Life Member and all further Order dues shall be waived.

**Section 5.** All members must be in "good standing" prior to being permitted to participate in any activities or meetings of the Order or organizational division.

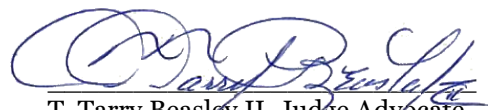
- a.) A member is not in "good standing" if he is delinquent in dues, under investigation for any conduct designated in the disciplinary sections of the Order's Constitution, Bylaws, or other policies and procedures. Any members who has been expelled, suspended, or disassociated is not in good standing.
- b.) Any member who is reprimanded, censured, removed from office, or has other disciplinary action taken, shall not be in good standing for the fiscal year in which the action is taken. This sanction may also be extended by one year as may be determined by the General Executive Council.

**Section 6.** All decisions regarding memberships as determined by the General Executive Council shall be final.

## Article X Departments

  
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**Section 1.** There shall be three Departments to be called:

**Army of Northern Virginia Department**, which shall include and be formed of the states of Virginia, Maryland, West Virginia, North Carolina, South Carolina, the District of Columbia, and those stated located east of the State of Ohio and north of the State of Virginia.

**Army of Tennessee Department**, which shall include and be formed of the states of Georgia, Alabama, Tennessee, Kentucky, Mississippi, Florida and those states and areas not included in the other two departments; and, the

**Army of the Trans-Mississippi Department**, which shall include and be formed by the states of Louisiana, Arkansas, Texas, Missouri, Oklahoma, California, Colorado, and states located west of the Mississippi River.

**Section 2.** The officers of a Department shall be a Commander and two (2) Councilors. The Department Commander may appoint other department officers as he deems necessary.

**Section 3.** A Department Commander and two (2) General Executive Councilors from each Department shall be elected at the General Convention by the members present from the respective Departments. They shall serve for a period of two (2) years, concurrent with the term of the Commander General.

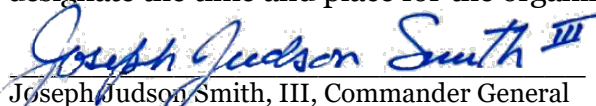
**Section 4.** The Department Commanders shall command Departments and shall assist the Commander General by counsel and otherwise as directed. They shall supervise the work of the Societies in their Departments, the work of separate Chapters in their Departments, and shall oversee the enforcement of all orders from Headquarters.

**Section 5.** Each Department Commander shall submit an annual report to the Order at the General Convention giving pertinent information on the progress of his Department during the preceding year.

## **Article XI State Societies**

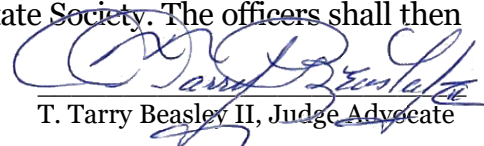
**Section 1.** Authority to organize a State Society shall be granted upon the written application of at least fifteen (15) members and three (3) Chapters of the Order residing in the state in which the State Society is proposed to be organized.

**Section 2.** The form of the charter for a State Society shall be prescribed by the General Executive Council. Upon the issuance of a charter, the Commander General shall designate the time and place for the organization of the State Society. The officers shall then

  
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be chosen and shall enter upon their duties at once and hold office for two (2) years or until their successors, at the annual meeting following, shall have been invested.

**Section 3.** Each State Society shall hold annually a convention of the Society in accordance with that State's Constitution. Voting by proxy and absentee voting shall not be conducted in any organization or committee of the Military Order of the Stars and Bars

**Section 4.** The State Convention shall elect a Society Commander and a Lieutenant Commander to serve for a period of two (2) years. Additional officers may be elected or appointed by the Society Commander as desired.

**Section 5.** Each State Society shall have the power to adopt rules and regulations for its own governances, provided such rules and regulations are not in conflict with the Constitution and Bylaws of the Order.

**Section 6.** Each State Society shall:

- a.) Notify immediately the Adjutant General and the Department Commander of the election and appointment of all officers and committees.
- b.) Be responsible for the organization of new Chapters within the State.
- c.) Assign applications for membership to Chapters within the State.
- d.) Submit to the General Convention of the Order a written report giving all pertinent information as to the progress of the State Society during the preceding year.

**Section 7.** The revenues of the Society shall be derived from annual membership dues and such other sources as may be approved by the State Society Convention.


## Article XII Chapters

**Section 1.** State Societies shall be divided into local units to be known as Chapters which shall consist of at least five (5) members. Application to form a Chapter shall be submitted to the State Society Commander accompanied by a charter fee and dues for each member as required. Upon approval, the State Society Commander shall forward the application to the Adjutant General for final approval and issuance of the charter.

**Section 2.** Where no State Society exists, Chapters must be submitted to the Adjutant General who will, upon issuance of a charter, inform the Commander General and the Department Commander. As soon as fifteen (15) members residing in the State have been formed into one or more chapters, application may be made to organize a State Society.

  
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**Section 3.** Each Chapter shall elect a Commander, a Lieutenant Commander, and an Adjutant. Additional officers may be elected or appointed by the Commander.

**Section 4.** Each Chapter shall have the power to adopt rules and regulations for its own governance provided such rules and regulations are not in conflict with the Constitution and Bylaws of the Order or the State Society.

**Section 5.** Each Chapter shall:

- a.) Notify immediately the State Society and Headquarters of the election and appointment of all Chapter officers. If the Chapter is a separate Chapter in a state where no Society has been formed, the Department Commander shall be notified of the election and appointment of all Chapter officers.
- b.) Promptly notify the Chaplain General and the Society Commander of the death of a member.
- c.) Pay to Headquarters not later than the fifteenth (15) day of January in advance for each year the annual dues of every member carried on the rolls, except that the dues of new members shall be remitted within ten (10) days after the member joins the Chapter.
- d.) Submit the required annual reports and other data as specified in the Bylaws of the Military Order of the Stars and Bars.

**Section 6.** No Chapter in any State where a Society has been formed in accordance with the provisions of this Constitution shall be permitted to withdraw from the Society and continue its activities as a separate Chapter representing The Military Order of the Stars and Bars.

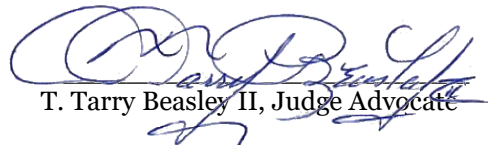
### **Article XIII** **Chapter, Society & Department Reports**

**Section 1.** Chapter Reports.

- a.) The Commander of each Chapter shall receive a report from Headquarters on or about October 1st detailing the current members in good standing of the Chapter. The Chapter Commander will meet with the Chapter Adjutant to review the report. The Chapter will then remit a report, thru December 31<sup>st</sup>, including any additions, deletions, or corrections back to Headquarters for processing on or before January 15th. The report shall include:
  - A membership roster including mailing addresses, telephone numbers, and internet e-mail addresses;

  
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- Dues and fees to Headquarters;
  - Names of deceased members; and,
  - Such further information as may be required from time to time by the General Executive Council.
- b.) Each Chapter shall remit to the Chaplain General, the Adjutant General, and Headquarters a listing of all deceased members since the last General Convention, said report to be remitted by June 1st on forms prescribed by the General Executive Council.
- c.) The Chapter Commander and Chapter Adjutant may submit a written report regarding chapter activities, memorials, reunions, and other such observations regarding the chapter. The original report shall be sent to Headquarters. Upon receipt, Headquarters will collect and file the report in the chapter file. These reports must be submitted by January 15th.
- d.) Any Chapter may modify the aforementioned report by submitting a supplementary report to Headquarters within ten (10) days before any General Convention.

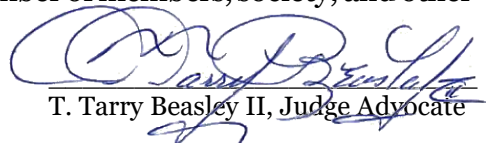
**Section 2. Society Reports.**

- a.) A roster of all society chapters shall be remitted to each Society Commander on or about October 1st of each year from Headquarters. The Society Commander will confer with the Society Adjutant and review the roster. The Society will undertake to contact chapter officers regarding membership rolls, membership delinquencies, and other relevant societal information.
- b.) The Society Commander shall prepare a written report regarding society activities, memorials, reunions, and other such observations since the last general convention, including any such other information as may be required from time to time by the Commander General or the General Executive Council. This report must be submitted by January 31st.
- c.) The original report shall be sent to Headquarters. Upon receipt, Headquarters will collect and file the report in the society file.

**Section 3. Department Reports.**

- a.) A summary of all department chapters shall be remitted to each Department Commander on or about October 1st of each year from Headquarters. The summary will contain the chapter name, number of members, society, and other

  
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information as may be requested. The Department Commander shall confer with the Department Adjutant and review the roster. The department will undertake to contact society officers regarding membership rolls, membership delinquencies, and other relevant departmental information.

- b.) The Department Commander shall prepare a written report regarding department activities, memorials, reunions, and other such observations since the last general convention, including any such other information as may be required from time to time by the Commander General or the General Executive Council. This report must be submitted by February 15th.
- d.) The original report shall be sent to Headquarters. Upon receipt, Headquarters will file the report in the Department file.

#### **Article XIV General Convention Meetings**

**Section 1.** The General Convention shall be held annually with elections conducted in election years. The primary purposes will be to:

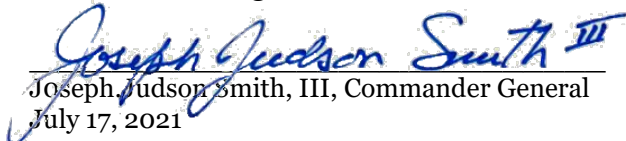
- a.) Elect the nominees for General Executive Council vacancies and the officers of Commander General and Lieutenant Commander General;
- b.) Ratify any constitutional or bylaw changes since the previous General Convention; and,
- e.) Present the annual budget as approved by the General Executive Council.
- f.) Present the current operating annual budget as approved by the General Executive Council.

**Section 2.** The General Convention will be held at a time and place to be decided by a majority vote of the General Convention not less than three (3) years prior to the General Convention.

**Section 3.** The General Convention rotating schedule and bid process shall be the responsibility of the Time and Place Committee with approval by the General Executive Council and ratification by the General Convention.

**Section 4.** At all meetings, members shall address each other as Compatriot.

**Section 5.** The rules of the General Convention will be stated to the members at the

  
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opening of the first Business Session by the Judge Advocate General.

## **Article XV Voting**

**Section 1.** In all questions submitted to the General Convention, the Chair shall put the questions for a "hand" vote with each registered member having one vote. This shall be the preferred method for voting. On motion of at least one-third (1/3) of the members present and voting, a secret written ballot will be taken on a question before the General Convention. The written ballot for a Chapter shall be voted by a delegate in good standing, and he will cast the votes for his chapter in accordance with the number of members in good standing according to the Order's records at Headquarters thirty (30) days before the General Convention. Each at large member in good standing shall have one vote. Delegate voting as prescribed heretofore shall be the only exception to the voting rules. Proxy and absentee voting shall not be otherwise conducted in any organization or committee of the Military Order of the Stars and Bars.

**Section 2.** In all questions submitted to the General Convention, the Chair shall announce the result of the vote. The number of ayes and the number of nays will be entered into the record of the Convention.

**Section 3.** Election of officers may be conducted by secret written ballot on the motion of at least one-third (1/3) of the members present and voting, in accordance with the procedure set forth in Section 1. of this Article.

## **Article XVI Annual Reports**

**Section 1.** The Commander General, the General Executive Council, or the General Convention may require such reports as they may be deemed necessary and proper.

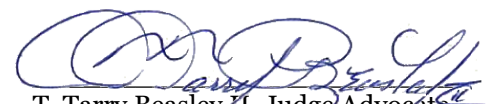
## **Article XVII Dues and Fee Schedule**

**Section 1.** The revenue of the Order shall be derived from annual and life dues and from such other sources as may be approved by the Order.

**Section 2.** The annual dues and life membership fees of the Order shall be set by the General Executive Council subject to the will of the General Convention. Applications for life membership shall be accompanied by the life membership fee, plus any recording fee that may be required by the General Executive Council.

  
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**Section 3.** Reinstatement of membership from an inactive or dropped for non-payment status will require payment of current dues together with any fees required.

**Section 4.** Any application that is rejected will have all documentation and fee payments except the review fee returned immediately to the applicant or the issuer of the check. The Genealogist General will formally and in writing notify Headquarters of the applicant's name and address, date of application, and reason for rejection. Headquarters will maintain this information in a permanent file.

**Section 5.**

- a.) By October 15th, the Society and Chapter Adjutants will send out notices requesting dues payments by November 15th. A final notice will be sent to delinquent members by December 1st. Dues not received by December 31st will cause the member to be inactive and receive DNP status.
- b.) The Adjutant General will send dues notices to the National-at-Large (NAT) members by October 15th requesting payment by November 15th. The NAT delinquent notice and DNP status will be managed by the Adjutant General on the same schedule as the Chapters.

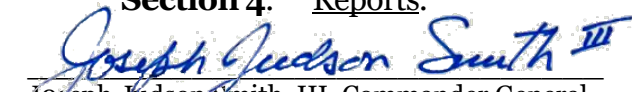
**Article XVIII  
Finance**

**Section 1. Budget.** The Lieutenant Commander General shall present to the General Executive Committee the proposed Operating Budget, drafted in cooperation between the Commander General, and Finance Committee. This presentation should be made during the Fall General Executive Council meeting and, if not practical, then the General Executive Council shall convene in a separate special meeting via conference call with the Lieutenant Commander General presenting the budget for consideration of and approval by the General Executive Council subject to such modifications as the General Executive Council shall deem appropriate. The budget must be approved no later than December 15th of each year.


**Section 2. Disbursements.** Once the Operating Budget provided for in Section 1 has been adopted by the General Executive Council, any disbursement more than the amount approved in the Operating Budget for any line item shall be required to have the approval of two-thirds (2/3) of the General Executive Council present and voting, either in person, by mail, or by teleconference, for said disbursement to be authorized.

**Section 3. Banking Resolutions.** All financial institution accounts shall be established with authorized signatures upon approval of the General Executive Council with meeting minutes reflecting the same.

**Section 4. Reports.**

  
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- a.) At each regular meeting of the General Executive Council and at each regular General Convention, after the Opening Ritual, the first item of business shall be a written or oral report by the Treasurer General on the financial status of the Order. This report may include the following as requested by the General Executive Council or the Commander General.
- 1.) Cover the last twelve (12) month period
  - 2.) Include all assets of the order and be provided using standard financial statement formats for the Balance Statement, Profit and Loss Statement, and Budget Compared to Actual Expenses and Revenues;
  - 3.) A listing of all disbursements made to include date, payee, amount and any variance to the current budget
- b.) IRS Form 990 shall be prepared under the supervision of the Treasurer General and made available to the General Executive Council for review and approval.
- c.) Annual Corporate reports shall be filed with the State in which the organization is chartered. This shall be done through an appointed Registered Agent who is on file with the charter State.

**Section 5. Funds.** No funds or fund-raising activities shall be established or eliminated without the approval of the General Executive Council. All fund transfers shall be reported to the General Executive Council.

**Section 6. Debt.** The General Executive Council and Executive Committee cannot incur any mortgages, liens, or any other liability instruments without the approval of the General Convention.

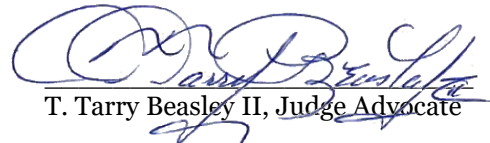
**Section 7. Tax Status.**

- a.) The Order is recognized by the IRS as a Non-Profit Corporation and maintains a Federal Employer Identification Number (EIN) which does not cover the organizational divisions within the Order.
- b.) There is no group or umbrella tax-exempt coverage for the organization divisions; however, individual Chapters and State Societies may make application for the appropriate tax-exemption status as approved by the IRS or the appropriate state authority.

**Article XIX  
International Headquarters**

  
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**Section 1.** The International Headquarters' location of the Order shall be determined by the Commander General and approved by the General Executive Council. It shall be in the active charge and under the direction and control of the Commander General and the General Executive Council.

**Section 2.** The Headquarters shall be managed by an Executive Director and staffed by active member(s) who (are) qualified volunteers and shall not receive any financial stipends for service performed unless provided for and approved in the budget by the General Executive Council.

The Executive Director shall handle the current member files, the day to day operations Monday thru Friday and any other duties as may be prescribed by the Commander General or the General Executive Council

**Section 3.** The official archives and records of the Order shall be stored in the Order's permanent Archives located in the Confederate Room in the Oklahoma History Center, Oklahoma City, Oklahoma. The current and working files and records of the Order's daily administrative and operational functions shall be maintained in the appropriate locations as designated by the Commander General.

## **Article XX Corporate Governance**

**Section 1.** The Military Order of the Stars and Bars shall be incorporated in a state jurisdiction as may be determined by the General Executive Council.

**Section 2.** The General Executive Council of The Military Order of the Stars and Bars shall serve as the board of directors of the Order and shall be known as the General Executive Council. They shall be vested to act with the authority of this constitution, bylaws, policies and procedures, and the laws of the State of incorporation.

**Section 3.** The General Executive Council shall make provisions regarding publication and distribution of general news, internet websites, forms, and other such documentation preservation as they deem appropriate.

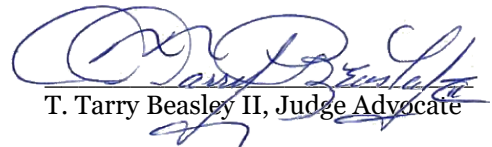
**Section 4.** The Corporate Seal shall be in the keeping of the Adjutant General who shall be responsible for its use in all corporate matters.

## **Article XXI Resignations and Reinstatements**

**Section 1.** Resignations from the Order shall be submitted in writing to the Adjutant General with duplicate copies sent to the State Society Commander and to the Chapter

  
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Commander.

**Section 2.** A member who shall have resigned may, upon application to the Adjutant General and Commander General, be restored to membership by a majority vote of the members of the General Executive Council.

**Section 3.** The Adjutant General shall recommend to the General Convention a summary roster of members who have not remitted their membership dues for the current year. The General Convention shall then approve these members as dropped from the rolls of active membership for non-payment of their dues. A member who is dropped for non-payment of dues may apply for re-admission by remitting his current dues together with any fees required to Headquarters.

**Section 4.** Reinstatement is at the Order level only with placement in the National At Large Chapter, but the member may make application to any Chapter in his state for local membership.

## **Article XXII Membership and Officer Disciplinary Proceedings**

**Section 1.** Any member or officer may be expelled or suspended from the Order for cause. Such cause shall be:

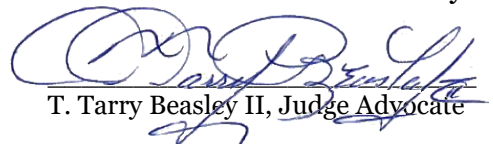
- a.) Disloyalty to the Order;
- b.) Neglect of duty, misfeasance, malfeasance, or nonfeasance of office
- c.) Dishonesty;
- d.) Conduct unbecoming a member of the Order;
- e.) Acts or conduct detrimental to the goals and objectives of the Order.

**Section 2.** The written charge(s) shall be specific, detailed, and clear in meaning. Written charge(s) involving a member or officer in a Chapter shall be submitted to the Society Commander. Charges involving society or department officers shall be submitted to the Department Commander or the Inspector General of the Order, respectively. The charge(s) shall be immediately sent to the Commander General who shall forward the charge(s) to the Investigation Committee.

**Section 3.** An Investigation Committee composed of the Inspector General, Judge Advocate General, and Lieutenant Commander General shall thoroughly investigate the merit of all proffered charges. The Committee shall conduct a thorough and proper investigation and submit written findings to the General Executive Council and Commander General within sixty

  
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(60) days of notification of the charges. Such findings shall recommend that the proffered charges be dismissed, upheld, or amended.

**Section 4.** In urgent cases and after a written charge has been properly submitted, the Commander General may temporarily suspend a member or any officer appointed by the Commander General for cause. Upon temporary suspension, the suspended officer or member, members of the Investigation Committee, and all members of the General Executive Council shall be immediately notified of the action and reasoning for the action by the Commander General. The Investigation Committee shall immediately conduct a thorough and proper investigation and submit written findings to the General Executive Council and Commander General within thirty (30) days. Such findings shall recommend that the temporary suspension be dissolved, upheld, or amended.

**Section 5.** Upon receipt of the Investigation Committee's written findings which amend or uphold the charge(s), the Commander General shall schedule a meeting of the General Executive Council to hear the charges within sixty (60) days but no earlier than thirty (30) days, with notice of the date being immediately delivered to the members of the General Executive Council and the charged/suspended officer or member by the Adjutant General.


**Section 6.** Copies of all charges, Investigation Committee findings, and time and place of the next meeting of the General Executive Council shall be delivered to the suspended officer or member by Certified Mail, Return Receipt Requested. The General Executive Council shall provide for a true and accurate recording of all proceedings of such hearings. The Inspector General shall present the charges to the General Executive Council. The suspended officer or member shall be entitled to present testimony, evidence, and witnesses to the General Executive Council. The General Executive Council shall be deemed to be in executive session during such hearings. The General Executive Council may by majority vote suspend an officer or director from their office, For Cause. The General Executive Council may, by two-thirds (2/3) vote, expel an officer or director from their office, Without Cause.

**Section 7.** Any member or officer suspended or expelled from the Order by the General Executive Council shall have the right to appeal the decision to the next meeting of the General Convention. A member of the General Executive Council, or person designated to speak for the General Executive Council, shall address the General Convention regarding the charge(s), the Investigation Committee findings, and decision of the General Executive Council. The affected officer or member shall be afforded time to address the General Convention regarding the charges. The speakers shall only address issues or findings as presented to or determined by the General Executive Council. The General Convention shall, by majority vote, uphold or overrule the decision of the General Executive Council regarding the suspension or expulsion. The decision by the General Convention shall be final.

**Section 8.** Any member or officer may be expelled or suspended from the Order for cause. Such cause shall be Disloyalty to the Order; Neglect of Duty; Misfeasance, Malfeasance or Nonfeasance of Office; Dishonesty; Conduct Unbecoming a Member of the Order; Act(s) or Conduct Detrimental to the Goals and Objectives of the Order.

  
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**Section 9.** The Judge Advocate General will report to the Commander General and the Adjutant General the final disposition of all charges investigated or sustained under this Article. The final records of all proceedings under this Article will be maintained separately and confidentially by the Adjutant General. The records will not be available to anyone outside of the General Executive Council. The affected member shall be mailed a copy of the final order at his last known address by Certified Mail, Return Receipt Requested.

### **Article XXIII Amendments**

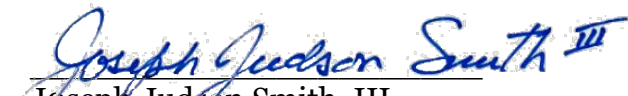
**Section 1.** The Bylaws of the Order may be amended by a two-thirds (2/3) vote of the General Executive Council. Amendments to the Bylaws shall be effective immediately upon adoption by the General Executive Council.

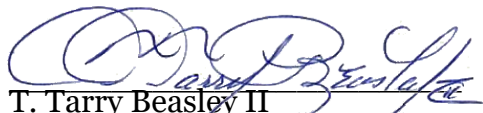
**Section 2.** All adopted amendments and proposed amendments to the Bylaws shall be sent to each Chapter in the Order at least thirty (30) days prior to the convening of the General Convention. The members shall accept or reject the amendments by a two-thirds (2/3) vote.

**Section 3.** Following adoption, all amendments shall be engrossed, renumbered, and/or re-designated for review and publication by the Judge Advocate General and the General Executive Council.

**Section 4.** The Constitution and Bylaws of the Order may be amended by a two-thirds (2/3) vote of the Order in convention upon presentation to the Constitution and Bylaws Committee or the General Executive Council by a member, Chapter or Society in good standing ninety (90) days before the National Convention and following the requirements set out herein.


Current as of 7/17/21

  
Joseph Judson Smith, III  
Commander General

  
T. Tarry Beasley II  
Judge Advocate

  
Joseph Judson Smith, III, Commander General  
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T. Tarry Beasley II, Judge Advocate