

**CONSTITUTION OF THE
R. E. LEE CAMP, NO. 726
SONS OF CONFEDERATE VETERANS
ADOPTED IN CONVENTION
ALEXANDRIA, VIRGINIA
November 21, 1972 as amended 2 November 1998 as
amended April 2012**

PREAMBLE

In the name of a united country the Sons of Confederate Veterans, R. E. Lee Camp, No. 726, declare the following Purposes:

An unquestioned allegiance to the Constitution of the United States of America, largely written and expounded by Southern men, the very Magna Carta of our liberties; a strict construction of all sections conferring power upon the Federal Government, and the implied and understood reservations to the States arising therefrom and a general attitude of opposition to further amendment thereof. We adhere to the principles of the Great Charter of England granted at Runnymede, 1215 A. D., and the Anglo-Saxon rights and personal liberties transmitted to us thereunder; to associate in one united, compact body all men of Confederate ancestry, and to cultivate, perpetuate and sanctify the ties of fraternity and friendship entailed thereby; to aid and encourage the recording and teaching with impartiality all Southern history and achievement from Jamestown to this present era, seeing to it especially that the events of the War Between the States are authentically and clearly written,

and that all documents, relics and mementoes produced and handed down by the active participants therein are properly treasured and preserved for posterity; to comfort, succor and assist needy Sons of Confederate Veterans, their wives, widows and orphans; to urge, aid and assist in the election of suitable and enduring monuments and memorials to all Southern valor, military and civil, wherever done and wherever found, particularly stressing that of our heroic Confederate ancestors, who by their sacrifice, perpetuated unto us and our descendants that glorious heritage of valor, chivalry and honor, which we now hold and venerate; and to instill in our descendants a devotion to and reverence for the principles represented by the Confederate States of America, to the honor, glory, and memory of our fathers who fought in that Cause.

ARTICLE I— NAME AND LOCATION

Section 1. The name of this Camp shall be R. E. LEE CAMP No. 726, SONS OF CONFEDERATE VETERANS, with Headquarters at Alexandria, Virginia.

ARTICLE II—NATURE

Section 1. In addition to upholding the principles set forth in the foregoing preamble, the purposes, shall be strictly patriotic, historical, educational, benevolent, non-political, non-sectarian, and nonprofit. Each member shall perform his duty as a citizen according to his own conscience and understanding.

Section 2. Discussion of matters that appertain to a political party, whether specifically identified or identified by implication, during meetings of the Camp is strictly prohibited. Nothing in this Constitution, however, shall be construed to abridge or prohibit the adoption or advocacy of positions that are concerned with the general welfare of the United States of America or its national security nor to abridge or prohibit the expressions of the mind of the Camp in such matters by the adoption of resolutions or petitioning the Executive or Legislative Branches of the Government provided that there is no identification, specific or implied, with any political party or the support of any candidate of any political party.

ARTICLE III— SUPERIOR AUTHORITY

Section 1. The R. E. Lee Camp No. 726 is a part of the general confederation of the Sons of Confederate Veterans, and is bound by the provisions of the said Sons of Confederate Veterans insofar as they appertain to the governance of individual Camps and their relationship to the Sons of Confederate Veterans.

ARTICLE IV— MEMBERS

Section 1. All male descendants, lineal or collateral, of those who served in the Confederate Army or Navy to the end of the War, or who died in prison or while in actual service, or who were killed in battle, or who were honorably retired or discharged, shall be eligible for

membership in the Camp, provided that no member shall be admitted under twelve years of age.

Section 2. An Associate Member is a member in good standing in another Sons of Confederate Veterans camp who wishes to affiliate with the R. E. Lee Camp.

Section 3. A person whose sympathies and actions are with the Southern Cause and who is not qualified to become a member may become an Honorary Member. The Executive Council shall approve Honorary Members.

ARTICLE V—APPLICATIONS

Section 1. No one shall be admitted to membership in this camp until satisfactory proof of the foregoing qualifications are submitted on an official application approved by International Headquarters. The original application shall be forwarded to International Headquarters within ten days for recording and permanent preservation. The Camp shall keep a duplicate copy of all membership application forms.

Section 2. It is the duty of every Compatriot who endorses or recommends an applicant for membership in the Camp or in the Confederation to ensure that he meets the qualifications for membership set forth in Article IV herein, and that he is otherwise fit for membership, subscribes to this Constitution and that of the Confederation, and is loyal to the concepts upon which the Sons of Confederate Veterans is founded.

Section 3. All applications will be reviewed and approved by the Membership Committee.

ARTICLE VI—OFFICERS

Section 1. The Officers of the Camp shall be a Commander, a First Lieutenant Commander, a Second Lieutenant Commander, an Adjutant, a Treasurer, a Quartermaster, a Judge Advocate, a Chaplain, a Surgeon, an Archivist, a Sutler, a Sergeant-at-Arms, and a Color Sergeant.

Section 2. All Officers shall be elected for a term of two years or until relieved or removed. Elections shall be held in those years the date of which is an even number. In order to select a slate of officers, the Commander shall appoint a Nominating Committee of not less than three members of this Camp in good standing. Where possible, all should be past commanders of the Camp. The immediate Past Commander shall be Chairman of the Committee. The Committee shall render its report of the selected slate at the last meeting of the Camp in the year in which the election is to take place, and the election of officers shall take place at that meeting.

Section 3. New officers shall be installed at the first meeting of the year following, and shall serve until the adjournment of the first meeting in the year following the next election of officers.

Section 4. Officers may be elected to as many successive terms as the Camp may deem to be in the best interest of the Camp. In the event of a vacancy in the office of the Commander, the First Lieutenant Commander shall automatically become the Commander, and the Second Lieutenant Commander

shall become the First Lieutenant Commander; in the event of a vacancy in the office of the First Lieutenant Commander, the Second Lieutenant Commander shall automatically become the First Lieutenant Commander. In the event of a vacancy in any other office, including that of the Second Lieutenant Commander, the vacancy shall be filled by a special election and the officer so elected shall serve for the remainder of the term for which his predecessor in that office was elected.

ARTICLE VII—EXECUTIVE COUNCIL

Section 1. There shall be an Executive Council consisting of the officers named in Article VI, Section 1, of this Constitution; Past Camp Commanders; and the Commander, Samuel Cooper Chapter, Military Order of the Stars and Bars. Members of the Executive Council who miss four consecutive meetings of the Executive Council may be removed from the Council by vote of the Council and so notified by the Adjutant.

Section 2. The Executive Council shall meet at the request of the Commander or his representative. A quorum of the Executive Council shall be deemed to exist when any five members of the Council shall be present.

Section 3. The purpose of the Executive Council is to advise and consult with the Commander. It shall have full authority to manage the financial affairs of the Camp and, generally, to look after and have charge of all other affairs of the Camp between meetings, and to report from time to time the condition of the finances.

Section 4. The Executive Council may also be empowered, by majority vote of the Camp at any meeting, regular or special, to formulate policy and to establish official positions of the Camp in matters relating to the interests of the Camp. In such matters, the position taken by the Executive Council shall be considered to be the official position of the Camp unless a motion is put to the Camp to override the position adopted by the Executive Council and is carried by a majority vote of the members present.

ARTICLE VIII—MEMBERSHIP DUES

Section 1. Membership in this Camp shall be of two kinds:

- (a) Annual membership, the dues for which are paid annually; and
- (b) Life membership, the member to pay (except as prescribed in Section 3 below) \$100.00 non-transferable to another Camp. Said member shall be exempt from the payment of Camp dues thereafter, but is responsible for payment of Division and International dues.

Section 2. Dues shall be payable by October 31 of each calendar year.

- (a) Dues, initiation fee, and reinstatement fee shall be set by the Executive Council.
- (b) A member who has not paid dues by December 31 shall pay a reinstatement fee in addition to dues.

- (c) A member who has not paid dues and reinstatement fee by March 31 shall be dropped from the membership roll of the camp.
- (d) An Associate Member pays only camp dues.

Section 3. All members of the Camp who are 'Real Sons' (that is, whose fathers served in the Armed Forces of the Confederate States of America) shall be deemed to be Honorary Life Members without the payment of any fees, and shall be so considered until they are separated by death or resignation. Honorary Life Memberships may be extended to other members of the general confederation who have, by their lives and activities, been significantly outstanding in their support of and contribution to the cause of the Confederation and the South; such Honorary Life Members shall be elected by majority vote of the members present at any meeting of the Camp; no assessment shall be paid to the Division or the General Headquarters, nor shall they be counted as voting members of the Camp.

ARTICLE IX—PENALTIES

Section 1. Charges against any Compatriot must be made in writing, signed, and presented to the Executive Council for appropriate action. Proceedings shall be in accordance with the Virginia Division Constitution.

Section 2. Forfeiture of membership rights must be by a vote of two-thirds of the members present at a regular meeting. Forfeiture may be predicated upon acts repugnant to this Constitution or detrimental to the objects and purposes of this Camp or of the general

Confederation of the Sons of Confederate Veterans, provided that at least two (2) weeks notice of such proposed action shall have been given by registered mail to the member against whom charges are preferred at the last known address.

Section 3. Penalty shall consist of forfeiture of the right of suffrage, suspension, or expulsion.

ARTICLE X—MEETINGS

Section 1. Meetings of this Camp shall be held between September of each year and the following June. The date, time, and place of each meeting shall be determined by the Commander or the Executive Council.

Section 2. Special meetings may be called by the Commander or the Executive Council at any time. The Commander shall call a special meeting whenever requested in writing to do so by five or more members of the Camp, provided that all members be notified.

Section 3. Ten per cent of the membership shall constitute a quorum at all general meetings.

Section 4. General business may be transacted at any special meeting, except as provided in Article XIII, Section 1.

Section 5. The rules contained in the current edition of Robert's Rules of Order Newly Revised shall govern in all cases to which they are applicable and in which they are not inconsistent with the Constitution and Bylaws and any special rules of order the Camp may adopt.

ARTICLE XI–COMMITTEES

Section 1. The following are the Standing Committees:

- (a) **Membership Committee.** The Membership Committee shall be composed of a Chairman and two or more additional members appointed by the Commander. It shall be responsible for membership recruitment and related activities intended to develop and expand the Camp membership.
- (b) **Finance Committee.** The Finance Committee shall be composed of a Chairman and one other member appointed by the Commander, and the Treasurer. It shall be responsible for preparation of the Camp's annual budget, development and review of the Camp's financial investments.
- (c) **Heritage Committee.** The Heritage Committee shall be composed of a Chairman and two or more additional members appointed by the Commander. It shall be responsible for development and execution of actions intended to project, defend, and preserve Confederate Heritage.
- (d) **Nominating Committee.** The Nominating Committee shall consist of the immediate Past Camp Commander as Chairman, and at least two members who, if possible, shall be past Camp Commanders. It shall be responsible for presenting a slate of officers for all elected officers of the Camp.

(e) **Audit Committee.** The Audit Committee shall consist of a Chairman and at least one member. It shall be responsible for the annual audit of the books of the Treasurer.

Section 2. Special Committees. The Commander may appoint the Chairman and members of any special committee created by the Executive Council.

Section 3. Ex-officio Member. The Commander shall be ex-officio member of all committees except the Nominating Committee.

ARTICLE XII—DISSOLUTION

Section 1. In the event of dissolution, the residual assets of the R. E. Lee Camp No. 726 will be turned over to a recipient which is then recognized as a tax exempt organization qualified to receive donations which are deductible by the donor under Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1954 (or the corresponding provision of any future United States Internal Revenue Law), as the Executive Council shall determine. Such distribution shall only be made after the Executive Council has paid or made provision for payment for all liabilities of the Camp.

Section 2. It is the desire and intention of the R. E. Lee Camp No. 726 to function at all times as an organization which is approved for exemption from Federal income taxes and which is qualified to receive donations which are deductible by the donor for income tax purposes under Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal

Revenue Code of 1954 (or the corresponding provision of any future United States Internal Revenue Law).

ARTICLE XIII—AMENDMENTS

Section 1. Amendments to this Constitution may be offered at any meeting of this Camp, but shall not be acted upon until the next regular meeting. A copy of the proposed amendment or an accurate resume of its substance shall be sent to each member with a notice of the regular meeting at which the same is to be acted upon, at least thirty (30) days prior to said meeting. A vote of at least two-thirds ($2/3$) of the members present shall be necessary to its adoption.

**BY-LAWS OF
R. E. LEE CAMP NO. 726
SONS OF CONFEDERATE VETERANS
ALEXANDRIA, VIRGINIA**

The Commander shall:

- A. Be the presiding officer of the R. E. Lee Camp.
- B. Execute the directives of the Executive Committee.
- C. Order the expenditure of funds as necessary to the routine operations of the Camp. All other expenditures shall be appropriated by the Executive Committee.
- D. Appoint committees and commissions in accordance with the Constitution and Bylaws of the Camp.
- E. Appoint aides-de-camp (maximum of two) and other officers as may be required for the efficient operation of the Camp.
- F. Conduct the business of the Camp with the advice and consent of the Executive Committee.
- G. Represent the Camp at S.C.V. and other functions.
- H. Coordinate the activities of the Camp officers.
- I. Schedule and chair meetings of the Executive Committee and Camp.
- J. Maintain correspondence file, convey communications to the Camp and Executive Committee as indicated. Copies of original

communications should be filed with the Camp Adjutant.

- K. Conduct all activities in the best interest of the Camp.

The First Lieutenant Commander shall:

- A. Act as Camp Commander when called upon by the Commander and in the event of absence or inability of the Commander to serve at any time.
- B. Represent the Camp at S.C.V. and other functions.
- C. Plan and coordinate Confederate Memorial Day services.
- D. Coordinate fund raising activities.
- E. Attend meetings of the Executive Committee.

The Second Lieutenant Commander shall:

Perform the duties of the Commander in the absence of the Commander and the First Lieutenant Commander.

The Adjutant shall:

- A. Assist in the preparation of the Camp roster, supply names and addresses for mailing Camp bulletins, send to General Headquarters copies of membership applications, changes of addresses, etc., prepare letters of welcome to new members on Camp stationery and transmit pertinent information to the membership on orders of the Camp Commander.
- B. Be responsible for the ordering of all items

necessary for operations of the Camp.

- C. Maintain adequate stock of SCV membership pins, decals, and applications.

The Color Sergeant shall:

- A. Accept custody of Camp flags, banners and award or similar property. He will arrange for the timely and correct display of these at banquets and other meetings as appropriate.
- B. He will arrange for having an honor guard as needed for memorial services and the Lee banquet.

The Treasurer shall:

- A. Keep accurate records of all funds of the Camp, make deposits, sign checks, vouchers or other authorizations for the withdrawal or transfer of funds for authorized expenses of the Camp.
- B. Issue notices of dues and collect dues or other assessments from members of the Camp.
- C. Prepare a roster of the membership indicating those members that are in good standing.
- D. Make a report at each Executive Meeting, provide records and vouchers to the audit committee upon request and be personally available as required by the Camp Commander to conduct Camp business.
- E. Perform such other duties as may be required by the Camp Commander.

The Judge Advocate shall:

- A. Advise the officers and Executive Committee of all legal matters, including the construction and interpretation of the SCV General Constitution and Camp By-Laws.
- B. Serve as parliamentarian at both regular and special meetings.
- C. Upon direction of the Commander, conduct investigations into charges or challenges brought against Camp members.
- D. Perform such other duties as are usually incident to his office.

The Quartermaster shall:

- A. Arrange meeting facilities for all Camp activities, especially the Annual Lee Banquet.
- B. Negotiate the contracts and select the menu for the Camp's meetings with the advice and consent of the Executive Council.
- C. Receive reservations and receipts from Camp members and guests for the Camp meetings.
- D. Keep accurate and complete records of all receipts and submit all receipts with a proper record of the receipts to the Treasurer.
- E. Provide flowers or other amenities for memorial services and other occasions as necessary.
- F. Perform any other appropriate duties requested by the Camp Commander and his staff.
- G. Provide information to local newspapers about scheduled events.

The Chaplain shall:

- A. Attend all Camp meetings and pronounce the invocation, benediction and special prayers as requested by the Commander.
- B. Visit sick members in the hospital or at their home when confined for an extended period and send get-well cards.
- C. In event of death:
 - 1. Contact the family and convey the condolence of the Camp, visit the funeral home and attend the funeral, if possible.
 - 2. Inquire if the family wishes to have Camp members serve as active or honorary, pallbearers. If so, make appropriate arrangements.
 - 3. Notify the Camp Commander of the death. Notify other members so they can visit the family or funeral home, attend the funeral or render assistance as desired.
 - 4. Notify the Adjutant to send to the family the resolution of condolence and provide the Adjutant with the necessary information to complete and submit the SCV Last Roll form to National.

The Archivist shall:

- A. Determine existing records and receive new records as generated and recommend to the Co-amender and the Executive Committee the categories or individual records that should be destroyed and those that should be retained in

Camp files or be loaned or given to other organizations.

- B. He shall provide advice and assistance as requested concerning the contents and resources of the Camp files.
- C. He shall supervise and be responsible for furnishing copies of documents, compiling lists of Camp documents and publishing any compilation or copies of records as the Executive Committee may authorize.
- D. He shall receive all inquiries as to material in the Camp files, responding thereto in accordance with existing policy or as directed by the Executive Committee.
- E. He shall be responsible for the collection of photographs, newspaper clippings, and such other items as necessary in the proper recording of Camp history. All items will be affixed in a bound volume as to insure preservation.

The Membership Committee shall:

- A. Seek and screen applicants.
- B. Process the applications in accordance with the procedures prescribed by the Executive Committee and the Sons of Confederate Veterans.
- C. Insure that names of new members are added to the roster and are put on the mailing list.

The Program Committee and its Chairman shall:

Secure speakers for each scheduled meeting as listed by the Executive Committee. The Chairman will furnish the guest speaker, as early as practicable, details of the location, date, hour and appropriate dress for the meeting. He will act as host to the speaker until he meets the Camp Commander. If the speaker is from out of town, he will arrange for quarters, food and transportation to the meeting. The Program Chairman will introduce the speaker or take appropriate arrangements for that to be done. The Chairman will prepare and furnish to the newsletter editor and to the Quartermaster a statement for publication describing the speaker and his subject and provide information to local newspapers about scheduled events.

All officers and appointed personnel shall: at the expiration of their term, convey their records to their duly prescribed successors together with any appropriate suggestions they may have.