CONSTITUTION
OF
THE WEST VIRGINIA SOCIETY
OF THE
SONS OF THE AMERICAN REVOLUTION

ARTICLE I – NAME

The name of this Society shall be THE WEST VIRGINIA SOCIETY OF THE SONS OF THE AMERICAN REVOLUTION.

ARTICLE II – OBJECTS

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

ARTICLE III – MEMBERSHIP

Section 1. Membership eligibility for the Society shall be the same as membership eligibility for the National Society. The President, Secretary and Registrar of the State Society shall constitute a Committee on Membership, and approval by them shall be approval by the State Society as required by the National Society. The President, Secretary, and Registrar of a chapter shall constitute a Chapter Committee on Membership, and approval by them shall be approval by the Chapter.

Section 2. If any applicant is deemed by a chapter, or State Committee on Membership, to be not personally acceptable to the Society, his application shall be referred to the Chapter of State Board of Management for its decision, which shall be by written ballot, three-fourths (3/4) being required to elect.

Section 3. A member in good standing, upon his written application, shall be given by the Secretary a demit or letter of transfer to any other Society of the Sons of the American Revolution without payment of any fee for the demit. He may resume active membership by advising the State Secretary and remitting a fee for reinstatement and the current annual dues.

Section 4. A member of any other State society, in good standing, may transfer to and become a member of the West Virginia Society of the Sons of the American Revolution, or may be permitted to hold dual Membership therein, without fee, upon written application and the presentation of proper evidence of such membership. No dues shall be charged for the year in which such transfer is received or Dual Membership is granted, provided such State and National dues have already been paid to the transferring Society and the prescribed dues have been paid to the National Society. Thereafter, such member shall pay to the West Virginia Society the annual dues assessed by said Society.

Section 5. The membership, for the purpose of determining the right to vote at any annual of special meeting, shall be classified as chapter members or members at large. Chapter members shall include persons who are members of the chapter. Members at large shall include all other persons who are members of the West Virginia Society of the Sons of the American Revolution.

Section 6. Any man eligible under the Constitution to membership in the Society may, by a vote of two-thirds of the members present at a regular meeting, be elected an Honorary Member, provided that he shall have been recommended for Honorary Membership by the Board of Management and notice thereof shall have been given members with the notice of the meeting. Honorary members shall pay no initiation fee of dues and shall not hold office or vote.

Section 7. The official designation of a member shall be Compatriot.

Section 8. A Life Active Membership may be provided by the State Society.

ARTICLE IV – OFFICERS

Section 1. The officers of the West Virginia Society of the Sons of the American Revolution shall be a President, a 1st Vice-President, a 2nd Vice-President, a Secretary, a Treasurer, a Registrar, a Chaplain, a Chancellor, a Historian, and a Color Guard Commander, all of whom shall be elected at the annual meeting and shall hold office for one year and until their successors have been elected and qualified. The First Vice-President shall not be elected from the same chapter as the President.

Section 2. The offices of Secretary and Treasurer, Secretary and Registrar, or Treasurer and Registrar, may be combined and held by the same person. No person shall be eligible to

serve as President of the West Virginia Society for consecutive terms, either full or partial, aggregating more than two years. A person having served as President for two years shall be ineligible for election to that office for a period of one year.

ARTICLE V – BOARD OF MANAGEMENT

Section 1. The Board of Management of the West Virginia Society of the Sons of the American Revolution shall be composed of all of the current State Officers, the National Trustee, the current Presidents of the various Chapters, all living Past Presidents of the State Society, all living Presidents-General of the National Society whose primary membership is in the West Virginia Society and eight members of the West Virginia Society of the Sons of the American Revolution, four of whom shall be elected at each annual meeting for a term of two years and until their successors have been elected and qualified. The President shall be the Chairman of the Board, and the Secretary the Secretary thereof. Five members of the Board shall constitute a quorum for the transaction of any business.

ARTICLE VI – COMMITTEES

Section 1. The President and one of the Vice Presidents designated by the President, the Secretary, the Treasurer, and the Registrar, and two members of the Board of Management designated by the President, if required to make five members shall constitute the Executive Committee, which, in the interim between meetings of the Board of Management, shall attend to all current business, subject to its action being reported and approved at the next succeeding meeting of the board. The President shall be the chairman of the committee and the Secretary the secretary thereof. A majority of the members shall constitute a quorum for the transaction of any business.

Section 2. The Credentials Committee shall be composed of the State Secretary, who shall serve as chairman, and two other members appointed by the President.

Section 3. The President may appoint such other committees as he deems desirable from time to time.

ARTICLE VII – VACANCIES

Section 1. Vacancy in office, other than the President, by reason of resignation, death, transferring to another state society or other cause, shall be filled by appointment by the President, subject to the approval of the Board of Management at its next meeting. Resignations shall be delivered to the Secretary by the resigning member.

Section 2. In case of a vacancy in the office of President, the First Vice-President automatically becomes President for the unexpired term and the Second Vice-President automatically becomes First Vice President for the unexpired term.

ARTICLE VIII – CHAPTERS

Section 1. In furtherance of the objects of the Society it shall be the duty of the Board of Management to encourage the formation of chapters throughout the jurisdiction. Upon the petition of ten or more members residing in the same locality, the Board may, at its discretion, authorize the formation of a Chapter to be known as the _____ CHAPTER OF THE WEST VIRGINIA SOCIETY OF THE SONS OF THE AMERICAN REVOLUTION and fix its jurisdiction. Such chapters may adopt a constitution and by-laws not in conflict with the Constitution and By-Laws of the State Society. A copy of the constitution and by-laws so adopted and all amendments which at any time may be made thereof shall be filed with the Secretary of the State Society. Any person who shall be suspended, expelled or in any way lose his membership in The West Virginia Society of the Sons of the American Revolution shall thereupon cease to be a member of the chapter to which he may belong.

Section 3. A Chapter shall hold a minimum of four meetings each year, one of which shall be designated as the Annual Meeting for the election of officers. Any chapter may be adjudged by the Board of Management as having forfeited its chapter for any one or more of the following reasons: 1.) Failure to hold four meetings in any year; 2.) Lack of participation in West Virginia Society events or activities; 3.) Failure to make return of and pay over monies due to the West Virginia Society; Failure to make report to the State Secretary as required under Section 6. Of this Article; 5.) Lack of membership enhancement activity; 6.) Misuse of funds; Inability of a Chapter to grow or function adjudged due to its internal structure; and 7.) Any other supported evidence that the Chapter is not conforming to the objects and spirit of the West Virginia Society.

Section 4. Upon forfeiture of the charter of any chapter, all documents, books, moneys, and other properties belonging to and in possession of the chapter shall be delivered over to the West Virginia Society of the Sons of the American Revolution to be taken and held until such chapter has been reinstated, provided, however, that if the chapter has not been reinstated within a period of two years, all such property shall become the property of the State Society and may be disposed of as the Board of Management shall deem wise and expedient.

Section 5. Prior to the convening of the annual meeting of the State Society, each chapter shall nominate as delegates to the National Congress, one member in good standing for each fifty chapter members, or part thereof, and shall duly certify such names to the State Secretary. In the event that any chapter fails to make and timely certify such nominations, it shall then be the duty of the delegates at the annual meeting and/or Board of Management, to fill the quota of

delegates to the National Congress from the list of nominees and from other members in good standing.

Section 6. All chapters shall make such reports to the State Secretary as may from time to time be called for, and shall submit on or before March 20th of each year a report setting forth by name, the additions, transfer and deaths of its membership, a statement of the amounts paid to the Treasurer of the State Society, and such other matters as may be required by the Board of Management.

Section 7. The State President may appoint in any county in which no chapter exists a County Chairman to promote the growth of membership in that county and to organize a Chapter in such county.

ARTICLE IX – MEETINGS

Section 1. the Annual Meeting of the Society shall be held on the fourth Saturday in April at whatever place and hour shall be designated by the State Board of Management, provided, however, that the Board of Management may fix the date for any Annual Meeting not more than thirty days prior to or thirty days after said date. Special meetings of the Society may be called at any time and place by the State President or the State Board of Management, five days written notice of all special meetings and ten days written notice of the annual meeting being mailed by the State Secretary to all members of the Society. Ten members of the Society shall constitute a quorum for the transaction of business at any regular or special meeting of the Society, provided however that not less than three chapters shall be represented.

Section 2. The Annual Meeting shall be conducted in three sessions, referred to as the election of officers, the banquet and installation of officers, and the business meeting. The order of business at the annual meeting shall be:

1. Session 1: Election of officers
    a. Call to order
    b. Opening: invocation, Pledge of Allegiance, SAR Opening Pledge
    c. Report of the Nominating Committee
    d. Election of officers and two new members of the Nominating Committee.
    e. Recess
2. Session 2: Annual banquet and installation of officers
    a. Call to order
    b. Invocation by the Chaplain
    c. Song—Star Spangled Banner or Pledge of Allegiance

d. SAR Opening Pledge

e. President's address.

f. Installation of officers

g. Benediction

h. Recess

3. Session 3: Business meeting

a. Call to order

b. Opening: invocation, Pledge of Allegiance, SAR Opening Pledge

c. Roll Call of Delegates

d. Reading of minutes of last annual of special meeting(s).

e. Appointment of Session Committees.

f. Reports of Officers.

g. Report of National Trustee.

h. Report of Standing Committees.

i. Report of Special Committees.

j. Old or unfinished business.

k. New business.

l. SAR Closing

m. Benediction

n. Adjourn

Section 3. Special meetings may be called at any time by the President and shall be called by him when directed by the Board of Management, or upon written request of three chapters, properly signed by their officers, of similar request of twenty-five members at large. Ten days previous notice of the time and place of such meetings and the business to be transacted shall be mailed to the several chapters and to all members at large. No business not set forth in the notice shall be transacted at any special meeting.

Section 4. The right to vote at any annual meeting of special meeting shall be limited to the delegates in good standing in attendance. Each chapter shall be entitled to one delegate for every twenty-five members of fraction thereof. The members at large shall be entitled to one delegate for every twenty-five or fraction of their number. All officers and former Presidents of the West Virginia Society or the Sons of the American Revolution and the President or Vice President of each Chapter shall be delegates-at-large. Prior to the convening of any annual or special meeting, the names of the delegates to which each chapter is entitled, and the delegates to which the members-at-large are entitled shall be registered with the State Secretary. It shall

be the duty of the Secretary, from the names so registered, to prepare the official roll of delegates. No delegate may represent more than one chapter or any chapter of which he is not a member.

Section 5. The Board of Management shall hold two regular meetings each year. The first shall be held during the months of September or October of each year, and the second shall be held not less than two weeks before the annual meeting of the Society. Special meetings may be called at any time by the President, or shall be called by the Secretary upon written request of five members of the Board. The hour and place of such meetings shall be determined by the President.

ARTICLE X – NOMINATIONS AND ELECTIONS

Section 1. There shall be a nominating committee consisting of four members, two of whom shall be elected each year for a term of two years. If practical, this committee shall be constituted so that at least two of the members are past state presidents and with not more than one member from any one chapter. No member of this committee whose term is expiring shall be re-elected to this committee. This committee shall annually nominate a candidate for each elective district office, for National Trustee, and for, when appropriate, for Vice President General nominee. Its nominating report shall be mailed first class, hand delivered, or sent via email to the secretary not less than 28 days prior to the date of the annual meeting. The secretary shall ensure that the report of the nominating committee is posted on the website of the State Society and mailed or emailed to the current officers and chapter presidents not less than 21 days prior to the Annual Meeting.

Section 2. Other nominations may be made, but only by written notice signed by ten members of the Society from three or more chapters. If any nominee shall be unable or refuses to serve, or shall be found to be ineligible, nominations to fill the office shall be made from the floor of the annual meeting.

Section 3. At any election, each delegate to the Annual Meeting present and in good standing shall have one vote for each office to be filled. Voting shall be in the following manner:

a) Cumulative voting is prohibited.

b) Election to an uncontested office may be effected by a supported motion and voice vote.

c) Election to a contested office shall be effected by ballot, unsigned and cast in person. and the results shall be tabulated and announced to the members before the close of the meeting.

d) In the event no candidate for an office receives the majority of votes cast for that office, a runoff election shall be held between the two candidates receiving the most votes in the first election.

Section 4. The election of officers shall be held during the first session of the Annual Meeting. Those officers elected shall assume their offices following the installation of officers held during the second session during the Annual Meeting.

Section 5. The Board of Management shall nominate Delegates-at-Large to the National Congress, and upon election, the Secretary shall certify the name of such delegates to the ensuing Annual Congress of the National Society.

ARTICLE XI – FEES AND DUES

Section 1. Each application for membership in this Society shall be accompanied by an initiation fee and dues in the amounts stated in the By-Laws.

Section 2. The following male applicants, provided they are eligible and acceptable to membership under the Constitution of this Society, shall be exempt from the payment of an initiation fee, but shall pay the prescribed fee for his certificate of membership and the annual dues as provided in the By-laws.

(a) A son of a member of the Society, or the National Society of the Daughters of the American Revolution, who, at the time of such son's application is in good standing; or, if deceased, was at the time of his or her death, in good standing in such societies; if elected to membership before attaining the age of twenty-five years.

(b) A male member of the National Societies of the Children of the American Revolution, the Children of the Revolution, or the Washington Guards, who, not later than one year after his twenty-first birthday, presents a valid transfer card to the Society.

(c) A member of the General Society of the Sons of the Revolution, who, at the time of application for membership, is in good standing in such society.

Section 3. Any member on active military shall be exempt from payment of annual dues. His national dues shall be paid by the West Virginia Society and his state and chapter dues shall be waived.

Section 4. All membership dues shall be based on the calendar year. Each Chapter shall collect such dues and remit the State and National dues to the State Treasurer not later than December 31st of the current year. All other fees collected in relation to the business of the Society shall be paid to the State Treasurer at the time of the transaction.

Section 5. Any member who has been suspended for non-payment of dues of who has resigned from membership in the Society, may be reinstated upon written application and payment of such sum as shall be fixed by the Board of Management, and the reinstatement fee due the National Society. If, in the opinion of the chapter committee or state committee on membership, the applicant for reinstatement is not personally acceptable to the society, the application shall be referred to the State Board of Management for its decision, which shall be by written ballot, three-fourths vote being required to elect.

Section 6. The annual dues of chapter members shall be paid to the Chapter Treasurer and the annual dues of the members-at-large shall be paid to the State Treasurer. A final settlement for each and every member enrolled and not previously accounted for shall be made by the State Treasurer not later than December 31st of each year.

Section 7. Any member whose dues shall remain in arrears on December 31 shall be moved to the inactive roll in accordance with the procedures of the National Society.

Section 8. Upon the transfer of a member-at-large to a chapter, the State Society shall be entitled to the current year's dues of said member.

Section 9. In the event fees and/or dues are either waived, increased, or decreased by the National Society, such act will automatically waive, increase, or decrease the amount collected by the State Society, or its chapters for payment to the National Society.

Section 10. Applicants elected to membership within sixty days of the end of the calendar year, and who have paid the initiation fee and annual dues prescribed herein, shall not be liable for the payment of dues for the year following their admission.

Section 11. The annual dues paid to the State Society, or any portion thereof, may be remitted by the State Board of Management in individual cases where the Board may deem such action justified; however, no general remission of dues shall be made for any reason.

Section 12. The Society shall pay any dues assessed by Central District.

ARTICLE XII – PROPERTY

Section 1. All property of the State Society, whether purchased by, created by, or created for it; whether real, personal, or mixed; and including documents of any form or nature shall be deemed the sole property of the West Virginia Society. Such property, whether in the possession of the State Society, any of its Chapters, or any member, shall be subject to and governed exclusively by the West Virginia Society's Constitution and Bylaws. Any individual claim of ownership contrary to this provision is null and void.

ARTICLE XIII– TRUST AND ENDOWMENT FUND

The Trust and Endowment Fund may be established by the State Society. It is a special fund to receive, administer and invest funds which may be donated to it. The donations may be donated for specific purposes according to the desires of the donor. It shall be administered by the Board of Management of the State Society. An annual report of the financial condition of the fund shall be presented each year to the Annual meeting of the West Virginia Society for the meeting's approval.

ARTICLE XIV – FISCAL YEAR

Section 1. The fiscal year of the West Virginia Society of the Sons of the American Revolution shall begin on the first day of January and end on the thirty-first day of the following December. The fiscal year of each Chapter shall be established by the Chapter.

ARTICLE XV – PARLIAMENTARY AUTHORITY

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

ARTICLE XVI - AMENDMENTS

Section 1. The Constitution may be amended by two-thirds vote of the members present and voting at an annual meeting of the Society, or a special meeting called for such purpose, provided the proposed amendment has been submitted in writing ten (10) days prior to the meeting day of such annual or special meeting and a copy thereof mailed to the Secretary of each chapter and to each member-at-large.

ARTICLE XV - ADOPTION

Section 1. This Constitution shall be in force and effect upon adoption; and all Articles and sections of Articles in conflict herewith are hereby repealed.