



ROA – The Department of Michigan

CONSTITUTION (Proposed 9 November 2023)

Article I - NAME

1.1 Name. The name of this organization is The Reserve Organization of America - The Department of Michigan, and doing business as ROA-Michigan

1.2 Short Reference. The Reserve Organization of America - Department of Michigan may be referred to in this Constitution or in the Bylaws adopted hereunder as ROA – MI. It represents The State of Michigan as a Department of The Reserve Organization of America – National, which may be referenced as ROA – National.

Article II – PURPOSE

The purpose of ROA-MI is to support and promote ROA – National in the development and execution of military policy for the United States that will provide adequate national security. The Constitution and By-Laws of ROA – National may be referenced for additional details.

Article III - MEMBERSHIP

Section 1: Membership Types — There shall be the following types of membership:

1. Military Membership — Any currently serving, retired or former member of the federal uniformed services (as defined in 10 U.S.C. § 101), who at any time upon entering the federal uniformed services took an oath to uphold the Constitution of the United States, and, if no longer serving, whose separation occurred under honorable conditions, is eligible for membership.
2. Spousal Membership — Spouses, widows, and widowers of anyone eligible for military membership in the Reserve Organization of America are eligible for membership.
3. Associate Membership — Any individual who qualifies for Military membership, is under 35 years of age, and has not previously been a member of the association, is eligible for Associate membership.

(a) Term — A prospect is eligible for Associate membership for a maximum of five years, or until the age of 35.

(b) Rights/Privileges — Associate members shall have all the rights and privileges of Military members except serving as an elected or appointed officer, national voting, and receiving printed publications.

4, Honorary Life Memberships — The Executive Committee may award not more than five persons each year as honorary life members, with not more than two of those awarded being members of the uniformed services. Selection of honorary life members shall be based upon outstanding service rendered to the cause of national security.

(a) Rights/Privileges — Honorary life members shall have all the rights and privileges of Military members except serving as an elected or appointed officer.

5. Life Membership -- Military members, who pay to the ROA-National a fee determined by the ROA-National in accordance with the ROA-National Constitution, shall be classified as Life Members and shall be forever exempt from the payment of further dues.

Article IV - ORGANIZATION of DEPARTMENT

4.1 Service Sections. ROA – MI shall be organized into three service sections: Army, Naval Services, and Air Force. Each member of the Department shall be a member of the service section in which they served. The Naval Services Section shall include the Naval Services, Coast Guard, Marine Corps, Public Health Service and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration. The Air Force Section shall include the Air Force and Space Force. All references in this Constitution or the Bylaws adopted hereunder to the Naval Services and Air Force shall be deemed to include the Coast Guard, the Public Health Service National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, and Space Force.

4.2 Chapters. ROA -MI can be organized into local Chapters within the State of Michigan. The territorial limits of the Chapters shall be determined by the Executive Council (EC).

Article V – ROA-MI DEPARTMENT STATE CONFERENCE

5.1 Date and Place. An ROA-MI Convention shall be convened annually at least thirty (30) days prior to the announced date of the ROA-National Convention. The date and place shall be determined by the Executive Council (EC).

5.2 Department Delegates. All ROA-MI members shall be entitled to attend any ROA-MI Convention.

5.3 Votes. ROA-MI Convention voting will be determined by the EC.

5.4 Special Department Conventions. Special ROA-MI Conventions may be called by the EC.

5.5 Service Section Meetings. Service Sections may have individual meetings at the Department Convention.

5.6 Quorum. A quorum of a ROA-MI Convention shall exist whenever members of all service sections are represented either in person or virtually. In the event a service section is absent a quorum will be considered exist so long as due notice of the convention was given.

5.7 National Delegates. The delegates to the ROA-National Convention will be determined by the EC.

Article VI - POLICY

The ROA-MI shall not take any action in violation of the ROA-National Constitution or Bylaws, nor take any public action inconsistent with those policies established by adoption of resolutions as mandated by the ROA - National Convention, by the National Councilor, or by the National Executive Committee.

Article VII - ROA-MI DEPARTMENT OFFICERS

7.1 Elected Officers. The elected officers of ROA-MI will consist of the following: President; Vice President and Junior Vice President for Army Affairs; Vice President and Junior Vice President for Naval Services Affairs; and Vice President and Junior Vice President for Air Force Affairs. The Department Vice President whose service section is next in rotation to fill the presidency shall be designated as the Executive Vice president.

7.2 Election of Officers. At the ROA-MI Department Convention members shall elect every other year all of the elected officers to hold offices for two years, or until their successors have been duly elected and qualified.

7.3 Presidential Rotation. The office of Department President shall be rotated in the following order: (1) Army, (2) Naval Services, and (3) Air Force, unless the Department Convention by a three-fourths (3/4) vote, shall elect a Department President out of the normal service rotation order; in which event, the rotation of the Department President shall be suspended for two (2) years. At the next succeeding Department Convention electing a Department President and Section Vice Presidents, the Service Section of the Department, whose right to rotation was suspended the preceding election year shall be entitled to such rotation without qualification. Any Service Section may voluntarily waive its right to the rotation, in which case the Service Section shall not be entitled to the rotation right until the following regular turn in rotation.

7.4 Nominations. Each Service Section will nominate an appropriate candidate for Vice President, Junior Vice President, and Executive Councilman.

7.5 Appointed Officers. The ROA-MI President will appoint, with the confirmation of the EC: Secretary-Treasurer, Public Affairs Officer, Computer Information Officer, ROTC Liaison Officer, and Membership Chairman. In addition, the President can appoint, at their discretion, a Department Chaplain, or other needed appointments.

7.6 Vacancies. In the event of a vacancy of any Department Officer, other than the Department President, the vacancy will be filled by the members of the EC. Any person appointed to fill a vacancy shall serve for the remainder of the unexpired term. In the event of a presidential vacancy, the vacancy will be filled by the Department Vice President for the same service section as the department president. In the event both the President and vice president of the same service section are unable to serve then the department Executive Vice president will assume the role of President. This shall not constitute a term of office other than a completion of the duly elected president that they replace.

Article VIII - ROA-MI EXECUTIVE COUNCIL (EC)

8.1 Power and Authority. The ROA-MI EC will have full power and authority to act for ROA-MI between Department Conventions on all matters pertaining to ROA-MI. Any action taken by the EC must be consistent with the provisions of this Constitution or the Bylaws adopted hereunder, or with actions taken by the ROA-National.

8.2 Membership. The Department EC shall be composed of the ROA-MI Officers designated in 7.1 Elected Officers above or as appointed by the EC.

Article IX - FINANCE

9.1 Fiscal Year. The fiscal year of ROA-MI will begin on the first (1) day of April and end the last day (31) of March. There shall be a report at the close of the fiscal year regarding the ROA-MI books by the Secretary-Treasurer, whose report shall be submitted to the EC.

9.2 Revenue. The revenue of ROA-MI will be derived from that portion of national membership dues allocated to ROA-MI and from other sources as may be approved by the EC.

9.3 Dues and Chapter Rebates. Membership dues shall be those provided for in the National ROA Constitution.

9.4 Obligation. The President may authorize expenditures up to \$1000. For amounts greater than \$1000, the ROA-MI Department can only be obligated financially by the specific authorization of the EC.

9.5 Budget. The EC of the out-going Administration shall present a proposed written budget for the next fiscal year at the Department Convention. Such budget shall be approved by the EC at the meeting prior to the Department Convention. The budget may be amended throughout the year by a vote of the EC.

Article X – Governing Documents

10.1 Constitution Amendment and Revision. This Constitution may be amended or revised at any Department Convention by a three-fourths (3/4) affirmative vote, provided that the proposed amendment or revision has been submitted to the Chapters at least 30 days prior to the date of such Convention. In the case of a complete revision of this Constitution, all prior Constitutions, and amendments thereto are automatically revoked and shall become null and void immediately upon the adoption of the revised Constitution.

10.2 Bylaws.

Appropriate Bylaws to carry out the provisions of this Constitution may be adopted or amended by a two-thirds (2/3) affirmative vote of any Department Convention, provided notice thereof has been submitted to the members at least 30 days prior to the date of said convention. In the case of a complete revision of any Bylaws adopted hereunder, all prior By-Laws adopted, and amendments thereto are automatically revoked and shall become null and void immediately upon the adoption of the revised Bylaws.

10.3 Maintenance. The revised Constitution and Bylaws must be approved by the EC before publication. The approval or publication date of the revised document must be clearly visible on the front page of the document.

10.4 Captions. Section, subdivision, and paragraph captions in this Constitution or the By-Laws are for reference purposes only and have no effect in interpreting the provisions. The EC can change or insert appropriate captions to each section, subdivision and paragraph of this Constitution and the Bylaws.

Note: An EXCOM Zoom Meeting was convened 9 Nov. 2023 at which time the EXCOM additional comments and approved the wording of the proposed Bylaws. The EXCOM Members included: LTC Jack Bronka, LTC Graydon Dimkoff, LTC Donald Gates, LTC Scott Murdock, CAPT Ventzel Potochik, CDR James Semerad, COL Keith Souse, COL Charles Thornell, Jr., and LTC Louis Wilson.



WRITING GUIDANCE

09 March 2021

The guidance for writing the updated ROA-MI Constitution and By-Laws is as follows:

1. Start with the most current (2019) ROA-National Constitution and Bylaws as a guide. When editing the drafts, compare them to the ROA-National documents.
2. Re-write the ROA-National versions down to the State of Michigan Chapter level.
3. Because so much was re-written from the old undated present ROA-MI documents, rather than just modifying a word or sentence and high lighting the change, the simplest method was to just re-write the whole documents, and then compare to the ROA-Nationals. The “high lighting the changes” method would result in a cumbersome draft of double the size.
4. When writing the documents, keep in mind that ROA-MI is presently operating with only one Chapter in the entire state. But, keep the option open that it may grow to one or more chapters if future membership increases.
5. Keep it short. Use simple language and acronyms for brevity.
6. Describe specific purpose. (See Constitution Article II. Purpose.)
7. If additional drafts are made or changes added, make a note of the date at the top of the document. We need to keep the number of new drafts to a minimum to avoid confusion. Send changes and comments to one point-of-contact, Lou Wilson.

Note: A Zoom meeting was convened 5 Oct 2023 to review and revise the 9 March 2021 Draft. In attendance were LTC Jack Bronka (Air Force), LTC Scott Murdock (Army), CDR Jim Semerad (Navy), and LTC Louis Wilson (Army). Constitution and Bylaws references used included the current ROA-National, undated existing ROA- MI, 9 March 2021 ROA-MI draft, and current operating procedures.

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