



SONS OF THE AMERICAN LEGION

Squadron 97

CONSTITUTION AND BY-LAWS

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The Preamble to the S.A.L. National Constitution

Proud possessors of a priceless heritage, we male descendants of Veterans of the Great Wars, associate ourselves together as "Sons of The American Legion" for the following purposes: To uphold and defend the Constitution of the United States of America; to maintain law and order; to foster and perpetuate a true spirit of Americanism; to preserve the memories of our former members and the associations of our members and our forefathers in the Great Wars; to inculcate a sense of individual obligation to the community, state and nation; to combat the autocracy of both the classes and masses; to make right the master of might; to promote peace and good will on earth; to safeguard and transmit to posterity the principles of justice, freedom and democracy; to consecrate and sanctify our friendship by our devotion to mutual helpfulness; to adopt in letter and spirit all of the great principles for which The American Legion stands; and to assist in carrying on for God and Country.

ARTICLE I NAME

The name of this organization shall be The Sons of the American Legion Squadron 97 ("SAL Squadron 97" or "The Squadron"), attached to the Joe Foss American Legion Post 97, San Tan Valley, Arizona.

ARTICLE II NATURE

Section 1. The Sons of The American Legion is a civilian organization. Membership therein does not affect nor increase the liability for military or police service.

Section 2. The Sons of The American Legion shall be non-political and shall not be used for the dissemination of partisan principles nor the promotion of the candidacy of any person or group seeking public office or preferment.

Section 3. The Sons of The American Legion shall be non-sectarian.

Section 4. Each member shall perform his full duty as a citizen according to his conscience and understanding following the law.

ARTICLE III ELIGIBILITY

All male descendants adopted sons, and stepsons of members of The American Legion, and such male descendants of veterans who died in service during the period of April 6, 1917, through November 11, 1918, or any time from December 7, 1941, to date, who served honorably, as set forth in Article IV, Section 1, of the National Constitution of The American Legion, or who died subsequent to their honorable discharge from such service, shall be eligible for membership in the Sons of The American Legion.

ARTICLE IV MEMBERSHIP

Section 1: Membership applications will be made in writing on SAL applications prescribed therefore by the National Organization.

Section 2: All SAL applications for membership shall be acted upon at the next meeting of the Executive Board (E-Board) following the making of such SAL application. The E-Board shall review such application at its next regular Squadron meeting with its recommendation for acceptance or rejection. If 3 or more E-Board members cast their vote against the acceptance of such applicant, then such applicant shall be recorded as rejected.

Article V DUES

The Annual Membership Dues of this Squadron shall be decided yearly (prior to April 15), payable on October of each year. Dues are broken down to Regular Member, Dual Member and Junior Members.

ARTICLE VI NOMINATION AND ELECTION OF OFFICERS

Section 1: The Squadron Commander shall notify all SAL Squadron 97 members in March that nominations will take place in April and May with the vote to follow in the May regular meeting. Communication will be made via post signage, post website, newsletter, and/or email.

Section 2: At the regular meeting in April the first nomination for officers will take place. Any Squadron member may present the name of another Squadron member for nomination to any office to be filled, for which such Squadron member has not been nominated and accepted, once seconded and upon the acceptance by the Squadron and nominated member, the Adjutant will enter said nomination on the election ballot.

Section 2a: All members who are placed for nomination must accept the nomination by voice at the meeting or in writing within 5 days of the meeting.

Section 2b: The exception to this rule is write-in votes, a line for write-in votes shall be added to each office to be filled on the ballot.

Section 3: Absentee ballots shall not be accepted.

Section 4: An officer, (Squadron Commander, Area, or Detachment Representative), other than Squadron 97, to be present at the May meeting for the officiating of election.

Section 5: The officers shall be declared elected who have by secret ballot or by acclamation received a majority of the votes of the Squadron members in good standing present at the May meeting.

Section 6: The newly elected officers and appointed officers of the E-Board shall be installed at the next regular squadron meeting or installations, by proper authority and shall commence on July 1st.

ARTICLE VII DUTIES OF OFFICERS

Section I: Commander: The Commander, who corresponds to the President of an organization, shall be the executive head of this Squadron of the Sons of the American Legion, with full power to enforce the provisions of the local Constitution and By-Laws and the policies and mandates of the National and the Department Committees of the Sons of The American Legion and the E-Board of the Squadron.

Section 2: Sr. Vice Commander: The Sr. Vice Commander, who corresponds to the First Vice President of a Squadron, shall act as the representative of the Commander on all matters referred to him and shall specifically be in charge of membership. He shall perform such other duties as are usually incident to the office.

Section 3: Jr. Vice Commander: The Jr. Vice Commander, who corresponds to the Second Vice President, shall likewise act as the representative of the Commander, and

he shall specifically be in charge of Squadron activities. He shall perform such other duties as are usually incident to the office.

Section 4: Adjutant: The Adjutant, who corresponds to the Secretary of an organization, shall be charged with the administrative duties required in carrying out the policies and mandates of the National and Department Committees of the Sons of The American Legion and the E-Board of this Squadron.

Section 5: Finance Officer: The Finance Officer shall be the custodian of the funds of the Squadron. He shall be charged with receiving and disbursing the funds of the Squadron and shall make reports on the condition of the Squadron treasury when called for by the Commander or E-Board. He shall perform such other duties as are usually incident to the office. He shall ensure that all funds are held in a federally insured financial institution, and name.

Section 6: Sergeant-at-Arms: Sergeant-at-Arms shall be charged with the responsibility of preserving order at Squadron meetings and he shall be given custody of the Squadron Colors. He should perform such other duties as are usually incident to the office.

Section 7: Chaplain: The Chaplain shall perform such divine and non-sectarian services as may be necessary, adhering to such ceremonial rituals as may be prescribed by the National Membership and Post Activities Committee of The American Legion.

Section 8: Historian: The Historian shall collect from year to year all records and data of value and interest to the Sons of The American Legion and The American Legion and shall compile during his term of office a complete history of the year's activities.

ARTICLE VIII STANDING COMMITTEES

Upon recommendation of the Squadron Commander, the E-Board shall appoint such standing committees (term-limited) as it shall deem advisable for the benefit of the membership of the Squadron as a whole.

ARTICLE IX MEETINGS

Section 1: The regular stated meeting of this Squadron shall be held on the 1st Saturday of each and every month, except when a holiday occurs.

Section 2: Special meetings shall be called upon a majority vote of the E-Board or upon the written request of ten Squadron members.

Section 3: Every member's responsibility shall be to furnish to the Adjutant his address and phone number, to which all notices and documents may be sent, and the same shall be held to have been duly sent to or served upon a member if mailed to such address so furnished. In default of an address having been furnished by a Squadron

member, any notice or documents will be held to have been duly served upon such member five days after the same shall have been deposited in the local post office addressed to such member at such post office address.

Section 4: Notice of all special meetings of the Squadron shall be communicated via post signage, post website, and/or email, seven calendar days before the holding of such meeting.

Section 5: The notice of special meetings shall state the object and purpose thereof, and no business shall be transacted at such special meeting except for such business as is contained in the notice thereof.

ARTICLE X QUORUM

Section 1: Three members, and an elected presiding officer (Squadron Commander, Sr. Vice Commander, Jr. Vice Commander), shall constitute a quorum at any meeting of the Squadron.

Section 2: Three members of the E-Board shall constitute a quorum for the legal transaction of business.

ARTICLE XI FINANCES

All funds of this Squadron shall be deposited in a bank by the Post Finance Officer. Withdrawals shall only be made by check signed by the Finance Officer, and/or Post Commander.

ARTICLE XII RULES OF ORDER

Roberts' Rules of Order shall govern the procedure at all Squadron meetings.

ARTICLE XIII DISCIPLINE

The Commander and E-Board in executive session shall act upon any disciplinary action. Action taken shall be reported at the next regular membership meeting.

ARTICLE XIV AMENDMENTS

Section 1: These By-Laws are adopted, subject to the provisions of the National By-Laws and the Detachment By-Laws, of which this Squadron is a subordinate member. Any amendment to the National or Detachment By-Laws that conflicts with any provision hereof shall be regarded as automatically repealing or modifying the provisions of these By-Laws to the extent of such conflict.

Section 2: These By-Laws may be amended at any regular Squadron meeting by vote of two-thirds of the members attending such regular meeting, provided that the proposed

amendment shall have been submitted in writing and read at the immediate preceding Squadron meeting, and provided further, that written notice shall have been given to all members at least five days in advance of the date when such amendment is to be voted upon, notifying said members that at such meeting a proposal to amend the By-laws is to be voted upon.

ARTICLE XV – SOCIAL MEDIA AND THE INTERNET

Section 1. Social Media Guidelines. All members of this post and all participants in the programs of this post are required to adhere to the Social Media Guidelines promulgated by the Department of Arizona.

Section 2. Ownership of Domain Names and Social Media Accounts. Applicants for social media accounts and registrants of domain names for this post or its programs are serving as agents of this post and ownership of these accounts and domain names are vested in the post. Applicants or registrants should obtain approval from the Post Executive Committee to establish a domain name or social media account. Applicants or registrants shall, upon demand, transfer the account or domain name to another individual designated by the Post Executive Committee.

STATEMENT OF POLICY

There can be no conflict or fundamental differences between the Constitution, Bylaws, Officers, Offices, resolutions and policies of The American Legion and the Sons of The American Legion. Should any difference arise then the provisions of The American Legion, wherever applicable, shall cover any differences and conflict and the conflicting facts of the Sons of The American Legion shall be deemed void. Let us remember that we are part of The American Legion and subject to their supervision and shall cause no conflict nor dissention amongst its members. Let us further remember that we are an organization that expects respect and acts accordingly.

The Sons of The American Legion is a legally constituted organization, instituted and recognized by official action of The American Legion in National Convention, assembled and empowered by their National Executive Committee to assume complete authority over this organization. This authority was assumed, fully accepted and approved May 4-5, 1933. The present National Constitution and Bylaws were presented and approved at the first National Convention of the Sons of The American Legion assembled in Chicago, Illinois, August 19-20, 1972 and have been amended since by subsequent National Conventions.

It must be constantly remembered that each Squadron and Detachment exists through sponsorship of the local authority of The American Legion and is subject to such rules, regulations and supervision as shall be deemed necessary by that local authority but not to in any way exceed that authority granted the local authority granted by action of the National Executive Committee of the American Legion. We shall not be in conflict with rules, regulations and supervision as set up by that same National Executive Committee of The American Legion.

DETACHMENT CERTIFICATE

These Constitution and By-Laws were voted on and approved by the Membership at the on March 15, 2024.