



SONS OF THE  
AMERICAN  
LEGION

# SONS OF THE AMERICAN LEGION DETACHMENT OF ARIZONA CONSTITUTION



Revised 2024, approved by the Detachment of Arizona 06/22/2024,  
The American legion Department of Arizona Executive Committee 06/23/2024,  
at State Convention 2024, Oro Valley, Arizona.

Filed with The American Legion, Office of the National Sons of The American Legion National Adjutant June 2024.

# **Detachment of Arizona Constitution**

## **Preamble**

Proud possessors of a priceless heritage, we male descendants of veterans of ALL Wars, associate 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 ALL 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 goodwill 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**

### **Section 1.**

The name of this organization is, "Sons of The American Legion, Detachment of Arizona".

### **Section 2.**

The Detachment Headquarters of the Detachment of Arizona is located at the same site as the Department of Arizona.

## **Article II Nature**

### **Section 1.**

Sons of The American Legion, Detachment of Arizona is a civilian organization. Membership therein does not affect, nor increase liability for military or police service.

### **Section 2.**

Sons of The American Legion, Detachment of Arizona, is absolutely non-political and will not be used neither for the dissemination of partisan principles nor for promotion of any person or group seeking public office of preferment.

### **Section 3.**

Sons of The American Legion, Detachment of Arizona is non-sectarian.

### **Section 4.**

Each member performs his full duties as a citizen according to his own conscience and understanding according to the Law.

### **Section 5.**

All actions of Sons of The American Legion, Detachment of Arizona are subject to approval by the Department Executive Committee of The American Legion, Department of Arizona

## **Article III Organization**

### **Section 1.**

The "Detachment Executive Committee". The Detachment Executive Committee is composed of Elected Officers of the Detachment plus the Past Detachment Commanders, and non-voting staff officers referenced by the Constitution and By Laws of this Detachment. Quorum is established at forty percent or more of the total Voting Detachment Executive Committee members present to effect action on any motion placed before the Detachment Executive Committee.

### **Section 2.**

A Roll Call for vote includes all Detachment Elected Officers and Past Detachment Commanders, and non-voting staff officers referenced by the Constitution and By Laws of this Detachment. Voting members, one person, one vote, no matter how many positions a member may hold.

#### **Detachment Roll Call:**

Detachment Commander  
Detachment Vice Commander, Area A  
Detachment Vice Commander, Area B  
Detachment Vice Commander, Area C  
National Executive Committeeman  
Alternate National Executive Committeeman  
Detachment Chaplain  
Detachment Past Detachment Commanders  
Detachment Adjutant – Non-Voting  
Detachment Assistant Adjutant – Non-Voting  
Detachment Finance Officer – Non-Voting  
Detachment Sgt at Arms – Non-Voting  
Detachment Assistant Sgt At arms – Non-Voting  
Detachment Judge Advocate – Non-Voting  
Detachment Honorary Commander

### **Section 3.**

Each Post of The American Legion may sponsor no more than (1) Squadron of Sons of The American Legion. With the approval of the Department of Arizona. Squadrons sponsored by the Posts must be organized in Areas, under the Detachment Organization and must be in accordance with Department guidelines, within regulations of the National Executive Committee of The American Legion and the National Constitution & Bylaws of the Sons of The American Legion.

### **Section 4.**

Sons of The American Legion is organized on a local basis, under a sponsoring Post and bears the name of said sponsoring Post as follows: "Sons of The American Legion, Squadron of Post #, Detachment of Arizona".

### **Section 5.**

Detachment organization retains jurisdiction over all Squadrons and Areas, within the geographical area and within the guidelines set up by the Detachment of Arizona, as regulated by the Department of Arizona.

## **Article III Organization**

Continued

### **Section 6.**

Sons of The American Legion, Detachment of Arizona, is regulated by such rules as prescribed by the National Executive Committee of The American Legion and as such restrictions prescribed by the Department of Arizona.

### **Section 7.**

All male descendants, adopted sons and stepsons of members of The American Legion and such male descendants of veterans who died in service, as set forth in Article 4, Section 1 of the National Constitution of The American Legion who died subsequent to their honorable discharge from such service must be eligible for membership in the Sons of The American Legion.

### **Section 8.**

There is no form or class of membership except an active membership.

## **Article IV General Membership Meeting**

### **Section 1.**

The Legislative Body of the Detachment of Arizona is the Detachment Convention, to be held annually in conjunction with the Department of Arizona American Legion. All acts of this Legislative body is subject to the approval of the Department Executive Committee of The American Legion.

### **Section 2.**

The Detachment Commander or his appointed representative issues a call letter to the General Membership Meetings no less than (60) sixty days prior to such meetings. This call is by letter and publication in such as is available to the Detachment of Arizona.

### **Section 3.**

Each Squadron is entitled to (1) one vote for their Squadron Charter and (1) one vote for each (10) ten members, or major part thereof, with such membership is received by Detachment no less than (30) thirty days prior to such called meetings. Squadrons that have not paid their (10) ten memberships, not less than (30) days prior to the called Convention, are ineligible to vote. Each Squadron is entitled to (1) one alternate for each delegate registered at said meeting. A Registered delegate is one who has paid such a fee as required and has received his credentials. When a registration fee is required and not paid by such a delegate, then said delegate is ineligible to vote and his Squadron forfeits the right to vote. All delegates and alternates receive all privileges if registration fee as required is paid. The vote of all absent delegates can be cast by their alternates, if sufficient numbers of alternates are present, then the majority of that delegation can cast such votes as that Squadron is entitled.

### **Section 4.**

Delegates from (5) five Squadrons constitutes a quorum.

### **Section 5.**

All Past-Detachment Commanders are delegates to the General Meetings and have (1) one vote, to be cast with their respective Squadrons. The elected Detachment Officers are automatic delegates to the General Meeting, and are entitled to one (1) vote, to be cast with their respective Squadrons. Past Detachment Commanders and currently elected Detachment Officers are entitled to cast one (1) vote on any issue before the body.

## **Article V**

### **Detachment Officers**

#### **Section 1.**

The Detachment Convention elects a Detachment Commander and three Detachment Vice Commanders. The Vice Commanders are elected according to Areas A, B and C to conform with that of the Department of Arizona, further that elections include a National Executive Committeeman, an Alternate National Executive Committeeman, and a Detachment Chaplain. If any position of an elected nature should have no candidate, then the newly elected Detachment Commander with the approval of the Detachment Executive Committee, appoints such officers as required. All elected and appointed officers are subject to approval by the Department of Arizona Executive Committee.

#### **Section2.**

The following officers are recommended for appointment by the Detachment Commander, and approved by the Detachment Executive Committee at the Detachment Organizational Meeting; Detachment Sergeant at Arms, Detachment Judge Advocate, Detachment Historian and Detachment Committee Chairman.

#### **Section2a.**

The position of Detachment Adjutant is recommended and appointed by the Detachment Executive Committee as needed to a 5-year term of service in the position with renewal as per the Detachment Executive Committees discretion. The Detachment Adjutant Corps consist of one (1) Adjutant and up to two (2) assistant Adjutants, but no less than one (1) Assistant Adjutant is suggested be serving at any time. Assistant Adjutants serve in 1-year terms or remaining thereof, with renewal as per the Detachment Executive Committees discretion. Assistant Adjutants assist the Adjutant as needed and are in training for future role as Adjutant. The sitting Adjutant with approval of the Detachment Executive Committee, is allowed to pick the main Assistant Adjutant from the Assistant Adjutants appointed by the Detachment Executive Committee and has voice in Assistant Adjutant appointments by the Detachment Executive Committee.

#### **Section2b.**

The position of Detachment Finance Officer is recommended and appointed by the Detachment Executive Committee as needed to a 5-year term of service in the position with renewal as per the Detachment Executive Committees discretion. The Detachment Finance Corps consist of one (1) Finance Officer and up to two (2) Assistant Finance Officers, but no less than one (1) Assistant Finance Officer is suggested be serving at any time. Assistant Finance Officers serve in 1-year terms or remaining thereof, with renewal as per the Detachment Executive Committees discretion. Assistant Finance Officers assist the Finance Officer as needed and are in training for future role as Finance Officer. The sitting Finance Officer with approval of the Detachment Executive Committee, is allowed to pick the main Assistant Finance Officer from the Assistant Finance Officers appointed by the Detachment Executive Committee and has voice in Assistant Finance Officer appointments by the Detachment Executive Committee.

#### **Section 3.**

In the event of a vacancy in the office of Detachment Commander, such vacancy is filled by the Detachment Executive Committee by elevating one of the Detachment Vice Commanders to that office for the remainder of the term. In the event of a vacancy in the office of Detachment Vice Commander, either by elevation to Commander or any other contingency, such vacancy is filled by election at a meeting of three (3) Squadrons that will constitute a quorum of that Area upon call by the Detachment Commander, such meeting to be presided over by the Detachment Commander. All other vacancies will be filled by appointment by the Department Commander with the approval of the Detachment Executive Committee subject to approval by the Department Executive Committee.

## **Article V Detachment Officers**

Continued

### **Section 4.**

The sponsoring POST Commander and/or the sponsoring POST Adjutant must approve all endorsements for the Detachment elected officers. No nomination will be accepted from the floor of the Detachment Convention without the sponsoring POST endorsement. All such endorsements are sent to the Chairman of the Nominating Committee and the Detachment Adjutant no later than (30) thirty days prior to Detachment Convention, excepting those offered from the Convention floor, with the proper endorsement from the sponsoring post. No nomination will be accepted without said endorsement.

### **Section 5.**

All elected Detachment Officers will be installed at a joint installation with The American Legion on the closing day of the Department Convention. Detachment Officers are not considered installed until approval by the Department Executive Committee of The American Legion. This joint installation is considered part of the called Detachment Convention and a requirement of office for all Detachment Officers.

### **Section 6.**

Documented progress reports are due quarterly by elected Detachment Officers. These reports are submitted in writing describing the activities, important information and progress that has occurred and will occur within that officer's area of responsibility. These reports are presented to the Detachment membership at the Fall Conference, Spring Conference (Camp Out) and Detachment Convention.

## **Article VI Executive Committee**

### **Section 1.**

Any member of the Detachment Executive Committee, including the Detachment Commander, may be removed from office by a simple majority vote of said Detachment Executive Committee present for such offenses as non-performance of duties, or non-attendance of called Detachment meetings, or such other offenses as may be deemed removable by the Detachment Executive Committee or the Detachment Commander, and be ratified by the Detachment membership at the next General Membership Meeting. Removal of an officer is subject to approval by Department Executive Committee.

### **Section 2.**

Sons of The American Legion Detachment of Arizona recognizes individuals designated by the Department Commander of The American Legion, Department of Arizona, as the Department liaison and accepted by the Detachment Organization. Such person(s) serves as liaison only and has no voting privileges unless he is a member of Sons of The American Legion and appointed to such Committee or Commission by the Detachment Commander.

### **Section 3.**

The Department Commander and the Department Adjutant serves as ex-officio members of all Detachment Committees and Commissions as advisors to the Detachment Organization.

## **Article VI Executive Committee**

Continued

### **Section 4.**

Between Detachment meetings, the administrative power of the Detachment is vested in the Detachment Executive Committee for the current year.

### **Section 5.**

In fulfilling their duties and responsibilities, the Detachment Officers, elected and appointed, are responsible to the Detachment Executive Committee and to the Department Executive Committee.

## **Article VII Detachment Executive Committee**

### **Section 1.**

The Detachment Executive Committee meets 3 times annually. These are Detachment Fall Conference, Detachment Camp Out and Detachment Convention. Call letters are issued no later than 60 days prior of said meetings.

### **Section 2.**

The Detachment Executive Committee meets prior to each Detachment General Meeting to consider any resolutions, or business of an Executive nature and meets following the Detachment Convention to approve all appointments by the newly elected Commander. Actions of the Detachment Executive Committee are subject to the approval of the Department Executive Committee of The American Legion.

### **Section 3.**

Detachment Adjutant notifies the Detachment Commander of the results of the vote taken, with the verification by Detachment Executive Committee members.

The Detachment Executive Committee meets at the call of the Detachment Commander or on the written request of (3) three Squadrons at any time during that year for sufficient reasons.

## **Article VIII Detachment Organization**

### **Section 1.**

The Detachment of Arizona Sons of The American Legion conforms to all geographic restrictions set up by the Department of Arizona and in no way conflicts with said geographic restrictions.

### **Section 2.**

The Detachment of Arizona conforms to the limitations set up by the Department of Arizona. Such other elected officers of intermediary groups, such as Areas will conform to those limitations. Such intermediary groups as Areas, acts as liaison between Detachment organizations and the Squadrons, for the purpose of promoting the programs of the Sons of The American Legion.

### **Section 3.**

The Detachment Executive Committee defines such powers as these intermediary groups may be given, but intermediary groups are not authorized to determine policy of any Squadron, nor in the Detachment.

## **Article VIII**

### **Detachment Organization**

Continued

#### **Section 4.**

Intermediary groups such as Detachment Areas are subordinate to the Detachment Executive Committee and functions only so long as there are (3) three Squadrons active in their respective area. Three (3) Vice Commanders, one for each Area, is elected at the Detachment Convention by the entire Detachment sitting in called Convention, or by appointment of the Detachment Commander as earlier stated (Article V. Section 1), with ties to be broken according to Robert's Rules of Order. The Commander casts a vote according to Robert's Rules of Order.

## **Article IX**

### **Squadron Organization**

#### **Section 1.**

Those who desire to form a Squadron of Sons of The American Legion completes an approval application form for a charter at the Post Commander of their local post in the area in which they reside. Upon approval of the Post Commander, the application is forwarded to the Department Commander of the Arizona and upon his/her approval with signature, the signed application is forwarded to the National Headquarters of The American Legion, where the Charter may be issued by the National Commander and the National Adjutant of The American Legion in the same manner prescribed for the issuance of Charters for Posts of The American Legion. New Squadrons are not to be recognized by the Detachment until Squadron elections are held and the Squadron Officer Report Form (SORF) is submitted to Detachment.

#### **Section 2.**

The minimum membership for the formation of a Squadron of the Sons of The American Legions is ten (10) new members.

#### **Section 3.**

If any Squadron of the Sons of The American Legion remains inactive for a period of one (1) year, with less that the minimum of ten (10) members paid, then at the discretion of the Detachment Executive Committee, the Detachment Commander orders said charter suspended and their active membership is canceled and paid members transferred to the Detachment Headquarters Squadron 100. Failing to submit a Squadron Officer Report (SORF) and timely membership transmittals is considered "non-active" in which the Squadron loses its Squadron Charter by action of the Detachment Executive Committee.

#### **Section 4.**

There can be no more than (1) one Squadron of Sons of The American Legion in any post. Squadrons may be organized into sections according to age, but all sections must be active and have equal rights. (Reference Detachment Constitution, Article 3, Section 8).

#### **Section 5.**

Squadron Officers of Sons of The American Legion consists of a Commander, Vice Commander(s), Adjutant, Finance Officer, Chaplain, Sergeant at Arms, Historian and such other officers as deemed necessary. The Squadron First Vice Commander is to function as the Membership Chairman. Detachment does not recognize such officers, until a Squadron Officer Report Form (SORF) is submitted on a yearly basis thirty (30) days prior to Detachment Convention.



## **Article IX Squadron Organization**

Continued

### **Section 6.**

Squadron Officers are elected annually, or as stated in their respective Constitution & Bylaws and conforms to the dates selected by the sponsoring Post of The American Legion, as closely as possible. Squadron Officers elected are subject to the approval of the sponsoring Post of The American Legion. If a squadron is temporarily inactive, the Squadron Command and Squadron Adjutant may be appointed by the sponsoring Post Commander, provided such appointees are members of the Sons of The American Legion, maintain their membership with the Squadron and such appointments are reported to Detachment, in compliance with the requirements of the Squadron Officer Report Form (SORF).

### **Section 7.**

Squadron meetings are held no less than monthly in accordance with the ritual of the organization and Squadrons must follow the requirements of the Squadron Handbook.

### **Section 8.**

It is recommended the Squadron Handbook be used as a guide unless Post and Squadron Constitution, By-laws and Standing Rules state otherwise.

## **Article X Finance**

### **Section 1.**

The revenue of Sons of The American Legion, Detachment of Arizona is from annual dues and from such other sources as may be approved by the Department Executive Committee of The American Legion, or the person(s) as may be designated by the Department Commander of The American Legion.

### **Section 2.**

The amount of membership dues collected for each membership is \$11.00 collected by the Detachment in addition to those amounts collected by the National Sons of The American Legion Organization. The annual National and Detachment (in combination) per capita dues are collected by each Squadron and transmitted to the Detachment Headquarters Membership. The dues required by the National Organization are defined in resolution form and communicated to the Detachment when a change is approved by the Nation Executive Committee. (Resolution 1, Detachment Convention 2019) Such funds are transmitted to the officer charged with the custody of Detachment funds and are held separately from other funds of the Department. Any member not having paid dues by December 31<sup>st</sup> of said year, is in delinquent status and loses all such privileges as voting, etc.

### **Section 3.**

The individual Squadrons, with the approval of host post, determines the amount of such annual Squadron dues.

## **Article X Finance**

Continued

### **Section 4.**

The annual Detachment budget for the following fiscal year is prepared by the Detachment Finance Officer and the Detachment Adjutant and submitted to the Detachment Finance Committee. A Detachment Finance Committee meeting on the budget is to occur no less than two weeks before Detachment State Convention,

The Detachment Finance Committee is responsible for deliberation and approval of the submitted budget proposal. If the budget proposal is rejected it is sent back to the Finance Officer and Adjutant for revisions and resubmittal to the Finance Committee.

After approval by the Finance Committee the budget will be presented before the Department Finance Committee at State Convention by the Detachment Finance Officer and/or the Detachment Adjutant for Department Finance Committee review before being submitted to the Detachment Executive Committee.

The Detachment Executive Committee is responsible for deliberation and final budget approval (pending final approval of the DEC).

The Finance Committee will meet in advance of the Detachment Executive Committee meetings of Detachment State Convention, Detachment Fall Conference and the Detachment Camp Out to review report by the Detachment Finance Officer and/or the Detachment Adjutant (report as approved by the Department Adjutant Corps and/or the Department Finance Committee and/or the Department Finance Committee Chairman) and forward report to the Detachment Executive Committee on current financial state of the Detachment.

An annual report on Detachment Finances (report as approved by the Department Adjutant Corps and/or the Department Finance Committee and/or the Department Finance Committee Chairman) shall be given to the body at Detachment State Convention by the Detachment Finance Officer and/or the Detachment Adjutant.

Special Finance Committee meetings may be called by the Detachment Commander, the Detachment Adjutant, the Detachment Finance Officer or the Detachment Finance Committee Chairman as needed. The Department Adjutant Corps and/or the Department Finance Committee Chairman also may call a Detachment Finance Committee meeting to relay Department request to Detachment.

### **Section 5.**

There will not be more than (1) one member from any given Squadron serving on the Detachment Finance Committee.

## **Article XI Discipline**

### **Section 1.**

The Detachment Commander, in conjunction with the approval of the Detachment Executive Committee, may suspend, cancel, or revoke the Charter of any Squadron of Sons of The American Legion within its jurisdiction, in the event it violates the provisions of this Detachment Constitution & By-laws, said action subject to approval of the Department Executive Committee of The American Legion of Arizona.

### **Section 2.**

The cancellation or revocation of any Squadron Charter requires the 2/3rds vote of the Detachment Executive Committee and the approval of The American Legion Department Executive Committee.

## **Article XII Necessary Committees**

### **Section 1.**

This constitution sets the following necessary Detachment Committees;

- a. Americanism.
- b. Child Welfare Foundation.
- c. Campout.
- d. Membership.
- e. Trophies and Awards.

### **Section 2.**

This constitution authorizes the Detachment Commander, with approval of the Detachment Executive Committee to task the Officers and/or Chairmen appointed to said committees with appropriate duties and reporting requirements, or to form ad hoc committees for establishing rules and procedure manuals of said committees.

## **Article XIII Amendments**

### **Section 1.**

This constitution may be amended at any Detachment Convention by the Affirmative vote (2/3) two-thirds of the registered delegates there-at, subject to the ratification of the Department Executive Committee of The American Legion, wherein the Department of Arizona.

### **Section 2.**

The Detachment Constitution is subordinate to The American Legion National, Department of Arizona and National Sons of The American Legion Constitution and By-laws. Any amendment to this Constitution is subject to the same conditions. All conflicts of wording defers to the parent organization of which Detachment of Arizona is subordinate.

### **Revised Detachment Constitution submitted by:**

Sons of The American Legion, Constitution and Bylaws Committee 2024:

Committee Chairman – Jeff Frain, Detachment Judge Advocate, PNC, PDC

Committee Member – Ed Cleary, PNVC, PDC

Committee Member – Dennis Pittman, Detachment Adjutant

Committee Member – Mike Bryant, Detachment Membership Director, PDVC

Detachment Commander 2023-2024 – Chris Balsley

**Constitution submitted to:** Sons of The American Legion, Detachment of Arizona, signed and dated by the Constitution and Bylaws Committee Chairman on behalf of the Committee as a whole in recommending the approval and adoption of the attached Constitution by the Detachment of Arizona, subject to the approval of the Executive Committee of the Department of Arizona:

**Constitution, Bylaws and Standing Rules Committee:**

Dated and Signed by the Committee Chairman: Jeff Frain Jeff Frain,  
dated 21<sup>st</sup>, of June 2024.

**Executive Committee Detachment of Arizona:**

Constitution approved by Sons of The American Legion, Detachment of Arizona Executive Committee, in Executive Session, Tucson, Arizona dated 22<sup>nd</sup>, June 2024 and acknowledged approval by signature Detachment Commander:

Chris Balsley Chris Balsley, (Detachment Commander presiding)

**Detachment of Arizona:**

Constitution approved by Sons of The American Legion, Detachment of Arizona during the Detachment Convention, in General Membership Meeting, Tucson, Arizona, dated 22<sup>nd</sup>, June 2024 and acknowledged approval by signature Detachment Commander:

Chris Balsley Chris Balsley, (Detachment Commander presiding)

Attested June 22<sup>nd</sup>, Tucson, Arizona, by Detachment Adjutant:

Dennis Pittman Dennis Pittman, (Detachment Adjutant)

**Department of Arizona:**

Constitution approved within The American Legion, Department of Arizona protocols during regular meetings of the Department Executive Committee, Tucson, Arizona, dated 23<sup>rd</sup>, June, 2024 and acknowledged by signature of Department Commander

Steve Sperl Steve Sperl, (Department Commander presiding) and

Additionally, witness by the Department Adjutant Corps Walter,  
with signed originals distributed and filed with the following (A total of 10 signed originals of the approved Constitution with original signatures)

**Distributed to the following**

- Each person whose signature appears on this page receives a signed set with original signatures (5 original signed copies)
- Detachment of Arizona receives two signed sets with original signatures (2 original signed copies)
- Department of Arizona receives two signed sets with original signatures (2 original signed copies)
- Sons of The American Legion National Headquarters receives a signed set with original signatures (1 original copy)

**National Sons of The American Legion, SAL National Adjutant:** Constitution Mailed to: National Headquarters in care of the National Sons of The American Legion Adjutant of record.