

Veterans Club of Solivita



Bylaws

February 2023



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Article I. PURPOSES

The Veterans Club of Solivita is a 501(C)(19) organization with the following purposes:

Section 1 Promote Awareness

To promote awareness and interest in veterans' affairs including the role the US military plays in our national defense.

Section 2 Promote Education and Armed Forces Service

Encourage and assist local young people participating in the Junior Reserve Officer Training Corps. (JROTC) and those from military families to further their education and encourage these same young people to seek service in the Armed Forces.

Section 3 Assist Hospitalized and Shut-in Veterans

To provide entertainment, care, and assistance to hospitalized veterans. Support and encourage programs for veterans in local Veterans Affairs facilities.

Section 4 Honor Deceased Veterans

Provide social support to surviving spouses of deceased club members and/or veterans within Solivita.

Section 5 Sponsor Patriotic Activities

Sponsor and/or participate in community patriotic activities to promote awareness of the roles of our veterans and demonstrate national pride.

Section 6 Support Charities

To support local veteran and community not-for-profit charities.

Section 7 Provide Member Activities

To provide social and recreational activities for its members.

Article II. MEMBERSHIP

The membership categories are Members and Lifetime Members.

Section 1 Membership

The VCS accepts any resident of Solivita who has honorably served in any branch of the United States Military or a currently recognized allied armed forces. Acceptance is verified by presenting an appropriate record of service.

Section 2 Lifetime Membership

All members age 82 and older shall be granted Lifetime membership status and shall be exempt from paying annual dues.

Section 3 Dues

Members are obligated to pay annual dues before January 31st in an amount agreed upon by the membership. New members who join in November or December, shall have their dues applied as coverage for the upcoming year. Unpaid members will be dropped for the remainder of the year or until they re-join at a later date, it will be for the remainder of that calendar year only.

Section 4 Dismissal

A member may be dismissed from The Club for cause due to a conflict of interest, unethical/disruptive, or obstructs VCS activities. Removal requires a majority vote of the Board of Directors. Notification of dismissal will be by letter mailed to the last known address. The dismissed member has a right to appeal within 30 days of the date of the dismissal letter.

Article III. BOARD OF DIRECTORS

The Board of Directors is elected by the members:

Section 1 Name

The Board of Directors is elected by the membership and shall consist of a Commander, Executive Officer (XO), Admin Officer (AO), Assistant Admin Officer, Finance Officer (FO), Assistant Finance Officer, and a Sergeant at Arms. The board shall meet before all membership meetings to conduct its business and develop a membership meeting program.

Section 2 Term

The term of office shall be one-year beginning with the first VCS meeting of the new calendar year and ending with the first VCS meeting of the following year.

Section 3 Vacancy

The Board of Directors shall select a successor to fill the unexpired term of any board member's vacancy.

Section 4 Quorum

A quorum of the Board of Directors is established when a majority of the elected and/or appointed members are present.

Article IV. BOARD OF DIRECTOR DUTIES

Section 1 Commander

The Commander, as the senior officer of the VCS, shall preside at all meetings; supervise all activities; be an ex-officio member of all teams and committees; appoint team and committee leads; serve as the official spokesperson on all Club matters.

Section 2 Executive Officer

The Executive Officer shall assist the Commander as directed and act for the Commander during his/her absence.

Section 3 Admin Officer

The Admin Officer shall record all votes; keep meeting minutes and proceedings; keep appropriate records; and administers the VCS Web Page and online support.

Section 4 Assistant Admin Officer

The Assistant Admin Officer shall assist the Admin Officer as directed and act for the Admin Officer during any absence.

Section 5 Finance Officer

The Finance Officer shall receive, deposit, and disperse all monies; keep financial records and accounts; prepare statements of income and expenditures. A review of financial records and accounts will be performed annually or at the change in office by an individual appointed by the Commander. That review will be presented to the Board and at the next membership meeting.

Section 6 Assistant Finance Officer

The Assistant Finance Officer shall assist the Finance Officer as directed and act for the Finance Officer during any absence.

Section 7 Sergeant at Arms

The Sergeant at Arms (SA) will open each meeting with a call to attention and lead in the Pledge of Allegiance and order members “as you were” after the national anthem. The SA will have a working knowledge of the VCS bylaws as well as Roberts Rules of Order. The SA will maintain decorum at meetings.

Article V. COMMITTEES/TEAMS

Section 1 Standing Teams

Standing Teams are led by a club member appointed by the Commander. Teams are American Flag, Auxiliary, Flags Over Solivita, Giving, Honor Guard, Membership, Memorial, Outreach, and Scholarship.

Section 2 Ad Hoc Committees

Ad Hoc Committees and event committees are led by a club member appointed by the Commander for a specific task, which at the end of activities will dissolve.

Section 3 Reports

Committees/Teams will report their activities to the Board as necessary.

Section 4 Nominating Committee

The Nominating Committee shall present a slate of candidates to the membership no later than the October meeting for Board positions in the following year. Voting will be conducted at the next meeting. The Nominating Committee will tabulate votes and announce election results at that club meeting.

Section 5 Scholarship Foundation of the VCS

The Veterans Club of Solivita Scholarship Foundation is a separate 501(C)(3) organization that exists to provide scholarships to select students graduating from local High Schools. The Foundation shall be governed by its own bylaws and operates independently from the VCS. The VCS Commander shall appoint members from the Club as recommended by the Foundation's Trustee. Changes to the bylaws must be presented and approved by the VCS Commander.

Section 6 Veterans Club of Solivita Auxilliary (VCSA)

The Veterans Club of Solivita Auxiliary (VCSA) serves to complement the Club by participating in veteran-associated activities. Membership in this team is membership in the Veterans Club of Solivita, with neither voting rights nor dues. One must be a Solivita resident who is a spouse, partner, or widow/widower of a veteran. Activities include involvement in: Welcome, Hospitality, Fundraising, Sunshine, and other activities as needed. The VCSA will select its team lead.

Article VI. FINANCIALS

The Board of Directors shall manage Club finances and FO shall present financial reports to the membership no less than quarterly. Members will serve the Club without compensation. Committee/Team leads will present any approved expenses, grants, and

donations at the next membership meeting. FO shall present financials at each monthly BOD meeting.

Article VII. MEETINGS

Meetings will be held at a time and place determined and announced by the Commander. All meetings will be conducted following *Robert's Rules of Order*.

Article VIII. VOTING

Section 1 Members

To decide on an issue, each member has the right to one vote. For a vote to be counted, the member must be present at the meeting. A majority carries a Vote. Vote verification is the responsibility of the Admin Officer, with member assistance as needed.

Section 2 Board of Directors

Board of Director votes require a majority.

Article IX. AMENDMENTS TO BYLAWS.

A two-thirds vote of the present membership is required to amend the bylaws. Bylaw amendment changes are effective upon adoption.

These bylaws were approved by the Board of Directors (02/13/2023) and the Membership at a meeting (02/22/2023).

Commander