

# **DISTRICT ONE**

**DEPARTMENT OF CALIFORNIA**

**VETERANS OF FOREIGN WARS OF THE UNITED STATES**

**BY - LAWS**



**Revised adopted at the District One Convention held on**

**The 9<sup>th</sup> day of May, 1992, at Sable Veterans of Foreign  
Wars, Post 2275, El Cajon, California**

**Amendment adopted at the District Convention held on**

**The 4<sup>th</sup> day of June, 2006 at Lemon Grove Veterans of Foreign  
Wars, Post 2082, Lemon Grove, California**

**Revised by National Assistant Adjutant General, John J. Mc NEIL for the  
COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF on April 12, 2011**

**Amendment adopted at the District Convention held on**

**The 1<sup>st</sup> day of June 2014 at SABLE Veterans of Foreign  
Wars, Post 2275, El Cajon, California**

## ARTICLE I

**GOVERNING BODY:** - The District shall be governed by a District Convention, subordinate to the Department of California Convention and National Convention.

## ARTICLE II

**COMPOSITION:** - The District Convention shall consist of:

1. The Commander - In - Chief, and Past Commander - In - Chiefs who are members in good standing in a Post in the District.
2. The National Council of Administration member, if he shall be in good standing in a Post in this District.
3. The Department Commander and Past Department Commanders who are members in good standing in in this District.
4. The District Commander, all elected and appointed officer of the District, and all Past District Commanders of this District who are members in good standing in a Post of this District.
5. All Post Commanders throughout the District, in the absence of the Post Commanders the Post Senior Vice Commanders, or in his absence the Post Junior Vice Commander may function as a member of the District Convention or meeting.
6. Delegates to be elected by the Post in this District.

## ARTICLE III

**CONVENTIONS:** - This District shall hold an annual District Convention for the purpose of electing District Officers and for the transaction of any business that may lawfully come before it. Such convention to be held not less than TEN (10) days nor more than seventy-five (75) days prior to the convening of the Department Convention.



## ARTICLE IV

Convention, the District shall hold at least **THREE (3)** stated meetings each year for the promoting schools of instructions for Post Officers and the discussion of problems affecting the welfare of the Veterans of Foreign Wars within the District.

The District Commander may call a special meeting at a time and place to be designated by the District Commander, by written notice to all Posts in the District, at least **FOUR (4)** weeks in advance.

## ARTICLE V

**SPECIAL MEETINGS:** - The District Commander shall call special meetings when instructed by a majority vote of the members present at a convention or stated meeting, or when instructed by a majority of the Posts in the District.

The District Commander may call a special meeting at a time and place to be designated by the District Commander by written or verbal notice to all Posts.

## ARTICLE VI

**DELEGATES:** - Delegates and alternates shall be elected at a regular meeting of the Post held not less than **THIRTY (30)** days prior to the District Convention:

1. **ONE (1)** delegate for each **THIRTY (30)** members or fraction thereof in good standing in the Post at the time of the election or as the Department By - Laws provide.
2. Delegates elected to the District Convention will represent their Post at all District meeting until the next District elections, immediately prior to the next Department Convention.
3. Post instituted subsequent to the **30<sup>th</sup>** of April shall promptly, as possible, elect delegates and alternates to the District Convention.
4. All delegates and alternates to the District Convention shall be members in good standing in their respective Post.
5. Each and every Post shall Forward within **THIRTY (30)** days after election of its delegates and alternates to this District, a complete

## ARTICLE VI (cont'd)

roster of said delegates and alternates.

## ARTICLE VII

**QUORUM:** - The minimum number of delegates required to constitute a quorum for the transaction of business at a District meeting or Convention shall not be less than ONE (1) delegate each from One-Half (1/2) of the Posts in this District.

For the purpose of this article, The Post Commander shall be considered a delegate.

## ARTICLE VIII

**DUES:** - (A) A dues assessment of at least FIFTY CENTS (\$0.50) per member will be based on the total membership as of 30 June each year and is due and payable on or prior to the next District Convention. Failure of a Post to pay this assessment will result in the loss of all privileges, including voting rights in the District, Department and National Conventions.

(B) Delegates assembled at a District Convention, providing notice has been given to each Post THIRTY (30) days in advance of the pending proposal, may assess or increase annual dues per member per year.

**DUES RESERVE FUND:** - The First District Quartermaster will maintain dues reserve fund to which shall be Credited not less than ONE-HALF (½) of the District Dues for the current year. This reserve fund shall not be disbursed nor shall an obligation be incurred against this fund until after July 1st, at which time it shall be transferred to the District general fund and be available for expenditure.

## ARTICLE IX

**ELEGIBILITY TO OFFICE:** - Any member in good standing in a Post in this District shall be eligible for office in this District, provided however no member shall hold TWO (2) elective offices at the same time, but, may hold ONE (1) elective and ONE (1) or more appointive office. District Officers, elective or appointive, shall be eligible to hold



## ARTICLE IX (cont'd)

office in a higher or lower body and such offices may be held concurrently.

## ARTICLE X

### DISTRICT OFFICERS:

1, - The elective officers of the District shall be a Commander, a Senior Vice Commander, a Junior Vice Commander, a Quartermaster, a Judge Advocate, a Surgeon, a Chaplain and THREE (3) Trustees to serve for the current year or term. The THREE (3) Trustees shall be elected for the terms of ONE (1), TWO (2), and Three years, and thereafter ONE (1) Trustee shall be elected each year for a term of THREE (3) years.

2. - The Commander of the District shall appoint an Adjutant, an Officer of the Day, a Service Officer, TWO (2) Color Bearers, TWO (2) Color Guards, Chief of Staff, Inspector and a Guard, all of whom may be removed at the pleasure of the Commander.

## ARTICLE XI

### NOMINATION, ELECTION, INSTALLATION AND TERM OF OFFICE:

The District Officers shall be nominated and elected annually at the District Convention. All District Officers shall take office upon the confirmation of election and installation of the District Commander by the Department Convention. District Officers shall take the Officers Obligation before the adjournment of the meeting at which elected and shall not assume the duties of office until the Department Commander has been installed at the Department Convention.

In balloting for District Officers, a majority of all votes cast shall be necessary to a choice. If there be no election on the first ballot, the names of the comrades receiving the lowest number of votes shall be dropped and so on in successive ballots until an election is made.

An officer elected and installed shall continue to hold office for the period for which elected and until his successor assumes the duties of the office, and officers appointed shall hold office during the pleasure of the appointing power, provided, in either case, the officer remains in good standing in a Post in this District.



## ARTICLE XII

### DISTRICT OFFICERS POWERS AND DUTIES:

The District Officers, elected and appointed, shall have such powers and duties as provided herein, by the Ritual and Manual of Procedures.

The duties of the District Commander shall be: to preside over the District Convention and at least THREE (3) District Meetings each year, to act as liaison between said Post in the District and the Department, and to do whatever may be for the best interest of the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States.

It shall be the duty of Senior Vice Commander of the District to attend all regularly called meetings of the Department Council of Administration and to fulfill the duties of his office as set forth in Section 416 of the National By-Laws and Manual of Procedures. A mileage allowance of TWENTY ONE CENTS (\$0.21) per mile, based on the mileage from the home of the Senior Vice Commander to the site of the Department Council of Administration meeting, shall be paid to the Senior Vice Commander of the District on his return, following approval of the Commander of the First District, and shall not be in excess of any allowance paid to a District Officer. This allowance will only be in effect and paid if said officer holds no other office or chairmanship of the state which compensates him for mileage.

## ARTICLE XII

The District Adjutant shall be the corresponding officer of the District and shall keep an accurate record of the minutes of each District meeting and District Convention. Immediately after each District Convention he shall notify the Department Adjutant of the names and addresses of all elective officers.

The District Quartermaster shall comply with Sections #218 and #418 as provided in the Ritual, Manual of Procedure, and the Department By-Laws.

All other District Officers shall have duties and obligations corresponding to the duties and obligations of Department Officers to the extent applicable and as may be further prescribed by the District and Department By-Laws. They shall have such other duties as are usually incident to the office or as may be required by the laws and usages of this organization or by lawful orders from proper authority.



### ARTICLE XIII

**PAST OFFICERS:** - A Past District Officer shall be one, who having been elected or appointed and installed, shall have served until the end of his/her term or ceased to hold offices by reason of death, before expiration of his/her term of office, or one who resigns his/her office to enter active duty in the armed forces of the United States.

### ARTICLE XIV

**VACANCIES:** - Vacancies will be filled in accordance with Section 420 of the National By-Laws and Manual of Procedure.

### ARTICLE XV

**VOTING:** - Each Member of a District Convention or District Meeting, Except delegates elected by the Post, present at a District Convention or meeting shall be entitled to ONE (1) vote, and individual possessing more than ONE (1) qualification for membership in the District Convention or meeting shall have no more than ONE (1) vote. The delegate or delegates of a Post present at a District Meeting or Convention shall be entitled to vote the full delegate strength to which the Post is entitled.

Should there be a division among the delegates representing the Post, each delegate present shall cast his pro-rated share of the total voting strength of the Post, a Post Commander shall be considered a delegate.

### ARTICLE XVI

Deleted

### ARTICLE XVII

**NATIONAL LIFE MEMBERSHIP:** - A District Commander shall be awarded a National Life Membership in the Veterans of Foreign Wars for the excellent performance of duty. If the member already holds a Life Membership in the Veterans of Foreign Wars. He will be given a check in the amount of ONE HUNDRED FIFTY DOLLARS (\$150.00)

## ARTICLE XVII (cont'd)

The application for Life Membership shall be submitted through channels following the last stated meeting of the District prior to the District Convention, unless otherwise voted on by the members at the Stated meeting for the presentation at the District Convention.

## ARTICLE XVIII

**BUDGET:** - The District Commander shall appoint a Budget Committee, to consist of a Budget Chairman, the elected officers of the District, and the District Adjutant, to draw up and submit at the first stated meeting after the Department Convention, a proposed budget for the year, to be submitted and approved by the members, at the District Meeting.

## ARTICLE XIX

**OFFICIAL PUBLICATION:** - The First District newsletter, which will be published and received by the First District Post and Auxiliary Officers, each month, shall be the official publication of the First District.

## ARTICLE XX

**AMENDMENTS:** - at The By-Laws may be amended by majority vote of the members present a District Convention, provided such proposals have been forwarded through proper channels after being adopted by a Post or have been recommended in writing by an elective First District Officer, or Past District Commander, or a Post Commander in the First District, Department of California. Written notice thereof, together with a copy of the proposed amendment, shall be given each Post, either by publication in the First District Newsletter, or by an official First District letter sent by the First District Adjutant to all Posts of the First District, at least FOUR (4) weeks prior to the First District Convention at which time it is to be considered and voted on.

Wherever these By-Laws or subsequent amendments may be found to be in conflict with the present or any future Department or National By-Laws the latter shall prevail and be binding on this District as though written herein.



Amendments adopted at the District Convention shall take effect when reviewed by the Commander-in-Chief.

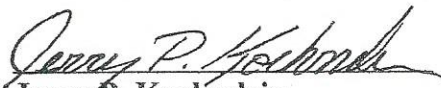
Revised and adopted at the First District Convention, held on the 9th day of May 1992, at Sable, Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 2275, El Cajon, California. Approved by National May 28, 1992


Amendment to ARTICLE VIII was adopted on the 4th day of June, 2006 at the District Convention held at the Lemon Grove Veterans of Foreign Post 2082, Lemon Grove, California

Revised by National April 12, 2011.

Amendment to ARTICLE VIII was adopted on the 1st day of June, 2014 at the District Convention held at the S. A. B. L. E. Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 2275, El Cajon, California.;

ATTESTED:

  
Jerry P. Koehmlein  
District One Adjutant  
Department of California  
Veterans of Foreign Wars

  
Edward J. McCoy  
District One Commander  
Department of California  
Veterans of Foreign Wars  
Of the United States

APPROVED 7/29/2014  
FOR THE DEPARTMENT COMMANDER

  
STATE ADJUTANT


Veterans of Foreign Wars

JUL 29 2014

Administrative Operations-TG

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REVIEWED **AUG 27 2014**  
FOR THE COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF

  
JERRY L. NEWBERRY  
ASSISTANT ADJUTANT GENERAL  
BY DAVID E. PROHASKA, DIRECTOR  
ADMINISTRATIVE OPERATIONS