

**By-Laws of Wisconsin
Sons of The American Legion**

**ARTICLE I
State Chairman**

Section 1. The Sons of The American Legion, Detachment of Wisconsin shall recognize an individual appointed by the Department Commander of The American Legion, as State Chairman and he shall be ex-officio member of all Committees and Commissions of the Sons of The American Legion.

**ARTICLE II
Duties of Officers**

- Section 1. **Commander** – The commander corresponds to the captain or president of an organization. His duties are generally as follows; to open the sessions at time of said meetings, to preside and call meetings to order, to announce the business before the assembly in the order it is to be acted upon, to recognize members and visitors entitled to the floor, to state and put to vote all questions which are regularly moved or arise in the course of the meeting, to announce the results of a vote, to protect meetings from annoyance, to expedite when engaged in debate, within the rules of order, to enforce observance of order and decorum among the members deciding all questions of order, (subject to the appeal to the assembly by any two members) unless in doubt he prefers to submit the question for decision to the assembly, to authenticate by his signature when necessary, all acts, orders and proceedings of the meeting, declaring its will and in all things obeying its commands. The commander shall assume all duties ordinarily upon a presiding officer.
- Section 2. **Vice Commanders** – The Vice Commanders shall act as representative of the Commander on all matters referred to them by him and shall on his request, preside over meetings and perform such other duties as are usually incident to the office. There shall be (4) Vice Commanders in the Detachment of Wisconsin.
- Section 3. **Adjutant** - The Adjutant who corresponds to the secretary of an organization, shall be charged with the usual duties of an Adjutant or Secretary. He is the administrative officer of the policies and mandates of the organization.
- Section 4. **Finance Officer** - The Finance officer shall be in charge of the preparing and reading of the Financial Status, which is secured by him or the Detachment Adjutant, from Department Headquarters of The American Legion, prior to each Detachment Convention, the Spring, Fall and Winter Detachment Executive Committee meetings. He shall perform such other duties as are usually incident to the office.
- Section 5. **Chaplain** - The Chaplain shall perform such divine and non-sectarian services as shall be necessary adhering to the ceremonial rituals as may be prescribed.
- Section 6. **Historian** - The Historian shall collect from year to year all records and data of value and of interest to the Sons of The American Legion and shall compile his term a complete history of the years events.

**By-Laws of Wisconsin
Sons of The American Legion**

- Section 7. **Sergeant-At-Arms** - The Sergeant-at-Arms shall be charged with the responsibility of preserving order at all meetings and the responsibility of the stand of colors during meetings of the Sons of The American Legion. He shall perform such other duties as are usually incident to the office. There shall be (2) Sergeant-at-Arms in the Detachment of Wisconsin.
- Section 8. **National Executive Committeeman** - The NECman shall represent the Detachment of Wisconsin on the National Executive Committee, by his attendance at all meetings of the National Executive Committee. He shall convey all mandates of the Detachment of Wisconsin.
- Section 9. **Alternate National Executive Committeeman** - The Alternate NECman shall support the National Executive Committeeman by his attendance at all meetings of the National Executive Committee and shall represent the Detachment of Wisconsin in the absence of the NECman.
- Section 10. **Judge Advocate** - The Judge Advocate shall have the duty of knowing the Detachment Constitution and By-Laws, Roberts Rules of Order, Rules of The Detachment Executive Committee and the Uniform Code of Procedure for governing Detachment Conventions. He Shall be in charge of settling any question or grievances, relative to the interpretation of said document(s). He shall determine the legality and rule on all complaints for or against any Detachment member. His rulings are to be prompt, accurate and impersonal.
- Section 11. In fulfilling their duties and responsibilities, the Detachment Officers of the Sons of The American Legion, shall be responsible to the Detachment Executive Committee of the Sons of The American Legion, Detachment of Wisconsin or to a subordinate body by it designated.

**ARTICLE III
Squadron, County and District Officers**

- Section 1. All officers of a Squadron, County or District group, shall be governed in their actions by the Supervisory Committee of The American Legion in charge.
- Section 2. Each Squadron, County or District group, shall adopt a Constitution and By-Laws, provided however, there shall be no conflict with the National or Detachment Constitution and By-Laws of the Sons of The American Legion.

**ARTICLE IV
Membership**

- Section 1. Each Squadron, County or District group, shall be the judge of its own membership, subject to the restrictions of this Constitution and By-Laws.
- Section 2. Members may be suspended or expelled under the same procedures provided for the suspension or expulsion of a member of The American Legion.

**By-Laws of Wisconsin
Sons of The American Legion**

**ARTICLE V
Arrears in Dues**

Section 1. A member whose dues for the current year have not been paid by January first, shall be classed as delinquent. If his dues are paid on or before February first, he shall be automatically reinstated. If he is still delinquent after February first, he shall be suspended from all privileges. If he is still under such suspension on June thirtieth of such year, his membership in the Sons of The American Legion shall be forfeited. A member so suspended or whose membership has been so forfeited, may be reinstated to active membership in good standing by a vote of the Squadron and payment of current dues for the year in which reinstatement occurs. Provided, however, that The Squadron Detachment and National organization may waive the provisions hereof, upon payment of dues for the year in which reinstatement occurs, with reference to former members who have been prevented from the payment of dues by reason of active military service.

**ARTICLE VI
Elections**

Section 1. Nomination of Detachment Officers, National Executive Committeeman and Alternate National Executive Committeeman, shall be from the floor of those Squadrons present and voting shall be by secret ballot. Delegates and Alternate delegates to the National Convention of the Sons of The American Legion, shall also be nominated off the floor and voted on by a show of hands.

Section 2. During the post convention Detachment Executive Committee meeting, the Detachment Commander shall appoint a Detachment Adjutant, Detachment Historian, Judge Advocate and Liaison to the Department Executive Committee and any assistant's as needed.

Section 3. If the presiding officer is a member of the assembly, he can vote as any other member, when the vote is by ballot. In all other cases, the presiding officer can (but is not obligated to), vote whenever his vote will affect the result. He can vote either to break or to cause a tie. On a roll call vote, the presiding officers name is called last and ONLY when his vote will affect the result.

**ARTICLE VII
Meetings**

Section 1. The Sons of The American Legion, Detachment Convention shall be held during the same time and in the same city, as the Department Convention of the Wisconsin American Legion.

Section 2. All Squadron meetings shall be held in accordance with the ritual of the organization. Meetings shall be held not less than once each month.

**By-Laws of Wisconsin
Sons of The American Legion**

**ARTICLE VIII
Finances**

- Section 1. A report of budgeted and actual incomes and expenses of the Sons of The American Legion general fund, will be mailed to each Squadron and to all Detachment Officers, at least (30) days prior to the Detachment Convention for study.
- Section 2. Payment of vouchers properly presented shall be made in a timely and efficient manner, usually within (30) days of receipt of said voucher.

**ARTICLE IX
Activities**

- Section 1. Only such activities shall be sponsored by the Sons of The American Legion as shall be for the benefit of the membership of the organization as a whole and approved by the Detachment Executive Committee.
- Section 2. Use of the Emblem of the Sons of The American Legion, is governed by the National organization.

**ARTICLE X
Detachment Executive Committee**

- Section 1. The Detachment Commander may call a meeting of the Detachment Executive Committee at any time and place selected by him and the State Chairman. The Commander shall call a meeting of said Committee at any time when requested to do so, in writing by (5) members of the Detachment Executive Committee. There shall be held, (5) Committee meetings as follows; Spring, Fall, Winter the pre-Convention and post Convention meetings.
- Section 2. The Detachment Executive Committee shall have authority to appoint Sub-Committees from its members, for the performance of Special duties and shall have the authority to delegate to them such functions and authority as it shall deem necessary.
- Section 3. Any matter purporting to relate to the policy, business or administration of this Detachment and which is not regulated by specific provisions of the Constitution or these By-Laws, shall be referred to the Detachment Executive Committee for determination and adjustment.
- Section 4. A quorum of the Detachment Executive Committee shall consist of (7) voting members.
- Section 5. A. There shall be a Detachment Finance Commission, which shall consist of (4) members and the Detachment Finance Officer.
- B. The Detachment Commander shall appoint (2) members for a term of (3) years, (1) member for a term of (2) years and (1) member for a term of (1) year and annually thereafter, the Commander shall fill the expired terms, subject to the approval of the Detachment Executive Committee. No (2) members may be from the same Squadron. Members must be (21) years of age.

**By-Laws of Wisconsin
Sons of The American Legion**

- C. The Detachment Finance Commission, shall approve and budget the expenditures of the Detachment, prepare and approve a yearly budget, close the fiscal years books and handle funds from raffles and/or special projects. Its decisions being final with the approval of the Detachment Executive Committee or over ruled by a majority of the members present at a regular or special meeting of the Detachment Executive Committee.
- D. The Detachment Finance Officer shall serve as the Chairman of the Finance Commission and make his reports to the Detachment Executive Committee.

**ARTICLE XI
Amendments**

- Section 1. These By-Laws may be amended by the Detachment membership at a Detachment Convention, by a two-thirds vote of the duly registered delegates present, provided that no proposed amendment has been rejected by the State Chairman of the Wisconsin American Legion. Should the State Chairman reject said amendment; it may be referred to the Department Executive Committee. The Executive Committee's decision may be referred to the National Executive Committee of The American Legion. The National decision to be final and binding.
- Section 2. Amendments to the National By-Laws shall automatically operate to amend the By-Laws of the Sons of The American Legion, Detachment of Wisconsin.

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