

**Constitution Of Wisconsin  
Sons Of The American Legion**

**PREAMBLE**

**Proud Possessors of A Priceless Heritage**, we male descendents of veterans of the Great Wars, associate ourselves together as the 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 association of our members and 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 the 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**

Section 1. The name of this organization shall be the “Sons of The American Legion, Detachment of Wisconsin”.

Section 2. The Detachment Headquarters of the Sons of The American Legion, shall be located at the site of the Department Headquarters of the American Legion.

**ARTICLE II**

**Nature**

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

Section 2. The Sons of The American Legion shall be absolutely 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 absolutely non-sectarian.

Section 4. Each member shall perform his duty as a citizen according to his own conscience and understanding in accord with the law.

**ARTICLE III**

**Organization**

Section 1. The Sons of The American Legion Headquarters, Shall be organized in Squadron, County and District groups and shall conform with regulations of the Department of Wisconsin American Legion, with regulations of the National Executive Committee of the Sons of The American Legion and the National Constitution and By-Laws of the Sons of The American Legion.

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- Section 2. The American Legion, Department of Wisconsin and the Sons of The American Legion, Detachment of Wisconsin, shall have jurisdiction over the Sons of The American Legion Squadron, County and District groups organized. Application for charter must have the approval and endorsement of the sponsoring American Legion Post Commander, Department Commander and the National American Legion Adjutant before issuance.
- Section 3. The Sons of The American Legion Squadron shall be organized under the jurisdiction and sponsorship of a local post of The American Legion and shall bear the name of such sponsoring post as follows: "Sons of The American Legion Squadron of \_\_\_\_\_ Post Number \_\_\_\_\_ Department of Wisconsin".
- Section 4. One Post shall sponsor not more than one Squadron.
- Section 5. The minimum membership for the formation and existence of a Squadron shall be (10) members.
- Section 6. The Sons of The American Legion Squadron, County and District groups, shall be governed by such rules and regulations as may be prescribed by the National Executive Committee of The American Legion and The Sons of The American Legion.

**ARTICLE IV  
Eligibility**

- Section 1. All male descendants, adopted sons and stepsons of members of The American Legion and such male descendants of veterans who died in service during World War I, World War II, the Korean War, Vietnam War, Lebanon, Grenada, Panama and the Persian Gulf War, during the delimiting periods set forth in Article IV, Section I, 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.
- Section 2. There shall be no form or class of membership, except an active membership.
- Section 3. There shall be no age barrier for membership in the Sons of The American Legion. Male descendants can be a member from birth to death.
- Section 4. If there are some that are eligible to belong to the Sons of The American Legion, but their home post does not sponsor a Squadron, it will be permissible for these Sons to join the Squadron of another post, until such time as their home post forms a Squadron. They may then transfer to said Squadron, but cannot be forced to make such transfer.
- Section 5. No person may be a member of more than one Squadron at any one time.
- Section 6. No person who has been expelled by a Squadron shall be admitted to membership in another without the consent of the expelling Squadron. Except, that where such consent has been asked and denied, he may then appeal to the Detachment Executive Committee for permission to apply for membership in another Squadron and shall be ineligible for membership

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until such permission is granted.

**ARTICLE V  
Legislative**

- Section 1. A. The legislative body of the Sons of The American Legion shall be the Detachment Convention of the Sons of The American Legion. All actions at the Convention are subject to ratification of the Department Executive Committee of the Wisconsin American Legion.
- B. There shall be created, a permanent Convention and Activities Commission, to be composed of (5) members with not more than (1) member from any one Squadron, to be appointed by the Detachment Commander. They are to be appointed as follows: Two members for three years, two members for two years, one member for one year and thereafter appointments for the expiring terms shall be filled by the Detachment Commander. The chairman of this commission is to be appointed by the Detachment Commander and it will be this chairman's duty to report all actions taken by this commission to the Detachment Executive Committee for approval.
- C. This commission shall be empowered to make necessary investigations and recommendations for the holding of the Detachment Conventions, the Leadership Orientation Workshops, the Spring, Fall and Winter Detachment Executive Committee meetings.
- D. There shall be created a Constitution and By-Laws Commission, to be composed of (5) members with no more than (1) member from any one Squadron, to be appointed by the Detachment Commander. They are to be appointed as follows: Two members for three years, two members for two years and one member for one year and thereafter appointments for the expiring terms shall be filled by the Detachment Commander. The chairman of this commission to be appointed by the Detachment Commander. It is this chairman's responsibility to report all actions by this commission to the Detachment Executive Committee for approval.
- E. This commission shall be empowered to provide consistency and/or to avoid any conflicts conforming to the Constitution and By-Laws, through resolutions that are presented.
- Section 2. The Department of Wisconsin, American Legion Commander shall appoint a committee of (5) members. Two are to be from the ranks of the Sons of The American Legion, while the Chairman and the remaining (2) members are to be from the ranks of The American Legion. This committee shall be known as the "Advisory Committee".
- Section 3. The (5) man committee shall supervise the activities of the Sons of The American Legion. The Chairman of this committee shall be a member of the Department Americanism Committee.
- Section 4. In the Sons of The American Legion, each Squadron shall be entitled to (1) delegate for every (10) members and (1) delegate for any fraction thereof, based on current membership ending (30) days prior to the opening session of the Detachment Convention and (1) alternate delegate for each delegate.

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- Section 5. Each duly registered delegate shall be entitled to (1) vote. Alternates for registered delegates shall have all privileges of registered delegates, except that of voting. A registered delegate is one who has received his credentials and has paid such registration fees as may be required.
- Section 6. Delegates from (5) Squadrons shall constitute a quorum.
- Section 7. All Past Detachment Commanders shall be delegates at large to the Convention, with voting privileges with their Squadrons. All Detachment Officers shall be delegates at large with voting privileges with their respective Squadrons.
- Section 8. Where a County and/or District group is organized the Commander shall be a delegate at large with voting privileges with their respective Squadron.
- Section 9. Between the meetings of the Detachment, the administrative power shall be vested in the Detachment Executive Committee of the Sons of The American Legion, which shall consist of the Detachment Commander, (4) Vice Commanders, Chaplain, Finance Officer, (2) Sergeant-At-Arms, the National Executive Committeeman, the Alternate National Executive Committeeman, all Past Detachment Commanders and County and District Commanders. Ex-Officio members shall consist of the Detachment Historian, the Adjutant and all assistant Adjutants, the Judge Advocate and the members of the Advisory Committee.
- Section 10. The Detachment Executive Committee of the Sons of The American Legion, Detachment of Wisconsin shall provide a "Uniform Code of Procedure", for the orderly organization and operation of the Detachment Convention, with the continuing power of revision. This code shall be applicable at all Detachment Conventions, unless it is amended, suspended or replaced by a two-thirds vote of the registered delegates present, at a Detachment Convention. The Detachment Executive Committee of the Sons of The American Legion, may establish in the "Uniform Code of Procedure", a registration fee to be paid by delegates attending the Detachment Convention and may determine the amount of said fee.

**ARTICLE VI  
Elections**

- Section 1. The Detachment Convention delegates shall elect a Detachment Commander, (4) Vice Commanders, a Chaplain, Finance Officer, (2) Sergeant-At-Arms, a National Executive Committeeman and an Alternate National Executive Committeeman.
- Section 2. The Commander, with the approval of the Detachment Executive Committee of the Sons of The American Legion, shall appoint a Detachment Adjutant, Historian, Judge Advocate, S.A.L. Liaison and as many assistant's as deemed necessary.
- Section 3. Such officers shall serve until the adjournment of the succeeding Convention, following their election and thereafter until their successors are elected. Vacancies in these offices occurring between Conventions shall be filled by appointment by the Detachment Commander, with the approval of the Detachment Executive Committee.

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- Section 4. The Detachment Convention delegates shall elect (1) National Executive Committeeman and (1) Alternate National Executive Committeeman, for a (2) year term, with the election to be held in the even number years, beginning in 1984. These National Executive Committeemen may succeed themselves by election of the Detachment Convention delegates.
- Section 5. No elected officers of the Detachment shall be allowed to hold more than one elected position. Persons elected to an office may hold as many appointed positions, as they so desire.
- Section 6. A The incoming and outgoing Detachment Commanders, the Detachment Adjutant, and the National Executive Committeeman shall be automatic delegates to the National Convention of the Sons of The American Legion. All current National Officers and all Past National Commanders are delegates at large with the Detachment to the National Convention.
- B Each District with (500) or more members, shall on their own, be entitled to elect (1) National Convention Delegate and (1) Alternate for each (500) members, based on membership received at Department headquarters (30) days prior to the Convention. The Detachment delegates shall elect any remaining delegates and alternates to the National Convention.
- C In the event the Detachment as a whole, is entitled to less delegates than are appointed and elected, according to parts A and B of these sections, the distribution of delegates will be determined by the Detachment Executive Committee.
- D In the event the Detachment after the close of the Convention, becomes entitled to one or more delegates in addition to those already appointed or elected, those positions shall be filled by appointment of the Detachment Commander with the approval of the Detachment Executive Committee.
- Section 7. The Detachment Convention and/or Detachment Commander shall not elect or appoint more than (3) members from any one Squadron at one time to the Detachment Executive Committee with voting privileges.

**ARTICLE VII  
Finances**

- Section 1. The general revenue of the Sons of The American Legion shall be derived from annual membership dues and such other sources as may be approved by the Detachment Convention of the Sons of The American Legion, Detachment of Wisconsin, with the approval of the Advisory Committee and the Detachment Executive Committee.
- Section 2. The amount of such annual dues for National shall be set by National and the amount of such dues for the Detachment shall be set by the Detachment, subject to the approval by the Department American Legion Executive Committee and shall be payable by October 20<sup>th</sup> of each year for the succeeding year. Any change in such dues shall become a mandatory change to all members of the Sons of The American Legion.

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Section 3. All expenses paid out from the Sons of The American Legion funds, must be by signed voucher and have the written approval of the Detachment Finance Officer.

Section 4. The Squadron shall determine the annual dues.

Section 5. The annual National dues and the annual Detachment dues shall be collected by each Squadron and transmitted through Department Headquarters. Department Headquarters will transmit the National portion of the dues to the National Treasurer of The American Legion.

Section 6. The appointed Advisory Committee or the Detachment Finance Officer, shall procure a financial statement of the Sons of The American Legion general fund activity, from Department Headquarters prior to the Detachment Convention, the Spring, Fall and Winter Detachment Executive Committee meetings of the Sons of The American Legion for review.

**ARTICLE VIII  
Discipline**

Section 1. The Detachment Executive Committee of the Sons of The American Legion may suspend, cancel or revoke the charter of any Squadron in the Sons of The American Legion, in the event it violates the provisions of this Constitution, subject however to the approval of the Department Executive Committee of The American Legion.

Section 2. Upon the cancellation or revocation of the Charter of any Squadron, the property and assets belonging to said Squadron, shall there upon, become the property of the Post of The American Legion to which such Squadron is attached.

**ARTICLE IX  
Amendments**

Section 1. This Constitution may be amended at any Detachment Convention by a two-thirds vote of duly registered delegates present. Provided that no proposed amendment has been rejected by the Department Chairman or the Judge Advocate of the Department American Legion. Should the Chairman reject said amendment, it may be referred to the Department Executive Committee of The American Legion. The Executive Committee decision may be referred to the National Executive Committee. The National decision to be final and binding.

Section 2. Amendments to the National Constitution of the Sons of The American Legion shall automatically operate to amend the Constitution of the Detachment of Wisconsin.

Section 3. All or any changes in the Constitution of the Detachment of Wisconsin, Sons of The American Legion must have the approval of the Judge Advocate of the Department of Wisconsin American Legion.