

CONSTITUTION
of the
GENERAL JOSEPH BARTHOLOMEW CHAPTER
ILLINOIS SOCIETY OF THE SONS OF THE AMERICAN REVOLUTION
NATIONAL SOCIETY OF THE SONS OF THE AMERICAN REVOLUTION
November 11, 2016

ARTICLE I – NAME

Section 1. The name of this chapter of the Sons of the American Revolution shall be the General Joseph Bartholomew Chapter.

Section 2. The geographic area covered by this chapter shall include: McLean, Livingston, Iroquois, Northern Ford, and Woodford Counties.

Section 3. This Chapter of the Sons of the American Revolution shall be non-profit, federal tax-exempt, state chartered organization.

ARTICLE II – PURPOSE

Section 1. To participate in the preservation of our American Heritage of personal, economic, political, and religious freedom and to be active citizens in our great democratic society.

Section 2. To find within the Society the inspiration to live as patriotically in our generation as our Revolutionary forebears did in theirs.

Section 3. To enjoy the acquaintance and fellowship of a congenial body of men of common ideals and heritage, and to participate in and encourage educational, historic and civic endeavors.

Section 4. To preserve the memory and traditions of one's Revolutionary ancestors in a permanent genealogical record for the historical archives of our country as well as one's own family.

ARTICLE III – MEMBERSHIP AND DUES

Section 1. Any man shall be eligible to full membership in this society who, being eighteen years of age or over, is a lineal descendant of an ancestor who was loyal to and rendered actual service in the cause of the American Independence, either as an officer, soldier, seaman, marine, militiaman, or Minute-man in the armed forces of the Continental Congress or of any one of the several Colonies or States, or as a signer of the Declaration of Independence, or as a member of a Committee of Safety or of Correspondence; or as a member of any Continental, Provincial, or Colonial Congress, Assembly, or Legislature, or as a recognized patriot who performed actual service by overt acts of resistance to the authority of Great Britain. Acceptance of a member is dependent on approval of the National Registrar of the Sons of the American Revolution.

Section 2. The Chapter has designated one of the inactive Charter Members an Honorary Member with no dues.

Section 3. The Chapter is desirous of including and encouraging those potential members that wish to join the SAR before their application to NSSAR is accepted by permitting them to become Associate Members of the Chapter if it is their desire and they are willing to pay the Chapter's Annual dues of \$25.00. Each potential Associate Member before they are accepted will first be *recommended by the Chapter Registrar*, then voted on by the Chapter Board of Managers---which includes the Officers, the Members At Large and the Major Committee Chairs. It will require a 2/3rds vote of these men before being accepted as an Associate Member. There are also a few men that because of their birth do not have a Revolutionary Ancestor in their family lineage and therefore cannot become members, but are most supportive of the Sons of the American Revolution and its purpose namely to participate in the preservation of our American Heritage of personal economic, political and religious freedom and to be active citizens in our great democratic society. These men may also be asked to consider becoming an Associate Member of the Chapter and will also need to receive 2/3rds vote of the Chapter Board of Managers. These Associate Members will receive the newsletter, be invited to all programs and events of the Chapter and be treated as an equal member except voting on any official chapter matters or holding office. If they wish to serve as a member of a committee they are welcome to do so, but again they would be ineligible to chair a committee.

Section 4. Any man shall be eligible for membership in this Chapter who lives in, has lived in, or whose fore bearers of the Revolutionary line lived in McLean, Iroquois, Northern Ford, Livingston, or Woodford Counties of Illinois.

Section 5. Membership dues shall be as specified in the Bylaws.

ARTICLE IV – OFFICERS AND GOVERNMENT

Section 1. The officers of this Chapter shall include a President, a Vice President, a Secretary, an Assistant Secretary, a Secretary Emeritus, a Registrar, a Genealogist, a Treasurer, a Chaplain, a Sergeant-at-Arms, and a Newsletter Editor. These officers together with the immediate past President, three Members-At-Large, and Major Committee Chairmen shall constitute the governing body, known as the Board of Managers.

Section 2. The Board of Managers shall administer all business of the Chapter in accordance with the Constitution and Bylaws of this Chapter, the State and the National Societies.

Section 3. In the case of a vacancy in the office of the President, the Vice-President will assume that office. In the case of a vacancy of any other office or of a member of the Board of Managers, the latter officials will name a person to fill that vacancy until the next regular election.

ARTICLE V – ELECTIONS

Section 1. A Nominating Committee will be named by the Board of Managers each year. At least three months prior to the fall business meeting of the Chapter. It shall consist of three persons, one of whom will be a Member-at-large of the Board of Managers and whose term is not expiring; the other two, one of whom will be named chairman by the Board of Managers, shall hold no office at the time.

Section 2. Nominations may be made from the floor. Whenever there is more than one nominee for an office, a secret ballot will be conducted.

Section 3. The new officers will assume their duties at the end of the regular Calendar Year.

ARTICLE VI – MEETINGS

Section 1. The main (business) meeting of the chapter shall be held in the fall of each year, the date to be set by the Board of Managers.

Section 2. All other meetings and those of the Board of Managers shall meet as specified in the Bylaws.

Section 3. Unless specifically stated in the Chapter or the National Constitution or Bylaws, the order of business at all meetings will be governed by Roberts Rules of Order, Newly Revised.

ARTICLE VII – AMENDMENTS

This Constitution may be amended by a two-thirds vote, in person, at the annual meeting or at a special meeting with at least thirty days' notice, provided that each amendment to be considered has been sent to all members at least fifteen days prior to the meeting at which action is to be taken and assuming that a quorum is present at the said meeting.

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ARTICLE I – MEMBERSHIP AND DUES

Section 1. Eligibility for membership in the General Joseph Bartholomew Chapter of the Sons of the American Revolution will conform with the National, State and Chapter Constitutions.

Section 2. The dues shall be \$80.00 per year, payable to the Treasurer of ILSSAR, prior to the first day of January. Of that amount \$35.00 is National dues, \$20.00 State dues and \$25.00 Chapter dues.

Section 3. Additional dues may be raised by: Assessing a designated amount for a specific project. Any such assessment must be approved by the Chapter at a regular or called meeting.

Section 4. If any member fails to pay his dues for two consecutive years, his name shall be dropped from the list of active members – such action to be authorized by the Board of Managers. ?

ARTICLE II – MEETINGS

Section 1. All regular meetings shall be set by the Board of Managers a year in advance, unless given specific instructions by the membership at a regular or called meeting.

Section 2. There shall be at least four meetings of the Chapter membership a year.

a. The fall meeting will be designated as the annual (business) meeting.

b. A quorum shall consist of one-sixth of the active membership.

c. Special meetings will be held when called by the President, when requested by three members of the Board of Managers, provided proper notice is given.

Section 3. There shall be at least one meeting a year of the Board of Managers. Special meetings may be called by the President or by any three members of the Board of Managers, providing proper notice is given.

ARTICLE III – DUTIES OF OFFICERS

Section 1. The President is the Chief Executive officer of the Chapter. He shall preside at all meetings of the Chapter and of the Board of Managers. He shall, with the approval of the Board of Managers, appoint members of all committees unless otherwise ordered by these Bylaws or the Constitution.

Section 2. The Vice-President shall preside at all meetings and perform all duties as necessitated by the absence of the President. He shall be a member of the Program Committee.

Section 3. The Secretary shall keep minutes of all meetings, and keep attendance.

Section 4. The Assistant Secretary shall keep attendance and membership records, mail out notice of all meetings, prepare annual activity reports to ILSSAR and carry on all regular correspondence of and for the Chapter.

Section 5. The Secretary Emeritus is an Honorary full voting member of the Board of Managers.

Section 6. The Registrar shall communicate with and assist all men who voice an interest in becoming members this Chapter of the Sons of the American Revolution.

Section 7. The Genealogist shall give any assistance to the Registrar as may be requested.

Section 8. The Treasurer shall have custody of all monies, shall pay all bills authorized by the Board of Managers, and shall prepare semi-annual reports. If the checking account becomes large enough, he shall, upon approval of the Board of Managers, invest the surplus monies.

Section 9. The Chaplain shall deliver the opening prayer at each meeting and any other duties as his office may deem necessary.

Section 10. The Sergeant-at-Arms shall be responsible for the care and storage of Chapter property including the Flags, lectern and having same present at all Chapter functions.

Section 11. Newsletter Editor shall be responsible for the preparation of a Chapter newsletter on a timely basis. This shall be circulated to not only the Chapter membership but also to NSSAR and ILSSAR reporting on activities the Chapter has participated in since the last copy was issued.

Section 12. The President, Vice-President, Secretary, Assistant Secretary, Registrar, Genealogist Treasurer Chaplain, Sergeant-at-arms and Newsletter Editor shall each serve for terms of one year. The three Members-at-large will hold office for three years, with staggered terms. The Secretary Emeritus is a lifetime honorary office.

ARTICLE IV – COMMITTEES

Section 1. The President with the approval of the Board of Managers, shall name members of all committees and the chairman of each, unless otherwise stated in the Chapter's Constitution or Bylaws.

Section 2. There shall be a number of Standing Committees, including: Program/Membership, Citizenship, Education, Publicity, Flag, Law Enforcement, Fire Safety, EMS and Hero Awards, Eagle Scout, Veterans/ROTC Affairs, Finance, Nominations, Color Guard/Parade and Newsletter..

Section 3. The Nominating Committee will be named as specified in Article V, Section 1 of the Constitution.

Section 4. An Auditing Committee, nominated by the Board of Managers (other nominations may be made from the floor), will be presented to the membership for action at the annual business meeting. They will inspect and report on the Chapter's accounts within three months after the end of each calendar year. ?

Section 5. Ad-Hoc Committees, responsible for carrying out specific projects, may be named by the President, Board of Managers, or by the Membership at a regular meeting.

ARTICLE V – FISCAL YEAR

The fiscal year shall be the calendar year..

ARTICLE VI – AMENDMENTS

The By-laws may be amended by members present, voting at a regular or called meeting, provided that thirty days notice and the purpose of the meeting are given. With a quorum present, a majority vote is necessary for approval of the said amendment(s), except that in the case of a change in chapter dues a two thirds vote is necessary.

Adopted November 11, 2016