
*Constitution of the Arkansas Division
Sons of the Confederate Veterans*

As adopted on June 30, 1984 and Amended in
General **ARKANSAS DIVISION** Conventions Through
April 21, 2017, in Mena, Arkansas

ARTICLE I. - TITLE

SECTION 1. This Confederation of the **SONS OF CONFEDERATE VETERANS** shall be known as the **ARKANSAS DIVISION, SONS OF CONFEDERATE VETERANS**. The **ARKANSAS DIVISION** is affiliated with the National Confederation and conforms to its constitution.

ARTICLE II. – PURPOSES

SECTION 1. The **ARKANSAS DIVISION, SONS OF CONFEDERATE VETERANS** shall be historical, fraternal, educational, charitable, benevolent, patriotic, non-political and non-sectarian.

ARTICLE III. - ORGANIZATION

SECTION 1. The constituted bodies of the **ARKANSAS DIVISION** shall be as follows:

- a. Organizations of at least seven (7) dues paid members, known as camps; each camp shall have a name and be assigned by General Headquarters a number upon admittance.

b. Organizations of at least two dues paid camps known as brigades. The four (4) brigades shall be known as: the Northeast Arkansas Brigade, Northwest Arkansas Brigade, Central Arkansas Brigade and Southern Arkansas Brigade. Each Brigade will have a Brigade Commander.

c. The **NORTHEAST ARKANSAS BRIGADE** shall consist of the following counties: Fulton, Sharp, Randolph, Clay, Izard, Lawrence, Greene, Stone, Independence, Jackson, Craighead, Mississippi, Cleburne, White, Jackson, Woodruff, Poinsett, Cross, Crittenden. and St. Francis.

d. The **NORTHWEST ARKANSAS BRIGADE** shall consist of the following counties: Benton, Carroll, Boone, Marion, Baxter, Washington, Madison, Newton, Searcy, Crawford, Franklin, Johnson, Pope, Van Buren, Sebastian, Logan and Scott.

e. The **CENTRAL ARKANSAS BRIGADE** shall consist of the following counties: Conway, Faulkner, Yell, Perry, Polk, Montgomery, Garland, Saline, Pulaski, Lonoke, Prairie, Monroe, Lee, Phillips, Howard, Pike, Clark, Hot Spring, and Grant.

f. The **SOUTHERN ARKANSAS BRIGADE** shall consist of the following counties: Jefferson, Arkansas, Dallas, Cleveland, Lincoln, Desha, Sevier, Little River, Hempstead, Nevada, Ouachita, Calhoun, Bradley, Drew, Miller, Lafayette, Columbia, Union, Ashley and Chicot.

g. Upon the adoption of this amendment, the present Brigade Commanders shall retain command of the Brigade in which they reside and the camps which previously comprised the old Brigades. Within 24 hours of the close of the Convention in which this amendment is adopted, the Division Commander shall appoint interim Assistant Commanders of the remaining newly created Brigades who shall serve subject to the authority of the existing Brigade Commanders and shall have no vote on the Executive Council. At the next Division Reunion of an even numbered year, the new Brigade Commanders shall be elected by this Constitution of the Sons of Confederate Veterans.

ARTICLE IV. - MEMBERSHIP

SECTION 1. All male descendants, lineal or collateral, of those who served honorably in the Confederate military service shall be eligible for membership in the camps of the Confederation. No member under age sixteen (16) shall have the right to vote. No one shall be admitted under twelve (12) years of age.

SECTION 2. No one shall be admitted to membership in any camp until satisfactory proof of the foregoing qualifications are submitted in duplicate on official applications. The original shall be preserved by the camp and the duplicate shall be forwarded to General Headquarters for record and preservation.

SECTION 3. Membership in the SONS OF CONFEDERATE VETERANS is membership in the General Organization of the SONS OF CONFEDERATE VETERANS by affiliation with camps.

SECTION 4. Membership in the SONS OF CONFEDERATE VETERANS shall be of three (3) kinds as follows:

- a. Active membership paying dues to one of the camps and membership in the **ARKANSAS DIVISION** is membership in good standing.
- b. Life membership.
- c. General Headquarters camp.

ARTICLE V. - MEETINGS

SECTION 1. The legislative body of the **ARKANSAS DIVISION** shall be the Division Convention to be held annually at a time and place to be fixed by the preceding Division Convention. Thirty (30) days written notice will be sent to each camp, each Division officer and General Headquarters prior to the convention.

SECTION 2. The Division Commander, or in the event of his absence, death, or resignation, the Lieutenant Commanders, in succession, at the request of a majority of the active camps or the Executive Committee shall convene the Division in special meetings if he deems the emergency sufficient.

SECTION 3. The Division Convention will be called to order by the Commander. After a prayer and addresses of welcome, the Adjutant will call the roll of Division officers and camps in numerical order. As the camps are called, the chairman of each delegation will answer and hand to the Adjutant the credentials of his delegation. The Commander will then appoint a Credentials Committee to confirm the credentials of the delegates.

SECTION 4. A quorum shall exist at Conventions when one-third of the camps are represented as provided above.

SECTION 5. The rules of procedure at Conventions shall be those set forth in "Robert's Rules of Order, Revised", except wherein they may be altered by the Convention.

ARTICLE VI – OFFICERS

SECTION 1. The Convention shall elect a Commander, a First Lieutenant Commander and a Second Lieutenant Commander. The newly elected Commander will then appoint an Adjutant, a Judge Advocate, a Chaplain, and a Historian. The Commander may appoint such Aide-de-Camps as in his judgment are necessary.

SECTION 2. Each Division Commander who has served a full term and does not continue to serve shall have the title of Past Division Commanders, while in good standing in their respective camps, shall be life delegates to all Division Conventions with vote.

SECTION 3. Such officers, as stated in Section 1, Article VI, shall serve until the adjournment of the succeeding Division Convention or until their successors are chosen.

SECTION 4. Elective officers of the **ARKANSAS DIVISION** will serve a two (2) year term.

ARTICLE VII - DUTIES OF OFFICERS

SECTION 1. The Division Commander shall be the executive head of the **ARKANSAS DIVISION** with full power to enforce provisions of the Constitution. He shall be chairman of the Division Convention and shall be empowered to act for the Confederation as circumstances, in his judgment, require, in cases not provided in the Constitution subject to appeal by the Convention. Vacancies occurring among officers shall be filled by him, subject to the approval of the Executive Committee and he shall appoint all necessary committees.

SECTION 2. The Lieutenant Commanders, in succession, shall perform the duties of the Commander in his absence, and in the event of his death or resignation, shall become Commander for the unexpired term. The Lieutenant Commanders shall assist the Commander in the performance of his duties as so directed by the Commander.

SECTION 3. The Camp Commanders shall command camps. They shall supervise the work of their camps and shall enforce all orders from Division Headquarters and make semi-annual reports to the **ARKANSAS DIVISION** Headquarters stating the condition of their camps and the work which they have done; such reports being submitted on January 1 and July 1 of each year.

SECTION 4. The Adjutant shall be charged with the administration of the policies of the **ARKANSAS DIVISION** Convention, the Division Executive committee and the Commander. He shall keep correct records of proceedings of the Convention, a roster of camps, conduct correspondence of the confederation and issue general orders of the commander, under his signature. He shall collect and be the custodian of the funds of the **ARKANSAS DIVISION** and he shall make reports of the condition of the treasury when called for by the Commander.

SECTION 5. The Judge Advocate shall advise the Commander and the Executive Committee on all legal matters and construction and interpretation of the **ARKANSAS DIVISION** and General Constitutions. He shall act as Parliamentarian at all **ARKANSAS DIVISION** meetings.

SECTION 6. The Chaplain shall open and close with prayer all **ARKANSAS DIVISION** meetings and shall perform such divine and Christian activities as prescribed by the Commander. He shall send proper condolences to the families of deceased members as he is notified by the respective camps.

SECTION 7. The Historian shall be responsible for the construction and maintenance of the **ARKANSAS DIVISION** scrapbook and any other duties prescribed by the Commander.

SECTION 8. Aide-de-Camps will perform duties as prescribed by the Commander.

SECTION 9. Brigade Commanders will be elected to a two (2) year term and will be elected by members of that Brigades District; this election to be held at the time of the **ARKANSAS DIVISION** convention. Brigade Commanders will supervise the camps assigned, and shall submit to the **ARKANSAS DIVISION** Headquarters a semi-annual report stating the condition and work done by the respective camps in his assigned Brigade for the prior six (6) month period; such reports being submitted on January 1 and July 1 of each year.

ARTICLE VIII. - EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Section 1. The Executive Committee shall be composed of the Commander, First Lieutenant Commander, Second Lieutenant Commander, Adjutant, Past Commanders of the **ARKANSAS DIVISION**, Brigade Commanders, and each Camp Commander, provided however that in the event that more than three (3) past Division Commanders are in attendance at a meeting of the Executive Committee, only the three (3) most recent past Commanders shall be entitled to cast a vote in the committee.

SECTION 2. The Executive Committee shall meet at the place of the Division Convention. The Commander may call other meetings as he deems necessary or upon written request of five (5) members of said committee.

SECTION 3. The **ARKANSAS DIVISION** Commander shall be chairman of the Executive Committee.

Section 4. In order to constitute a quorum at any meeting of the Executive Committee there shall be present a number equal to one-half ($\frac{1}{2}$) the total number of persons currently serving as, Elected State Division Officers, Adjutant, Brigade Commanders, and Camp Commanders.

ARTICLE IX – FINANCE

SECTION 1. The fiscal year of the **ARKANSAS DIVISION** shall be from April 1 of one year to April 1 of the next year.

SECTION 2. The revenue of the **ARKANSAS DIVISION** shall be derived from annual membership dues and from other sources as may be approved by the Executive Committee.

SECTION 3. A yearly per capita tax shall be paid by each camp for every active member in good standing to the **ARKANSAS DIVISION** Adjutant. A roster of member names and addresses of members in good standing are to be submitted with per capita tax.

SECTION 4. The yearly per capita tax shall be set by the Executive Committee; such amount subject to the approval of the **ARKANSAS DIVISION** Convention. The **ARKANSAS DIVISION** annual dues are six (6) dollars per person.

SECTION 5. Camps will not be allowed representation at the **ARKANSAS DIVISION** Convention unless their per capita tax has been paid to the **ARKANSAS DIVISION** Adjutant in full, as required, prior to the opening of the **ARKANSAS DIVISION** Convention.

ARTICLE X – PROHIBITIONS

SECTION 1. No discussion of religious subjects, nor any discussion of political subjects that are identifiable with a political party, nor any endorsement of aspirants of a political office, nor any political action except as set forth in Article II, Section 1, shall be permitted in the organization of the **ARKANSAS DIVISION** or the General Confederation.

SECTION 2. No debts shall be contracted by the **ARKANSAS DIVISION** except upon approval of the Executive Committee of the **ARKANSAS DIVISION**.

SECTION 3. The use of the Seal, badges or name of this Confederation for unauthorized purposes and the giving of its badges to persons unauthorized to wear them are strictly prohibited.

SECTION 4. No one can be elected or appointed and officer of the Confederation, unless he is a member in good standing of one of its camps.

ARTICLE XI – COMMITTEES

SECTION 1. Committees may be appointed by the Commander as necessity dictates.

SECTION 2. All committees shall meet when called by their chairman. Committees shall make written reports and recommendations to the **ARKANSAS DIVISION** Commander as soon as assigned duties are performed.

ARTICLE XII. - DELEGATES

SECTION 1. The representation of the various camps at the annual Convention shall be by delegates, as follows:

- a. One (1) delegate for every seven (7) members in good standing in the Camp with one (1) additional delegate for a fraction of five (5) or more;
- b. Provided every camp in good standing shall be entitled to at least two (2) delegates;
- c. All delegates shall have credentials signed by their Camp Commander and Camp Adjutant;

At the Annual Convention, in election of officers and on final passage of Constitutional amendments, each Camp shall be entitled to cast the number of votes equal to the number of delegates to which it is entitled whether or not it has that number of delegates in attendance. In the event that all of the delegates to which the Camp is entitled are not in attendance, the number of votes which the

Camp is entitled to cast shall be prorated among the Camp's delegates present, if more than one. If only one delegate is present, that delegate shall be entitled to cast the total number of votes to which his Camp is entitled as hereinbefore stated.

ARTICLE XIII – AMENDMENTS

SECTION 1. This Constitution may be amended at any Convention by vote of two-thirds of the authorized representation in assembly provided that the proposed amendment is sent by United States mail or by electronic mail to each camp in good standing at least thirty (30) days prior to convening of the **ARKANSAS DIVISION** Convention.

Section 2. Upon presentation to the convention, any proposed amendment may be modified, prior to the taking of a final vote on the amendment, if two-thirds (2/3) of the convention delegates so approve and **provided** that the proposed modification is accepted as a friendly modification by the proponent of the original amendment and, **provided** that any modification of an amendment does not substantially change the purpose or effect of the amendment originally proposed and does not provide for a change of membership qualifications or provide for a change of the annual dues of the **ARKANSAS DIVISION**.

ARTICLE XIV - DISSOLUTION CLAUSE

SECTION 1. In the event of dissolution, the residual assets of the **ARKANSAS DIVISION** will be turned over to a recipient which is officially recognized as a tax exempt organization, qualified to receive donations which are deductible by the donor under Section 501 (c) (3) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1954 (or the corresponding provision of any future United States Internal Revenue Law), as the Executive Committee shall determine. Such distribution shall be only made after said Executive Committee has paid or has made provision for the payment of all liabilities of the **ARKANSAS DIVISION**, National Headquarters, **SONS OF CONFEDERATE VETERANS (SCV)**.

ARTICLE XV - ANNUAL DATE OF ARKANSAS DIVISION CONVENTION

SECTION 1. The **ARKANSAS DIVISION** of the **SONS OF CONFEDERATE VETERANS** will hold its annual convention on a weekend in April or May each year provided that the Division Convention shall not be scheduled on Easter weekend.

**ARTICLE XVI - ANNUAL DATES OF SPECIAL OBSERVANCES AND MAXIMUM EFFORT
ATTENDANCE EVENTS WITHIN THE ARKANSAS DIVISION**

SECTION 1. The **ARKANSAS DIVISION** of the **SONS OF CONFEDERATE VETERANS** does hold three events, every year, which are set apart for special remembrance. The **ARKANSAS DIVISION** does hold an annual memorial service for David O. Dodd and a memorial service for General Patrick R. Cleburne and the **ARKANSAS DIVISION** celebrates Confederate Flag Day annually. This article is to set apart those dates for future observances.

SECTION 2. The Dates of the above mentioned special days of remembrance are:

- a. David Owen Dodd Memorial Service will be held on the **Saturday nearest to January 8th**, the date of his death, which occurred January 8, 1864.
- b. General Patrick Ronayne Cleburne Memorial Service will be held on the **Saturday nearest to March 17th**, the date of his birth in 1828.
- c. Confederate Flag Day will be observed on the **Saturday before Easter Sunday** each year.

SECTION 3. It is the goal of the **ARKANSAS DIVISION** to set apart the above mentioned dates for special observance(s) and to encourage each compatriot to make a maximum effort to participate or attend these events. Therefore, each compatriot, camp, and brigade shall take notice of the above events and will make public these dates and make every effort to support, participate in, and/or attend each of the events. In no case shall a camp, camp commander, brigade or brigade commander schedule a camp event or brigade event which will compete against, conflict with, detract from or draw attendance away from any of the observances listed above.

ARTICLE XVII. DISCIPLINE.

SECTION 1. Each Camp shall be the judge of their members and likewise, each Camp shall be responsible for the conduct of its membership, subject to the provisions and restrictions of this and the General Constitution.

SECTION 2. Members may be suspended or expelled from the Sons of Confederate Veterans for failure to pay dues or upon a proper showing of cause. Charges shall be based upon disloyalty, neglect of duty, dishonesty, and conduct unbecoming a member of the Sons of Confederate Veterans, or the commission of an act repugnant to this Constitution or Standing Orders.

Just as the charges vary by degree, so should punishment. Progressive discipline is strongly encouraged by all camps. Progressive discipline should be applied as soon as possible once a punishable act has happened or discovered. No member, officer, or camp should be required to endure egregious acts of our members. Likewise, no member, officer, or camp should be unduly punished for a first offense. Discipline may be in the form of censure, reprimand (oral or written), probation (suspension with conditions), suspension, and expulsion (revocation of membership).

SECTION 3. Camps must provide any charged member at least two weeks' notice by registered or certified mail (with a return receipt requested). The charged member will be notified of any proposed action of suspension or expulsion, and must provide the member with an opportunity to be heard. Camps must inform the Division Commander and/or Division Executive Council of any proposed action of suspension or expulsion, who will insure that proper procedures are followed and the rights of the member are protected.

SECTION 4. A member who has been suspended or expelled from a Camp or the Division will be transferred into the headquarters Camp # 584. If the Camp or the Division wishes to have the member in question expelled from the Confederation, they shall proffer charges to the Commander-in-Chief within 30 days of the Camp's action or within 30 days of the Division's action. Once charges have been proffered to the Commander-in-Chief, procedures will be followed as outlined in the SCV Constitution, Article 13. Discipline and Administration.

SECTION 5. Automatic suspension shall be imposed for any member three months in arrears of payment of dues. Reinstatement shall be under the conditions outlined in Article XI, Section 8, of this Constitution.

SECTION 6. If a Camp fails to properly discipline its members or fails in its duties and responsibilities, as outlined in this and the SCV Constitution, the Division Commander or the Division Executive Council shall take action to insure the requirements of this and the SCV Constitution are carried out, to include recommendation or request for suspension or expulsion to the Commander-in-Chief.

[Original signed by]

Robert A. Edwards
Commander, Arkansas Division
April 22, 2017

*As Amended in the General **ARKANSAS DIVISION** Convention
during the Annual Reunion of the **ARKANSAS DIVISION**
on April 22, 2016, in Mena, Arkansas.*