



***Sons of The American Legion
Detachment of Michigan
Constitution***

PREAMBLE

Proud possessors of a priceless heritage, we male descendants of veterans of all Wars, associate ourselves together as "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 our forefathers in all 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 "Sons of The American Legion, Detachment of Michigan".

SECTION 2:

The Detachment Headquarters of the Sons of The American Legion shall be located at the site of The American Legion, Department of Michigan, in the city of Lansing, Michigan.

**ARTICLE II
NATURE**

SECTION 1:

The Sons of The American Legion is a civilian organization. Membership therein does not affect nor increases 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 for 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 full duty as a citizen according to his own conscience and understanding in accord with the Law, State and Nation.

ARTICLE III
ORGANIZATION

SECTION 1:

The Sons of The American Legion, in the Department of Michigan, shall be organized as a Detachment of Michigan, a sub-ordinate body of the National organization of the Sons of The American Legion.

SECTION 2:

The Sons of The American Legion, in the Detachment of Michigan, shall be organized under the jurisdiction of the Local Post's of The American Legion, Department of Michigan, and shall bear the name of the Post as follows: Sons of The American Legion, Squadron #, Detachment of Michigan.

SECTION 3:

The American Legion, Department of Michigan, shall have jurisdiction over all Squadrons of the Sons of The American Legion, organized by a Post of The American Legion, in the Department of Michigan.

SECTION 4:

All Squadrons of the Sons of The American Legion, in the Detachment of Michigan, shall be governed by such rules and regulations as may be prescribed by the National Committee of the Sons of The American Legion as approved by the National Executive Committee of The American Legion, and by such further rules and regulations as may be prescribed by the Department Executive Committee of The American Legion, Department of Michigan, not inconsistent with those prescribed by the National Organization.

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 the period of April 6, 1917, through November 11, 1918, or any time from December 7, 1941, to date, who served honorably, as set forth in Article IV 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 as an active member.

ARTICLE V
DEPARTMENT LIAISON

SECTION 1:

Sons of The American Legion, Detachment of Michigan, shall have a Department Liaison, to be appointed by the Department Commander of The American Legion, Department of Michigan.

SECTION 2:

The Detachment Liaison shall consist of one (1) member of The American Legion, Department of Michigan. The one member, to be appointed at-large, shall be known as the Department Liaison.

SECTION 3:

The Detachment Commander of the Sons of The American Legion, Detachment of Michigan, shall work with the Department Liaison, for the entire term of his office.

SECTION 4:

The term of office of the appointed member known as the Department Liaison shall expire at the close of the Annual Department Convention of The American Legion, Department of Michigan, each year.

ARTICLE VI
DETACHMENT ORGANIZATION

SECTION 1:

The Department Liaison shall set-up a Detachment organization, as provided in the National Constitution of the Sons of The American Legion.

SECTION 2:

The annual meeting of the Sons of The American Legion, Detachment of Michigan, shall be a convention. The Annual Convention will be held in the month of June prior to the Department of Michigan Annual Convention. The Annual Convention will not be held on a Father's Day weekend, unless absolutely necessary with the approval of the Detachment Executive Committee. Notice of the Annual Convention shall be given by the Detachment Adjutant of the Sons of The American Legion, Detachment of Michigan, to all Squadrons of the Detachment. This notice shall be mailed or posted in the Detachment of Michigan Newspaper and sent to the Commanders or Adjutant of all Squadrons at least (30) days prior to the opening date of the convention. The Department Adjutant shall be advised of the dates of the convention at least sixty (60) days prior to the opening of the convention by the Department Liaison.

SECTION 3:

Delegates Representation at the Detachment Convention shall be by delegates and alternates, elected by the Squadrons, and in addition, all Past Detachment Commanders, Captains, and current Detachment Officers with voting power will be delegates. Each member present can only have one vote. A member cannot be a Squadron delegate and have a Detachment Officers vote at the same time.

SECTION 4:

Each Squadron having ten (10) or more paid-up members at the Department Headquarters thirty (30) days prior to the opening of the Detachment Convention shall be entitled to one delegate. The delegate shall be the newly elected Squadron Commander and one delegate for each additional twenty-five (25) members or major fraction thereof. An alternate shall be elected for each delegate. Each Squadron represented at the Detachment Convention shall be entitled to cast the entire voting strength of the Squadron, providing that all debts and convention registration fees for each vote have been paid to the Detachment of Michigan.

SECTION 5:

Robert's Rules of Order (revised) shall govern except for specific rules adopted by the convention.

SECTION 6:

To constitute a quorum for the legal transaction of business at the Detachment Convention, there shall be present, five (5) or more squadrons of this Detachment which are wholly or partially represented and five (5) voting members of the Detachment Executive Committee.

Under ARTICLE V of the Detachment By-Laws.

SECTION 7:

All actions of the Detachment Convention shall be subject to review and approval of the Department Executive Committee of The American Legion, Department of Michigan, through the Department Internal Affairs Committee.

SECTION 8:

The Detachment Convention shall elect the following Detachment Officers, Commander, five (5) Zone Commanders, Chaplain, Historian, Finance Officer and Sergeant-At-Arms. The Detachment Convention shall also elect the following National Officers in the even numbered years, for two-year terms: National Executive Committeeman and Alternate National Executive Committeeman. All vacancies in offices which have an alternate shall cause the second in command to move up in office. Vacancies in all other elected offices **will** be filled by the Detachment Commander subject to approval of the Detachment Executive Committee.

SECTION 9:

The Squadrons of each Zone, as established by The American Legion, Department of Michigan, shall elect one (1) Detachment Zone Commander for each Zone, to be elected at a Zone caucus by the delegates of that Zone only. If a Zone is not represented at the Detachment Convention, it is the responsibility of the Department Liaison to call a Zone caucus as soon as possible after the Convention adjourns, for the purpose of conducting such an election and to advise the Detachment Commander and Adjutant of who was elected. Immediately following the adjournment of the Detachment Convention, the newly elected and installed Zone Commanders shall meet for the purpose of electing a Chairman among their number.

SECTION 10:

All Detachment Officers with a contested election will be by secret ballot and a plurality vote will win the election.

SECTION 11:

The newly elected Detachment Commander shall appoint the following non-voting Detachment Officers: Adjutant, Assistant Adjutant, Judge Advocate, Service Officer and Assistant Sergeant-at-Arms. The Adjutant, Assistant Adjutant, Judge Advocate and Service Officer must receive an official call to all meetings. The Assistant Sergeant-at-Arms will receive an official call only in the absence of the Sergeant- at-Arms.

SECTION 12:

All appointments of Officers and Committee Chairman are subject to the formal approval of the Detachment Executive Committee.

SECTION 13:

All elected and appointed Officers of the Sons of The American Legion, Detachment of Michigan, shall sit on the Committee to be known as the Detachment Executive Committee. Also, the immediate three (3) Past Detachment Commanders shall serve on this Committee. If a member serves on the Committee in two capacities (i.e. Finance Officer and Past Detachment Commander), he would only cast one vote. He has to be present to cast his vote. All Past Commanders and Past Captains in attendance who are not in the immediate Past three (3) will have a voice, but without vote, on the Detachment Executive Committee.

SECTION 14:

Installation of Officers shall be the last order of business of the Detachment Convention, and shall be done according to ritual and by a team selected by the Detachment Commander.

SECTION 15:

All Officers shall hold their office from the close of the Annual Detachment of Michigan Convention to the next annual close of the Detachment of Michigan Convention the next year. Any Officer may be removed for written cause by the joint meeting of the Department Liaison and the Detachment Executive Committee. The vacancy would then be filled by the Joint Committee, subject to the approval of The American Legion, Department of Michigan, Internal Affairs Committee.

SECTION 16:

The administrative powers of the Detachment between conventions shall be vested in the Detachment Executive Committee. The Committee shall meet at least three times a year, preferable concurrent with The American Legion, Department of Michigan conferences and convention, by the official call of the Detachment Commander. In addition to the above regular meetings, the Detachment Executive Committee may meet on a special call of the Detachment Commander or a majority vote of the Detachment Executive Committee. The Detachment Executive Committee, without meeting may transact business by mail, E-Mail, telephone or fax

on matters of urgency not involving new policy and on which action cannot be delayed until the next regular meeting. Such business shall be recorded by the Detachment Adjutant and reported to the Detachment Commander.

SECTION 17:

The Detachment Finance Officer shall hold office for the budget year (July 1 to June 30), which is the same as The American Legion, Department of Michigan budget year. The newly elected Finance Officer will not have a vote until the beginning of the new fiscal year.

ARTICLE VII
DISTRICT ORGANIZATIONS

SECTION 1:

Intermediate Organizations may be formed, as provided by the National Constitution and By- Laws, to be known as District Associations.

SECTION 2:

Each Association will carry the same numeric designation and area boundaries as The American Legion District in which it is located.

SECTION 3:

The purpose of these Associations is to act as liaison groups between Squadrons and the Detachment and to promote the overall program in their areas through common effort.

SECTION 4:

Squadrons thus associated shall elect Officers from among their members. Titles, duties and terms of office shall generally conform to those of a Squadron Organization.

SECTION 5:

Each Association shall, as soon as practicable, formulate a Constitution and By-Laws to govern its functions in realization of its purpose. Initially, copies of this document, as well as a certification of Officers elected, shall be submitted to the Detachment of Michigan for approval. Thereafter, an annual certification of Officers elected and any amendments to the Association Constitution and By-Laws shall follow the same course.

ARTICLE VIII
FINANCE

SECTION 1:

The revenue of the Sons of The American Legion shall be derived from annual membership dues and from such other sources as may be approved by the Department Executive Committee of The American Legion, Department of Michigan.

SECTION 2:

The amount of such annual Detachment dues shall be fixed by The American Legion, Department of Michigan, and the National dues shall be fixed by the National Organization, and shall be payable on or after October 20th of each year for the succeeding calendar year.

SECTION 3:

The amount of annual Squadron dues shall be determined by the Squadron, which sum shall include Detachment and National dues as set forth in Section 2 of this Article.

SECTION 4:

The annual National and Detachment dues shall be collected by each Squadron and transmitted to the Department Headquarters.

SECTION 5:

The American Legion, Department of Michigan, shall distribute the funds of the Sons of The American Legion upon the advice of the Department Liaison.

SECTION 6:

The Detachment Executive Committee may establish a registration fee to be paid by all attendees at Convention and all Conferences. (See Standing Rules)

SECTION 7:

The American Legion, National, requires all Squadrons, Districts, Detachments to have the sponsoring organizations Finance Officer on all bank accounts as a signatory at minimum. This will allow the sponsoring organization to obtain the financial statements of the organization as needed for tax purposes.

ARTICLE IX
DISCIPLINE

SECTION 1:

The American Legion, Department of Michigan, may suspend or revoke the charter of any Squadron of the Sons of The American Legion in the Department of Michigan, which violates its Constitution or take such other disciplinary measures as may be for the benefit of the Squadron, District or Detachment as a whole. The actions, however, are subject to the review of the Department Executive Committee through the Department Internal Affairs Committee.

SECTION 2:

Any Squadron that does not pay its annual membership dues to the Department of Michigan, which sum shall include Detachment and National dues as set forth in Section 2, Article VIII of Finance. For a period of Two (2) consecutive years shall have its charter suspended until good standing status is returned by said Squadron. The actions, however, are subject to the review of the Department Executive Committee through the Department Internal Affairs Committee.

SECTION 3:

Each Squadron shall approve and endorse a Squadron Constitution and By-Laws. Which together with any subsequent amendment thereto, shall be approved by the endorsement of the sponsoring American Legion Post, District Sons of The American Legion Judge Advocate (when District Sons are formed) and Detachment Judge Advocate before becoming effective. Upon endorsements a copy shall be placed on file with The American Legion, Department of Michigan.

ARTICLE X *AMENDMENTS*

SECTION 1:

This Constitution is adopted, subject to the provisions of the Constitution of the National Organization of which this Detachment is a subordinate member. Any amendment to the National Constitution which is in conflict with any provision hereof shall be regarded as automatically repealing or modifying the provisions of this Constitution to the extent of such conflict.

SECTION 2:

This Constitution may be amended at the annual Detachment Convention by a vote of two-thirds of the delegates attending, provided that proposed amendment (s) shall have been submitted in writing to all Detachment Officers and Squadrons sixty (60) days prior to the opening of such Convention.

SECTION 3:

It is further understood that approved amendments shall subsequently be-submitted without delay to the Department Internal Affairs Committee for consideration and modification and/or approval and thence on to the Department Executive Committee for final approval to any implementing action on the part of the Detachment of Michigan.



***Sons of The American Legion
Detachment of Michigan
By-Laws***

**ARTICLE I
DUTIES OF DEPARTMENT LIAISON**

SECTION 1: DEPARTMENT LAISON.

The Department Liaison shall be appointed by the Department Commander of The American Legion, Department of Michigan. Department Liaison shall be responsible for committee reports at the following meetings: Fall Conference, Spring Conference, Department of Michigan Convention and any other duly called meetings of the Detachment of Michigan. Department Liaison shall be the liaison for the Sons of The American Legion, Detachment of Michigan, to the Department Commander. Department Liaison shall not be entitled to a delegate vote to the Sons of The American Legion, Detachment of Michigan Convention. Department Liaison shall perform such other duties as are usual and incidental to the office.

SECTION 2:

All actions of the Department Liaison are subject to the approval of The American Legion, Department of Michigan, through the Department Internal Affairs Committee.

**ARTICLE II
DEPARTMENT ADJUTANT**

SECTION 1:

The Department Adjutant of The American Legion, Department of Michigan, shall be the coordinator of membership for the Sons of The American Legion, Detachment of Michigan. He/she shall serve notification of Department Liaison Meetings, Detachment Conventions and any other duly called meetings for the Department Liaison by The American Legion, Department of Michigan. He/she shall serve as special advisor to the Detachment Adjutant of the Sons of The American Legion.

ARTICLE III
DETACHMENT OFFICERS

SECTION 1: COMMANDER

The Commander shall be the Executive Head of the Sons of The American Legion, Detachment of Michigan, will have full power to enforce the provisions of the Detachment Constitution, Bylaws, Standing Rules, Convention Rules and the policies and mandates of the National and of the Department Committees of the Sons of The American Legion and of the Detachment Executive Committee. In fulfillment of his role as Detachment Commander, he shall also be responsible for promoting the programs with member Squadrons and assisting in the formulation of new Squadrons, enlisting the aid of the Detachment Zone Commanders to accomplish this end, both during Detachment activities and at the Squadron level upon request.

SECTION 2: ZONE COMMANDERS

The Chairman of the Zone Commanders shall directly represent the Detachment Commander on all matters referred to him and shall, upon request, preside over meetings, travel, and shall perform other duties as are usually incident to the office. The other four Zone Commanders may also be requested to perform the duties outlined above. The overall basic objective of the Zone Commanders shall be to develop plans and to promote membership within their respective Zones and to conduct membership seminars at Detachment Conventions, meetings and conferences. They should report "ZERO Membership Squadrons" to the Detachment Membership Chairman and the Detachment Commander as soon as possible. They should meet with all the Squadrons and District Associations in their Zones respectively, to inform them of activities and forms they are to submit at convention. All Zone Commanders are required to dress in proper attire when representing the Detachment and are voting members at all Detachment meetings.

SECTION 3: ADJUTANT

The Adjutant shall be charged with the Administrative duties required in carrying out the policies and mandates of The American Legion and of the Detachment Executive Committee. Nonvoting member.

SECTION 3-a: ASSISTANT ADJUTANT

The Assistant Adjutant shall be charged with assisting the Detachment Adjutant with all the Administrative duties required in carrying out the policies and mandates of The American Legion and of the Detachment Executive Committee. Non-voting member.

SECTION 4: FINANCE OFFICER

The Finance Officer shall be the direct custodian of the funds of the Detachment. All such funds are held in separate accounts by the Department of Michigan for disbursement upon receipt of vouchers, approved by the Detachment Finance Officer. The Finance Officer shall be provided with the account condition of Detachment funds by the Department of Michigan for reporting purposes at the Detachment conventions, meetings and conferences. Is a Voting Member.

SECTION 5: SERGEANT-AT-ARMS

The Sergeant-at-Arms shall be the sentinel or outer guard at all meetings of the Detachment of Michigan. He is charged with the responsibility of preserving order at all Detachment meetings, setting up the meeting area, is the custodian of the American Flag, the Blue Star Banner, POWMIA flag and The Detachment colors during and after such meetings. He shall perform the POW-MIA ceremony at all official meetings of the Detachment of Michigan. He will escort all visitors to and from the podium. He will pass out materials as needed; carry Detachment Colors in any event specified by the Detachment Commander. He is to assist the Detachment Commander in any way. He shall perform other such duties as are usually incident to the office. Is a voting member.

SECTION 6: ASSISTANT SERGEANT-AT-ARMS

As the title implies, the Assistant Sergeant-at-Arms shall assist the Sergeant-at-Arms with his duties and to perform those additional duties as may be requested of him by the Detachment Commander. He will have a vote if called to a meeting in the Sergeant-at-Arms absence.

SECTION 7: CHAPLAIN

The Chaplain shall perform such divine and non-sectarian services as may be necessary, adhering to such ceremonial rituals as may be prescribed by the National Americanism Commission of The American Legion. He shall organize and conduct the memorial services at the Detachment Convention. Is a voting member.

SECTION 8: HISTORIAN

The Historian shall collect from year to year all records and data of value and interest to the Detachment of Michigan and shall compile a complete history of the year's activities during his term of office. In addition, he shall develop a procedure for District and Squadron Historians to follow in publishing their respective yearbooks. Is a voting member.

SECTION 9: JUDGE ADVOCATE

The Judge Advocate shall serve as judge to the Detachment on parliamentary rulings. He must be asked for a ruling unless he detects an order of meeting that is unjust or out of order. To facilitate making rulings he shall have at hand current copies of the Constitution Standing Rules and Convention Rules, By-Laws, of the Detachment and the National Organization, as well as Robert's Rules of Order (**revised**). Non-voting member.

SECTION 10: CERTIFICATION

All Detachment Executive Committee members elected or appointed shall have their membership certified by their Squadrons sponsoring Post Adjutant and shall submit such certification to the Detachment Adjutant within sixty (60) days of election or appointment.

SECTION 11: DETACHMENT NATIONAL EXECUTIVE COMMITTEEMAN

The duties and responsibilities of the National Executive Committeeman (N.E.C.) are to represent the Detachment of Michigan in a dignified manner at all meetings of the National Executive Committee and the National Convention. You are to report to the Detachment Executive Committee on all important matters coming out of these meetings. You are required to attend all meetings of the Detachment of Michigan. You are the official escort of all National people when they are visiting the Detachment. It is your duty to pick up and deliver the National Representatives from airports, trains, or bus stations. It is your duty to escort them to all functions of the Sons of The American Legion, Detachment of Michigan. When applicable, The American Legion, Department of Michigan and the Department of Michigan Ladies Auxiliary. Is a voting member.

SECTION 12: DETACHMENT ALTERNATE NATIONAL EXECUTIVE COMMITTEEMAN

The duties and responsibilities of the Alternate National Executive Committeeman (ALT N.E.C.) are to represent the Detachment of Michigan in a dignified manner at all meetings of the National Executive Committee and the National Convention. You are to report to the Detachment Executive Committee on all important matters coming out of these meetings. You are required to attend all meetings of the Detachment of Michigan. In the event that the N.E.C. representative is unable to perform his duties, you will become the official escort of all National people when they are visiting the Detachment. It is your duty to pick up and deliver the National Representatives from airports, trains, or bus stations. It is your duty to escort them to all functions of the Sons of The American Legion, Detachment of Michigan. When applicable, The American Legion, Department of Michigan and the Department of Michigan Ladies Auxiliary. Is a voting member.

SECTION 13: SERVICE OFFICER

Detachment Service Officer shall take its lead from the Department Service Officers, by supplying information to Squadrons for its members and those wanting to become members and need verification of eligibility. Pass on VA benefits information needed for those members that were in the Armed Forces, but not eligible for The American Legion. Those needing assistance other than information should be directed to a Post Service Officer for paperwork. Is a nonvoting member.

ARTICLE IV *STANDING COMMITTEES*

SECTION 1: Upon the election of the Detachment Commander, the Detachment Executive Committee shall annually appoint in a meeting to be called by the Detachment Commander as soon as practicable after the annual convention, such Standing Committees as it shall deem advisable for the benefit of the Detachment and its member Squadrons.

ARTICLE V
QUORUM

SECTION 1: To constitute a quorum for the legal transaction of business at the Detachment Convention, there shall be present, five (5) or more squadrons of this Detachment which are wholly or partially represented and five (5) voting members of the Detachment Executive Committee.

SECTION 2: Five voting members of the Detachment Executive Committee shall constitute a quorum for the legal transaction of business outside of the Detachment Convention.

ARTICLE VI
AMENDMENTS

SECTION 1: These By-Laws are adopted, subject to the provisions of the By-Laws of the National Organization, of which this Detachment is a subordinate member. Any amendment to the National By-Laws which is in conflict with any provision hereof shall be regarded as automatically repealing or modifying the provisions of these By-Laws to the extent of such conflict.

SECTION 2:

These By-Laws may be amended at the annual Detachment Convention by vote of two-thirds of the delegates attending, provided that proposed amendments shall have been submitted in writing to all Detachment Officers and Squadrons sixty (60) days prior to the opening of such convention. See Article VI, (Detachment Organization) Section 2, of the Detachment Constitution and Standing Convention rules 19-A.

SECTION 3: It is further understood that approved amendments shall subsequently be submitted without delay to the Department Internal Affairs Committee for consideration and modification and/or approval and thence on to the Department Executive Committee for final approval prior to any implementing action on the part of the Detachment of Michigan.

The Constitution and By-Laws of the Detachment of Michigan, as they existed prior to the action of the Okemos 2024 Convention, are hereby repealed. These Constitution and By-Laws shall take effect immediately upon the close of the 2024 Detachment Convention and immediately after approval of Department Convention delegates at Sault Ste Marie 2024.