

BY-LAWS

ALBERT SIDNEY JOHNSTON CAMP No. 983

Sons of Confederate Veterans - Texas Division

Article I - Name of Camp

This camp was granted a Charter on March 12, 1996, by the International Headquarters of Sons of Confederate Veterans, Columbia, Tennessee, as the *Albert Sidney Johnston Camp Number 983* of the Texas Division, and is subject to the Constitution of the Sons of Confederate Veterans and the Division of Texas, and is subject the rules, regulations, orders, and laws promulgated in pursuance thereof.

Article II - Purposes

The purposes of the *Albert Sidney Johnston Camp Number 983* (also called "Camp" herein), shall be that stated in the preamble of the Constitution of The Sons of Confederate Veterans as adopted on July 1, 1986, and amended thereafter in general conventions of The Sons of Confederate Veterans (also called "SCV" herein); including, but not limited to the following:

To perpetuate an unquestioned allegiance to the Constitution of the United States, and a strict construction of all sections conferring certain powers granted by the various states, and the implied and understood reservations to the States arising therefrom and emphatically stated in Article X of the Bill of Rights, and a general attitude of opposition to further amendment thereof. The association in one united, compact body of men of Confederate ancestry, and to cultivate, perpetuate, and sanctify the ties of fraternity and friendship entailed thereby.

To aid and encourage the teaching with impartiality of all Southern history and achievement from Jamestown to this present era, seeing to it especially that the events of the War Between the States, and the heroic contributions of the Confederate soldiers of Indian Territory are authentically and clearly written and that all documents, relics, and mementos produced and handed down by those active participants therein are properly treasured and preserved for posterity,

To aid and assist in the erection of suitable and enduring monuments and memorials to all Southern valor, civil and military, wherever done and wherever found, particularly stressing that of our heroic Confederate ancestors, who by their sacrifice, perpetuated unto us and our descendants that glorious heritage of valor, chivalry, and honor which we now hold and venerate; and

To instill in our descendants a devotion to and reverence for the principles represented by the Confederate States of America, to the honor, glory and memory of our fathers who fought in that Cause.

Article III - Nature

Albert Sidney Johnston Camp No. 983 shall be strictly historical and benevolent, non-political, and non-sectarian.

Article IV - Charge

"To you, Sons of Confederate Veterans, we will commit the vindication of the cause for which we fought. To your strength will be given the defense of the Confederate soldier's good name, the guardianship of his history, the emulation of his virtues, the perpetuation of those principles which he loved and which you love also, and those ideals which made him glorious and which you also cherish."

Article V - Membership

Section 1. All male descendants, lineal or collateral, at least twelve years of age, of those who served in the Confederate Army or Navy to the end of the War. or who were killed in battle, or who were honorably retired or discharged, shall be eligible for membership in the Camp, provided no member under the age of sixteen years of age shall be allowed to vote.

Section 2. No one shall be admitted to membership until satisfactory proof of the foregoing qualifications, set forth in Section 1 hereof, be submitted in duplicate on official blank applications prepared for that purpose; such applications bearing recommendation by a member in good standing of this camp. The original shall be forwarded to the International Headquarters, Sons of Confederate Veterans and the duplicate shall be preserved by the Camp.

Section 3. All applications for membership in the Albert Sidney Johnson Camp No. 983, received by the Adjutant, shall be reviewed by the Commander. The Commander may submit the applications to a confidential two-man membership committee, appointed by turn, to pass or the acceptability of the candidate for membership. Candidates refused membership may petition the Camp membership for admission. and upon receiving favorable, written approval of three- fourths of the membership, will be granted full membership in the Camp, provided said candidate meets the eligibility requirements set forth in Section 1 of this Article IV.

Section 4. No one shall be admitted to membership in this Camp, nor shall anyone be allowed to remain a member thereof, who will not pledge allegiance to the flag of the United States and declare upon oath or affirmation that he will support and uphold the Constitution of the United States.

Section 5. Application for membership: Annual dues must be submitted with completed applications to the Camp Adjutant.

Section 6. Membership in the Camp shall be annual membership; no provision is made herein for life membership in the Camp.

Section 7. Annual membership in the Camp includes annual membership in the Texas Division, and the International Sons Confederate Veterans, headquartered in Columbia. Tennessee.

Section 8. Any member in good standing in the Camp, removing from the Camp, shall be entitled to a certificate from the Camp Adjutant stating his membership and duration thereof.

Section 9. Applications for membership in the Camp must be read at a regular meeting of the Camp. Upon reading of the application, membership in the Camp will be extended only after receiving a two-thirds vote of acceptance by the membership present.

Section 10. National and State Life Memberships:

- a. The International Headquarters of the Sons of Confederate Veterans has established a life membership program.
- b. The Texas Division of the Sons of Confederate Veterans has also established a life membership program.

Article VI - Associate Membership

Section 1. There shall be instituted in this camp an associate membership for individuals, male, at least twelve (12) years of age, who accept, agree, subscribe to, and pledge to support all rules, policies, and principles of the Sons of Confederate Veterans, and the purposes set forth in Article II of these bylaws; but which individuals. for reasons temporary or permanent, may be unable to qualify for membership as required in Article IV of these By-laws.

Section 2. No one shall be admitted to associate membership in this Camp, nor shall anyone be allowed to remain an associate member thereof, who will not a) pledge allegiance to the flag of the United States, and declare upon oath or affirmation that he will support and uphold the Constitution of the United States, b) salute the Texas flag, c) salute the Confederate flag, and d) accept, subscribe to, and recite "The Charge" given by Stephen D. Lee, General, CSA to the Sons of Confederate Veterans.

Section 3. Dues payable by associate members shall be equal to dues paid by members.

Section 4. Application for associate membership: Completed applications, as prescribed by the Camp, together with dues, shall be submitted to the Camp Adjutant.

Section 5. Applications for associate membership in the Camp must be read at a regular meeting of the Camp. Upon reading of the application, associate membership in the Camp will be extended only after receiving a unanimous vote of acceptance by the membership present.

Section 6. An associate member shall not have the right to vote.

Section 7. An associate member may be expelled from membership at any regular meeting by a majority vote of the members present.

Article VII - Dues

Section 1. The annual dues to the Camp shall be set annually by the Executive Committee, such amount subject to approval by the membership at the December Meeting.

Section 2. Annual dues shall be paid on or before August 31st of each year.

Section 3. Members in arrears four months in payment of dues shall be classified as delinquent, and six months' arrearages shall automatically impose suspension. Payment of all back dues within one year, together with all additional levies for that year, shall permit reinstatement to activate membership. A member delinquent one year or more shall only be reinstated upon vote of the Camp, and payment of all amounts due by him to the Camp.

Section 4. Annual dues shall include dues payable to the Camp, the Division of Texas and the International Headquarters of the Sons of Confederate Veterans; provided however, if a member has obtained a life membership in the Division of Texas, or the International Sons of Confederate Veterans, or both, then such annual dues payable by such member shall be reduced proportionate to the amount of such dues which would otherwise be paid by the Camp to the Division of Texas and/or to the International Headquarters of the Sons of Confederate Veterans.

Article VIII - Meetings

Section 1. Regular Meetings. The regular meeting of the Camp for the transaction of organized business shall be held on a day of each month, at such time and place as may be fixed by the Executive Committee.

Section 2. Special Meetings. A special meeting of the Camp may be held at any time upon call of the Commander. The Commander shall also call a special meeting upon demand in writing, stating the object of the proposed meeting, and signed by not less than 20% of the members entitled to vote. Notice of the time, place and object of any special meeting shall be given to all officers and members in good standing, in writing, by United States mail, not less than seven (7) days prior to the date fixed for holding of the special meeting. The place of such special meeting shall be fixed by the Executive Committee.

Section 3. Quorum. Five 5 members of the Camp, entitled to vote, shall constitute a quorum at any meeting.

Section 4. Rules of Procedure. The rules of procedure at any meeting of the Camp shall be those set forth in Robert's Rules of Order, Revised, except wherein they may be altered by the Camp.

Article IX - Officers

Section 1. Officers of the Camp. The officers of the Camp shall be Commander, First Lieutenant Commander, Second Lieutenant Commander, Adjutant, Treasurer, Judge Advocate, Quartermaster, Surgeon, Chaplain, Color Sergeant, and Historian.

Section 2. Elective Officers. The Commander, First Lieutenant Commander, Second Lieutenant Commander, Adjutant, Treasurer, and Chaplain shall be elected by a majority vote by ballot of the members in good standing present at the regular December meeting of the Camp. Officers elected shall take office at the first meeting in January following their election. They shall hold office for one year or until their successors are elected.

Section 3. Nominating Committee. On or before the regular October meeting, the Commander shall appoint a committee for the purpose of nominating elective officers for the next year, and which nominating committee shall report their nominations to the Camp at the regular November meeting.

Section 4. Vacancy of Elective Office. When an elective office is vacated as result of death, resignation or removal, the Commander shall appoint a successor, upon recommendation of the Executive Committee, such successor to hold office until the next election of officers.

Section 5. Appointed Officers. The following officers may be appointed by the Commander: Judge Advocate, Quartermaster, Surgeon, Color Sergeant, Historian, and such officers as the Commander deems necessary.

Section 6. Executive Committee.

- a) The Executive Committee shall be composed of the Commander, First Lieutenant Commander, Second Lieutenant Commander, Adjutant, and Treasurer, and the two immediate past commanders. No past commander shall be eligible that has failed to maintain good standing in the Camp.
- b) Meetings of the Executive Committee shall be held at any time and place as the Commander may determine. Meetings may be called at any time on demand, in writing to the Commander by three members of the Executive Committee.
- c) Three (3) Members of the Executive Committee shall constitute a quorum.
- d) Resignation of any elective officer may be accepted by majority vote of the remaining members of the Executive Committee.
- e) The Executive Committee shall:
 - 1) approve or disapprove all bills presented to the Treasurer for payment.
 - 2) sit in judgement in all disciplinary matters.
 - 3) authorize and approve all meeting sites and arrangements.
 - 4) rule on all questions affecting the election eligibility and conduct of members.
 - 5) when in the interest of the Camp, transact business in behalf of the membership.

Article X - Duties of Officers

Section 1. **COMMANDER.** The Commander shall preside at all meetings of the Camp and of the Executive Committee. He shall be a member ex-officio of all regular and special committees and shall perform all such other duties as usually pertain to his office.

Section 2. **FIRST LIEUTENANT COMMANDER.** The First Lieutenant Commander shall perform the duties of the Commander in the absence of the Commander or at his request. He shall:

- a. serve as membership chairman and responsible for the enlistment of new members.
- b. maintain an adequate supply of SCV brochures and applications to accomplish recruitment of new members.
- c. monitor membership as to dues payment and meeting attendance.
- d. constantly strive for an active, growing membership.
- e. prepare and distribute to the membership in good standing a roster of members, their addresses and telephone numbers.

Section 3. **SECOND LIEUTENANT COMMANDER.** The Second Lieutenant Commander shall perform the duties of the Commander in the absence of the Commander and First Lieutenant Commander. He shall serve as program chairman, securing guest speakers, and presentations for Camp functions.

Section 4. **ADJUTANT.** The Adjutant shall conduct all official correspondence pertaining to the proper preparation and forwarding of all reports required of the Camp to SCV Headquarters. He shall notify all members of special meetings. He shall keep a true record of all meetings of the Camp and have custody of the books and papers of the Camp, except the Treasurer's books of account. He shall be keeper of the Camp seal. All applications for membership, initiation fees and first year dues shall be made to the Adjutant. He shall be responsible for the ordering of all items necessary for operation of the Camp. He shall maintain adequate stock of SCV membership pins, decals, and application.

Section 5. **TREASURER.** The Treasurer shall have charge of all funds of the Camp and place the same in such bank or banks as may be approved by the Executive Committee. Such money shall only be withdrawn by check signed by the Treasurer. He shall keep an accurate account of all his transactions and render a detailed report to the membership at any meeting when requested. He shall present a detailed report, in writing, of income and expenditures at the December meeting. Bills paid by the Treasurer shall have received approval of the Executive Committee. He shall be responsible for collection of dues and fees, taking proper note of the paying member, his address and other information necessary in the maintenance of Camp records and posting such information with the Adjutant.

Section 6. **JUDGE ADVOCATE.** The Judge Advocate shall advise the officers and Executive Committee of all legal matters, including the construction and interpretation of the S.C.V. General Constitution and Camp By-laws. He shall serve as parliamentarian at both regular and special meetings. Upon direction of the Commander, he shall conduct investigations into charges or challenges brought against Camp members. He shall perform such other duties as are usually incident to his office.

Section 7. **QUARTERMASTER.** The Quartermaster shall be responsible for the procurement of meeting sites and arrangements incident of preparation for regular, special, or social meetings of the Camp, such sites and arrangement subject to approval of the Executive Committee. He shall be responsible for the operation of Camp stores, maintaining adequate stocks and other items necessary for efficient operation. He shall account to the Commander as to expenditures. He shall maintain a cash fund up to \$20. Any monies in excess of \$20 shall be remitted to the Treasurer.

Section 8. SURGEON. The Surgeon shall be responsible for the establishment and observance of ceremonial forms and courtesies of the Camp. Upon direction of the Commander or Executive Committee, he shall issue announcements to the public concerning the Camp, its members and activities. He shall be familiar with basic techniques of first aid and shall stand ready to administer basic medical assistance when called upon at meetings and functions of the Camp.

Section 9. CHAPLAIN. The Chaplain provides spiritual guidance for the Camp. He shall represent the Camp in times of bereavement. He shall periodically report to the Commander on the wellbeing of members confined of illness. In event of member death, he shall immediately notify the membership. He shall be responsible for the procurement of flowers, wreaths, or such other items incidental to the accomplishment of his duties.

Section 10. COLOR SERGEANT. The Color Sergeant shall maintain and safeguard the Camp colors. He shall insure the proper display of colors at all functions of the Camp and will lead members in salutes to the colors. He shall appoint assistants to aid in the performance of his duties.

Section 11. HISTORIAN. The Historian shall keep and maintain a written record of the Camp, its officers and members, and its accomplishments during his tenure of office. He shall be responsible for the collection of photographs, newspaper clippings, and such other items as necessary, in proper recording of Camp history. All items will be affixed in a bound volume to insure preservation.

Section 12. EDITOR. The Commander shall, upon taking office, appoint an editor, and such other staff as necessary in the preparation and distribution of the official Camp bulletin, *The Picket Line*. The Commander shall periodically review operation of the bulletin to ascertain if operation is in the best interest of the Camp. The Executive Committee shall provide for acceptance of annual subscriptions from non-members and establish an annual subscription rate. The Editor shall, at the end of the fiscal year, prepare a written report concerning the number of copies produced, number distributed and associated costs. This report shall be submitted to the Commander at the December meeting.

Article XI - Projects and Programs

The Camp shall sponsor and support, but not be limited to, the following:

- a. Historical study of the War Between the States.
- b. Marking the graves of Confederate servicemen.
- c. Preserving and maintaining Confederate monuments and memorials.
- d. Supporting and publicizing Confederate events and holidays.

Article XII - Awards

Section 1. The Executive Committee shall be responsible for the creation and administration of a program of awards presented to Camp members and non-members deemed worthy of recognition.

Section 2. The Executive Committee shall review and authorize the presentation the presentation of certificates and awards, except the Commander's Commendations, and Resolutions of Respect, which are reserved to the Commander.

Article XIII - Suspension or Expulsions

Section 1. Any member may be suspended or expelled from the Camp for cause, such cause being deemed sufficient by the Executive Committee by a two-thirds affirmative vote of the members of the Committee present at any regular or special meeting. Cause for disciplinary action shall be:

- a. disloyalty
- b. neglect of duty

- c. dishonesty
- d. conduct unbecoming a member of the Sons of Confederate Veterans
- e. an act repugnant to the SCV, Constitution or detrimental to the objects and purposes of the Confederation.

Section 2. No vote on suspension or expulsion may be taken unless at least fifteen days' notice, in writing, shall have been given to the member of the charges preferred, and of the time and place of the meeting of the Executive Committee at which such charges will be considered. The notice must be delivered to the member by registered mail. At such meetings, the member under charge will be accorded a full hearing.

Section 3. The Executive Committee shall provide for true accurate recording of all proceedings of such hearings.

Section 4. Any officer may be removed by a two-thirds vote of the members in good standing present at any special meeting called for that purpose. No vote on removal may be taken unless at least fifteen days' notice in writing shall have been given to the officer of the reasons for his removal and of the time and place of the special meeting at which such ballot on his removal is to be taken. The Executive Committee, upon majority vote, may suspend the officer pending outcome of this special meeting. At such meetings, the officer shall be given a full hearing.

Section 5. Charges against any officer or member may be preferred by any member in good standing. They shall be in writing clearly stating the facts relied upon and accompanied by all affidavits or exhibits which are to be used in their support. Such charges shall be filed with the Adjutant, who will immediately notify the Commander. The Commander will call a meeting of the Executive Committee to hear the charges. The Adjutant will give at least fifteen days' notice of the meeting to each member of the Executive Committee and to the accuser and to the accused, which notice shall be in writing and will include a true copy of the charges and of the supporting affidavits and exhibits.

Section 6. Any member suspended or expelled by the Executive Committee may appeal to the full membership of the Camp. Such appeal shall be made in writing to the Adjutant who will notify the Commander. The Commander will call a special meeting of the Camp for the purpose of action on the appeal. The Adjutant shall give at least fifteen days' notice in writing to all members of the Camp in good standing stating the date, time, place, and reason for such special meeting. At meeting of the full Camp, the Adjutant will read the original charges, the supporting affidavits, and will read or display the accompanying exhibits and will read the minutes of the special meeting of the Executive Committee at which the charges were heard, and action taken. A full hearing will be given the accuser and the accused. A vote will be taken by ballot of the members in good standing present and a two-thirds vote shall be required to reverse the action of the Executive Committee.

Section 7. Any member who has been suspended or expelled, and having exhausted the foregoing appeals procedures, has the right to appeal to the General Executive Council, Sons of Confederate Veterans, the decision of which shall be final. A member expelled by the Camp is ineligible for membership in any other Camp of the Confederation.

Article XIV - Prohibitions

Section 1. No discussion of political or religious subjects, nor any political action, or endorsing of aspirants for political office, shall be permitted.

Section 2. No assessment shall be levied upon Camp members other than annual dues and initiation fees, except by resolution of the general membership.

Section 3. Proxy voting shall not be permitted in the conduct of Camp election or business.

Article XV - Official Ladies

The Camp Commander may appoint only the following ladies to represent the Camp: Matron of Honor, Chaperon, Sponsor and three Maids of Honor.

Article XVI - Amendments

Any proposed amendment to these By-Laws may be introduced by any member of the Camp at any regular meeting called for that purpose. A vote may be taken upon the proposed amendment, provided a copy of the intended amendment has been sent to each Camp member in good standing, by United States Mail, at least ten days before the meeting. A two-thirds vote of the members present, by ballot, will be necessary to pass an amendment to the By-Laws. An amendment to the By-Laws shall supersede all previous By-Laws, and amendments thereto.

We, the undersigned officers of the *Albert Sidney Johnston Camp Number 983*, Texas Division, Sons of Confederate Veterans, certify that the foregoing By-Laws were adopted by the membership of said Camp on the 13th day of April 2021. All previous By-Laws are superseded.

Jim Cox, Commander

Bruce Cunningham, First Lt. Commander

Jim Keen, Adjutant

Roney Range, Treasurer