

CONSTITUTION
of
THE NORFOLK CHAPTER
of
THE VIRGINIA SOCIETY
Sons of the American Revolution

Adopted November 6, 1953

ARTICLE I

Name

The name of this organization shall be The Norfolk Chapter of the Virginia Society, Sons of the American Revolution.

ARTICLE II

Objects

The objects of this Chapter are declared to be patriotic, historical and educational, and shall include those intended or designed to perpetuate the memory of those who, by their services or sacrifices during the War of the American Revolution, achieved the independence of the American people; to unite and promote fellowship among their descendants; to inspire them and the Community at large with a more profound reverence for the principles of the government founded by our forefathers; to encourage historical research in relation to the American Revolution; to acquire and preserve the records of the individual services of the patriots of the

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war, as well as documents, relics and landmarks; to mark the scenes of the Revolution by appropriate memorials; to celebrate the anniversaries of the prominent events of the war and of the Revolutionary period; to foster true patriotism; to maintain and extend the institutions of American freedom, and to carry out the purposes expressed in the preamble of the Constitution of our country and the injunctions of Washington in his farewell address to the American people; and particularly to engage in such activities and to seek such ends in the Commonwealth of Virginia, in the City of Norfolk and in the Norfolk Community.

ARTICLE III

Membership

Section 1. Any man shall be eligible for membership in this Chapter who, being of the age of eighteen years or over and a citizen of good repute in the Community, is the lineal descendant of an ancestor who was at all times unfailing in loyalty to, and rendered active service in, the cause of American Independence, 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 Correspondence; or as a member of any Continental, Provincial or Colonial Congress or Legislature; or as a recognized patriot who performed actual service by overt acts of resistance to the authority of Great Britain; *provided*, however, that no person advocating the

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overthrow of the Government of the United States or of Virginia by use of force and violence, or who is otherwise found unworthy, shall be eligible for membership in this Chapter.

Section 2. No man who adheres to a doctrine of peace without honor or of peace at any price with the enemies of the United States of America or of Virginia, unless such doctrine be founded in a profound belief in pacificism as an intrinsic part of his personal religion, the burden of proving which shall be upon himself in event issue be joined thereon hereunder; or who advocates relinquishment of the sovereignty of the United States or of Virginia into the hands of a foreign power or any combination of foreign powers; or who by deliberate design gives aid, comfort or support to any group or body seeking to foster world communism shall be eligible for membership in this Chapter.

Section 3. By two-thirds vote of the Board of Managers, any member of this Chapter found to entertain any of the advocacies or adherences or to be participant in any of the actions prescribed in Section 1 or 2 of this Article, or who be found otherwise unworthy, shall be summarily expelled from membership in this Chapter, after first being given thirty days notice in writing that the Board of Managers will consider his case, and being provided opportunity to defend himself before said Board. Action of the Board shall be subject to confirmation by the Chapter.

Section 4. Eligibility for membership in this Chapter shall be determined by the *Committee*

on Admissions, to consist of *five members*, of which the *Registrar and Genealogist, ex-officio*, shall be one; and the remaining *four shall be elected at the Annual Meeting*; all to serve for one year or until their successors are duly designated; and to take office at the close of the Annual Meeting.

Section 5. All members of this Chapter shall be members of the Virginia Society and of the National Society, Sons of the American Revolution, and shall be subject to the Constitution, By-Laws, rules and regulations thereof.

Section 6. No person shall be elected to honorary membership in this Chapter unless he is duly elected to honorary membership in the Virginia Society. If so elected, his privileges and immunities with respect to this Chapter shall be the same enjoyed by him with respect to the Virginia Society.

ARTICLE IV

Officers

The officers of this Chapter shall be a President, a first Vice-President, a second Vice-President, a Secretary, a Treasurer, a Registrar and Genealogist, an Historian, and a Chaplain. They shall be elected at the Annual Meeting of the Chapter, to serve for one year or until their successors are duly designated; and shall take office at the close of the Annual Meeting. The President shall appoint two color officers to serve for one year.

ARTICLE V

Board of Managers

The Board of Managers shall consist of the President, who shall be the presiding officer thereof, the two Vice-Presidents, the Secretary, the Treasurer, the Registrar and Genealogist, the most recently retired past president holding membership in the Chapter, the Historian, the Chaplain, and one other member who shall be elected at the Annual Meeting, who shall hold office for one year or until their successors are duly constituted. The Board shall take office at the close of the Annual Meeting. It shall have power to fill vacancies in its body and any vacant elective office in this Chapter unless otherwise provided for, and to manage the affairs of the Chapter. Four members thereof shall constitute a *quorum* for the transaction of business, provided that reasonable prior notice of a convention of the Board is given to all its members. *The Board shall meet at the call of the President or of any three members thereof.*

ARTICLE VI

Meetings

Section 1. The Annual Meeting of the Chapter shall be held on the first Friday in January of each year, unless the same be New Year's Day, in which event it shall be held on the following Friday.

Section 2. Regular monthly meetings shall be held, except during the months of July, August and September, at such times and places as may be duly appointed by the membership, by the Board of Managers, or by the President.

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Section 3. Special meetings may be held at any time and place upon the same authority competent to appoint the time and place of regular monthly meetings.

Section 4. Reasonable notice of all meetings shall be given members prior thereto.

ARTICLE VII

Integration with Virginia and National Societies

This Chapter shall be subject to all laws, rules and regulations applicable to Chapters prescribed by the Constitution and By-Laws of the National Society and of the Virginia Society, Sons of the American Revolution.

ARTICLE VIII

Amendment

Amendments to this Constitution may be offered at any meeting of the Chapter, but shall not be acted on prior to the next regular monthly meeting. A copy of every proposed amendment shall be transmitted to each member with the notice of the meeting at which the same is to be acted on, at least one week prior to such meeting. An affirmative vote of two-thirds of the members present at such meeting shall be necessary to the adoption of an amendment; and an amendment so adopted shall be effective from the time of its adoption, unless the text of such amendment state otherwise.

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