

GENERAL SOCIETY SONS OF THE REVOLUTION

BY-LAWS

As Amended and Revised at General Board of Managers Meeting

Williamsburg, VA, October 11, 2014
Richmond, VA, October 5, 2019

ARTICLE I: GENERAL BOARD OF MANAGERS

- SECTION 1.** COMPOSITION. There shall be a Board of Managers which shall be composed of the General Officers, the General Presidents Emeriti, and a member of the Board of Managers from each State Society being that the state society delegate be a member of the state's Board of Managers.
- SECTION 2.** SELECTION OF STATE SOCIETY MEMBER. Each State Society may designate its member in such manner as it may determine.
- SECTION 3.** POWERS. Between meetings of the General Society, to which it shall regularly report its transactions, the General Board of Managers may exercise the powers of the General Society, except the power to amend the Constitution.
- SECTION 4.** MEETINGS. Meetings of the General Board of Managers shall be held yearly in the two years between regular meetings of the General Society, the date and place of the meeting at all times to be determined by the General President.
- SECTION 5.** QUORUM. Members of the General Board of Managers from or representing five State Societies, of whom three are General Officers, shall constitute a quorum for the transaction of business.
- SECTION 6.** REPORTS. Reports of activities required by these By-laws to be rendered at each regular meeting of the General Society by a General Officer or a chairman of a committee shall be similarly rendered at meetings of the General Board of Managers, such reports to cover the fiscal year then ended.
- SECTION 7.** ENTITLEMENT. State Societies delinquent in the payment to the General Treasurer of the annual per capita dues shall not be entitled to have a member on the General Board of Managers.
- SECTION 8.** REIMBURSEMENT OF EXPENSES. There shall be no reimbursement of expenses to members from funds of the General Society for attendance by members at a meeting of the General Board of Managers.

ARTICLE II: EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

- SECTION 1.** **COMPOSITION.** There shall be an Executive Committee which shall be composed of the General President, the General Secretary, the General Treasurer, the General Registrar, the General Solicitor, and two other members of the General Board of Managers appointed by the General President.
- SECTION 2.** **POWERS.** Between meetings of the General Board of Managers, to which it shall report its transactions, the Executive Committee may exercise the powers of the General Board of Managers except the powers to amend or repeal any action of the General board of Managers, to admit new State Societies, or to amend these By-laws.
- SECTION 3.** **MEETINGS.** The Executive Committee shall meet at the call of the General President or at the request of any three of its members. The General Secretary shall give notice at least two weeks in advance of all meetings. The Executive Committee may meet in person or by conference telephone call, or it may take action without a meeting by the unanimous written action of all members who compose it.
- SECTION 4.** **QUORUM.** Five members of the Executive Committee shall constitute a quorum for the transaction of business. An Assistant General Officer shall substitute for his principal at any meeting if the latter is unable to participate.
- SECTION 5.** **REIMBURSEMENT OF EXPENSES.** There shall be no reimbursement of expenses to members from funds of the General Society for attendance by members at a meeting of the Executive Committee.

ARTICLE III: GENERAL OFFICERS

- SECTION 1.** **GENERAL PRESIDENT.** The General President shall:
- a. Call and preside at all meetings of the General Society, the General Board of Managers and the Executive Committee.
 - b. Represent the Society at all public functions and have the power to appoint another to represent him.
 - c. Seek in every way to promote the interests and extend the usefulness of the Society.
- SECTION 2.** **GENERAL PRESIDENT PRO TEM.** At any meeting of the General Society, the General Board of Managers or the Executive Committee at which the General President is unable to preside, a General President Pro Tem shall be designated to preside, as appropriate, by the delegates, the members of the General Board of Managers or the members of the Executive Committee present thereat.

SECTION 3. GENERAL VICE PRESIDENTS. The General Vice Presidents in their respective regions shall:

- a. Represent the General President, as directed, at functions sponsored by the State Societies.
- b. Coordinate and facilitate activities between and among the State Societies and the General Society to further the goals of each.
- c. Upon the request of a State Society, he shall assist in membership development and educational projects.

SECTION 4. GENERAL SECRETARY. The General Secretary shall:

- a. Be responsible for the efficient management of the headquarters office of the General Society
- b. Conduct the correspondence of the General Society.
- c. Record the minutes of all meetings of the General Society, the General Board of Managers and the Executive Committee, appending therein all reports present at such meetings.
- d. Publish a report triennially containing an account of all meetings of the General Society.
- e. Inform promptly the General Board of Managers of all actions taken at a meeting of the Executive Committee, and likewise the General Society of all actions taken at a meeting of the General Board of Managers.
- f. Notify the General Officers and committee members of their election or appointment.
- g. Advise the State Societies of all resolutions adopted at meetings of the General Society which require their action.
- h. Publish such other matters as may be deemed necessary or advisable to alert the State Societies.
- i. Maintain and furnish to the General Officers all standard administrative supplies.
- j. Maintain a cumulative record of rules adopted by the General Society and the General Board of Managers which shall be known as the Standing Rules of the Society.

SECTION 5. GENERAL TREASURER. The General Treasurer shall:

- a. Be responsible for the care of the financial assets of the General Society.
- b. Maintain an account of the same and render a report thereon at each regular meeting of the General Society.
- c. Prepare special reports as may be requested by the General President
- d. Collect an annual per capita payment from each of the State Societies.
- e. Assure the accurate and timely submission of tax returns.

SECTION 6.

GENERAL REGISTRAR. The General Registrar shall:

- a. Be responsible for the design of application blanks for membership in the respective State Societies, in such official form as may be prescribed from time to time by the General Board of Managers or the Executive Committee. State Societies may provide their own application blanks if they so prefer, provided they conform with the official form and also have been submitted to and approved by the General Registrar.
- b. Assign a General Society number to each properly completed application received from State Societies covering the new members of their Societies, and maintain a record of the member to whom the number is assigned.
- c. Maintain on file a complete set of all applications for membership in the Society, after they have been acted upon and forwarded to him by the State Societies.
- d. Maintain on file a record of applications alphabetically by member name, a record pertaining to these applications alphabetically by ancestor name, and with respect to its membership furnish each State Society copies of the same.
- e. Render a report of the transactions of his office at each regular meeting of the General Society.

SECTION 7.

GENERAL SOLICITOR. The General Solicitor shall:

- a. Provide legal opinion in matters affecting the General Society.
- b. Have supervision over legal matters pertaining to the General Society.
- c. Render a report thereon at each regular meeting of the General Society.

SECTION 8.

GENERAL HISTORIAN The General Historian shall:

- a. Be responsible for the care and custody of the archives and records, except the completed applications for membership, of the General Society.

- b. Maintain an inventory of books, files, office equipment and relics of the General Society, including their coverage by insurance and circumstances of maintenance.
- c. Prepare memorials for deceased General Officers and present the same at the regular meeting of the General Society following the death of the General Officer.
- d. Obtain yearly, from each State Society, information concerning its historical activities.
- e. Render a report thereon at each regular meeting of the General Society.

SECTION 9. GENERAL SURGEON. The General Surgeon shall:

- a. Consult on such medical matters and principles as the General and State Societies shall refer to him.
- b. Provide such emergency medical advice and assistance as may be necessary at such places and times as may be reasonably asked.
- c. Render a report thereon at each regular meeting of the General Society.

SECTION 10. GENERAL CHAPLAIN. The General Chaplain shall:

- a. Perform customary chaplaincy services and such other duties as ordinarily appertain to such office.
- b. Render a report thereon at each regular meeting of the General Society.

SECTION 11. GENERAL CAPTAIN OF THE COLOR GUARD. The General Captain of the Color Guard shall:

- a. Be responsible for the care and custody of the flags and standards of the General Society.
- b. Assure their proper display on parade and ceremonial occasions.
- c. Act as commander of a color guard when appropriate.
- c. Render a report thereon at each regular meeting of the General Society.

SECTION 12. ASSISTANT GENERAL OFFICERS. The Assistant General Officers shall discharge the duties of the General Officer to whom they are assistants in case of their absence, death or inability to act or when especially authorized.

SECTION 13. ASSISTANT GENERAL SECRETARY. The Assistant Secretary shall, in addition to the duties contained in Section 12:

- a. Act as custodian of the insignia of the Society.
- b. Act as custodian of the membership certificates of the Society.
- c. Maintain and issue to the State Societies, if requested, application blanks for membership and other paraphernalia.¹
- d. Render a report thereon at each regular meeting of the General Society.

SECTION 14. **LIMITATION OF LIABILITY.** A General Society Officer shall not be personally liable for monetary damages for any action taken, or failure to take any action (which action was taken, or omitted after January 1987), unless: (1) the officer has breached or failed to perform the duties of his office, including membership on any committee of the General Society, under 15 Pa. C.S.A. Section 5712 (relating to standard of care and justifiable reliance), and any amendments or successor provisions thereto; and (2) the breach or failure to perform constitutes self-dealing, willful misconduct, or recklessness. The provisions of this paragraph shall not apply to (1) the responsibility or liability of an officer pursuant to any criminal statute; or (2) the liability of an officer for payment of taxes pursuant to Federal, State or local law.

SECTION 15. **INDEMNIFICATION**
 The General Society shall have the power to provide indemnification and to purchase insurance in accordance with Pa. C.S.A. Sections 5741-5750 and any amendments or successor provisions thereto.

ARTICLE IV: FINANCES

SECTION 1. **FISCAL YEAR.** The fiscal year of the General Society shall end on June 30.

SECTION 2. **TRANSACTIONS.** Acting upon the advice of the Investment Committee, any two of the General President, the General Treasurer and the Assistant General Treasurer may jointly purchase, sell, transfer, convey or acquire financial assets of the General Society at such times as they deem such transactions to be advisable and in the best interest of the General Society.

SECTION 3. **FUNDS DEPOSITORY.** The funds of the General Society shall be deposited in such financial institutions, mutual funds or prudent investment. The funds statement-grade securities as are jointly chosen by the General Treasurer and the General President in accordance with a duly adopted investment policy statement and shall be in the name of the “General Society, Sons of the Revolution”, which account(s) shall be drawn upon by the General Treasurer, the Assistant General Treasurer or the General President for expenditures of the General Society.

¹ The words “at cost” removed on 5 October 2019 in Richmond.

SECTION 4. PERMANENT FUND. There shall be a Permanent Fund to be derived from contributions and from such other monies as may be from time to time received by the General Society and which are directed by the General Board of Managers to be credited to such fund, the same to remain forever to the ² General Society, the income only of which shall be expended.

The term “income”, as used above, shall be defined to mean five percent of the market value of the Permanent Fund calculated on an annual basis at the fiscal year end of the General Society and applying a rolling average of the three most recent year ends.

SECTION 5. PER CAPITA DUES. For each member, as defined by the first paragraph of Article XI of the Constitution, per capita dues shall be established at ten dollars. Commencing with the year after the regular meeting of the General Society, the per capita dues shall be increased by twelve percent rounded up or down to the nearest fifty cents. The said increase shall be so fixed until the year after the next regular meeting of the General Society at which time the percentage increase shall be repeated.

Per capita dues shall be paid on or before the first day of April in each year for the ensuing year by the State Society of which he is a member.

The total amount of per capita dues shall be determined by the number of members enrolled on the first day of January of each year, which number shall also determine the number of delegates at the meetings of the General Society as stipulated by Article VII of the Constitution.

Per capita dues shall be used to defray the expenses of the General Society including the cost of issuance and distribution to the membership of a national publication (Drumbeat or successor titles) and to secure representation at the meeting of the General Society or of the General Board of Managers. If, however, per capita arrearage is paid by or on the date of such meeting, the qualified representation assembled may by majority vote and without notice given in advance admit representation from State Societies making such delayed payments.

SECTION 6. REGISTRATION FEE: Upon approval of an applicant’s application by the State Society and simultaneous with the transmittal of said application by the State Society to the General Society for assignment of a General Society

² *Treasurer’s Note: The dues for the next several years are as follows:*

<i>For Years</i>	<i>Dues</i>
2001, 2002, 2003	\$10.00
2004, 2005, 2006	11.00
2007, 2008, 2009	12.50
2010, 2011, 2012	14.00
2013, 2014, 2015	15.50
2016, 2017, 2018	17.50
2019, 2020, 2021	19.50
2022, 2023, 2024	22.00

number or submission of an applicant's approved supplemental application, the State Societies shall submit the registration fee in a sum sufficient to defray the cost to The General Society associated with the new member during the first year and as determined by the Treasurer of The General Society in consultation with President of The General Society, which sum shall not exceed Twenty-Five Dollars (\$25.00).

ARTICLE V: COMMITTEES

- SECTION 1.** **GENERAL:** Other than the Nominating Committee and the ex-officiis members of the Executive Committee, the General President shall appoint an Auditing Committee, an Investment Committee, a Publications Committee and a Resolutions Committee and may appoint such other committees as he deems suitable.
- SECTION 2.** **AUDITING COMMITTEE.** An Auditing Committee shall be appointed to review the financial accounts of the General Society and certify to their condition. It shall be composed of three or more members, none of whom shall be the General Treasurer or the Assistant General Treasurer. The committee shall present its report at each regular meeting of the General Society.
- SECTION 3.** **INVESTMENT COMMITTEE.** An Investment Committee shall be appointed to oversee the financial assets of the General Society. It shall be composed of three or more members, two of whom may be the General Treasurer and the Assistant General Treasurer. The committee shall present its report at each regular meeting of the General Society.
- SECTION 4.** **PUBLICATION COMMITTEE.** A Publication Committee shall be appointed to produce the national publication of the General Society to be issued a minimum of four times per year, and to be mailed by March 1, June 1, September, and December 1. The committee shall be composed of three or more members, one of whom may be the managing editor; the committee shall present its report at each regular meeting of the General Society.
- SECTION 5.** **RESOLUTIONS COMMITTEE.** A Resolutions Committee shall be appointed to receive suggestions and make recommendations on resolutions related to the educational, historical and patriotic purposes of the Society to be considered at a regular meeting of the General Society. Becoming statements of policy of the Society, such resolutions shall be non-partisan, non-political and not used with substantial funds of the Society to influence legislation and shall be submitted sixty days prior to such meeting by a State Society or over the signature of five members of the Society. The committee shall be comprised of three or more members, one of whom shall be the General Solicitor. The committee shall present its report at each regular meeting of the General Society.

ARTICLE VI: STATE OFFICERS

SECTION 1. STATE SECRETARIES. The State Secretaries shall:

- a. Report to the General Secretary immediately after the annual meetings of their Societies, giving a record of their transactions, information concerning any changes in their officers and all the activities of their Society, the social functions and their action upon the resolutions submitted to them from the General Society.
- b. Forward all applications from their members for insignia or membership certificates to the Assistant General Secretary after having verified the fact of membership in good standing and endorsed the application.
- c. Furnish the General Historian with information upon his request.

SECTION 2. STATE TREASURERS. The State Treasurers shall remit to the General Treasurer the per capita dues owing from their State Society in timely fashion to meet the due date required by these Bylaws.

SECTION 3. STATE REGISTRARS. The State Registrar shall:

- a. Report to the General Registrar at stated intervals, but at least yearly immediately after their annual meetings, sending him all duplicate copies of approved applications for membership in the Society.
- b. Preserve and securely maintain on file all original applications with the proofs of eligibility attached hereto. These forms may be bound if deemed advisable.
- c. Maintain a card catalogue or similar record of these applications, which cards shall contain abstracts thereof.
- d. Record each General Society number assigned on the appropriate application and advise the member of the number.

ARTICLE VII: INSIGNIA

SECTION 1. AVAILABILITY. The insignia of the Society may be obtained from the Assistant General Secretary, under proper rules as may be formulated by the General Society, upon the request of any member of the State Societies made through their Secretaries.³

SECTION 2. SUPPLEMENTAL STAR. Members who have filed one but less than five approved supplemental applications may so indicate by affixing a small gold star in the middle of the ribbon of the insignia, provided the duplicate supplemental applications have been filed with the General Registrar. A small silver star may be substituted for the gold star when a member has filed five or more approved supplemental applications. The stars may be obtained from the Assistant General Secretary upon request, made through the State Secretary, together with payment covering the cost.

³ The words "together with payment covering the cost of the insignia desired" removed at the Annual Meeting on 5 October 2019 in Richmond, Virginia.

SECTION 3. **ROSETTE.** The undress insignia shall be a rosette made of silk similar to the ribbon of the insignia or a metal lapel button of the size now in use. On ordinary occasions members may wear the rosette or metal lapel button in the upper buttonhole of the left lapel of the coat. It shall never be worn at the same time with any other insignia of the Society.

SECTION 4. **RECORDS.** The Assistant General Secretary shall keep a record of such issues and of funds received, an account of which he shall render at each regular meeting of the General Society.

ARTICLE VIII: MEMBERSHIP CERTIFICATES

SECTION 1. **AVAILABILITY.** The Society shall have a certificate of membership of dignified character which may be obtained from the Assistant General Secretary, under proper rules as may be formulated by the General Society, upon the request of any member of the State Societies made through their Secretaries, provided a duplicate membership application is on file with the General Registrar.⁴

SECTION 2. **AUTHENTICATION.** The certificate shall be signed by the General President, the General Secretary and the President, the Secretary and the Registrar of the respective State Society.

SECTION 3. **RECORDS.** The Assistant General Secretary shall keep a record of such issues and of funds received, an account of which he shall render at each regular meeting of the General Society.

ARTICLE IX: MEMBERS-AT-LARGE

SECTION 1. **ELIGIBILITY.** Eligibility for Member-at-Large shall be considered for approval in circumstances where the applicant resides in a State where there is no State Society, the applicant cannot share in the activities of a State Society, or a State Society is unable to service its membership responsibility adequately and the applicant would thereby be deprived of membership in the Society of Sons of the Revolution.

SECTION 2. **APPLICATION.** An applicant shall be sponsored by two members of the Society of the Sons of the Revolution who are personally acquainted with him. A Member-at-Large shall be admitted upon approval by the General President, the General Secretary and the General Registrar, jointly. Applications may also be approved or reconsidered by the General Society or by the General Board of Managers. Upon approval, his application and proofs shall be maintained by the General Secretary and the duplicate application shall be filed with the General Registrar.

⁴ The words "together with payment covering the cost" removed at the Annual Meeting of 5 October 2019 in Richmond, Virginia.

SECTION 3. **FEES AND DUES:** Dues for Members-at-Large shall be calculated as follows: if an At-Large member lives within a state where there is a State Society, then the amount of that State Society's dues shall be charged by the General Society for that member-at-large. If that member lives in a state without a Society, then those dues will be fixed jointly by the General by the General President and the General Registrar.

SECTION 4. **TRANSFER** A Member-at-Large may transfer to a State Society if such Society approves. His application and proof shall be forwarded to the accepting State Society by the General Society. The receiving Society shall append evidence of local sponsorship and approval and process the applications as prescribed elsewhere herein except that the General Society number shall remain unchanged.

SECTION 5. **ACCOUTERMENTS.** All accouterments obtainable from the General Society by members of State Societies shall be available to a Member-at-Large.

ARTICLE X: AMENDMENTS

SECTION 1. **PROPOSAL.** Any amendment to the By-laws shall be proposed by the General Board of Managers or by a State Society. It shall then be submitted in writing to the General Secretary, with a copy to the General President, at least seven months before the meeting of the General Society or of the General Board of Managers at which such amendment is to be considered, and the General Secretary shall mail a copy of all proposed amendments to the By-laws to the Secretary of each State Society at least six months before such meeting.

SECTION 2. **ADOPTION.** A two-thirds vote of the delegates present and voting at a meeting of the General Society or of the members of the General Board of Managers present and voting at a meeting of the General Board of Managers shall be required for the adoption of any amendment to the By-laws.