

# **BY-LAWS OF THE SOUTH DAKOTA VETERANS COUNCIL**

## **ARTICLE I NAME**

First: The name and title by which this organization shall be known shall be: SOUTH DAKOTA VETERANS COUNCIL hereinafter referred to as the Council.

Second: The term for which it is organized shall be perpetual.

## **ARTICLE II PURPOSE**

Its particular business and objects shall be:

1. To develop statewide, intelligent, aggressive and serviceable Council for the purpose of promoting all activities found to be for the good of all veterans and their dependents.
2. To provide a means of contact and communication among the members of the Council and veterans organizations.
3. To do any and all things necessary or proper for the accomplishment of the foregoing business and objects of the Council, including, for such purposes, to contract and pay for personal and other services, to contract for, buy, take by deed, gift or devise, hold, possess, manage, borrow, rent, lease, loan, assign, convey, sell and dispose of in any manner real and personal property, and to act as trustee, or be a beneficiary of a trust.
4. To provide a practical means by which veterans organizations throughout the state may effectively contribute to the to the betterment of all veterans in three principle phases, as follows:
  - a. Legislation affecting veterans and their dependents.
  - b. Concern for the general programs for all veterans and their dependents and all veterans' organization, principally hospital, labor and social.
  - c. Make public information in behalf of all veterans and their dependents and veterans organizations represented and establish a system of public relations for this purpose.

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## **ARTICLE III MEMBERSHIP**

Section 1. The Council shall be authorized to accept into the Council membership of any Department or State level congressionally chartered veterans' organization at any regular meeting with a unanimous vote.

Section 2. The American Legion Department of South Dakota (TAL); South Dakota Veterans of Foreign Wars State Headquarters (VFW); Disabled American Veterans Department of South Dakota (DAV); North Central Chapter of Paralyzed Veterans of America (PVA), Veterans of America (VVA) Chapters 1054 / 959, and the Military Order of the Purple Heart (MOPH) shall be grandfathered with full membership in the South Dakota Veterans Council.

Section 3. Membership of this Council shall consist of three (3) members from each of the veterans' organizations.

Section 4. Honorary membership may be granted to any Department or State level congressionally chartered veterans' organization or to distinguished individuals by a unanimous vote of the Council, who shall serve only as advisors to the Council as directed by the Council.

## **ARTICLE IV OFFICERS**

Section 1. The elected officers of the Council shall be a President, Vice President, Judge Advocate, and Secretary-Treasurer.

Section 2. The Officers shall be elected by and from the council members in good standing at the regular annual meeting of the Council in odd-numbers years, and shall hold office for a term of two (2) years, or until their successors are duly elected and/or appointed.

Section 3. The officers shall be nominated from the Council and a majority of votes cast shall be necessary for the election of officers.

Section 4. Vacancies in elective offices shall be filled at the next regular meeting of the Council, or a special meeting if necessary, in the same manner as election of officers.

Section 5. The officers of the Council shall have such powers and duties as are hereinafter prescribed.

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Section 6. Expenses of the four (4) elected Council officers, doing business for the Council, other than meetings, will be paid by the Council Treasurer, after the approval of a majority vote of the Council using the current State rates.

### **ARTICLE V MEETINGS**

Section 1. The regular annual meeting of the Council for the purpose of election of officers shall be held in the month of July. Special meetings may be called by the President upon the written request of two Department Commanders, or Presidents, with notice of such meeting being properly given which shall include the purpose for which the meeting is being called.

Section 2. The president shall call a minimum of three (3) meetings of the Council each year. The specific date and location of these meetings shall be at the discretion of the president with notice required.

### **ARTICLE VI DUTIES AND POWERS OF OFFICERS**

Section 1. The president shall preside at all meetings of the Council. In the absence of the president, the vice president shall preside. The president may be empowered to appoint one member of the council as publicity director, and one member of the council as Sergeant at Arms. The president shall have the authority to appoint all committees.

Section 2. The vice president shall be empowered to perform the duties of the president in his/her absence.

Section 3.

- a. The secretary shall keep the records of the Council and notify the officers of their election, keep a roll of members, handle the correspondence, make annual reports in writing, and perform such other duties as usually pertain to the office of secretary.
- b. The treasurer shall receive, expend, and account for the funds of the Council. He/she shall pay all bills which have been approved by the president and the secretary, make annual reports in writing and perform other duties as usually pertain to the office of treasurer. **EFFECTIVE OCTOBER 20, 2021-** ~~The treasurer shall furnish a surety bond in the sum of one thousand dollars (\$1,000.00) to be paid for by the Veterans Council.~~

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Section 4. The Judge Advocate shall advise the South Dakota Veterans Council President and members on all legal matters, including the construction and interpretation of the Bylaws, and shall perform such other duties incidental to the office and as may be required by the South Dakota Veterans Council President and members.

**ARTICLE VII  
QUORUM PROVISION**

At least one (1) member of the Council, from a majority of the member organizations, shall form a quorum for purpose of conducting business of the Council at all meetings.

**ARTICLE VIII  
VOTING**

Each member organization in good standing shall have one (1) vote. All votes of the council shall be by a simple majority, unless otherwise specified within these bylaws.

**ARTICLE IX  
DUES**

The South Dakota Veterans Council fiscal year is July 1 through June 30. Membership Dues shall be reviewed by the council each year. Payment of membership dues will be payable by October 1 of each fiscal year to remain in good standing for membership and voting rights.

**ARTICLE X  
MISCELLANEOUS PROVISIONS**

Section 1. No officer or member of the Council shall employ, appoint or discharge anyone responsible to the Council without official action being taken by the Council as a whole.

Section 2. The president and secretary, or their appointed representatives from the Council, shall serve as members of all special or subcommittees appointed for the benefit of the Council.

Section 3. Roberts Rules of Order shall govern the meetings of the Council, where not otherwise specially provided.

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**ARTICLE XI  
AMENDMENTS**

Any proposed amendment to the By-Laws may be submitted by a Council member in good standing. Adoption of all such amendments must be approved by two-thirds of a quorum of Council members present.

NOTE: These by-laws were reviewed and updated on, ~~March 20, 2019~~, **October 20, 2021**, by unanimous approval of the Council.