
Constitution of the Alabama Division, Sons of Confederate Veterans

ARTICLE I: TITLE

This confederation of the Sons of Confederate Veterans shall be known as the Alabama Division, Sons of Confederate Veterans. The Alabama Division is affiliated with the International Confederation and conforms with its constitution.

ARTICLE II: OBJECT AND PURPOSE

The Alabama Division, Sons of Confederate Veterans shall be historical, fraternal, educational, charitable, benevolent, patriotic, non-political, non-racial, and non-sectarian. In fulfilling its objects and purposes it strives to:

- (a) Collect and preserve such manuscripts, books, papers, documents, flags, relics, music, poetry, and mementoes relating to the War Between the States as would be of assistance in the preparation and perpetuation of an impartial history of the same.
- (b) Illuminate and clarify the great constitutional, political, social and economic issues and events leading to the War and the patriotic motives and heroism of our ancestors, the Confederate Soldiers, Sailors and Marines, in the field, on the water, in the State Houses and the Confederate Government.
- (c) Perpetuate the memory of the unparalleled bravery, constancy and fortitude of the Confederate Soldier by the erection, when feasible, of monuments and memorial tablets, and by properly caring for monuments and marking graves in Confederate cemeteries and other grounds where they may be found.
- (d) Cooperate with the National Confederation and the Army of the Tennessee Department of the Sons of Confederate Veterans.

- (e) The Alabama Division Sons of Confederate Veterans is organized exclusively for charitable, religious, education, and scientific purposes, including, for such purposes, the making of distributions to organizations that qualify under section 501 (c) (3) of the Internal Revenue Code, or corresponding section of any future federal tax code.
- (f) No part of the net earnings of the organization shall inure to the benefit of, or be distributable to its members, trustees, officers, or other private persons, except that the organization shall be authorized and empowered to pay reasonable compensation for services rendered and to make payments and distributions in furtherance of the purpose set forth in the purpose clause hereof. No substantial part of the activities of the organization shall be the carrying on of propaganda, or otherwise attempting to influence legislation, and the organization shall not participate in, or intervene in (including the publishing or distribution of statements) any political campaign on behalf of any candidate for public office. Notwithstanding any other provision of this document, the organization shall not carry on any other activities not permitted to be carried on (a) by an organization exempt from federal income tax under section 501 (c) (3) of the Internal Revenue Code, or corresponding section of any future federal tax code, or (b) by an organization, contributions to which are deductible under section 170 (c) (2) of the Internal Revenue Code, or corresponding section of any future federal tax code.
- (g) Upon the dissolution of the organization, assets shall be distributed for one or more exempt purposes within the meaning of section 501 (c) (3) of the Internal Revenue Code, or corresponding section of any future federal tax code, or shall be distributed to the federal government, or to a state or local government, for a public purpose. Any such assets not disposed of shall be disposed of by the Circuit Court of of the county in which the principal office of the organization is then located, exclusively for such purposes or to such organization or organizations, as said Court shall determine, which are organized and operated exclusively for such purposes.

ARTICLE III: Organization

The constituted bodies of the Alabama Division shall be as follows:

- (a) Organization of at least seven (7) dues paid members shall constitute a camp. Each camp shall select a name and upon admission be assigned a number by General Headquarters.
- (b) Organizations of at least two dues paid camps known as Brigades. The eight brigades shall be known as the Southeast Alabama Brigade, Southeast Central Alabama Brigade, Southwest Alabama Brigade,

Southwest Central Alabama Brigade, Northwest Alabama Brigade, Northwest Central Alabama Brigade, Northeast Alabama Brigade and the Northeast Central Alabama Brigade.

The **Southeast Alabama Brigade** shall consist of the counties of Barbour, Butler, Coffee, Covington, Crenshaw, Dale, Geneva, Henry, Houston and Pike.

The **Southeast Central Alabama Brigade** shall consist of the counties of Bullock, Chambers, Coosa, Elmore, Lee, Macon, Montgomery, Russell and Tallapoosa.

The **Southwest Alabama Brigade** shall consist of the counties of Baldwin, Choctaw, Clarke, Conecuh, Escambia, Mobile, Monroe, Washington and Wilcox.

The **Southwest Central Alabama Brigade** shall consist of the counties of Autauga, Chilton, Dallas, Greene, Hale, Lowndes, Marengo, Perry and Sumter.

The **Northwest Alabama Brigade** shall consist of the counties of Colbert, Franklin, Lamar, Lauderdale, Lawrence, Marion and Winston.

The **Northwest Central Alabama Brigade** shall consist of the counties of Bibb, Fayette, Jefferson, Pickens, Shelby, Tuscaloosa and Walker.

The **Northeast Alabama Brigade** shall consist of the counties of Blount, Cullman, DeKalb, Jackson, Limestone, Madison, Marshall and Morgan.

The **Northeast Central Alabama Brigade** shall consist of the counties of Calhoun, Cherokee, Clay, Cleburne, Etowah, Randolph, St. Clair and Talladega.

ARTICLE IV: MEMBERSHIP

- Section 1:** All male descendants, lineal or collateral, of those who served honorably in the Confederate military service shall be eligible for membership in the camps of the Alabama Division. No one under twelve (12) years of age shall be admitted to membership.
- Section 2:** No one shall be admitted to membership in any camp until satisfactory proof of the foregoing qualifications is submitted in triplicate on official applications. The original shall be forwarded to General Headquarters, one copy will be forwarded to the Alabama Division Adjutant and one copy to be retained by the camp.
- Section 3:** Membership in the general organization of the Sons of Confederate Veterans is required of each member of the Alabama Division.

Section 4: Membership in the Alabama Division, Sons of Confederate Veterans shall be of three (3) kinds as follows:

- (a) **Active membership.** Such membership consists of paying dues to one of the camps and to the Alabama Division.
- (b) **Life Membership.** Any member of the Alabama Division who contributes \$200 or more to the Alabama SCV Endowment Fund shall become a Life Member of the Alabama Division and shall be excused from Division annual dues thereafter. A certificate of Life Membership in the Alabama Division signed by the Division Commander, Division Adjutant and a Trustee of the Division Endowment Fund shall be issued to the Compatriot. This membership is non-transferable, and shall terminate on the death of the member or his failure to maintain his membership in the International Sons of Confederate Veterans. Any Real Son who is currently a member of the Alabama Division, or who may, in the future, become a member of the Division, shall be enrolled as a Life Member of the Division without payment of the required fee. A roster of all Division Life Members shall be maintained by the Division Adjutant and shall be published annually in the *Alabama Confederate*.
- (c) **Division At-Large Membership.** An individual qualifying for membership if he so desires, may become an At-Large member of the Alabama Division. He shall be required to pay Division and National dues directly to Division Headquarters, and his membership shall be maintained in the Division Headquarters Camp known as the West-Scott-Baker-Camp.

Section 5: Censure, suspension or expulsion of members. Any member of the Alabama Division convicted of a crime involving moral turpitude or a felony may be expelled by the Executive Committee by a two-thirds vote of those present at an Executive Committee meeting thereof, duly called. The member shall be notified of the charges, meeting time, date and place and be given the opportunity to be heard. A member may be censured, suspended or expelled in like manner by a like vote when found guilty by the Executive Committee of conduct unbecoming a gentleman or prejudicial to the interests of the Sons of Confederate Veterans.

ARTICLE V: MEETINGS

Section 1: (a) The legislative body of the Alabama Division shall be the Alabama Division Convention to be held annually at a time and place fixed by the preceding Alabama Division Convention, the Commander

of the Alabama Division, or the Executive Committee. Written notice of said convention shall be sent to each camp, Division officer, and General Headquarters at least thirty (30) days prior to the convention.

- (b) For camps to be approved to host the Alabama Division Convention, they must let the Division know what the expected cost will be for the meeting hall and delegate identification (name tags). The cost for this hall and the identification of delegates will be paid by the Division, with the final approval by the Division Operations Committee. There will be no charge for business meeting attendance by certified delegates of the Alabama Division. All other convention activities will be covered with the cost of convention registration, which will be optional for business meeting attendees. Hall size and name tag supply must accommodate a number equal to or greater than the attendance at the previous year's convention.

Section 2: The Alabama Division Commander, or in the event of his absence, death, or resignation, the Lieutenant Commanders, in succession, at the request of the majority of the active camps or the Executive Committee, shall convene the Alabama Division in special meetings if they deem an emergency sufficient to warrant such meetings.

Section 3: The Alabama Division Convention shall be called to order by the Division Commander. After a prayer and words of welcome, the Division Adjutant will announce the number of delegates in attendance, as determined from the registration process, provided that the Adjutant may, at his discretion, conduct a roll call of the Camps, in numerical order.

Section 4: A quorum shall exist at Alabama Division Conventions when one-third of the camps are represented as provided above.

Section 5: The rules of procedure at Alabama Division Conventions shall be those set forth in *Robert's Rules of Order, Revised* - latest edition, except wherein they may be altered by the Alabama Division Convention.

ARTICLE VI: OFFICERS

Section 1: Elected officers shall be Commander, First Lieutenant Commander and Second Lieutenant Commander.

Section 2: The newly elected Commander will appoint an Adjutant, Treasurer, Chief of Staff, Editor, Chaplain, Judge Advocate, Historian, Parliamentarian,

Sergeant-at-Arms, Quartermaster and any Aides-de-Camp needed, all of whom serve at his pleasure.

Section 3: Each Alabama Division Commander who has served a full term and does not continue to serve as Division Commander shall have the title of Past Alabama Division Commander. All Past Division Commanders, while in good standing in their respective camps shall be life delegates to all Alabama Division Conventions with voting privileges.

Section 4: The officers of the Division shall serve a two-year term commencing August 1 of each even numbered year beginning in 2006 and thereafter.

Section 5: An Alabama Division Commander's term of office shall be limited to no more than two consecutive two year terms, after which a former Commander in good standing may be elected to an additional term.

ARTICLE VII: Duties of Officers

Section 1: Division Commander - The Alabama Division Commander shall be the executive head of the Alabama Division with full power to enforce the provisions of the Division constitution. He shall be chairman of the Alabama Division Convention and shall be empowered to act for the Division as circumstances in his judgment, require in cases not provided for in the Alabama Division Constitution with such actions subject to review by the Alabama Division Convention. Vacancies occurring among officers shall be filled by the Commander, subject to the approval of the Executive Committee. The Commander shall appoint all necessary committees.

Section 2: Lieutenant Commanders - The Lieutenant Commanders in succession shall perform the duties of the Commander in his absence and in the event of his death or resignation shall become Commander for the unexpired term. The Lieutenant Commanders shall assist the Commander in the performance of his duties as so directed by the Commander. The First Lieutenant Commander shall serve as Commander of the Alabama Division Headquarters Camp (West-Scott-Baker Camp 1622).

Section 3: Chief of Staff - The Chief of Staff shall be responsible for carrying out the orders of the Commander, coordinating the work of the Division Staff and performing such other duties as may be assigned to him by the Commander.

Section 4: Adjutant - The Adjutant shall be charged with the administration of the policies of the Alabama Division Convention, the Division Executive Committee and the Alabama Division Commander. He shall keep correct records of the proceedings of the Alabama Division Convention, a roster of the camps, conduct correspondence of the Alabama Division and issue general orders of the Alabama Division Commander under his signature. He shall collect the funds of the Alabama Division and forward them to the treasurer with due and proper explanation of the source of such funds. He shall be the keeper of the seal of the Alabama Division and shall issue over it all certificates, documents, legal papers and official orders that may require the seal of the Alabama Division.

Section 5: Treasurer –

- (a) The Treasurer shall receive and assume custodianship of all funds of the Alabama Division from the Adjutant and shall make reports of the condition of the treasury when called for by the Commander.
- (b) All funds received from the Adjutant shall be receipted. The Treasurer shall keep such records regarding income and disbursements as are necessary for a full and accurate accounting.
- (c) The Treasurer shall prepare an annual financial report corresponding with the fiscal year ending July 31st and such reports shall be submitted to all members of the Executive Committee.
- (d) Pursuant to the Treasurer's annual report, the Division Commander shall appoint a three member internal audit committee to review the report prior to the next Executive Committee meeting. The Executive Committee may at its discretion order an external audit.
- (e) The Treasurer and the Adjutant shall be bonded in the amount of \$100,000, and such bonds shall be paid for from Division funds.

Section 6: Judge Advocate - The Judge Advocate shall advise the Commander and the Executive Committee on all legal matters.

Section 7: Chaplain - The Chaplain shall open and close with prayer all Alabama Division meetings and shall perform such divine and Christian activities as prescribed by the Commander. He shall send proper condolences to the families of deceased members as he is notified by the respective camps. He may write articles for the *Alabama Confederate*, conduct memorial

services and perform other such duties as are normally performed by a Chaplain.

Section 8: **Editor** - The Editor of the Alabama Division shall under the authority of the Commander be responsible for the regular publication and distribution of the *Alabama Confederate* and such other publications as may be authorized by the Commander, Executive Committee, or the Alabama Division Convention.

Section 9: **Historian** - The Historian shall be responsible for the construction and maintenance of the Alabama Division Scrapbook and any other duties prescribed by the Commander. He shall contribute appropriate articles for publication in the *Alabama Confederate* when requested to do so by the Commander.

Section 10: **Aides-de-Camp** - Aides-de-Camp and other Alabama Division officers will perform duties as prescribed by the Commander.

Section 11: **Brigade Commanders** - Brigade Commanders shall aid the camps within their Brigades and be responsible to and fulfill all duties as required by the Alabama Division Commander. Special attention shall be given by Brigade Commanders to giving aid and assistance to those desiring to create new camps or reactivate previously existing camps within their Brigades. Each Brigade Commander may appoint an adjutant and aides to assist him in his duties. Brigade Commanders shall serve a term of two years and shall be elected at the Alabama Division Convention by a majority vote of the delegates of the camps within their respective Brigades.

Section 12: **Camp Commanders** - Camp Commanders shall command their respective camps. They shall supervise the work of their camps, enforce all orders from Alabama Division Headquarters and submit reports to the Alabama Division Commander stating the condition of their camps when requested. Annual reports to the National and Alabama Division Headquarters must be submitted on July 1 of each year and must include a camp membership roster.

ARTICLE VIII: EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Section 1: The Executive Committee shall be composed of the Commander, First Lieutenant Commander, Second Lieutenant Commander, Adjutant, Treasurer, Chaplain, Past Commanders of the Alabama Division, Brigade Commanders and each Camp Commander.

Section 2: The Executive Committee shall meet at a place within the state designated by the Alabama Division Commander.

Section 3: The Alabama Division Commander shall be chairman of the Executive Committee.

Section 4: Any Camp Commander who cannot be present at Executive Committee meetings may in writing designate a member of his Camp to act as his representative and proxy at any such meeting.

Section 5: One third of the members shall constitute a quorum at meetings of the Executive Committee.

Section 6: Operations Committee

(a) There shall be an Operation Committee composed of the following members: the three elected Division officers, the eight Brigade Commanders, the Adjutant, and the Treasurer, and the immediate Past Division Commander.

(b) It shall be the duty and function of the Operations Committee to manage the business affairs of the Division and approve expenditures of Division funds.

(c) The Operations Committee shall meet quarterly and at any additional times when convened by the Division Commander.

(d) The Operations Committee is authorized to act in all matters relating to Division business, unless contrary to directives of the full Executive Committee or the Division Convention.

ARTICLE IX: FINANCES

Section 1: The fiscal year of the Alabama Division shall be from August 1 through July 31 of each succeeding year.

Section 2: The revenue of the Alabama Division shall be derived from annual membership dues and from other sources as may be approved by the Executive Committee.

Section 3: Each camp shall pay a yearly per capita tax for every member in good standing to the Division Adjutant. Real Sons are excused from the per capita tax. A roster of member names and addresses of members in good

standing is to be submitted with the per capita tax. All members whose tax is not paid to the Division Adjutant by February 1 will be struck from the Division roll and shall not be returned until all back taxes (one year minimum), current taxes, and late fee of \$2.50 are paid in full.

Section 4: The yearly per capita tax shall be set by the Executive Committee. Such amount is subject to the approval of the Alabama Division Convention.

Section 5: Camps will not be allowed representation at the Alabama Division Convention unless their per capita tax and any late fees have been paid to the Adjutant in full as required no less than thirty days *prior* to the opening of the Alabama Division Convention.

Section 6: Alabama SCV Endowment Fund (Life Membership)

- (a) The Alabama SCV Endowment Fund Trustees. There shall be three Alabama SCV Endowment Fund Trustees who shall be appointed by the Division Commander from the Division list of life members, and shall serve as stewards of the Fund, and charged with promotion of the Life Membership program. The term of each Trustee shall be for three years and shall commence at the beginning of the Division's fiscal year. Upon adoption of this section, the Division Commander will appoint three Trustees, one for a one year term, one for a two year term, and one for a three year term. Thereafter, the Commander shall appoint one trustee each year to serve a three year term. A trustee can succeed himself at the Commander's pleasure. In the event a Trustee resigns or leaves his position as trustee, the Commander shall appoint another Trustee to fill the remainder of the term. All appointments made pursuant of this article shall be announced at the Division Reunion.
- (b) Alabama SCV Endowment Funds. Life membership fees will be recorded in an appropriate ledger and deposited in a bank designated by the Division Operations Committee. The goal of the program is for the fund to grow to the point where the account's yearly interest will exceed the monies the Division would realize from the yearly dues the current life members would otherwise pay. The funds are to be kept in a secured interest bearing account, managed by the Division Treasurer, under the direction of the fund Trustees.
- (c) Distributions of the fund Interest. Interest on the account will be kept with the corpus. None of the interest can be withdrawn unless approved by the Alabama Division Operations Committee.

Section 7: Prorated Dues

In harmony with the national Confederation practice of prorating the dues for new members, and reinstatements from previous years, the Alabama Division adopts the same procedure in calculating Division dues for prospective members. The Adjutant shall inform all Camps of details concerning this Procedure.

ARTICLE X: PROHIBITIONS

Section 1: No discussion of sectarian or religious subjects nor any endorsements of political subjects that are identifiable with a particular political candidate nor any endorsements of aspirants for a political office shall be permitted by the Alabama Division.

Section 2: No debts shall be contracted by the Alabama Division, except on approval of the Executive Committee.

Section 3: The use of the seal, badges, or name of the Alabama Division for unauthorized purposes or the giving of its badges to persons unauthorized to wear them is strictly prohibited.

Section 4: No person may be elected or appointed an officer of the Alabama Division unless he is a member in good standing of a camp within the Alabama Division.

ARTICLE XI: COMMITTEES

Section 1: Committees may be appointed by the Alabama Division Commander as necessity dictates and dissolved at his pleasure, except those created by the Constitution or annual convention.

Section 2: Committees shall meet when called to do so by Committee chairman. Committees shall make written reports and recommendations to the Alabama Division Commander when assigned duties are performed.

ARTICLE XII: DELEGATES

Representation of the various camps at the Alabama Division Convention shall be by delegates as follows: One (1) delegate for every ten (10) active members with one (1) additional delegate for a fraction of five (5) or more members, provided that each camp in

good standing shall be entitled to at least two (2) delegates. Delegates shall have credentials signed by their Camp Commanders and Adjutants. Delegates must be present and in good standing to vote. Each delegate has one vote.

ARTICLE XIII: AMENDMENTS

This Constitution may be amended at any Alabama Division Convention by a vote of three-fourths of the authorized representatives in assembly, provided that the proposed amendment is sent by United States mail to each camp in good standing at least thirty (30) days prior to convening of the Alabama Division Convention.

ARTICLE XIV: ANNUAL DATE OF THE ALABAMA DIVISION CONVENTION

The Alabama Division of the Sons of Confederate Veterans shall hold its annual convention at a time and place established by the preceding Alabama Division Convention, Alabama Division Commander or the Executive Committee and will be announced in regular issues of the *Alabama Confederate*. Announcement of the Alabama Division Convention shall be sent by the Alabama Division Adjutant to all camps in good standing at least thirty (30) days prior to the convention.

ARTICLE XV: DISSOLUTION CLAUSE

In the event of dissolution, the residual assets of the Alabama Division shall be transferred to a reciprocate organization whose objectives and aspirations are compatible with those of the Sons of Confederate Veterans, with preference given to the national organization of the Sons of Confederate Veterans. No individual is to profit from the dissolution of the Alabama Division, Sons of Confederate Veterans. The Executive Committee shall determine the recipient of the assets. Such distribution shall be made only after said Executive Committee has paid or has made provision for the payment of all liabilities of the Alabama Division. Records, paraphernalia, seal, certificates, etc. shall be deposited with the national organization of the Sons of Confederate Veterans.

ADOPTED: 11 May 1985 in Division Convention, City of Montgomery,
Montgomery County, Alabama.

CERTIFICATION:

This Constitution was amended in convention assembled, in Jasper, Alabama,
On May 31, 2008.

LEONARD WILSON
Division Commander

PAUL W. VAUGHN
Division Adjutant