

BRIGADE OF THE AMERICAN REVOLUTION CONSTITUTION

We, the elected representatives of the Member Organizations of the **Brigade of the American Revolution**, do hereby adopt this revised and amended document entitled "Constitution Revision" for the above organization on this day of 4th March 1967.

PREAMBLE

Resolved, that the **Brigade of the American Revolution** is formed for the promotion of interest in the American Revolution, and in the prosecution of this end the active recreation of elements of that period, and further, to honor the courage, tenacity, and devotion of the common soldier of the Revolution as a reminder of our national heritage.

ARTICLE I - Basic objectives outlined.

- A. To perpetuate the history of the American Revolution and the common interest of Americans in the preservation of the historic aspects of the American War for Independence: its purposes; its conduct; and its accomplishments through the participation in historical research; the preservation and reproduction of arms, equipment and uniforms; and the participation in reenactments, community pageants, and other historical activities.
- B. To encourage the preservation and display of Revolutionary War military materials; and further to promote muzzle-loading musketry through the use of firearms of the period, fired in the original manner; and authentic musick played in the Eighteenth-Century style.
- C. To conduct a form of company and individual-member target competition, and to provide and maintain a uniform procedure for conducting such competitions with regard to the safety and pleasure of the participants and spectators.
- D. To uphold our Constitutional right to keep and bear Arms.

ARTICLE II - Membership

- A. Charter Member Organizations: Bergen County Militia, New Barbadoes Light Infantry Co., Third New York Regiment, Lamb's Artillery Regiment, 2nd Regiment of Artillery, Lamb's Co.
- B. General Membership
 - 1. Each Member Organization shall consist of four or more appropriately dressed or uniformed men. Such uniforms or contemporary dress to be subject to the final judgment of the **Brigade of the American Revolution**. Each Member Organization shall be free to set its own standards of membership within the limitations set by the Brigade.
 - 2. No person under the age of sixteen (16) will be allowed to carry or discharge any firearm or to carry any edged weapon in any activity or competition sponsored or sanctioned by the **Brigade**. Release for youths under the age of twenty-one (21) to be signed by their parents.
 - 3. Membership is limited to males, except as otherwise provided for, who must not have been convicted of a felony, and who must not

be a member of any organization or group having as its purpose, or one of its purposes, the overthrow by force or violence of the Government of the United States of America or any of its political subdivisions. Members will be known by and use their own legal names within the **Brigade**.

4. A prospective organization wishing to apply for membership shall comply in all respects with this Constitution and By-Laws of the **Brigade**, and shall so certify in its application for membership.
5. The type and designation of new units, except as hereafter provided for, will be limited at the discretion of the Board of Directors.
 - a. As a means of preventing confusion, misunderstanding, and the possibility of insoluble differences of opinion "after the fact" regarding policy, clothing and equipment etc, no applicant group calling itself, or otherwise bearing the same Name, Title, Designation or Nickname of a **Brigade member** unit in good standing shall be accepted for **Brigade** membership without prior approval. Prior approval must be secured in writing from (1) the existing member unit and (2) the Main Department Board of Directors and, where applicable, the Regional Board of Directors concerned.
 - (1) This article shall apply equally to, and within the entire **Brigade** regardless of geographical Department.
 - (2) This article shall not in any way alter or provide grounds for any alteration or reorganization by any **Brigade** governing body of **Brigade** units, or divisions thereof, which existed prior to the adoption of this amendment. [as amended 15 May 1985]
 - b. Two (2) Member Organizations dressed, accoutered and armed as riflemen, with flintlock rifles of the type known as Pennsylvania or "long" rifles, will be admitted to membership without restriction, upon fulfilling the membership requirements. Subsequent applicant units of riflemen may be admitted subject to a ratio of no less than five (5) infantry units armed with muskets to one unit of riflemen other than the Light Infantry. The same regulation and ratio shall apply to Light Infantry units of the Continental Line.
 - c. Artillery units will be limited to one (1) per seven (7) infantry units armed with muskets after the first three (3) artillery units have become members. All units who apply for membership and have an approved artillery piece, or intend to obtain or build one, shall apply for membership as artillery units subject to the artillery regulations of the **Brigade**.
 - d. Units entirely of Field Musick will be limited to one (1) per five (5) infantry units armed with muskets – said ratio to apply after the first five (5) Field Musick units have become members.
 - e. Should the quotas for Riflemen, Artillery, and Field Musick be filled, Applicant organizations may join the ranks of existing units. Should this prove impossible, the Applicants may form another company or troop of existing organizations upon permission of the Board of Directors, and with the consent of the original unit.

- f. Exceptions to the above may be made where proven historically.
- g. A Civilian Class Membership shall be established to perform in period dress at **Brigade** events those exhibits, crafts, and demonstrations deemed appropriate to create a more comprehensive historical presentation in conjunction with and complementary to the purely military activities of the **Brigade**.

The Department will be directed by a Superintendent who shall be appointed by and be subject to the orders of the Board of Directors, **Brigade of the American Revolution**. The Superintendent may appoint internal committees as needed and will be responsible for the proper operation of the Department as defined by the Board of Directors. This will include the transportation of necessary materials, their proper installation, and subsequent display and use - subject to authentication by the Brigade Inspector.

Membership shall consist of males and females of twelve years of age and over. The Civilian Class Membership may, however, include individuals who are members of other **Brigade** units as well as those belonging exclusively to this Department. The latter will pay dues in the same amount as musicians and shall individually follow the normal inspection and approval procedures required for **Brigade** units by serving as a Probationary Member prior to advancing to Full Membership. Any member of the Civilian Class Membership may serve as a Board Member at Large on any Board of Directors if they are members-in-good-standing; however, if they are solely members of the Civilian Class Membership, they shall assume no military rank. Like regular member units in good standing, the Civilian Class Membership will be entitled to one (1) vote in **Brigade** voting. [Ratified 12 April 1975; 12 April 1980; 31 January 1990]

- 6. No person or persons shall be denied membership in the **Brigade** because of sex, race, creed, or national origin. [Amended 31 January 1990]
- 7. Each new unit shall go through the following three (3) stages of membership, and must conform to the following requirements and conditions:
 - a. Upon application to the **Brigade** for membership, a unit shall select, with the approval of the Board of Directors, an original unit that participated in the American Revolution and shall pattern itself on that unit, adopt its name, and prepare to reproduce its appearance accurately. Upon receipt of such payments as required in Article IX, with the Board of Directors' consent such units shall become Applicant Members, but may not vote in **Brigade** elections, nor discharge firearms at any **Brigade** function.
 - b. Upon the acceptance by the Board of Directors of the *Brigade Inspector's* Probationary Report, an Applicant Member Unit shall be advanced to Probationary Membership. All membership dues and assessments shall be required to fulfill this advance in status, and the unit shall be advanced to Probationary Membership with all rights and privileges of Full Membership. However, the Board of Directors may, upon finding that there has been a commission of a serious error in safety, conduct, competence, or chronic failure to

- participate in **Brigade** functions by the Probationary Unit, suspend or expel a Probationary Unit from membership in the organization.
- c. After a Probationary period of at least one (1) year, but no more than two (2) years, the Board of Directors may advance a unit as before defined. A full unit must participate at two (2) consecutive company firelock matches or other major functions during its Probationary period.
8. Field Musick units shall consist of four (4) or more authentically dressed or uniformed and accoutered males over the age of twelve (12) who shall play authentic commands, duty calls, and martial music of the American Revolution.
 - a. Bands of Musick shall be uniformed as artillery musicians, unless another band is known; and their designation shall be associated with an artillery unit, with whom – if such exists – there need be no official association or affiliation. This is subject to the concurrence of the first unit to exist bearing the name.
 - b. Individuals, over the age of twelve (12) may join existing units as Field Musick members.
 9. Under extraordinary conditions, and for the specific welfare and advancement of the **Brigade**, individual persons may be attached to any existing unit. All rights and responsibilities of membership shall apply to these individuals, except the privilege of the vote normally accorded to a Member Unit. Acceptance of status waives the right to vote.
 10. The Board of Directors may appoint very deserving persons to a status of honorary membership in the **Brigade** with the title of "Gentleman Volunteer", or "Lady Volunteer", respectively.
 - a. These "Volunteers" shall receive proper notification of appointment with a certificate and membership card. This category of membership shall be exempt from regular dues and assessments, but is specifically entitled to receive any **Brigade** publications, for which no charge is made to regular members
 - b. "Volunteers" shall have no vote within the **Brigade**, nor shall they be allowed to bear arms or to discharge arms without the express consent of the **Brigade** for each occasion.
 - c. "Volunteers" shall be permitted and encouraged to wear period clothing approved by the *Brigade Inspector*, and to participate in Brigade activities.
 - d. The honorary status of "Gentleman Volunteer", or "Lady Volunteer" may be revoked by the Board of Directors for cause, by a two-thirds vote.
 11. Membership shall be contingent also upon the timely payment of such dues and other assessments by the Board of Directors as are found necessary to assess the member organizations or its individual members for the maintenance of the **Brigade**.
 12. All classes of membership are contingent also upon the accepted standards of normal conduct. Severe breaches of safety, endangering

others as well as oneself, misconduct, or any other deviation from membership standards, are causes for suspension or expulsion of any individual or member organizations from the **Brigade**.

C. Regions

1. To further the objectives of the **Brigade** through localized activities, the Board of Directors is empowered to designate **Brigade** Regions. These Regions may be designated with or without regard to geographic boundaries or political subdivisions. All portions or segments of any given Region must be in physical proximity to the others and cannot be separated by the physical boundaries of another Region. The boundaries of any Region will be clearly defined in writing as hereafter provided for.
2. Four (4) or more **Brigade** Member Units, one of which must have full membership status, may apply for a Brigade Regional Charter.
3. Upon petition for a Region, the Board of Directors shall at its discretion, consider the merits thereof and may issue a Charter to the Region. The Charter will outline the boundaries and functions of the Region. The Charter shall further provide for Regional Officers to officiate under the terms of the Charter, the manner in which such officers are elected or appointed, their specific and general duties, and a proper outline of staff functions. In addition, the Charter shall provide for a minimum number of Regional Meetings and activities.
4. The Board of Directors will include in any and all Charters standard provisions for amendment and revocation of Charters.
5. The provisions of a Charter notwithstanding, in no way will the Constitution and By-Laws of the **Brigade** be superseded, nor the authority of the Board of Directors, National Officers, or total membership - wherein shall remain all authority not specifically delegated by the Charter.
6. The Board of Directors, in lieu of granting a Charter, at its discretion may create an unchartered Region and provide for necessary administration thereof, where it is not possible or desirable to grant a permanent Charter.
7. When designated, a Region may be larger than immediately necessary to encompass its founders. To subdivide an existing Region, at least four (4) Member Units are required to form a new Region; and the existing Region must retain at least four (4) Member Units. Division of such a Region, where there is any dissatisfaction on the part of the membership of the original Region who would retain the old Charter, must have the concurrence of a majority of the Board of Directors.

ARTICLE III - Officers of the Brigade

A. National Officers

1. Due to the military nature of the offices of Commander, Deputy Commander, Adjutant General, Paymaster General, and Brigade

Inspector, candidates for these offices shall be drawn from only adult Men at Arms in good standing of Member Organizations of the **Brigade** for terms of two (2) years or until their successors are elected. They shall receive no compensation except reimbursement of bona fide expenses for official business of the Brigade. They shall be known as the National Officers. [Amended 31 January 1990]

2. National Officers and their duties are as follows:

PRESIDENT - having the title of COMMANDER with the rank of COLONEL - will preside at the meetings of the **Brigade**, and of the Board of Directors of the **Brigade**; will be a member ex officio of all regular and special committees; will appoint committees as necessary; will perform all duties usually pertaining to the office of a President, and such other duties as may be provided for. In a situation construed to be an emergency, the Commander may make such decisions as shall be verified by the Board of Directors, in a meeting at a later time, as needed, and of good judgment. [As amended 9 May 1976]

VICE-PRESIDENT - having the title of DEPUTY COMMANDER, with the rank of LT. COLONEL - will perform the duties of the Commander in his absence or at the Commander's request. [As amended 9 May 1976]

SECRETARY - having the title of ADJUTANT GENERAL with the rank of MAJOR - will conduct all correspondence at the direction of the Commander and the Board of Directors; will keep all records of **Brigade** business except as delegated to others; will act as secretary at meetings of the **Brigade** and Board of Directors of the **Brigade**; will maintain a roster of Brigade Member Organizations and their officers; and will perform other duties as may be required by the Board of Directors of the **Brigade**. [As amended 9 May 1976]

TREASURER - having the title PAYMASTER GENERAL with the rank of CAPTAIN - will perform the normal duties of a Treasurer; will collect all duties and other funds paid to the **Brigade**, and will have charge of all funds except where there is specific authority delegated with respect to funds used in the operations of an official **Brigade** function; will disburse funds as prescribed by the Board of Directors of the **Brigade**; will keep an accurate record of the **Brigade** finances and will submit said records for auditing when so directed. The Paymaster will perform all other duties pertaining to the office of a Treasurer and is empowered to make arrangements with banks or other financial institutions for the keeping or investment of **Brigade** funds with the approval of the Board of Directors of the **Brigade**. [As amended 9 May 1976]

BRIGADE INSPECTOR - whose rank is LT. COLONEL - will inspect to determine that all participating Applicant and Member Organizations fully comply with the **Brigade's** standards and rules; will inspect all Probationary organizations and will report and make recommendations to the Board of Directors of the **Brigade** as to their qualifications for membership; will maintain a file on Revolutionary War ordnance, clothing, arms, accoutrements, and such other details necessary for the accurate appearance of membership, and disseminate information for their safe use; will with a Committee of Safety formulate standard operating procedures and rules of safety and authenticity; may appoint assistants from the membership as necessary in the performance of duties of the office for specific purposes. [As amended October 1967; 9 May 1976; 3 March 1979]

The above ranks shall remain in effect until significant changes in total **Brigade** strength requires corresponding adjustments in rank structure of the National Board of Directors. At the time such adjustments are contemplated, affirmative vote of three-quarters of the total membership of the Board of Directors will be required.

3. Staff Officers, as assistants to the Commander, may be appointed for specific purposes by the Commander with the approval of the Board of Directors when necessary to accomplish specific objectives of the **Brigade**.
4. Vacancies created by resignation, expulsion, or death of an officer shall be filled for the balance of the unexpired term of office by the Board of Directors either from its own ranks or from the membership.
5. The Officers of the **Brigade of the American Revolution**, a corporation, shall be the officers elected and appointed as provided for under this Constitution and the By-Laws.
6. Infantry units are authorized to parade Commissioned and Non-Commissioned Officers, under the command of the National Board of Directors, for each company within their organization at **Brigade** events subject to the following regulations:

INFANTRY TABLE OF ORGANIZATION: Brigade of the American Revolution

Total = Privates+Corporals+Sergeants+Lieutenants+Ensigns+Captains										
4- 7	=	3- 6	+	0	+	1	+	0	+	0
8-11	=	6- 9	+	1	+	1	+	0	+	0
12-15	=	9-12	+	2	+	1	+	0	+	0
16	=	12	+	2	+	1	+	1	+	0
17-19	=	12-14	+	2	+	1	+	1	+	1
20-22	=	14-16	+	2	+	2	+	1	+	1
23-25	=	16-18	+	3	+	2	+	1	+	1
26-30	=	18-22	+	3	+	2	+	1	+	1
31-35	=	22-26	+	3	+	3	+	1	+	1
36-40	=	26-30	+	4	+	2	+	1	+	1
41-45	=	30-34	+	4	+	4	+	1	+	1
46-50	=	34-38	+	4	+	4	+	2	+	1

CONDITIONS

The express written permission of the National Board of Directors shall be required as a prior condition for authorization of Commissioned Officers in **Brigade** units.

Each Officer, including those detailed to official duties by a Board or Staff Officer, must field for active duty at all times during each event, the required number of subordinates to support the rank according to the table of organization for the type of unit.

LIMITATIONS

Under no circumstances will any unit apply to the National Board for Commissioned Officer rank under any terms other than those set forth in the table of organization designed for their branch of service.

No officer of any unit, under the terms of this section shall assume without authorization by the National Board or Directors, any

function beyond the control or command of the men of his own unit, and at all times shall follow the orders and directions of the National Board, any individual Board Officer or any person, or persons, appointed by the Board for any specific B.A.R. purpose.

Any Officer unable to field the strength necessary to support the rank shall assume the uniform and lesser rank justified by the unit's strength fielded at the time,

OPTION

Individual units have the option of not applying for commissioned Officer status for any of their members.

ENSIGNS

When seventeen or more men are fielded, one of these may be made an Ensign if the unit has a proper flag and it shall be actually carried by said Ensign on the field.

MUSIC

Drummers, fifers, pipers and bandsmen may be counted in tables of organization when counted toward a total in support of any Officer rank but must not exceed the numbers customary for the type of unit in question.

ALTERNATE TITLES

Upon application to the National Board of Directors, historically accurate alternate titles may be substituted for those listed in the appropriate table of organization where an equality of rank exists.

SUPPLEMENTARY TABLES OF ORGANIZATION

Tables of Organization other than infantry shall be made available by the **Brigade** Inspector after approval by the National Board of Directors. [As amended 9 May 1976]

ARTICLE IV - Board of Directors

- A. The Board of Directors shall consist of the regularly elected **Brigade** Officers, the immediate past Commander, and duly elected Board members at large.
- B. Members of the Board of Directors shall be elected from the general *adult* membership. *Civilian or Military*, in the following proportion to the total, dues-paying, general membership:
 - 2 Board members at large for the first 100 members.
 - 3 Board members at large for the first 101 to 300 members.
 - 4 Board members at large for the first 301 to 800 members.
 - 5 Board members at large for any number of members over 801.

Board members at large shall have an equal voice and vote in all Board matters with the duly elected National Officers of the **Brigade**, but will have no specific duties other than that of a general representative, except as provided for by specific authority delegated to and designated by the Board of Directors. Members at large *who are Men at Arms* shall have the rank of Lieutenant. [Amended 31 January 1990]

- C. The Board of Directors shall determine all questions of **Brigade** business and policy not specified in this Constitution, and shall in all respects

be the governing body of the **Brigade**. To this end, it shall be limited and bound by the provisions of this Constitution and the Articles of Incorporation in all matters, except as otherwise provided under the Corporate laws of the State of New Jersey. The Board of Directors shall meet on the call of the Commander or upon the call of a majority of the Board members when necessary. For the purposes of an official meeting, a quorum shall be not less than one-half of the Board members. A member of the Board may vote in writing on specific questions if unable to attend a meeting. For the purpose of voting, a majority – unless otherwise specified – means a simple majority consisting of at least 51% of the total vote of Board members present, except as provided for by written ballot. The Board of Directors, in addition, is specifically authorized and empowered with the responsibility enumerated as follows:

1. The Board of Directors will pass on all applications for membership, advancement from Applicant to Probationary Membership status using the reports and recommendations of the *Brigade Inspector* and personal observation, approving or disapproving such applications or recommendations for advancement of membership status. Further, the Board of Directors will, in the same manner, pass on and appoint special classes of individual membership in the **Brigade**. A full two-thirds majority vote rather than a simple majority vote is required for approval of special classes of membership for individuals.
 2. The Board of Directors will conduct the financial policies of the **Brigade** and will direct the Paymaster with respect to all **Brigade** financial transactions.
 3. The Board of Directors may appoint specific individuals to be in charge of **Brigade** functions. To this end, the Board may extend to and specifically appoint individuals, other than the Paymaster, for certain financial responsibilities for specific purposes. And in general, delegate authority as necessary.
 4. The Board of Directors shall also act as a judicial body where applicable, and will pass on all matters concerning disputes within the **Brigade**'s membership. The Board may also for cause, by a two-thirds vote terminate the membership of any individual in a special class of membership. The Board may also suspend or expel any member of the **Brigade** for a serious breach of safety, as provided for in this Constitution.
 5. The Board of Directors, in its capacity as the governing body of the **Brigade** and in carrying out the specific and implied powers herein provided for, will create rules and regulations with regard to membership, financial policy, activities and general welfare of the **Brigade**, etc., and these shall be the By-Laws of the Brigade of the American Revolution. In addition, the Board will pass on all matters of general and specific policy, etc. and on items such as termination of membership, etc.
- D. The Board of Directors will serve until the expiration of their respective terms or until new Directors are elected.

ARTICLE V - Elections

- A. Officers and members to the Board of Directors will be elected on the basis of a ballot from the Member Organizations. Each Member Organization in good standing shall be entitled to one (1) vote. A majority vote shall constitute election. Vacancies among the members of the Board of Directors at large caused by resignation, death, or expulsion, will be filled by special elections held for that purpose.
- B. Officers and members to the Board of Directors shall be elected for term of two (2) years or until elections are held.
- C. The Commander will appoint a nominating committee in advance of every election. It shall be the purpose of this committee to make an evaluation of the capabilities and availability of members of the **Brigade** for prospective **Brigade** Officers. The primary purpose being the preparation of a listing of qualified candidates for submission to the organization for its elections. In its functions the committee will also advise and submit for consideration prospective candidates for offices newly created or vacated or unexpired, etc., for appointment or special elections. The members of the committee shall serve at the discretion of the Commander with the Board's concurrence. Any member of the **Brigade** may be proposed in writing via certified mail for any office *for which that member is eligible* by any two (2) units having the qualification to vote. The report of the nominating committee shall be distributed to the membership no less than 45 days prior to the close of nominations. [Amended 31 January 1990]
- D. Nominations will be closed sixty (60) days prior to the date of the election. At this time the Adjutant will forward to the organizations ballots which are to be returned promptly after completion. All ballots received will be counted on a date to be announced at least three (3) weeks in advance of the Annual Meeting of the **Brigade**. The Adjutant will then notify all newly elected officers, and Member Organizations of the results of the election. Any office in dispute by a tie vote will be broken by a vote of the incoming duly elected officers.

ARTICLE VI - Suspension and Expulsion

- A. Any **Brigade** Officer or member of the Board of Directors may be removed from office by a two-thirds affirmative of the Member Organizations in good standing at a meeting expressly called for this purpose. No vote of removal may be taken unless at least thirty (30) days notice in writing shall have been given to the officer of the charges against him, and of the time and date and place of the special meeting for that purpose. At that meeting, the officer shall be given a full hearing. Charges may be made by any Member Organization in good standing or by the Board of Directors.
- B. Any Member Organization or any member may be suspended or expelled from the **Brigade** for violations of this Constitution, the By-Laws or **Brigade** Rules, or for other reasons and actions injurious to the **Brigade** or in direct violation of its objectives. Suspension or expulsion will be made on the basis of a three-fourths affirmative vote of the Board of Directors' members present at a meeting called for that purpose. In the case of expulsion, no vote may be taken unless thirty (30) days notice in writing shall have been given the organization or individual concerned of the charges preferred, and of the date, time, and place of the meeting called for that purpose. The organization and individual will be

accorded a full hearing. Charges may be preferred by any other member or a member of the Board of Directors.

- C. Any member of the Board of Directors or the highest officer present, upon the commission of a serious breach of safety, common and accepted rules of decent conduct, or other abuse of reasonable action may suspend the participation of the person or persons committing such an offense, for the period of the event involved, providing that the person committing the suspension shall be in a relevant position of authority at the time. Suspension shall cover only the duration of the specific activity, and charges may be filed with the Board, additionally.

ARTICLE VII - Amendments to the Constitution

- A. Amendments may be initiated by any Member Organization in good standing, or a member of the Board of Directors, but must be submitted to the Board of Directors in writing, and must be approved by the Board before being brought to a vote by the Member Organizations. In the event of rejection by the Board of Directors, the proposed amendment may be submitted to a vote upon petition of fifty percent of the Member Organizations in good standing.
- B. Amendments to the Constitution shall be made only upon vote of the Member Organizations in good standing – each Member Unit having one (1) vote. Voting will take place at a special meeting called for that purpose or by a mail ballot, the method to be determined by the Board of Directors. A special meeting will be called only if the question is of a controversial nature and warrants discussion, or if an emergency exists. An affirmative vote of two-thirds of the Member Organizations is required for amendment. In the event of such a special meeting, the Adjutant will notify the Member Organizations thirty (30) days prior to the meeting of the question and date, time, and place of meeting. Mail ballots will be postmarked on or before the date the ballot is due. The Adjutant will notify the Member Organizations of the result as soon as it is known. Distribution of mailed ballots shall be postmarked 45 days before the ballot is due.

ARTICLE VII - Publications

- A. The Board of Directors is empowered to publish official pronouncements, news, rules, and regulations of the **Brigade** which will be distributed to all members. The purpose of these publications will be to inform the membership of all **Brigade** activities and to govern its activities.
- B. The editorial policy, business policy, and advertising rates of all publications shall be established by the Board of Directors and executed by an editor appointed by the Board. No article or writing of a controversial nature shall be published without approval of the Board, except in the form of letters to the Editor.

ARTICLE IX - Dues

- A. Each Member Organization shall pay dues and assessments as prescribed by the Board of Directors per year per man, payable by March 31st of each year in advance. This amount to be forwarded *in toto* to the Paymaster. The penalty for late dues payment shall be ten dollars (\$10). The dues

from individuals in a Member Organization who are late in remitting them will not invoke the late payment penalty if the dues for at least two-thirds of the membership of such organization is remitted on time. Dues from new recruits are excepted from any penalty no matter when paid.

- B. An Applicant Organization shall pay in advance with its application for membership an Application fee to be prescribed by the Board of Directors. The Application fee is an expression of good faith on the part of the applying organization, and is to cover the extra costs entailed in bringing a new organization into the **Brigade**. In addition, an organization, when notified of the approval and acceptance for Probationary Membership in the **Brigade** shall pay in advance the dues for its individual members for the next full calendar year, and on a pro rata basis for any full quarter of a year in which the organization is accepted on Probationary status.
- C. No individual member or Member Organization shall be in good standing or be qualified to exercise or receive privileges of membership, or participate in an official **Brigade** function or activity, who is in default of its dues for a period exceeding three months. If the delinquent member or Member Organization fails to pay its dues for a year, the member or Member Organization shall be dropped from membership in the **Brigade**. Any member or Member Organization may be reinstated, at the discretion of the Board of Directors, but only after all back dues and penalties where required have been paid. Upon payment of these dues and other fees prior to the end of the year, the member or Member Organization shall be considered in good standing and receive all the privileges of membership.

ARTICLE X - Meetings

- A. Once each year, on the *last full weekend in April*, the membership of the **Brigade** will meet as a whole, presided over by the Commander and the Board of Directors. At this meeting, an Annual Report of the **Brigade's** activities and progress will be made to the membership. In addition, in election years, the newly elected officers will be installed midway in the program. At this meeting also, the Board of Directors, or any of the members present, may bring forth for the consideration of the membership thus assembled matters of policy change and proposed legislation, or by petition of 51% of the Member Units. [As amended November 1970]
- B. From time to time, the Board of Directors may also call special meetings of the whole membership, where the situation warrants it, to discuss policy and proposed legislation.
- C. At the Annual Meeting, special meetings, or at any other time including the election of officers, affirmation of **Brigade** policies, *etc.*, each Member Unit of the **Brigade** is entitled to one (1) vote only per Member Unit and equal to that of any other Member Unit. Special members, have no vote. The members of the Board of Directors shall each have an equal vote in the affairs of the Board.

ARTICLE XI - Parliamentary Authority

- A. "*Roberts' Rules of Order Revised*" (latest edition) shall be the parliamentary authority in all matters not specified in the Constitution

and By-Laws of this Corporation, except that during uniformed activities all authority shall be vested according to the practice of military rank.

- B. At the Annual Meeting, or a special meeting, no less than two-thirds of the total Member Units of the **Brigade** present may overrule any By-Law or resolution of the Board of Directors. Quorum for such a meeting shall be 51% of the total Member Units.

As amended: 8 November 1970
12 April 1975
9 May 1976
3 March 1979
12 April 1980
15 May 1985
31 January 1990