

4th Alabama Cavalry, Co. B, Confederate States of America

BYLAWS

I. MEMBERSHIP

- A. Membership into the 4th Alabama Cavalry, Company B shall be open to men and women who meet the following requirements:
1. To be considered for membership into the Company, candidates must be over fourteen (14) years of age and participate with the Company in authentic period dress for three reenacting events (does not include work weekends, living histories or other “non-combat” events). Male candidates must serve as a private soldier in the line or a period civilian impression as approved by the Company Commanding Officer.
 2. Candidates who meet the above requirements must obtain sponsorship by a current Member of the Company. The sponsor and the candidate must jointly request consideration for Company membership in person to the Commanding Officer.
 3. If the candidate meets the above requirements, the Commanding Officer will call for a Company Meeting at a time and place of his discretion. During the Company Meeting, the sponsor will make a motion that a vote be taken for membership of the candidate. All Members in attendance may vote. No absentee votes or proxies are allowed for membership votes. The vote will be made by paper ballot. To be approved for membership, the candidate must receive assenting votes from ALL (100%) of the ballots cast by the Members present. The First Corporal and First Sergeant shall count the ballots and provide a written tally of the results to the Commanding Officer. If the candidate receives the required assenting vote with no dissenting votes, the Commanding Officer will welcome the Candidate into the membership of the Company.
- B. If the Candidate does not meet the above requirements, the following process will be followed. If one or more dissenting votes are cast, the Sergeant shall submit the ballots to the Commanding Officer for verification. Dissenting ballots must be signed or they will not be considered or reported. Prior to casting a dissenting vote, that member must be willing to discuss the reason for their vote. The Commanding Officer will call a 10-minute recess of the Company Meeting with no further comment and will request that the person(s) who cast the dissenting vote(s) accompany him in a private conference. If the dissenting voter chooses to not participate in the conference, the dissenting vote will not be considered. The Commanding Office may confer with others at his discretion. After the conference, the Commanding Officer will reconvene the meeting and at his discretion, discuss the matter OR make a motion fitting the circumstance. Any motion following the above process must receive three seconds. Should the Commanding Officer make a motion for a membership vote, the candidate must receive at least three-fourths (75%) assenting votes of the ballots cast by the Members present. The First Corporal and First Sergeant shall count the ballots and provide a written tally of the results to the

Commanding Officer. If the candidate receives a three-fourths (75%) assenting vote, the Commanding Officer will welcome the Candidate into the membership of the Company.

- C. A member may retain their membership with the Company by attending and/or participating in one (1) Company event per calendar year.
- D. A member may be expelled from the Company for cause at a Company Meeting. A motion for expulsion may only be made by the Commanding Officer and must receive three (3) seconds by the members present.
 - 1. The member subject to the action shall be notified by the Commanding Officer prior to any discussion and vote. This member has a right to be present and to participate in the discussion and vote.
 - 2. Following the discussion, only the Commanding Officer may make a motion to put the previous motion to a vote. This motion must receive three seconds by the members present. If the motion receives the required seconds, a vote will be made by paper ballot.
 - 3. For the expulsion motion to be carried, the motion must receive at least three-fourths (75%) of ballots cast by the Members present. No absentee votes or proxies are allowed for expulsion votes. The Commanding Officer, First Corporal and First Sergeant shall count the ballots. The Commanding Officer shall notify the Company of the results of the vote.
 - 4. If the motion carries, the person subject to the action will be removed from the Company Membership Roster and the Company directory. They will not be allowed to participate in Company events or activities. Membership of an expelled member may be reinstated by following the above process.

II. COMPANY MEETINGS, BYLAW CHANGES

- A. The Commanding Officer shall be the only one authorized to call a Company Meeting. He may do so at a time or place of his discretion, however, Company elections require at least 30 days prior notice.

III. COMPANY ELECTIONS AND COMMAND STRUCTURE

- A. The Company's organizational and field command structure will include one (1) field officer and two (2) non-commissioned officers (NCO's). This will consist of a Commanding Officer, 1st Sergeant and 1st Corporal. A Company Secretary will serve to record the minutes of the Company Meetings, administer company funds, maintain the Membership Roster and contact lists, and perform other administrative duties as requested by the Commanding Officer. The Company may vote to add staff offices (e.g. Quartermaster Sergeant, Chaplain with rank, etc.) to perform specific non-command functions.
- B. The term for all offices will be for a full year, beginning January 1. The elections will be held during a Company Meeting in the last two (2) months preceding the upcoming calendar year. Other times may be determined by a majority vote of Members present.
- C. To vote or participate in Company elections, person must meet the following requirements:

1. A Member must participate in a combat role at Company Events.
 2. A Member must have participated with the Company in at least three (3) Company Events during the calendar year preceding the upcoming term. Company-sanctioned reenactments and work weekends are considered "Company."
- D. For all elections, standard parliamentary procedure will be used. Offices may not be filled by acclamation. Paper ballots will be used to cast votes. A nominee will be elected when that person receives a simple majority (>50%) of the votes cast. Absentee and proxy votes shall be included as provided below. Nominees will be requested to leave the room during any discussion or vote after they are provided with and complete a ballot. In the event that no nominee receives a simple majority, a runoff vote will be conducted between the two nominees with the most votes.
1. In the event that a person who meets the above voting requirements cannot attend the company election, that Member may vote by absentee ballot or assign another qualified voting Member to vote their proxy. Absentee ballots and proxies must be made in writing and presented to the Commanding Officer before the elections begin.
- E. Should any field officer or NCO not be able to fulfill their duties, the attending command structure shall militarily advance in rank to fill the vacancies. The Commanding Officer may appoint the remaining NCO vacancies. Long-term vacancies will be filled in the above same manner. The Commanding Officer may appoint Members to other vacancies.

IV. BYLAW REVISIONS

- A. The Company Bylaws may be revised during a Company Meeting by a simple majority of the ballots cast by the Members present.

V. GENERAL REQUIREMENTS

- A. All persons who participate in any Company event or function is expected to comply with the Company Bylaws. Participation and/or Membership with the Company may be limited or terminated for violation of the Company Bylaws. All Members will be responsible for informing any person who violates the spirit or letter of the Company Bylaws of this fact.
- B. When camping with the Company, all persons participating will be expected to perform communal camp details (firewood, water, cooking, dishwashing, weapons cleaning, etc.). Volunteering for communal details is highly encouraged. When assistance is needed for carrying out a communal detail, the 1st Sergeant shall be the only one to assign such duties.
- C. Alcoholic beverages of any kind shall not be provided to or consumed by any persons under the legal age. Use of illegal drugs or controlled substances will not be allowed or tolerated. Violators are subject to expulsion from the Company.
- D. No minor under the age of 18 years old may attend or otherwise participate in a Company event without the presence or written authorization of the minor's parent or legal guardian. The parent or legal guardian is responsible for making all arrangement relating

to the minor's authorizations, transportation, attendance and well being. The written authorization must include all of all the following:

1. Permission for attendance for specific events,
2. Authorization for medical treatment, and
3. Name of the designated adult supervisor signed by the designated adult supervisor who acknowledges their assigned supervisory role.

VI. FIELD REQUIREMENTS

- A. All persons participating shall be willing to present an authentic impression of both Confederate and Union soldiers. All uniforms, weapons and accoutrements must be historically correct for the period. The Officers and NCO's shall inspect the participants and enforce authenticity requirements. The Commanding Officer shall be the final authority in matters concerning authenticity.
- B. No combatant will be allowed to take the field until his/her medical form has been completed and given to the Secretary.
- C. Persons carrying and/or discharging a firearm on the battlefield at an event shall be at least fourteen years of age. The Commanding Officer has the authority to allow a male combatant between the ages of 12-14.
- D. Only historically correct male participants will be allowed for military roles as a soldier or other combatant roles. The Commanding Officer must approve all other battlefield impressions including civilian impressions and participation by minors.
- E. In order to participate on the battlefield as a soldier with the Company, non-Members must drill with the Company prior to the battle on that day.
- F. Prior to each battle all participants shall have all of their firearms inspected by the Commanding Officer or NCO. The weapons will be inspected to assure:
 1. All safety features, half-cock, function properly.
 2. The weapon's bore is clean.
 3. No live round or projectile remnants are present in the weapon's barrel or other component.
 4. Cartridges are of reasonable loads (preferably under 80 grains) and do not contain possible projectiles such as musket balls or staples.

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