

CONSTITUTIONS AND BY-LAWS



Michigan Commandery
Military Order of the Loyal Legion
of the United States

(Constitution 1997, Bylaws 2005)

and

Commmandery-in-Chief
Military Order of the Loyal Legion
of the United States

(2001)

MILITARY ORDER OF THE LOYAL LEGION
MICHIGAN COMMANDERY
CONSTITUTION

PREAMBLE

This Constitution is established for the governance of the Michigan Commandery of the Military Order of the Loyal Legion of the United States, and authenticates the official revival of the Commandery, originally chartered in 1885, deactivated in 1962, and re-activated by the Commandery-in-Chief in 1986. Among the several objects of the Commandery are:

- A. To cherish the honorable service of our ancestors who served as commissioned officers in the Union Forces during the Civil War, 1861-1865
- B. To commemorate the events of that momentous conflict--especially as they pertain to Michigan's participation.
- C. To encourage interest in the history of that period.
- D. To support the principles of Independence, Union, Loyalty, Patriotism, Military Preparedness, National Honor, and the Rights and Liberties of our citizenry.
- E. To foster the pursuit of genealogy.

ARTICLE I. ORGANIZATION

- A. The Michigan Commandery shall consist of all Companions of the Order in good standing, all of whom (excepting Junior Companions) are extended the privilege of the floor and (excepting Junior and Honorary Companions) the right to vote at annual and special meetings of the general membership and to hold office.
- B. The Board of Officers shall consist of the elected and appointed Officers, and, if available, a Council consisting of up to five members (not themselves officers) hereinafter described, and shall conduct all business of the Commandery between the annual and special meetings of the membership.

ARTICLE II. MEMBERSHIP ELIGIBILITY AND CLASSES OF MEMBERSHIP

Commandery membership eligibility for Hereditary, Junior Hereditary, Associate, and Honorary Companions shall be as stated in Article V of the Constitution of the Commandery-in-Chief. The Michigan Commandery provides for Associate Companions pursuant to Article V, Section 5 of the Constitution of the Commandery-in-Chief. Associate Companions may vote and serve on Commandery committees; however, no Associate Companion may hold an elected Commandery office.

All eligible applicants must be accepted as provided for by the Michigan Commandery By-Laws hereto attached (Nothing therein shall be construed to deny or disparage membership based upon an applicant's race, creed, color, or social position). No resignation, or application for transfer, will be approved unless the Companion is in good standing at the time of such request. Expulsion, suspension, or forfeiture shall be as provided in the By-Laws of the Commandery-in-Chief.

ARTICLE III. OFFICERS

- A. The officers (and their powers and duties) of the Michigan Commandery shall be as follows:
 - 1. An elected Commander who shall:

- (a) Preside at all meetings of the Commandery and Board of Officers;
- (b) Enforce strict observance of the Constitution and By-Laws;
- (c) Appoint all committees and their chairmen;
- (d) Act as ex-officio member of all committees excepting the nominating committee; and
- (e) Perform such other duties as custom and parliamentary usage may require.

2. An elected Senior and Junior Vice Commanders who shall:

- (a) Assist the Commander;
- (b) In the absence of the Commander, in order of rank, perform all of the duties of said office; and
- (c) In the event the office of Commander becomes vacant, in order of rank, succeed to the next highest office.

3. An elected Recorder who shall:

- (a) Record the proceedings of the Commandery and of its Board of Officers;
- (b) Collect all monies due to the Commandery, excepting dues, and immediately forward same to the Treasurer;
- (c) Keep the records of the Commandery;
- (d) Notify all new members of their final acceptance into the Order;
- (e) Keep the completed and approved application papers of all members until the Board of Officers may instruct him to forward them to the archives;
- (f) Prepare and keep current a roster of the membership, together with their addresses and telephone numbers; and
- (g) Turn over to his successor all books, records, and papers belonging to the Commandery.

4. An elected Treasurer who shall:

- (a) Establish and maintain all accounts in a reputable Michigan bank approved by the Board of Officers and with a branch convenient to the residence of the Treasurer;
- (b) Issue all checks for payment of the debts of the Commandery that have been authorized by the Board of Officers (No disbursement of funds, except for the conduct of routine business, shall be made without the express authorization of the Board of Officers);
- (c) Bill all Companions for annual dues (excepting life members) and contributions by 1 December of each year; receive, and deposit same in the Commandery account (s);
- (d) Notify all Companions of the Order who have not paid their dues by 1 April of each year, and report same to the Board of Officers;
- (e) Keep accounts of receipts and expenditures, making statements of them as required; and

(f) Turn over to his successor all monies, books, and papers belonging to the Commandery;
and

5. An appointed Registrar who shall:

(a) Maintain a quantity of membership application forms, and supply a set, together with instructions and the fees/dues schedule to applicants;

(b) Review for completeness, accuracy, and sufficient documentation, all papers of applicants;

(c) Following said review, provide a background summary of the applicant and his application for final approval by the Board of Officers or Executive Committee (hereafter described);

(d) After final approval by the Board of Officers or Executive Committee, forward all application papers to the Recorder-in-Chief for national approval and assigning of Insignia Number;

(e) Review all supplemental applications and forward same directly to the Recorder-in-Chief for final approval; and

(f) Report in writing at the annual meeting as to actions taken during the year.

B. If available, the Officers of the Commandery also may include:

(a) An elected Council, which shall consist of not more than five Companions of the Order (not holding other Commandery office) who shall act as members of the Board of Officers;

(b) An appointed Chancellor who shall:

1. Handle all legal matters required by the Commandery; and

2. Act as Deputy to the Treasurer and in his absence or disability, act in his stead;

(c) An appointed Chaplain who shall open and close the several meetings of the Commandery with prayer, and look to the spiritual needs of the Companions;

(d) An appointed Surgeon who shall be a practicing or retired physician, and shall supervise the general health and well-being of the Companions of the Order and report to the meetings of the Commandery; and

(e) All Past Commanders of the Commandery who are still Companions of the Commandery.

ARTICLE IV. MEETINGS

At least one meeting of the general membership shall be held annually for the purpose of the election of officers and any other business to come before the membership. Special meetings may be called at any time for the purpose of considering amendments to the Constitution, or for any other pressing business that should be considered by the general membership.

ARTICLE V. AUTHORITY OF THE BOARD OF OFFICERS

The Board of Officers shall have general supervision and control over all affairs and property belonging to the Commandery. It shall have sole power to fill vacancies in any of the offices of the Commandery, until the time of the next election, except in the case of those offices that shall be filled as prescribed in Article III. It shall have the authority to establish and abolish sub-commanderies within the state, which shall function only under such terms and conditions as the Board of Officers may determine. The Board may

establish a permanent fund, only the proceeds from which may be transferred into the general fund. It may drop a Companion from the rolls (after good and sufficient notification) for non-payment of dues. It may expel, suspend, or cause to be forfeited, any member, or remove any officer in accordance with the procedures contained in the By-Laws of the Commandery-in-Chief. The Board of Officers or an Executive Committee, authorized by the Board of Officers and consisting of the Commander and at least two other key officers, may conduct business between meetings of the Commandery.

ARTICLE VI. ELECTIONS

Elections to fill all offices indicated in Article III shall be conducted annually at the annual meeting. The Recorder shall notify the membership of the time and place of such meeting at least 15 days in advance of such meeting and provide the slate nominated by the Nominating Committee at the time of the notification. Nominations for each office shall also be accepted from the floor. Mail (via US postal service or electronic mail) ballots, which include space for write-in candidates, may be authorized for those Companions who cannot for good and sufficient reason attend the annual meeting.

ARTICLE VII. AMENDMENTS

This Constitution may be amended at the annual meeting or a special meeting of the membership called for that purpose. An amendment may be proposed by the Board of Officers, or by any Companion in good standing, and seconded by another Companion of the Order. Proposed amendments must be mailed to all Companions along with the notice of the meeting at which they are to be considered. Ratification of an amendment requires the approval of two-thirds of the total membership (including provision for mail ballots).

ARTICLE VIII. DISSOLUTION

In the event of the dissolution of the Michigan Commandery of the Military Order of the Loyal Legion of the United States, either by operation of law, or by action of the Commandery-in-Chief, or membership as a whole, after payment of all creditors, all assets, except those in the charitable fund covered by Article X, shall be transferred to the Commandery-in-Chief provided that the said Commandery-in-Chief, or its successor, is in active existence and shall accept distribution of such assets and provided such organization is tax exempt under the provisions of Section 501(c)(10) of the Federal Internal Revenue Code of 1954, or corresponding section of any future federal tax code. Such action shall constitute a good faith agreement to continue the payment of the dues of all life members of the Michigan Commandery in good standing at the time of dissolution. In the event that the Commandery-in-Chief or its successor is not a tax exempt organization as specified above, or is unwilling to accept said distribution as aforementioned, such assets shall be distributed to one or more exempt purposes under the meaning of Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code, or shall be distributed to the federal government, or to a state or local government, for a public purpose. All records and memorabilia shall be deposited in the Bentley Historical Library at the University of Michigan.

ARTICLE IX. NET EARNINGS

The net earnings of the Commandery are to be devoted exclusively to charitable, literary, educational, and fraternal purposes and are not to be used for the payment of life, sickness, accident, or other benefits, within the meaning of Section 501 (e) (10)a of the Federal Internal Revenue Code of 1954.

ARTICLE X. CHARITABLE FUND

A separate charitable fund, separate and apart from the general and permanent funds, and in a different and special bank account, may be established by the Board of Officers, for the purpose of receiving bequests, gifts, grants, contributions, money, and other significant donations, to be used exclusively for charitable, educational, or literary purposes as to net earnings.

No part of the net earnings of the Commandery from such fund shall be used for the general purposes or shall inure to the benefit or be distributable to its members, trustees, officers, or private persons, except that the Commandery shall be authorized and empowered to pay reasonable compensation for services rendered and expenses incurred, and to make payments and distributions in furtherance of the purposes set forth in this article. No substantial part of the activities shall be the carrying on of propaganda, or in otherwise attempting to influence legislation, and the Commandery 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 provisions of these articles, the Commandery shall not carry on any other activities not permitted to be carried on (a) by a corporation 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 by a corporation, contributions to which are deductible under section 170 (c) (2)a of the Internal Revenue Code, or corresponding section of any future federal tax code, in the use of these funds included in Article X.

In the event of dissolution, all assets in the charitable fund shall be distributed to an organization which is tax exempt under Section 501 (c) (3) of the Internal Revenue Code, or corresponding section of any future federal tax code, or distributed to one or more exempt purposes under the meaning of such section, or shall be distributed to the federal government, or to a state or local government, for a public purpose.

ARTICLE X. RATIFICATION

Ratification of this Constitution shall be final when three-fourths of the total membership, including mail ballots, shall approve it.

Rev. 1997

MILITARY ORDER OF THE LOYAL LEGION MICHIGAN COMMANDERY BY-LAWS

SECTION I. GENERAL

These By-Laws shall govern the Michigan Commandery of the Military Order of the Loyal Legion of the United States in all instances not specifically covered by the Constitution. Nothing contained herein may be in conflict with the provisions of the Constitution of the Michigan Commandery or Constitution or By-Laws of the Commandery-in-Chief.

SECTION II. PROCEDURES

A. Processing of Applications and Election to Membership:

1. The Registrar shall furnish two copies of the application papers to a prospective member. If, in the judgment of the Registrar, there is considerable work to be done by the applicant, a work copy may be sent in lieu of the actual application forms until the applicant is ready for the final forms.
2. Applications and all supporting documentation will be submitted to the Registrar in duplicate, signed by the applicant, and accompanied by all Commandery dues and National and Commandery fees. No application shall be otherwise accepted or processed further.
3. The Registrar shall forward the dues and fees to the Treasurer.
4. After verification of the application as set forth in Article IIIA5 of the Constitution, the Registrar shall forward the application to the Board of Officers or Executive Committee for approval.

5. The Board of Officers or Executive Committee shall take action on the application.
6. If the applicant is approved for membership, the Recorder shall send one copy of the application with supporting documentation to the Registrar-in-Chief, noting such approval by the Commandery, and assigning the Commandery number (if applicable).
7. Upon receipt of notification of final approval by the Commandery-in-Chief, the Registrar shall notify the Recorder and the applicant of the applicant's acceptance into the Michigan Commandery and Insignia number assigned by the Commandery-in-Chief.
8. If at any time subsequent to the election to membership, it is discovered that the same was procured through misstatement, or the failure to disclose material facts, the Commandery shall have power to declare such election null and void. Annulments under this section shall be communicated to the Recorder-in-Chief.

B. *Investiture of New Members:* Upon the first meeting following final approval of membership application papers at which a new Companion of the Order is present, an appropriate welcoming ceremony will be conducted. Wherever possible, the official rosette will be presented at that time.

C. *Investiture of Officers:* A Companion elected to any office of the Commandery, before being invested with the authority of the office, shall make a formal declaration upon his honor that he will well and faithfully perform the duties of the office upon which he is about to enter, and comply with all the established laws and usages of the Order. The outgoing Commander or Commander's appointee shall lead in this verbal declaration.

D. *Order of Business for Meetings:*

1. Call to Order
2. Invocation
3. Pledge of Allegiance
4. Roll call
5. Investiture of new members
6. Officer and committee reports
7. Old Business
8. New Business
9. Consideration of applications for membership
10. Communications
11. Investiture of officers (at Annual Meeting)
12. Adjournment

E. *Robert's Rules of Order:* Robert's Rules of Order (General Parliamentary Law) shall govern all meeting procedure not otherwise specified by the Constitution and these By-Laws.

F. *Finance:* No funds in excess of \$10 shall be withdrawn from the Treasury for any purpose without the approval of the Commander. A strict accounting of all expenditures shall be maintained by the Treasurer.

G. *Fees and Dues:* Fees and dues shall be as established by the Board of Officers not later than 1 November of each year. Failure to take such action shall constitute approval for continuation of the dues/fees schedule in effect the previous year. Annual dues shall be payable before the first of January each year. When such dues have been paid within three months prior to the first of January by a new member, such payment shall cancel dues for the ensuing year. A candidate for membership must submit dues and fees at the time of application. If the application is disapproved, dues will be refunded.

H. *Establishment of Committees:* Membership, nominating, and such other committees as may be needed may be established.

I. *Voting:* Any action required of the Board of Officers (or Executive Committee) may be approved at a regular or special meeting called under approved conditions, or by mail (U.S. postal service or electronic mail) vote. In the latter event, the Recorder shall mail (via U.S. postal service or electronic mail) ballots stating action required and a majority of votes cast and returned to the Recorder shall determine the outcome of the action. A tie vote shall invalidate the action. In instances where time is of the essence, a telephone vote may be conducted by the Recorder.

J. *Death of a Companion:* It shall be the duty of any Companion upon learning of the death of a member of the Commandery to immediately notify the Recorder. The Recorder will prepare a certificate of mourning with appropriate language to be voted upon by the Board of Officers. Such certificate shall be signed by the Commander and Recorder, the latter to, forward it to the surviving widow or next of kin.

I. *Quorum:* A quorum for the purposes of holding meetings and conducting business shall be constituted by no less than three (3) members of the Board of Officers.

SECTION III. AMENDMENT

These By-Laws may be amended by a three-fourths vote of the Board of Officers, except that no amendment shall be passed if three members of the Board of Officers present dissent to the same.

Rev. 2005

**THE MILITARY ORDER OF THE LOYAL LEGION
OF THE UNITED STATES
Founded, April 15, 1865**

FOUNDING OF THE ORDER

“The Military Order of the Loyal Legion of the United States had its inception on that saddest day, at the conclusion of the Civil War, when humanity throughout the world was shocked by the death of Abraham Lincoln. In honor of that illustrious memory and of the great cause for which we had fought; in recognition of the affectionate friendships which had been inspired among the officers of the Army then about to disband; in historic recollection of the Society of the Cincinnati, which had embraced the officers of the Revolutionary Army, it was determined to form this Order; and at a meeting of few officers in the city of Philadelphia the initial steps were that day taken for its organization. It was the first of the military societies which followed, or rather accompanied the close of the War.”

“On April 15, 1865, a meeting was held at the office of Lieutenant Colonel Thomas Ellwood Zell in Philadelphia, to take action for the officers and ex-officers of the Army and Navy to act as a guard of honor to the remains of the President. It was determined by those present to call a meeting on April 20th of those who had served in the Rebellion, when Colonel Zell presented a motion, which was adopted, that a society should be formed to commemorate the events and principles of the War for the Union then drawing to a close, and that the measures should be adopted to promote that subject. Subsequent meetings of those interested were held and a provisional organization was effected at a meeting held May 31st in the room in Independence Hall where the first Senate and House of Representatives of the United States assembled and in which Washington was inaugurated.” (From: *The Organization of the Loyal Legion*,” by Colonel Zell, in *United Service Magazine*, February, 1889.)

Brevet Lieutenant Colonel Samuel Brown Wylie Mitchell, Lieutenant Colonel Thomas Ellwood Zell, and Captain Peter Dirck Keyser are designated as the founders of the Order, Colonel Mitchell's insignia and diploma being Number 1. The plan of a permanent body having been perfected, the Commandery of the State of Pennsylvania was organized November 4, 1865, to date from April 15, commemorating the day of the first meeting and the death of Abraham Lincoln.

THE STATE COMMANDERIES

Prior to Oct. 21, 1885, Commanderies had been instituted in 16 states, of which those in Tennessee and Arkansas had but a short existence. The first to be instituted after Pennsylvania were the Commanderies of the State of New York, Jan. 17, 1866; Maine, April 25, 1866; Massachusetts, March 4, 1868. Among the Commanders of State Commanderies other than Massachusetts have been the following distinguished Civil War Officers: New York, General U. S. Grant and Admiral David G. Farragut; Illinois, General Philip H. Sheridan; Ohio, Presidents Rutherford B. Hayes and Benjamin Harrison, and General William T. Sherman; California, Lieutenant Generals Nelson A. Miles, John M. Schofield and Samuel B. M. Young.

COMMANDERY-IN-CHIEF
MILITARY ORDER OF THE LOYAL LEGION OF THE UNITED STATES
CONSTITUTION

As Completely Revised in 1961 and Amended in 1964, 1980, 1989, and 2001

PREAMBLE

We, Officers and honorably discharged Officers of the Army, Navy, and Marine Corps of the United States, whose names are hereunto annexed, having aided in maintaining the honor, integrity and supremacy of the National Government at a critical period of its history, and holding in remembrance the sacrifices in common made and the triumphs together shared in discharge of this sacred duty, unite to ordain and establish a permanent association for the purposes and objects hereinafter set forth, and to this end pledge our honor, as officers and gentlemen, to be governed by the following Constitution and By-Laws.

ARTICLE 1
TITLE

This association shall be known as THE MILITARY ORDER OF THE LOYAL LEGION OF THE UNITED STATES.

ARTICLE II
PRINCIPLES

This Order acknowledges as its fundamental principles –

First. A firm belief and trust in Almighty God, extolling Him under whose beneficent guidance of the sovereignty and integrity of the Union have been maintained, the honor of the Flag vindicated, and the blessings of civil liberty secured, established and enlarged.

Second. True allegiance to the United States of America, based upon paramount respect for and fidelity to the National Constitution and Laws, manifested by discountenancing whatever may tend to weaken loyalty, incite to insurrection, treason or rebellion, or impair in any manner the efficiency and permanency of our free institutions.

ARTICLE III
OBJECTS

The objects of this Order shall be to cherish the memories and associations of the war waged in defense of the unity and indivisibility of the Republic; strengthen the ties of fraternal fellowship and sympathy formed by companionship-in-arms; advance the best interests of the soldiers and sailors of the United States, especially of those associated as Companions of this Order, and extend all possible relief to their widows and children; foster the cultivation of military and naval science; enforce unqualified allegiance to the General Government; protect the rights and liberties of American citizenship, and maintain National Honor, Union and Independence.

ARTICLE IV
ORGANIZATION

Section 1. This Order shall be composed of the several Commanderies and a National Commandery to be known as the Commandery-in-Chief.

Section 2. The several Commanderies shall be designated by the name of the State in which located, excepting the Commandery of the District of Columbia, which shall be designated as such, and in States having another metropolitan center reasonably distant from the original Commandery, the Commandery-in-Chief may grant another charter to be known by its geographic State location. The relative seniority of the several Commanderies shall be determined by the respective dates of their Charters.

Section 3. Commanderies may become incorporated subject to the provisions of this Constitution.

ARTICLE V MEMBERS

Section 1. The Companions of this Order shall be elected in the manner hereinafter provided from the classes defined in this Article, and shall be known as Original Hereditary, Junior, Associate and Honorary Companions.

Section 2. ORIGINAL COMPANIONS. Commissioned officers and honorably discharged commissioned officers of the United States Army, Navy and Marine Corps, Regular or Volunteer, including officers of assimilated or corresponding rank by appointment of the Secretary of War or Navy, who were actually engaged in the suppression of the Rebellion prior to the fifteenth day of April, 1865, and whose names appear in the Official Registers of the United States Army, and Navy and of the Volunteer Force of the United States Army, or appeared upon the official records of the United States War or Navy Department during their term of service as commissioned officers of organizations mustered into the service of the United States, and not restricted to service within any given State, or who served under the President's call of the fifteenth day of April, 1861; or who, having served as non-commissioned officers, warrant officers or enlisted men, during the War of the Rebellion, have since been or may hereafter be commissioned as officers in the United States Regular or Volunteer Army, Navy or Marine Corps; and persons who, having served as non-commissioned officers, warrant officers or enlisted men as aforesaid, shall have become eligible to membership by descent from members of the Order, or officers who were eligible as such, who shall have died. All midshipmen in the United States Navy and all cadets of the United States Army, who, while pursuing their course in the United States Naval Academy or the United States Military Academy, actually rendered service, and which service has been or shall be recognized by the United States Congress or the Navy Department or by the War Department as service rendered during the War of the Rebellion. Those elected under the provisions of the Section shall be designated Original Companions, and commemorated with highest honors forever.

Section 3. HEREDITARY COMPANIONS. The direct male descendants of the age of 18 years or more of deceased eligible officers or of a brother or sister of any such eligible officer. An applicant for membership shall furnish such evidence as may be required setting forth the facts upon which eligibility is claimed.

Section 4. JUNIOR COMPANIONS. The several Commanderies shall provide for Junior Companions, and prescribe their rights and disabilities. Any Companion of this Order (if his Commandery has made provision for Junior Companions) may file an application for Junior Companion in behalf of a direct male descendant under the age of 18 years of a deceased eligible officer or of a brother or sister of any such eligible officer. Such application is subject to the same requirements of evidence as that of an Hereditary Companion. No Junior Companion shall have the right to vote or hold office, nor shall he be subject to the per capita assessment levied upon each Commandery.

Section 5. ASSOCIATE COMPANIONS.

- A. Commanderies may elect Associate Companions to membership. Associate Companions must be male persons of the age of 18 years or more who are not known to be eligible for Hereditary membership in the Order; who subscribe to the Preamble, Principles, and Objects of the Order; who have demonstrated a serious interest in the War of Rebellion; and whose membership will advance the objects of the Order.

- B. Associate Companions shall pay the same dues and assessments as Hereditary Companions. Commanderies may provide for Life Membership for Associate Companions on the same basis as that provided for Hereditary Companions. Associate Companions may vote and serve on committees, but no Associate Companion shall be eligible for election to office in a Commandery or the Commandery-in-Chief.
- C. No Commandery may elect additional Associate Companions if the election of such Companions will cause the total number of Associate Companions to exceed one-third of that Commandery's voting membership. No meeting of the Commandery-in-Chief may transact business if the total number of Associate Companions present and voting exceeds one-third of the total number of Companions present and voting.
- D. An applicant for membership as an Associate Companion must submit an application, on a form to be prescribed by the Commandery-in-Chief. The application must be endorsed by two Hereditary Companions. It shall be forwarded to the Registrar of the Commandery, who shall present it for a vote at a regular meeting. Approval of the application requires the votes of a majority of those Companions present and voting at the meeting.
- E. Each Commandery which elects Associate Companions shall maintain a separate roll of such Companions, and shall assign them separate Associate Commandery numbers. The Recorder-in-Chief shall maintain a separate roll of all Associate Companions, and assign them distinctive Associate Companion numbers.
- F. An Honorary Companion of a Commandery may apply for membership as an Associate Companion under the provisions of this section.

Section 6. HONORARY COMPANIONS.

- A. Honorary Companions may be chosen from persons of acknowledged eminence who are specially distinguished for conspicuous and consistent loyalty to the Constitution and Laws of the United States, and who have been active and eminent in maintaining the supremacy of the same, and are not known to be eligible for membership in the Order; provided, however, that no Commandery shall have the right, at any one time, to have more Honorary Companions than 5% of its active membership.
- B. The name of any Person proposed as an Honorary Companion shall be referred to the Board of Officers together with the name of the Companion recommending him, who shall, at the time of making said recommendation, file with the Board of Officers a written statement setting forth the qualifications of such person. It shall be the duty of the Board of Officers to fully and carefully investigate such person so recommended, having in mind the qualifications set forth in Section 6 hereof. If, after such investigation, the Board of Officers shall unanimously determine that the person so recommended is desirable and duly qualified to be an Honorary Companion, they shall make a full report in writing to the Commandery, recommending such proposed person for election as an Honorary Companion. The name of such person shall then be published in the circular of the Commandery sent to each member prior to the next meeting of the Commandery, and, at the next meeting of the Commandery after said publication, the report of the Board of Officers shall be read and a ballot shall then be taken for or against the election as an Honorary Companion of the person so proposed.
- C. In addition to the Honorary Companions chosen by the Commanderies, the Board of Officers of the Commandery-in-Chief shall have the power to choose Honorary Companions upon a two-thirds vote of those present at any meeting of the Board of Officers or the Commandery-in-Chief at which a quorum shall be present; provided,

however, that the Commandery-in-Chief shall not have more than ten Honorary Companions at any one time.

- D. No Honorary Companion shall be required to pay any dues nor shall he have the right to vote, or hold office.

ARTICLE VI COMMANDERY-IN-CHIEF

Section 1. The Commandery-in-Chief shall consist of its own officers and past officers and the past and present Commanders, Vice-Commanders and Recorders of the several Commanderies.

Section 2. The legislative, chief executive and supreme judicial power shall be vested in the Commandery-in-Chief. Voting on changes in the Constitution shall be by Commanderies represented each Commandery to have one vote.

Section 3. Should any Commandery cease to hold regular meetings for one year, its Charter may be revoked by the Commandery-in-Chief and in the event of such revocation, each Companion of such Commandery, in good standing, shall be transferred to such other Commandery as he may elect. On the revocation of the Charter of any Commandery all its funds, records, insignia and other property shall become the property of the Commandery-in-Chief. It shall be the duty of the Recorder-in-Chief to take the necessary action to obtain for the Commandery-in-Chief all of such property.

Section 4. The Headquarters of the Commandery-in-Chief shall be in the City of Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, and it shall there assemble at an annual meeting at least once in every three years. Annual meetings shall be held in other years at such places as may be designated at the preceding stated meeting or may be arranged for by the Board of Officers. All annual meetings shall be held in the month of October, or during such other month as may be designated by the Board of Officers (by mail vote if necessary) with at least thirty days advanced notice.

Section 5. Special meetings of the Commandery-in-Chief shall be convened upon fifteen days' notice at the pleasure of the Commander-in-Chief, or upon the written request of twenty members. The attendance of members shall constitute a quorum at all annual and special meetings.

Section 6. When a Commandery cannot be represented at a meeting of the Commandery-in-Chief, the Commander, seconded by the Recorder, may designate in writing an individual member of the Commandery-in-Chief to represent him at the meeting and vote in accordance with his instructions, the same as if he were present in person. In the absence of such a designation, the Commander-in-Chief may select a representative for such a Commandery, provided that no one proxy may represent more than one Commandery.

Section 7. The expenses of the Commandery-in-Chief in each year shall be provided for by a per capita assessment upon each Commandery (approved by the Commandery-in-Chief), according to its respective number of Companions on the roll April 30th, and payable before October first.

ARTICLE VII STATE COMMANDERIES

Section 1. Authority to organize a Commandery may be granted by the Commandery-in-Chief, upon the vote of two-thirds of its members present at any meeting, on written application by at least ten Companions residing in the area of the proposed Commandery.

Section 2. The form of Charter shall be as prescribed by the Commandery-in-Chief.

Section 3. Upon issuing a Charter, the Commander-in-Chief shall designate the time and place for the organization of the Commandery upon the formation of the Commandery. The officers shall then be

chosen or elected, and shall enter on their duties at once and hold office until their successors are appointed or elected.

Section 4. Each Commandery shall have power to adopt rules and regulations for its own government, which shall not conflict with the Constitution and By-Laws of the Order.

The general parliamentary law shall govern the meetings of the Order and the Commanderies. Such rules shall provide adequately for the annual per capita assessment to be paid to the Commandery-in-Chief.

Section 5. Each Commandery shall be bound by the Constitution and By-Laws of the Commandery-in-Chief.

ARTICLE VIII OFFICERS

Section 1. The officers of the Commandery shall include a Commander, a Senior Vice-Commander, a Recorder, and a Treasurer; and may include a Junior Vice-Commander, a Registrar, a Chancellor, a Chaplain, a Judge-Advocate, a Surgeon, and a Council consisting of not more than six Companions, who, together with the officers, and unless a Commandery rules otherwise, all Past-Commanders of the Commandery who are still Companions of the Commandery, shall constitute the Board of Officers of the Commandery. One Companion may hold any two offices at same time.

With the exception of Past-Commanders, they shall be elected annually according to the rules and regulations in that behalf adopted by the Commanderies.

The Companions so elected shall be invested personally or by written acceptance, and enter upon office at once, and hold the same until their successors have been elected and invested.

Section 2. The Officers of the Commandery-in-Chief shall be a Commander-in-Chief, a Senior Vice-Commander-in-Chief, a Junior-Vice Commander-in-Chief, a Recorder-in-Chief, a Registrar-in-Chief, a Treasurer-in-Chief, a Chancellor-in-Chief, a Chaplain-in-Chief, a Judge-Advocate-in-Chief, a Surgeon-in-Chief, and a Council-in-Chief, consisting of not more than six Companions who, together with the officers and with all Past-Commanders-in-Chief who remain Companions of the Order, shall constitute the Board of Officers of the Commandery-in-Chief. With the exception of Past-Commanders-in-Chief, they shall be elected biennially in the manner prescribed for the election of officers of the State Commanderies and shall be invested personally or by written acceptance and enter upon their office at once and hold the same until their successors shall have been elected and invested.

ARTICLE IX COAT OF ARMS OF THE ORDER

The Coat of Arms of the Order shall be:

Arms. Gironne', (symbolical of unity) of thirty-four, gules and argent (representing the number of States forming the National Government at the commencement of the Rebellion); a twisted pillar irradiated in pale, or, environed by an orle of clouds, proper.

Crest. Upon a wreath, argent and gules, a hemisphere, or, charged with the legend AMERICA, in letters azure; thereon the National Eagle in defense proper; all within thirteen estoiles of five points archwise, of the first, on a field of the fourth.

Supporters. Dexter: A Soldier under arms, his dexter hand supporting a lance, therefrom flying the Standard of the United States. Sinister: A Sailor equipped for general quarters, his sinister hand supporting a pike, thereon hoisted the National Flag, all proper. The equipage of each as prescribed by the Regulations of 1861-1865 for the government of the Army and Navy.

Motto. LEX REGIT ARMA TUENTUR, in letters argent, charged upon a scroll, purpure. (v. Frontispiece).

ARTICLE X SEAL OF THE ORDER

The Seal of the Order shall be one and three-tenths inches in diameter, and shall consist of the Crest, as hereinbefore blazoned, the letters MDCCCLXV in base; the whole encircled by a band one-eighth of an inch wide, thereon the legend, SEAL OF THE MILITARY ORDER OF THE LOYAL LEGION OF THE UNITED STATES.

ARTICLE XI INSIGNIA OF THE ORDER

Section 1. The Insignia of the Order shall consist of the Badge pendent by a link and a ring of gold from the Ribbon.

Section 2. The Badge shall be as follows:

Obverse. A cross of eight points, gold, cantoned with rays of gold, forming a star – its long diameter one and three-tenths inches, its short diameter eight-tenths of an inch. The cross enameled, azure, charged with a smaller cross on like proportions, enameled white and edged with gold. In the centre thereof, within a circle four-tenths of an inch in diameter, enameled gules, the National Eagle displayed in gold. On the circle, gold, one-tenth of an inch wide, in relief, the motto, LEX REGIT ARMA TUENTUR.

Reverse. The star as above described. In the centre thereof, within a circle four-tenths of an inch in diameter, enameled gules, two sabres in saltire, their point in base; surmounted by a fasces palewise, ensigned with the Phrygian Cap; environed in chief with an arch of thirteen stars; in base, a wreath of laurel; all of gold. On the circle, gold, one-tenth of an inch wide, in relief, the legend M.O., Loyal Legion, U.S. – MDCCCLXV.

Section 3. The reverse of the link of each Badge shall bear an engraved number corresponding to that of the registered number of the Diploma of the Companion to whom issued, and, when such Badge shall have been worn by an Original Companion the obverse of the link shall bear the number of the Companion last entitled to it in succession.

Section 4. The ribbon shall be of watered silk, one and one-half inches wide, and shall have a red center eight-tenths of an inch wide, with a border of white and edging of blue, each three and one-half tenths of an inch wide. The ribbon for Associate Companions shall be of watered silk colored plain blue, one and one-half inches wide.

Section 5. The Rosette of the Order shall be one half an inch in diameter or acceptable substitute, of watered silk, with six sector-shaped sections and a rim with six diagonal stripes on its face and sides. The sector-shaped sections and stripes shall be of red, white and blue, the red sections and stripes being double the width of those of the other colors, with a red loop in the center. For Life Members the Rosette shall be set in gold wreath the diameter of which shall be one-sixteenth of an inch. There shall also be a miniature Rosette of similar design which may have placed behind it a ribbon five sixteenths of an inch wide and five eighths of an inch long, in silver to denote the Commander in office and Past Commanders of a Commandery, and Officers of the Commandery-in-Chief, except that the ribbon of the Commander-in-Chief, Honorary Commanders-in-Chief, and Past Commanders-in-Chief shall be gold. Associate Companions shall wear the Rosette on a plain blue ribbon of the same dimensions.

Section 6. There shall be a miniature Insignia of the Order, to be of the same design and character as the regular Insignia of the Order, except that the size of said Insignia shall be in proportion one-half in dimensions.

Section 7. There shall be a Certificate of Membership which shall be signed by the Commander of the respective Commandery, have the seal of the Order affixed thereto, and be attested by the Recorder of the respective Commandery.

Section 8. The form of Certificate for Hereditary Companions may be as follows:

No.

**in the name and by the Authority of
(COAT OF ARMS)
THE MILITARY ORDER OF THE LOYAL LEGION OF THE UNITED STATES
THE COMMANDERY OF THE STATE OF
To all to whom these Presents shall come,**

GREETING:

**WHEREAS.....
was distinguished for faithful services in maintaining the honor, integrity and supremacy of the Government of the United States of America during the War of the Rebellion, and
..... Now Know Yes, That His was
elected, by right of inheritance, a COMPANION OF THE MILITARY ORDER OF THE LOYAL LEGION OF THE UNITED STATES, on the day of, Anno Domini thousand
..... hundred and, through the Commandery of**

In Testimony Whereof the names of the proper Officers and the Seal of the Order are hereunto affixed.

Given at Philadelphia, this day of, in the year of our Lord thousand hundred and, and of the Independence of the United States of America the, and of the Order the

**Commander
Attest:
(Seal)**

Recorder

**ARTICLE XII
UNIFORM OF THE ORDER**

Section 1. On occasions of ceremony, Companions may wear the uniform of their respective arm and grade in service.

Section 2. The Insignia shall be worn conspicuously on the left breast, except that Past Commanders and Officers of the Order shall wear the Badge suspended by the Ribbon around the neck.

Section 3. Companions may wear the Rosette in the upper buttonhole of the left lapel of the coat. The Rosette shall not be worn at the same time as the Insignia.

Section 4. Companions of the Order serving as officers of the uniformed services of the United States, or officers of the various State troops, or retired officers of such services, when in uniform other than full dress may, in lieu of the Rosette of the Order, wear upon the left breast of the coat or blouse a strip of the ribbon of the order three-eighths of an inch wide and one and three-eighths of an inch long to agree in size with other military ribbons.

**ARTICLE XIII
DISSOLUTION**

In the event of the dissolution of the Military Order of the Loyal Legion of the United States, either by operation of law or by action of the Commandery-in-Chief, or membership as a whole, after payment of all creditors, its assets shall be distributed to the War Library and Museum for its general purposes, provided that the said War Library and Museum or its successor is in active existence and shall accept distribution of such assets.

In the event that the War Library and Museum or its successor is unable or unwilling to accept said distribution as aforementioned, said assets shall be distributed to a foundation engaged in patriotic, charitable, or educational endeavors and duly qualified under the current Internal Revenue Code and Regulations, as the Commandery-in-Chief may determine.

**ARTICLE XIV
AMENDMENTS**

Section 1. The Preamble and Articles I, II and III of this Constitution may never be changed nor amended.

Section 2. No other alteration, addition or amendment shall be made to this Constitution unless it shall have been proposed by a Commandery or by the Board of Officers of the Commandery-in-Chief and communicated to all Commanderies at least 60 days before the annual meeting of the Commandery-in-Chief and presented at that stated meeting to become effective immediately by the votes of three-fourths of the Commanderies represented.

COMMANDERY-IN-CHIEF
MILITARY ORDER OF THE LOYAL LEGION OF THE UNITED STATES
BYLAWS

**ARTICLE I
MEMBERSHIP**

A. ELECTION OF MEMBERS

Section 1. Every application for membership shall be made in duplicate and in writing and signed by the applicant, who shall be recommended in writing by two Companions of the Commandery to which he shall apply. The application shall be accompanied by such admission fee and dues as the Commandery shall require, and copies or references to sources supporting descent from an eligible ancestor.

Section 2. Every application for membership shall be passed upon by the Registrar of the Commandery or other officer designated for this duty and referred to a Committee. The report of the committee including the opinion of the examining officer shall be read and action taken on the application at a meeting of the Commandery or at a meeting of the Board of Officers, as the rules of the Commandery may prescribe. A copy of the application accompanied by its supporting papers shall then be sent to the Registrar-in-Chief for his approval of the applicant's qualifications. The Registrar-in-Chief shall then inform the Recorder-in-Chief of the name of the approved candidate and return his application and supporting papers to the Recorder of the Commandery. After the return of the approved application, the applicant may be invested as a member of the Commandery. The Recorder shall then assign the new Companion a Commandery number, enter it on the two copies of his application, forward one copy to the Recorder-in-Chief with a report of the action taken, and file the other copy together with its supporting papers with records of the Commandery. The Recorder-in-Chief shall assign a national number, enter it

on the application which shall be filed with the records of the Commandery-in-Chief, and inform the Recorder of the Commandery of the number.

Section 3. Companions shall be installed at a stated meeting and subscribe to the Constitution and By-Laws as well as the Constitution and Rules and Regulations of the individual Commandery.

Section 4. Each Companion shall be entitled to the Insigne during membership. Upon severance of membership by death or otherwise, the Insigne shall be returned to the Commandery by which it was issued, if the Commandery shall so order.

Section 5. If at any time subsequent to an election to membership it shall be discovered that the same was procured through misstatement, or the failure to disclose material facts, the Commandery shall have power to declare such election null and void. Annulments of election under this section shall be communicated to the Recorder-in-Chief.

B. RESIGNATIONS AND TRANSFER

Section 1. Every resignation shall be in writing and may be accepted at a meeting of the Commandery or at a meeting of the Board of Officers, as the rules of the Commandery may prescribe, provided, that all dues have been paid and there are no charges pending. The Insigne shall be returned and the registered number shall never be reissued except in case of restoration to membership.

Section 2. A Companion who shall have resigned may, upon application to the Commandery of which he had been a member, be restored to membership by a vote at a meeting of the Commandery or at a meeting of the Board of Officers, as the rules of the Commandery may prescribe. In case of such restoration his former number on the roll and original number of his Insigne shall be assigned to him.

Section 3. A Companion changing his residence, if in good standing, shall be transferred to the Commandery most accessible to him upon his written application to his Commandery.

Section 4. In the case of a transfer of a pre-November 1989 life member, the life membership fee paid shall be allocated between the two commanderies, as follows: 1) the Companion's life expectancy shall be determined as of the date of payment of the life membership fee by resorting to mortality tables currently used for Federal Tax purposes; 2) the number of years the Companion has been a life member shall then be computed; and 3) the Commandery of which the Companion was a life member shall retain that portion of the total life payment fee paid represented by the number of years the Companion enjoyed his life membership as the numerator and his life expectancy as heretofore defined as the denominator. The balance of the life payment fee shall be remitted to the new Commandery to which the Companion is transferred.

Section 5. Effective November 1, 1989, life membership shall be made available only through the Commandery-in-Chief.

a. The fee for life membership shall be determined by vote of the Commanderies, each Commandery having one vote.

b. Payment received for life membership will be held in a Life Membership Account. The income from the account shall be disbursed annually on a per capita basis in each Commandery upon receipt of that Commandery's annual assessment. The annual assessment due for each life member shall be deducted before payment is made.

c. The income received from payments received for life membership for Junior Companions shall be accumulated in individual accounts, or by age group, until the Junior Companion reaches the age of 18 at which time the accumulated funds will be transferred to the Life Membership Account.

d. If the life member's Commandery becomes inactive, the life member must elect to join an existing Commandery. Failing that, the Commander-in-Chief shall assign the life member to an active Commandery.

C. FORFEITURE OF MEMBERSHIP

Section 1. Membership shall be forfeited for violation of the obligations assumed on entering the Order, or for conduct unbecoming a gentleman. In such cases the diploma and insigne shall be returned to the Commandery.

Section 2. If the conduct or character of any Companion be impeached, the accusing Companion shall prefer charges in writing to the Board of Officers, who shall notify the accused; and if, after due investigation, the Board considers the charges to be sustained, it shall report its findings to the Commandery, notifying the accused of the time when the report is to be made. The accused may be expelled, suspended or reprimanded at a stated meeting by a vote of two-thirds of the members of the Commandery present.

Section 3. A Companion who has been expelled may be reinstated by unanimous vote of the members of the Commandery present at a stated meeting, after he shall have petitioned in writing for reinstatement.

ARTICLE II OFFICERS

A. INVESTITURE

Section 1. A Companion elected to any office of any Commandery or the Commandery-in-Chief, before being invested with the authority of the same, shall make a formal declaration upon honor that he will well and faithfully perform the duties of the office upon which he is about to enter, and comply with all the established laws and usages of the Order.

Section 2. Before being invested, the elected candidate will repeat the following:

I, _____, solemnly swear that I will uphold the Constitution of the United States of America, as well as the Constitution and By-Laws of The Military Order of the Loyal Legion of the United States and I make a formal declaration upon my honor, that I will faithfully perform the duties of the Office upon which I am about to enter.

B. DUTIES AND POWERS

Section 1. It shall be the duty of the Commander-in-Chief to:

- a. Preside at all meetings of the Commandery-in-Chief and of the Board of Officers.
- b. Enforce a strict observance of the Constitution and By-Laws.
- c. To appoint all officers and committees not otherwise provided for.
- d. To approve all expenditures by the Treasurer-in-Chief except those for the normal routine expenses of the Commandery-in-Chief consulting with the Executive Committee when appropriate.
- e. Perform such other duties as custom and parliamentary usage may require.

- f. Act as a member of all committees.

Section 2. The Vice-Commanders-in-Chief shall, when called upon, assist the Commander-in-Chief and in his absence perform his duties, and shall succeed, in order of rank, to office or offices in the event of a vacancy in any of said offices for any reason whatsoever or in the event of the inability of the incumbent for any reason to perform the duties of said office or offices.

Section 3. It shall be the duty of the Recorder-in-Chief to:

- a. Record the proceedings of the Commandery-in-Chief and of its Board of Officers of the Council.
- b. Collect all moneys due the Commandery-in -Chief.
- c. Keep the records of the Commandery-in-Chief including the following:
 - 1. The Constitution and By-Laws of the Order.
 - 2. A copy of all official letters.
 - 3. A ledger, to contain the accounts of the Commandery-in-Chief with the various Commanderies and the Treasurer-in-Chief.
 - 4. The Seal of the Order and use it when appropriate.
 - 5. A file containing copies of the approved applications of all persons invested as Companions of the Order. He shall assign national numbers to these Companions, add them to their approved applications, and notify the Recorders of their Commanderies of these numbers. He shall keep a current roster of all Companions.
 - 6. A book in which shall be recorded the names and rank in the service of all persons who have been declared ineligible for membership in the Order, and also of those Companions who may have been expelled from Commandery, together with the reasons herefore.
- d. Have the care and custody of the Insignia, Ribbons, and Rosettes and shall issue, on proper requisitions, the Certificates, Insignia, Ribbons and Rosettes.
- e. Act as a member of all committees.

Section 4. It shall be the duty of the Registrar-in-Chief to pass upon and certify to the qualifications for membership in the applications submitted to him for approval by the Commanderies and return these applications expeditiously before the applicant is admitted to membership, noting his approval on the application and informing the Recorder-in-Chief of the name of the approved applicant. It is desirable that he be familiar with genealogical procedures. In the absence or disability of the Recorder-in-Chief, he shall act in his stead.

Section 5. It shall be the duty of the Treasurer-in-Chief to receive from the Recorder-in-Chief all moneys belonging to the Commandery-in-Chief, and receipt therefore. He shall give such security as the Commandery-in-Chief may direct. He shall pay all expenditures approved by the Commandery-in-Chief except for the routine expenses of the Commander-in-Chief which he may pay without authorization. He shall keep accounts of his receipts and expenditures, making statements of them as required. He shall present a report of his transactions to the annual meeting of the Commandery-in-Chief. He shall pay over and deliver to his successor in office all moneys, books and papers belonging to the Commandery-in-Chief.

Section 6. The Chancellor-in-Chief shall be Deputy to the Treasurer-in-Chief and, in his absence or disability, shall act in his stead.

Section 7. It shall be the duty of the Chaplain-in-Chief to open the several meetings of the Commandery-in-Chief with prayer, and perform such other duties as general custom requires of him.

Section 8. The Judge-Advocate-in-Chief shall have supervision over all legal matters pertaining to the Commandery-in-Chief.

Section 9. The Surgeon-in-Chief shall be a practicing or retired physician. He shall supervise the general health and well-being of the Companions of the Order and report to the meetings of the Commandery-in-Chief.

Section 10. The Council-in-Chief shall consist of not more than six Companions who shall act as members of the Board of Officers. Any three of the Councillors-in-Chief shall be designated annually by the Commander-in-Chief to form a Committee to audit and adjust the books of the Commandery-in-Chief and report to the annual meeting.

Section 11. The Board of Officers shall have general supervision and control over all affairs and property belonging to the Commandery-in-Chief. It shall have power to fill vacancies in any of the offices of the Commandery-in-Chief, until the time of the next election, except in the case of those offices which shall be filled as prescribed in Section 2 of this article. Attendance of five members of the Board of Officers shall constitute a quorum. The Board of Officers shall have general supervision and control over the affairs of the Order between meetings of the Commandery-in-Chief and all property belonging to the Commandery-in-Chief. The following officers, viz:

Commander-in-Chief
Senior Vice Commander-in-Chief
Junior Vice Commander-in-Chief

and three members of the Commandery-in-Chief appointed by the Commander-in-Chief, shall constitute an Executive Committee, a majority of which shall between meetings of the Board of Officers have full power and authority to act on its behalf, provided it complies with all policies adopted by the Commandery-in-Chief.

Section 12. In addition to the Executive and Auditing Committees, there shall be a Nominating Committee, a Finance and Budget Committee, a Membership Committee, and other Committees which may be considered necessary or advisable from time to time, the members of which shall be appointed by the Commander-in-Chief.

C. REMOVAL

Any officer who shall neglect or improperly perform the duties incumbent upon him may be removed at any stated meeting by a vote of two-thirds of the members of the Commandery-in-Chief.

ARTICLE III EXECUTION OF CONTRACTS

All contracts executed on behalf of the Commandery-in-Chief shall be signed by the Commander-in-Chief or a Vice Commander-in-Chief and the Recorder-in-Chief or the Registrar-in-Chief.

ARTICLE IV ORDER OF BUSINESS

The order of business at all meetings of the Commandery-in-Chief shall be as follows:

1. Meeting called to order and quorum noted.

2. Invocation.
3. Reading of the Preamble and Principles of the Order.
4. Roll Call.
5. Reading of the Minutes of the last stated and all subsequent meetings.
6. Report of the Commander-in-Chief.
7. Report of the Recorder-in-Chief.
8. Report of the Registrar-in-Chief.
9. Report of the Treasurer-in-Chief.
10. Report of the Judge-Advocate-in-Chief.
11. Report of the Editor-in-Chief.
12. Committee Reports:
 - a. Finance and Budget Committee.
 - b. Auditing Committee.
 - c. Membership Committee.
 - d. Other Committees.
13. Old Business.
14. New Business.
15. Report of the Nominating Committee.
16. Election of Officers.
17. Investiture of Officers.
18. Adjournment.

ARTICLE V FISCAL YEAR

The Fiscal Year of the Commandery-in-Chief shall begin the first day of October of each and every year.

ARTICLE VI PERSONAL LIABILITY

Section 1. General Rule. An officer or member of the Commandery-in-Chief shall not be personally liable for monetary damages as such for any action taken or any failure to take any action (which action was taken or omitted after January 27, 1987), unless:

- a. He has breached or failed to perform the duties of his office, including membership on any committee of the Commandery-in-Chief, under the standard of conduct and justifiable reliance contained in section 8363 of subchapter F of chapter 83 of the Pennsylvania Consolidated Statutes, and any amendments or successor acts thereto; and
- b. The breach or failure to perform constitutes self-dealing, willful misconduct, or recklessness.

Section 2. Exception: The provisions of Section 1 of this Article shall not apply to:

- a. The responsibility or liability of an officer or member pursuant to any criminal statute; or
- b. His liability for the payment of taxes pursuant to federal, state, or local law.

ARTICLE VII AMENDMENTS

No alteration, addition or amendment to these By-Laws shall be considered unless its wording has been communicated to all Commanderies at least 60 days before the Commandery-in-Chief meeting at which it is to be acted on; and no such alteration, addition or amendment shall become effective unless agreed to by the Commandery-in-Chief by a vote of a majority of the Commanderies represented.