
CONSTITUTION AND BYLAWS OF THE ELLIS COUNTY CHAPTER, TEXAS SOCIETY, SONS OF THE AMERICAN REVOLUTION

CONSTITUTION

Article I

Name

The name of this Chapter shall be "Ellis County Chapter, Texas Society Sons of the American Revolution". This organization is a chapter of the National Society of the Sons of the American Revolution, a non-profit corporation created by special act of the Congress of the United States in 1906, amended in 1925 and 1961 under Title 36 of the United States Code (Chapter 1533) for educational and charitable purposes consistent with Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code. The charter of Ellis County Chapter #70 was certified and passed the 22nd day of September 2023.

Article II

Objects (Verbatim from the NSSAR Constitution)

"The objects of this Society are declared to be patriotic, historical and educational, and shall include those intended or designed to perpetuate the memory of those patriots who, by their services or sacrifices during the war of the American Revolution, achieved the independence of the American people; to unite and promote fellowship among their descendants; to inspire them and the community-at-large with a more profound reverence for the principles of the government founded by our forefathers; to encourage historical research in relation to the American Revolution; to acquire and preserve the records of the individual services of the patriots of the war, as well as documents, relics and landmarks; to mark the scenes of the Revolution by appropriate memorials; to celebrate the anniversaries of the prominent events of the war and of the Revolutionary period; to foster true patriotism; to maintain and extend the institutions of American freedom and to carry out the purposes expressed in the preamble of the Constitution of our country and the injunctions of Washington in his farewell address to the American people."

Article III

Membership

Any man over the age of eighteen years whose application to membership in the National Society, Sons of the American Revolution has been approved and is a member in good standing of the Texas Society of the Sons of the American Revolution shall be eligible to membership in this Chapter (see NSSAR Constitution for added detail on eligibility).

Article IV

Organization

The State Society is a corporation, incorporated in the State of Texas as a non-profit organization. This Chapter, like other State Chapters, is a constituent part of the Incorporated State Society. As such, this Chapter is a subordinate local body organized by the TXSSAR, INC. for the purpose of carrying out the objects of the Texas Society.

The period of duration of this Chapter is perpetual; however, upon surrender, forfeiture, or revocation of the Chapter's Charter, the Board of Managers of TXSSAR, INC. pursuant with the State Society Constitution Section 6 Article VIII, shall act as trustee and take over the real and/or personal property owned and held by this Chapter at the time of its dissolution.

Notwithstanding any other provision of the By-Laws, this Chapter shall not carry on any activities not permitted to be carried on by a corporation exempt from Federal Income Tax under section 501 (c) (3) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1954 or the whose contributions are deductible under Section 170 (c) (2) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1954 or any other corresponding provision of any future United States Internal Revenue Law.

Notwithstanding any other provisions of the By-Laws, the purposes for which this Chapter is organized are exclusively charitable and educational within the meaning of Section 501 (c) (3) of the Internal Revenue Code.

Article V

Officers; Board of Managers

The Officers of this Chapter shall be a President, Vice-President, Immediate Past-President, Secretary, Treasurer, Registrar, Chaplain,, and Historian, all of whom shall be elected by a majority vote of the members present and voting at the Annual meeting. The Officers named above upon election and installation, during their respective term of office, shall comprise the Board of Managers, hereinafter sometimes referred to as the BOM or the Board of this Chapter. Other positions appointed at the discretion of the President are the Editor of the chapter bulletin, Assistant Registrar and Sergeant-at Arms. The Color Guard Commander and Vice-Commander shall serve on supernumeraries to the Chapter Board of Managers.

Article VI

Meetings

Section 1. The Chapter shall hold its annual meeting in November of each year. The Chapter shall meet monthly (except December).

Section 2. Special meetings of the Chapter may be called at the request of five members or by a majority vote of the elected Chapter Officers.

Article VII Amendments

Section 1. This Constitution and Bylaws shall become effective immediately upon their adoption by majority vote of the Chapter members present at a regular meeting.

Section 2. This Constitution and Bylaws may be amended at any regular or special meeting of the Chapter by a two-thirds vote of the members present, provided that notice of such intended alteration or amendment be given both at the next previous regular meeting, and by any combination of electronic or other means reasonably expected to reach no less than 80% of the membership by not less than twenty calendar days prior to the date of the meeting at which the proposed amendment is to be considered.

BYLAWS

Article I

Membership and Dues

Section 1. Application for membership must be made in writing to the Registrar on the form authorized by the NSSAR and submitted with all needed documentation and a check in the proper amount for the application fee. The applicant shall become a member after approval of his application by the National Society.

Section 2. The annual dues shall be payable directly to the State Society on or before the last day of December of each year, with a portion remitted to the Local Chapter, as provided in the Bylaws of the Texas Society.

Section 3. The annual dues shall be payable on or before the last day of December of each year. The State Treasurer shall give notice of such dues to each member on or before November 1st of each year. Any member who fails to pay such dues on or before the last day of December of each year shall be deemed to be delinquent. If such dues are not paid on or before the first day of February of the next succeeding year, that delinquent member may not again become an Active Member of this Society unless through reinstatement as elsewhere prescribed by the Bylaws." (from Bylaws Article XVIII, Section 3, Texas Society)

Section 4. The annual dues of the Chapter shall be set by the Executive Committee.

Article II

Duties of Officers

President

Section 1. (two year term) The President will be the official executive officer of the chapter, and will be responsible for calling and conducting meetings, appoints the Chairman and members and be member ex-officio of all committees, be responsible for the budget, represent the Chapter in public, preside at Chapter Board of Manager' meetings, maintain general supervision over the affairs and business of the Chapter and is responsible for all assets of the Chapter.

The President or in his absence the next lower ranking Officer present, shall preside at all meetings of the Chapter. The President shall appoint all standing Committees and perform such other duties as pertain to his office and shall serve as Chairman of the Finance Committee.

First Vice-President

Section 2. The Vice-President shall be Chairman of the Program Committee and shall be responsible for arrangements for all programs at all regular meetings of the Chapter. In the

absence or disability of the President, he shall preside at the meetings of the Chapter and its Committees. In addition, he shall monitor and assist the Chairman of the Eagle Scout Program Committee and perform such other duties as are appropriate to this Office or as reasonably assigned by the President. During the last year of his term, the Vice-President shall assume the role of President-Elect and "shadow" the President through any and all of the Chapter Business. He shall be included in all meetings and be included (copy to) in all correspondence, using this time to learn the duties and responsibilities of that Office, while not relinquishing any or all of the duties of the Vice President.

Immediate Past-President

Section 3. The Immediate Past-President shall assist the officers of the Chapter in all things. He shall assist in and be responsible for the training of the Chapter Officers. He shall serve to facilitate all meetings, events, and activities of the Chapter as the President deems necessary.

Secretary

Section 4. The Secretary shall record the minutes of all meetings of the Chapter, certify all elections, and handle all correspondence for the Chapter which would normally be signed by the President of the Chapter. In addition, he shall serve as a member of the Membership Committee and perform such other duties as are appropriate to this Office or as reasonably assigned by the President.

Treasurer

Section 5. The Treasurer shall have custody of all funds of the Chapter and shall collect all sums due the Chapter and shall deposit them to the credit of the Chapter in a depository bank, selected by a majority vote of the Chapter Officers (also known as the Board of Managers or BOM). No check shall ever be signed in blank, and all checks shall be signed by the Treasurer, or other Officer as authorized by the Chapter and provided for by signature card or other authorizing instrument at the Chapter's depository bank. For any item and amount included in an annual budget, which has been approved by a majority of the BOM, no concurrence need be sought. Additionally, should funds be provided to the Chapter for a particular purpose, no concurrence need be sought for the payment of expenditures related to that stated purpose. For major expenditures not so previously approved, the Treasurer shall before paying the amount seek approval by a majority of the BOM at a regular meeting of the BOM. As a means of offering for review to the membership all monetary receipts and expenditures, the Treasurer shall make the financial records of this Chapter available, for reasonable review, to all of its members on reasonable notice. The Treasurer shall also serve as a member of the Finance Committee and perform such other duties as are appropriate to this Office or as reasonably assigned by the President.

Registrar

Section 6. The Registrar shall maintain the membership roster of the Ellis County Chapter, their addresses, telephone numbers, dates of admission to the Chapter, resignation, transfer, or other termination of membership, and shall serve as Chairman of the Membership Committee. This Committee shall be concerned with all aspects of membership. Additionally, the Registrar shall perform such other duties as are appropriate to this Office or as reasonably assigned by the President.

Historian

Section 7. The Historian shall maintain a record of the activities of the Chapter and its members. He shall keep and maintain the Chapter History book, including membership rosters and biographies. His duties, if so directed by the President, shall include the maintenance of a scrapbook, or a digital version thereof, containing the photos, clippings and other items of note for such activities for presentation to the State and National Society conventions. He shall also be responsible for the maintenance of such archives as the Chapter might require and perform such other duties as are appropriate to this Office or as reasonably assigned by the President.

Chaplain

Section . The Chaplain shall assist in meetings by being prepared to offer an invocation and a benediction proper on such occasions; the “friendship” Chairman of the Chapter, making every effort to stay informed of the health, illness, birthday, wedding anniversary, hospitalization, death or misfortunes of Chapter members and their families; respond with appropriate expressions that will evidence the chapter’s concern, and visit with each new member, answer any questions concerning the SAR and generally make the new member welcome into the Chapter.

Editor, Chapter Publications

Section 9. The appointed Editor of the Chapter shall publish a monthly bulletin for each of the twelve months, giving notice of the time and place of all meetings of the Chapter. At any regular or special meetings of the Chapter, the membership may, by majority vote of a quorum present, authorize an increase or decrease in the number of bulletins that must be published each year. Likewise, at any regular or special meetings of the Chapter, the membership may, by majority vote of a quorum present, approve a plan of distributing the bulletin by US Mail, by electronic transmission, or by any other reasonable means.

The editor shall write articles for publication in the SAR Magazine, Compatriot Newsletter, newspapers, and magazines and social media. He shall construct Contest Release Packets for Youth contests and New Applicant membership. He will be responsible for archiving chapter

photos and maintaining the Chapter website. Other duties may be requested, such as the creation of stationary, business cards, posters, pamphlets, etc.

Publicist (Community Affaire)

Section 10. The appointed Publicist serves as the primary storyteller, translating the mission of the Sons of The American Revolution into compelling narratives that resonate with the public and potential members and donors. Their main function is to bridge the gap between the organization's active engagements with the media, securing press coverage and raises awareness for specific projects and goals. The Publicist prioritizes "earned media" – such as news features or radio interviews - to build social proof and credibility for the SAR without a large budget.

Beyond media outreach, the Publicist should manage the public image during fundraising or awareness months, and newsletters. By positioning leadership as "subject matter expert, the Publicist helps the SAR become a source for learning about our Patriot ancestors and honoring their service.

Sergeant-at-Arms

Section 11. The appointed Sergeant-at-Arms shall be responsible for the maintenance of order at all meetings of the Chapter, subject to the instructions of the President; for the maintenance and placement of all flags, when not presented by the Color Guard, at meetings of the Chapter, and for the placement of all flags at ceremonies for which the Chapter colors are requested and approved, and perform such other duties as are appropriate to this Office or as reasonably assigned by the President.

Assistant Registrar

Section 12. The appointed Assistant Registrar shall assist the Registrar with Registrar duties when requested by the President and Registrar.

Color Guard

Section 13. The Color Guard Commander shall be appointed by the Chapter President. Membership in the Chapter Color Guard is by extension membership in the National Society of the Sons of the American Revolution (NSSAR). The NSSAR is governed by a national committee overseen by an appointed leadership structure, and guided by a standardized handbook. The National SAR Color Guard is comprised of ALL Compatriots who participate in SAR meetings and events properly uniformed as either Continental Soldiers or Militiamen or attired as Revolution-era clergymen. (See NSSAR Color Guard Handbook for added detail on structure and event participation.)

Awards and Medals

Section 14. The appointed Chairman of the Awards Program and shall be responsible for the procurement and distribution of all medals and awards granted by the Chapter. He shall, in addition, provide a list of awards to the Historian for inclusion in the Chapter archives and perform such other duties as are appropriate to this Office or as reasonably assigned by the President.

Article III

Duties of Board of Managers

Section 1. The Board of Managers (BOM) shall have charge of and manage the business affairs of this Chapter and perform such other duties that shall be committed to it by any annual or special meeting of this Chapter. However, the BOM shall not have power to incur any liability other than for ordinary current expenses, unless authorized by an annual or special meeting of this Chapter.

Section 2. The BOM may in its discretion allocate reasonable sums of money for the purpose of carrying out the program of any committee or committees of this Chapter. The allocation of any such money shall be considered "ordinary current expenses."

Section 3. The BOM shall establish the annual budget of the Chapter and monitor compliance with it.

Section 4. The President may call a meeting of the BOM at any time or times he may deem necessary and shall call such meetings upon the written request of any three members of the BOM.

Article IV

Standing Committees

Section 1. The following standing Committees shall be appointed by the President: Membership (Chairman Registrar); Finance (Chairman- President); Program (Chairman-1st Vice-President); Awards and Medals Programs, Eagle Scout Program (Monitor-1st Vice-President); and other appointments not specified.

Section 2. The President shall appoint such other special Committees as shall be directed by the Chapter or the Executive Committee or as he may deem necessary. The Executive Committee shall consist of the President, the First Vice-President, the Secretary, the Treasurer, the Registrar, the Chancellor, the Trustees, the Chaplain and the Historian.

Article V

Quorum

A quorum for the transaction of business shall consist of those members present at a regular or special meeting, provided there are at least 25 percent of the Chapter membership.

Article VI

Elections

Section 1. A Nominating Committee shall be appointed in October of each year. It shall consist of at least three of the most recent Chapter Presidents (current and past), all of whom should have attended regularly during the past year and are, as a consequence, in a position to be familiar with chapter activities and membership, with the most recent serving as Chairman.

Section 2. The Nominating Committee shall report its nominations for Chapter Officers at the monthly meeting in November. Other nominations may be made by members from the floor at this November meeting, following the report of the Nominating Committee. All nominations shall be reported in the Chapter bulletin prior to the December meeting.

Section 3. Chapter Officers shall be elected at the annual Chapter meeting in December of each year. All members in good standing and present are entitled to vote on matters brought forward to any Regular or Special Meeting.

Section 4. Chapter Officers as elected shall be formally installed with proper ceremony at the Chapter meeting in January of each year. (Their term of office will be January through December.)

Article VII

Ellis County Chapter Patriot Fund

The-Patriot Fund of this Chapter as presently constituted and currently operating under the resolutions creating and establishing the same is hereby incorporated in and made part of the bylaws of this Chapter {and in the same and identical language as that of its said adopting resolutions which language reads} as follows:

RESOLVED that the Ellis County Chapter, Texas Society, Sons of the American Revolution does hereby create and establish a fund to be known by the name "The Ellis County Patriot Fund" or "ECC Patriot Fund"

RESOLVED that the Ellis County Chapter, Texas Society, Sons of the American Revolution adopt the following terms and provisions to provide for the establishment of the Patriot Fund and to govern the Patriot Fund.

Section 1. The Ellis County Chapter, Texas Society, Sons of the American Revolution (the "Chapter") does hereby create and establish an agency of the Chapter to be known by the name "Ellis County Chapter Patriot Fund" (the "Fund"). The purpose and function of the Fund shall be to handle and manage the following assets of the Chapter:

Gifts received by the Chapter which are directed by the donor to the Fund; and Assets which may be turned over to the Fund by the Chapter.

The assets of the Fund shall be maintained separate and apart from all other assets of the Chapter. The assets of the Fund shall not be used to pay operating or administrative expenses of the Chapter, other than operating cost and expenses for maintaining, investing and administering the Fund.

Section 2. The assets of the Fund shall be used within the greater Ellis County area to promote and support American patriotism, education and heritage, and for the stated objectives of the National Society, Sons of the American Revolution.

Section 3. The Fund shall be administered by a Committee of Trustees (the "Trustees") composed of the President and the First Vice- President of the Chapter and no less than two other members of the Chapter, elected at its annual meeting. The Trustees shall elect a Chairman from among their members. At each meeting the Trustees will appoint a member to be Secretary for the meeting who shall keep full and complete minutes of its proceedings. The Trustees shall furnish the quarterly reports described below and periodic financial information and reports at the Trustees and Chapter meetings.

Section 4. The Trustees shall meet from time to time at the call of the Chairman. Seventy-five percent of the Trustees shall constitute a quorum. The decisions of the Trustees shall require the concurrence of a majority of Trustees present at a meeting at which a quorum of the Trustees is present.

Section 5. The Trustees shall have authority to initiate and execute any project or any undertaking to further the stated purposes and objectives of the Fund.

Section 6. Expenditure of funds from any account(s) maintained by the Fund must be authorized by the Trustees. The Chairman may thereafter authorize a check or other financial instrument to implement that expenditure.

Section 7. The Trustees shall receive no compensation for their services and shall receive no reimbursement for traveling or other expenses in attending meetings of the Trustees.

Section 8. The Fund shall consist of "Principal Funds" and of "Available Funds". Principal Funds shall consist of gifts and assets delivered to the Fund pursuant to Section 1 above, and Available Funds shall be the earnings or capital gains on the Principal Funds. Expenditures from the fund shall be limited to Available Funds. Expenditures shall not be paid out of Principal Funds unless authorized by a two-thirds vote of the Chapter at a regular monthly meeting, provided that notice of the proposed expenditure has been given at the previous meeting or published in at least one Chapter bulletin preceding the meeting at which the vote is made.

Section 9. The Trustees shall also manage and handle the assets of the Fund within the scope and latitude described in this Article. The assets of the Fund shall be administered in accord with this Article and in conformity with the stated purpose and objects of the Chapter and the policies promulgated for it by the Chapter, and at all times shall be subject to the ultimate control of the Chapter. Consistent therewith, the {Committee} Trustees shall proceed in investing, reinvesting, exchanging, retaining, selling, supervising and managing said assets for the benefit of the Chapter. The Trustees shall exercise its duties with good judgment and due care under the circumstances then prevailing, which men of ordinary prudence,

discretion and intelligence would then exercise in the management of their own affairs; not in regard to speculation but in regard to the permanent disposition of their funds, considering the probable safety of their capital. Within the limitation of the foregoing standards, the Trustees are authorized to acquire and retain every kind of property, real, personal or mixed, and every kind of investment, specifically including, but not by way of limitation, bonds, debentures and other corporate obligations, and stocks, preferred or common, and interests investment trusts and mutual funds, which men of ordinary prudence, discretion and intelligence acquire or retain for their own account.

Section 10. The Chapter shall be provided with regular financial reports, not less than quarterly. These reports shall include the revenues and expenditures of the Fund, contributions to the Fund, and a list of projects supported by the Fund. No independent audit of the Fund must be performed unless required by the Chapter.

Article VIII

US Internal Revenue Code Section 501(c)(3) Status

This Chapter is a tax-exempt organization as defined by Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code, by virtue of the Group Exemption (Number 0690) granted to the chapters of the National Society Sons of the American Revolution. This Chapter shall comply with all requirements necessary to maintain its tax-exempt status under this group exemption.

Article IX

Fiscal Year

The fiscal year of the Chapter shall be the calendar year.

Submitted for review by:

Philip A. Taylor

NSSAR #230730, TXS #16163

Historian

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Ellis County Chapter #70

TXSSAR

Reviewed by:

John 'Jack' C. Haughton

NSSAR #133002, TXS #6281

Secretary

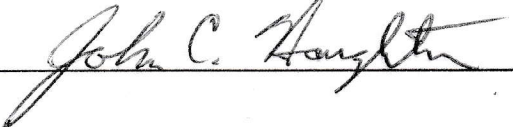
sarpatriot@aol.com

Ellis County Chapter #70

TXSSAR

Voted by members present in Regular Meeting





Amended _____

