

**THE CONSTITUTION OF THE DELAWARE SOCIETY
SONS OF THE AMERICAN REVOLUTION**
(adopted April 5, 2008)

Article I

The name of this organization shall be The Delaware Society of the Sons of the American Revolution. The Delaware Society was organized on January 29, 1890 and incorporated on May 18, 1911 as a Corporation of the State of Delaware.

Article II

The objective of this Society is to promote patriotic, historical and educational endeavors, including 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 about 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 the Revolutionary war 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

Any male shall be eligible for membership in the Society who, being a citizen of good repute in the community, is a lineal descendant of an ancestor who was at all times unflinching in his loyalty to and rendered service in the cause of American Independence either as an officer, soldier, seaman, marine, militiaman or minuteman in the armed forces of the Continental Congress of any one of the several colonies or states, as a signer of the Declaration of Independence, as a member of a Committee of Safety or Correspondence, as a member of any Continental, Provincial or Colonial Congress or Legislature, as a foreign national of, but not limited to, France, Germany, Poland, Spain, Sweden or Switzerland who rendered service in the cause of American Independence or as a recognized patriot who performed actual service by overt acts of resistance to the authority of Great Britain, provided, however, that no person advocating the overthrow of the Government of the United States by use of force or violence shall be eligible for membership in the Society.

The various classes of membership in SAR are those set forth in the National Society's By Laws.

Article IV

Section 1. The Officers of the Delaware Society shall be President, First Vice President, Vice President-New Castle County, Vice President-Kent County, Vice President-Sussex County, Secretary, Treasurer, Registrar, Historian, Chancellor, Chaplain and Surgeon.

Section 2. The officers of the Delaware Society shall be elected to serve a one (1) year term of office, or in the case of resignation or death, until a successor has been elected. Elections shall be held at the Annual meeting of the Delaware Society in April. A President who has served two consecutive terms of office shall not be eligible for reelection as President until he has been out of office for at least one (1) year. There is no term limitation for any of the other officers of the Delaware Society.

Section 3. The Board of Managers of the Delaware Society shall consist of current Delaware Society Officers, current Chapter Presidents, the most recent five (5) former Delaware Society Presidents who are not currently serving as officers of the Society, provided they agree annually in writing to serve as officers of the Delaware Society Board of Managers and such officers Delaware Society dues are current.

Section 4. The Board of Managers shall be the governing body of the Delaware Society. It shall meet at such times and places as it shall set and shall also meet on the call of the President or the Secretary or upon the request of no less than five (5) active members of the Delaware Society. Five (5) members of the Board of Managers shall constitute a quorum at meetings of the Board of Managers.

Article V

Section 1. The Delaware Society Board of Managers shall elect delegates and alternates to the National Society's Annual Congress in accordance with the National Society's By Laws and shall advise the Secretary General of the National Society of the names of the Delaware Society's delegates and alternates. If the number selected is insufficient to complete the Delaware Society's quota, the Delaware Society President shall appoint delegates and alternates to complete the Delaware Society's quota.

Section 2. The Delaware Society shall nominate a Trustee and Alternate Trustee to be elected by the delegates to the National Society's Annual Congress in accordance with By Law 16 of the National Society's Constitution and By Laws. This Trustee and Alternate Trustee shall represent the Delaware Society in National Society Board of Trustee's deliberations.

Article VI

Section 1. The annual meeting of the Delaware Society shall be held on or near April 19th, the anniversary of the Battles of Lexington and Concord at a time and place designated by the Board of Managers.

Section 2. Meetings of the Delaware Society, other than the annual meeting, shall be held at a time and place designated either in the By Laws or by the Board of Managers. Special meetings of the Delaware Society may be called by the President, the Board of managers or upon written request of ten (10) or more active members of the Delaware Society. Society business may be conducted at such special meetings, provided that fifteen (15) or more active members are in attendance at the meeting.

Article VII

Section 1. Chapter Charters may be granted by the Board of Managers upon presentation of a signed petition by fifteen (15) or more active members of the Delaware Society.

Section 2. Each Chapter shall regulate matters pertaining to the business and affairs of the Chapter, provided that such are in accordance with the National Society's and the Delaware Society's Constitution and By laws.

Section 3. Each Chapter shall adopt a Constitution and By Laws which govern the actions of the Chapter. Such Constitution and By Laws shall be in accord with the National Society's and the Delaware Society's Constitution and By Laws. A copy of the Chapter's Constitution and By Laws shall be filed with the Secretary of the Delaware Society.

Section 4. The assets and records of a Chapter that has become inactive, has not held an election of officers for two (2) or more years or been dissolved shall revert to the Delaware Society.

Section 5. Dissolution of a Chapter may be accomplished by consent of the Chapter members or revocation of a Chapter Charter by the Delaware Society Board of Managers. Revocation of a Charter shall require a two-thirds (2/3) affirmative vote at a meeting of the Board of Managers.

Article VIII

Section 1. This Constitution may be amended by a two-thirds (2/3) affirmative vote of the active members of the Delaware Society present in a meeting expressly called for the purpose of considering and voting on an amendment to the Delaware Society's Constitution. Such meeting shall be called following consideration and approval of the Board of Managers.

Section 2. Notice of any meeting being held to consider amendments shall be provided to the membership of the Delaware Society so as to be received no fewer than ten (10) days prior to the date of such meeting. The notice shall include the date and time, location and purpose of the meeting and shall attach copies of the proposed amendments. Notice may be provided by electronic mail or United States Postal Service First-Class mail. Replies shall be made to the Secretary of the Delaware Society and postmarked within ten (10) days of the notice's postmark date if notice was originally sent by first class mail, or within ten (10) days of the notice's sent date if notice was originally sent by electronic mail.

**BYLAWS OF THE DELAWARE SOCIETY
SONS OF THE AMERICAN REVOLUTION**
(adopted April 5, 2008; amended September 20, 2008)

Article I

Section 1. Application for membership in the Delaware Society of the Sons of the American Revolution shall be made on forms prescribed by the National Society's Board of Trustees. The applicant shall state the name of the ancestor from whom he claims eligibility in the Society, his residence and his service in the American Revolution on his application for membership. His application shall also include genealogical information on family members who lived between his Revolutionary War ancestor and himself along with necessary supporting documents. This application shall be submitted through a State Society.

Section 2. An applicant for Regular and Junior membership in the Society shall be sponsored by two (2) members in good standing. An application for Youth Registrant shall be sponsored by one (1) member in good standing. Applicants shall attest that the statements contained in the application are true to the best of the applicant's knowledge and belief. Following approval by a State Society, the Registrar of the State Society shall forward the application, together with the admission fee, to Genealogist General for approval. No applicant shall be admitted to membership in the Society until and unless the Genealogist General approves the application.

Section 3. An applicant for membership in the Society who is a lineal descendant of a current or former member of the Society and whose application contains references to authorities or sources for the ancestor of the current or former member being eligible as a Son of the American Revolution as provided for in Article III of the National Society's Constitution shall only be required to establish the applicant's descent from the current or former member, provided proofs satisfactory to the Genealogist General are on file at NSSAR Headquarters to establish this line of descent from the ancestor to the current or former member and further provided such current or former member's National Number is included in the application.

Section 4. Direct lineal descendants of current or former SAR members, including sons, grandsons, nephews and grandnephews may apply for membership in the Society by using a Record Copy of their ancestor's SAR approved membership application and no additional proof shall be required of the applicant to be approved for membership. When the membership certificate is sent to the applicant he may be requested to submit additional information about the ancestors listed in the application.

Unless and until any additional proofs that may be requested by the Genealogist General are provided the line will be acceptable for direct descendants, including sons, grandsons, nephews and grandnephews of the original SAR member only and shall not be useable by third parties for either original applications or supplemental applications for membership in the Society.

Section 5. Each member of the Society shall receive a certificate of membership to which the National Society's Seal is affixed. This certificate shall be signed by the President General, the Secretary General, the President and Secretary of the Delaware Society.

Section 6. “Compatriot” shall be the official designation or title of a member of Sons of the American Revolution.

Article II

Section 1. The President shall serve as the Chief Executive Officer of the Society and, as such, shall manage the business and affairs of the Delaware Society, appoint all committees except as otherwise provided by the Board of Managers and serve as an ex-officio member of all committees except the Nominating Committee.

Section 2. The First Vice President shall preside at meetings of the Society when the President is unable to attend for any reason. He is also chairman of a Chapter governance committee whose purpose it is to insure that the Chapters are meeting regularly and are in compliance with the provisos of this Constitution and By Laws. The First Vice President is also to be considered next in line to become President of the Society. The First Vice President shall be a member of the Board of Managers.

Section 3. A Vice President for New Castle County and a Vice President for Kent and a Vice President for Sussex Counties shall be responsible for maintaining liaison with the Chapters in their respective counties. In addition, they shall serve on a Committee composed of the Vice Presidents to insure that the Chapters meet regularly and are in compliance with the Constitution and By Laws of the Delaware Society. They shall also represent the President of the Delaware Society when requested to do so at various functions in the state. They shall also serve as members of the Board of Managers.

Section 4. Three (3) At-Large Members shall be elected at the Annual Meeting shall serve as members of the Board of Managers of the Delaware Society.

Section 5. The Secretary shall serve as a member of the Board of Managers as well as Secretary at meetings of the Board of Managers, Annual Meetings of the Delaware Society and such other meetings as may be required in the conduct of Delaware Society business. The Secretary shall be responsible for the minutes of such meetings and shall insure that copies of the minutes of Delaware Society meetings are distributed to the appropriate officers of the Society in a timely manner. Copies of the minutes shall be placed in the archives of the Delaware Society for future reference. The Secretary shall maintain the Society’s Seal and be responsible for all personal property of the Society except as otherwise provided by the Board of Managers. The Secretary shall maintain an up-to-date record of the members of the Society, including members’ name, address, date of admission to the Society, National Number, State Number and when appropriate the date of death or other date of termination of a members membership. The Secretary shall report on all changes in membership at each meeting of the Board of Managers.

In addition, the Secretary shall send out meeting notices to the membership and the Board of Managers, notify each new member of his election to membership in the Society and arrange for each new member to receive his certificate of membership as well as coordinate with officers of the Delaware Society in keeping records as required by these By Laws.

Section 6. The Treasurer shall be the financial officer of the Society. He shall serve as a member of the Board of Managers. His duties are such that the individual who holds this office shall have had previous experience in accounting, banking or financial management prior to his election as Treasurer. His duties include the collection, safekeeping, deposit and disbursement of funds and securities of the Delaware Society as well as keeping the President, the Board of Managers and other officers of the Society informed about the financial affairs of the Society.

Funds shall be deposited in the name of the Delaware Society of the Sons of the American Revolution in such accounts and depositories as shall be designated by the Board of Managers.

Disbursements shall be made by checks signed by the President, the Secretary and the Treasurer, any two (2) of whose signatures shall be required on any check or other instrument for withdrawal or expenditure.

The Treasurer shall be responsible for the collection of the annual dues from the membership and the payment of the required dues to the National Society in a timely manner. The Treasurer shall prepare a report on the financial status of the Society for presentation to each Board of Managers meeting as well as the Annual Meeting of the Delaware Society.

Section 7. The Registrar shall be a member of the Board of Managers. He shall receive all applications for membership in the Society and shall examine each such application received to insure that the application shows sufficient evidence to warrant submission to the National Society for favorable action and approval. The Registrar may require additional evidence of eligibility for admission to the Society when, in his judgment, such evidence is necessary for National Society approval of the applicant. The Registrar shall retain custody of all pending membership applications and may make and retain copies of genealogical data until action has been taken on the application for membership. The material shall then be sent to the Society's archives. The Registrar shall coordinate his efforts with the Secretary, the Treasurer and the Historian.

Section 8. The Historian shall maintain the Society's files of historical information about the Delaware Society, its members and Society activities. The Historian shall be responsible for maintaining the archives of the Society including the genealogical records and related data in the possession of the Society. The Historian shall submit a chronological list of deaths that have occurred during the past year at the Annual Meeting. The Historian shall maintain files of clippings, reports and other material concerning the Delaware Society and its members in the archives of the Society. He shall serve as a member of the Board of Managers.

Section 9. The Chancellor shall serve as a member of the Board of Managers of the Delaware Society. He shall be an Attorney-at-Law and a member of the Bar of the State of Delaware. It shall be his duty to render legal opinions on Society matters when requested to do so. The Chancellor shall report legal issues confronting the Delaware Society to the President and the Board of Managers.

Section 10. The Chaplain shall conduct the religious functions of the Society, such as, offer the invocation and the benediction at meetings of the Society. The individual who serves as Chaplain shall be an Ordained Minister whenever possible. The Chaplain shall preside at the

Necrology Service held at the Annual Meeting of the Society. He shall also serve as a member of the Board of Managers.

Section 11. The Surgeon shall be a practicing Doctor of Medicine or Osteopathy. The duties of the Surgeon are to keep the Delaware Society abreast of such public health matters that may be of concern to Society members. He shall also serve as a member of the Board of Managers.

Article III

Section 1. The Board of Managers, subject to the will and dictates of the membership, shall have the responsibility for the general management of the Delaware Society and shall make decisions, take actions and pursue goals consistent with the objects of the Society as set forth in this Constitution and By Laws, the Constitution and By Laws of the National Society and the laws of the State of Delaware and the United States.

Section 2. The Board of Managers is responsible for and shall approve all expenditures, purchases, gifts, acquisitions and sales of personal property. In addition, the Board of Managers shall approve all purchases, sales and leases of real property. Following approval of the Board of Managers for the purchase and/or sale of real property, a meeting of the membership is required to ratify the action of the Board of Managers. An affirmative vote of a majority of the members present and voting at such meeting shall be required to approve the Board of Managers action.

Section 3. The Board of Managers may designate an Executive Committee headed by the President to act on certain matters without requiring oversight by the Board of Managers. Such matters as shall be within the scope of such Executive Committee action shall be clearly set forth by the Board of Managers when the Executive Committee is authorized. The responsibilities of such Committee may be changed from time to time by the Board of Managers.

Article IV

Section 1. The President shall appoint Chairmen of the following Standing Committees immediately following the Annual Meeting: Membership Committee, Finance Committee and the Nominating Committee.

Section 2. The Board of Managers may, from time to time, authorize additional committees to work on specific projects within the Society.

Section 3. Committee Chairmen shall report Committee activities to the Board of Managers and shall present a final report to the membership at the Annual Meeting. This report shall be retained in the archives for future reference.

Article V

The Delaware Society shall arrange suitable commemorative meetings and activities for the Society's Ratification Day meeting and the Independence Day meeting. The Delaware Society and/or its Chapters shall arrange suitable commemorative meetings or activities for Constitution

Day (September 17th), Washington's Birthday (February 22nd) and such other special commemorative meetings or activities as may be deemed appropriate.

Article VI

Section 1. The President shall appoint a Nominating Committee composed of three (3) active members of the Society, no more than two (2) of whom shall be members of the Board of Managers.

Section 2. The Nominating Committee shall select nominees for each of the offices to be filled by election at the Annual Meeting of the Society, including Delegates to the National Society's Annual Congress. The Committee, after obtaining acceptance of the nominees, shall present the list of nominees to the Secretary for inclusion with the Annual Meeting notice. The Committee shall present the names of the nominees to the Annual Meeting.

Section 3. Nominations independent of those obtained by the Nominating Committee shall be filed with the Secretary prior to start of the Annual meeting. Such nominations for Society office shall be in writing and signed by at least three (3) members of the Society in good standing and shall include the concurrence of the nominee.

Article VII

Section 1. The Nominating Committee shall announce its slate of officer nominations at the Annual Meeting. No nominations from the floor shall be entertained at the Annual Meeting.

Section 2. The Secretary shall report any independent nominations for Society offices at this meeting, in which case there shall be balloting on each office and the President shall appoint three (3) inspectors of election who shall distribute, collect and tally the ballots. The inspectors shall then report the results of the balloting. A majority of the votes cast for any given candidate shall be sufficient for election to an office. If there are no independent nominations for any office, a motion shall be made, seconded and voted on to authorize the Secretary to cast a unanimous ballot for the Nominating Committee slate of nominees, thus indicating their unanimous election to their respective offices. The President shall then formally report the names of the Compatriots elected and the office to which they were elected.

Article VIII

Section 1. No later than January 1st of each year Chapter Secretaries shall forward to the State Secretary a list indicating the status of each Chapter member, including: active, new, transferred to the Chapter, transferred from the Chapter, died-with the date of death, inactive and resigned.

Section 2. No later than January 1st of each year the Chapter Treasurers shall transmit funds necessary to cover the annual State and National Society dues for each Delaware Society member to the State Treasurer.

Section 3. Approximately one (1) month prior to the Annual Meeting of the Delaware Society Chapter Secretaries shall forward reports to the State Society Secretary containing the following information: a list of the elected Chapter Officers; the Chapter President's report stating the Chapters' objectives for the previous year as well as the accomplishments for the year; a copy of the Chapter Treasurer's report; a report on the meetings held during the preceding year, including meeting sites, the name of the speaker and his topic; a list of the awards presented during the year and the names of the recipients and a copy of each of the Chapter's newsletters to Chapter membership.

Article IX

Section 1. A membership application or membership transfer request shall be accompanied by an amount equal to the total of Chapter, State Society and National Society annual dues, application fees and a processing fee specified by the Board of Managers. In the event an application for membership is not approved by the Delaware Society the total amount submitted with the application minus the processing fee shall be refunded to the applicant. After submission to the National Society, application fees are non-refundable. Membership admission fees which accompany applications for membership in the Society and which are approved after October 31 in the calendar year shall be credited toward dues for the year beginning January 1st of the next year.

Section 2. A Supplemental application request shall be accompanied by an amount equal to the National Society's Supplemental fee plus a processing specified by the Board of Managers. In the event the Supplemental application is not approved by the Delaware Society the total amount submitted with the application minus the processing fee shall be refunded.

Section 3. Annual Delaware Society dues shall be an amount established by the Board of Managers of the Delaware Society. The dues amount shall be published in the Society's minutes and then disseminated to the membership by way of the Society Newsletter on an annual basis.

A member shall pay both annual Delaware Society and National Society dues to the Delaware Society. Such dues shall be billed to the member at year end and are payable on or before January 1st.

Section 4. The Delaware Society shall not establish a life membership program. All members of the Delaware Society shall be responsible for payment of appropriate dues on an annual basis. Members may join the National Society's life membership program, if available, upon completion of the appropriate paperwork. Members who have been accepted into the National Society's life membership program shall inform the Secretary of their participation in the program. (*amended September 20, 2008*)

Article X

The Seal of the Society shall be two and three-eighths (2 & 3/8) of an inch in diameter, charged with the figure of a minuteman grasping a musket in his right hand depicted in the habit of a husbandman of the period of the American Revolution who is in the act of deserting his plow for service to his country and surrounded by a constellation of thirteen (13) stars encircled by a band three-eighths (3/8) of an inch wide within which shall appear the legend, "The Delaware Society of the Sons of the American Revolution, organized January 29, 1899" and with the following inscription, "Incorporated Delaware 1911".

Article XI

Section 1. A member who fails to pay his State Society and/or National Society dues on or before January 1st or who requests he be placed on inactive status shall be designated an inactive member of the Society. Such inactive member shall be ineligible for any of the benefits of Society membership and shall be ineligible to hold office in the Society.

Section 2. An inactive member may be reinstated provided he submits a lump sum payment to the Delaware Society Treasurer in an amount equal to the total of State Society and National Society current dues plus any financial obligations owed to the State Society.

Section 3. A member may be expelled from membership in the Delaware Society by the Board of Managers, if, in the judgment of the Board, the member has violated the objectives or eligibility requirements set forth in Articles II and III of the Constitution of the Delaware Society. The procedure in such matters shall be as follows: The Board of managers shall appoint a Committee of inquiry to consider and to hear the members views on the matter. Following such review the Committee shall submit its findings to the Board of Managers. In the event that the Committee recommends expulsion from the Society and the Board of Managers concurs with the Committee's recommendation at a meeting at which three fourths (3/4) of the Board of Managers who are present vote for such action, the member's membership in the Society shall be cancelled and his membership Certificate shall be revoked.

The aggrieved Compatriot against whom such action has been instituted may demand a hearing at the National Society level in accordance with the National Society's By Laws.

If the individual should seek reinstatement at some future date, he shall be required to submit an application for membership in the Society and pay the fees associated with becoming a member of the Society.

Article XII

These By Laws may be amended in the same manner as that set forth in Article VIII of the Constitution of the Delaware Society.