

“THE EAGLE CHAPTER” BYLAWS CALIFORNIA SOCIETY SONS OF THE AMERICAN REVOLUTION

Article I. Name and Authority

The name of this organization shall be known as “The Eagle Chapter”, California Society, National Sons of the American Revolution. The Chapter was granted its charter by the California Society – SAR on April 13, 2013. The Bylaws contain here to within shall be known as rules and guidelines of The Eagle Chapter and shall regulate all matters pertaining to its affairs, subject to the provisions of the constitution, the California Society’s articles of incorporation, and bylaws the of the California State Society and/or the bylaws of National Society, Sons of the American Revolution.

Article II. Purpose and Objectives

The purpose of this Chapter shall be to promote the seventeen (17) platforms of the National Society herein referred to as the National Society or NSSAR. The objectives of the NSSAR are declared to be patriotic, historical, and educational, and are so designed to perpetuate the memory of those patriots who, by their services, acts of courage and sacrifices during the war of the American Revolution, achieved the independence of the American people. The NSSAR strives to unite and promote fellowship among their descendants; to inspire our members 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 President Washington in his farewell address to the American people.

Article III. Membership

Section 1. Membership Eligibility and Admission

Any male shall be eligible for membership in the Society being a citizen of good repute in the community, is the lineal descendant of an ancestor, who was at all times unflinching in loyalty to, and rendered active 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 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 tyranny and 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.

Section 2. Dues

The Eagle Chapter Board of Directors shall have the sole responsibility to set the amount of Chapter dues. The Eagle Chapter President or by vote of the Board of Directors, may waive the Chapter dues of any member for good cause and request any applicable CASSAR and NSSAR exemption. Members forfeit the status of member in good standing when their dues are delinquent after December 15th as determined by the California Society bylaws.

The collection of annual dues shall be a joint effort between the Chapter Secretary and the Chapter Treasurer. The Chapter Secretary shall send out a due's notices no later than October 15th of each year with a self-addressed stamped envelope that has the return address for the Chapter Treasurer. All checks shall go to the Chapter Treasurer. The Chapter Treasurer shall deposit the checks in a timely manner and send copies of all checks to the Chapter Secretary. The Chapter Treasurer shall send member updates and member information to the Chapter Secretary to update the Chapter roster, and the national roster.

The Chapter Treasurer shall send a check to the CASSAR State Secretary to pay the Chapter dues to arrive on or before January 5th of the following year as determined by the California Society bylaws.

Section 3. Membership

The categories of membership will be:

- a. **Regular Member** shall be any member of the age of eighteen years and over, who meets all the requirements for membership as defined in the Constitution and the Bylaws of the National Society.
- b. **Emeritus Member** is a member who has paid dues to the NSSAR for Fifty Years and is exempt from paying all additional NSSAR, CASSAR, and Chapter dues. Emeritus membership shall be determined by NSSAR upon a request from the chapter secretary.
- c. **Junior Member** is a male under the age of eighteen years who has met the membership requirements of the Sons of the American Revolution. A Junior Member cannot vote or receive The SAR Magazine until he attains the age of eighteen years.
- d. **California Old Life Member** shall be any member of the age of eighteen years and over, who met the requirements for membership as defined by the California Society before April 2013. A California Life Member shall be exempt from paying all chapter, state and national dues annually.
- e. **California New Life Member**, shall be any member of the age of eighteen years and over, who has met the requirements for NSSAR life membership as defined in the Constitution and the Bylaws of the National Society and pays the fees of the California Society after April 2013 to become a California Life Member. A California Life Member shall be exempt from paying all chapter, state and national dues annually.

- f. **NSSAR Life Member**, shall be any member of the age of eighteen years and over, who has met the requirements for NSSAR life membership as defined in the Constitution and the Bylaws of the National Society. A NSSAR Life Member shall be exempt from paying national dues annually, however the member must pay his chapter and state dues annually as required.
- g. **Memorial Membership** shall be a deceased male of the same family as current members, whose application has been submitted and approved in accordance with the Bylaws of the National Society and shall be reported on the annual reconciliation report as a deceased member.
- h. **Dual Member** is a member who pays NSSAR dues to another state society and pays only chapter and state dues to the California State Society. Is a member of another California recognized chapter and pays only chapter dues to The Eagle Chapter. Dual Members cannot vote in local or state matters, but may be able to hold a local elected office, except for the office of chapter president.
- i. **Associate** is an individual who does not meet eligibility requirements for regular membership that wishes to regularly attend meetings and actively participate in SAR functions as voted by the Chapter Board of Directors and pays local chapter dues.
- j. **Honorary Chapter Member** is a member of another Chapter of the California Society who has been recognized by the chapter and voted into The Eagle Chapter. Honorary Chapter shall not pay chapter dues and shall have the privilege to vote on all Chapter business. Honorary members must be in good standing within the Society.

Article IV. Officers

Section 1. Officers and Duties

The Officers of The Eagle Chapter, shall be:

President,
Vice-President
Secretary
Treasurer
Registrar.

The president shall appoint the following officers:

Chaplain
Historian
Color Guard Commander

At the discretion of the President, he may appoint the following committee chairs;

Veterans Committee
CAR Committee
Flag Committee
JROTC/ROTC Committee
Eagle Scout Committee
Youth Programs Chair

Committee chairs shall have voting privileges at board meetings with the approval of the Chapter Board elected officers. The President may appoint other committee chairs as required by the California Society and/or the NSSAR.

Appointed officers shall be members of the Board of Directors and shall have voting privileges.

The Board of Directors may appoint other officers, as voted by a simple majority of all active Board of Directors.

Elected chapter officers shall be nominated annually in November by the nominating committee, which shall be the Board of Directors headed by the president of The Eagle Chapter. Nominated officers and appointive officers designated by the President, are subject to approval by the general membership at the December meeting, by a simple majority of members present.

The Officers Duties shall include:

- a. ***President*** shall preside at all meetings of the Chapter and of the Board of Directors and he shall have a casting vote. He shall exercise the usual functions of a presiding officer, and shall enforce strict observance of the NSSAR, CASSAR, and Chapter bylaws. He shall appoint all committees not otherwise provided for, and shall be an ex-officio member of all committees. In the absence of the President at any meeting or his incapacity to continue in service for any reason, his duties shall be assumed by other officers in the following order: Vice President, or such other person as designated by the Board of Directors.

The president shall be a co-signer on Chapter bank accounts. He shall attend the CASSAR Annual Meeting, Fall Board of Managers Meeting, and such other CASSAR meetings as specified in the CASSAR Bylaws.

- b. ***Vice-President*** shall serve as an alternate if the President is unable to attend CASSAR Meetings, He shall assist the President in recruiting members to serve on committees. He shall be responsible for the recruitment and retention of members. He shall function in the absence of the President, or upon the President's inability to act, and shall perform such duties as may be specifically assigned to him.

In the absence of the President, he shall attend the CASSAR Annual Meeting and the Fall Board of Managers Meeting. He shall be chairman of the Program Committee and responsible for regular meeting speakers, programs, decorations, menus, etc. He shall perform such other duties as may be specifically assigned to him by the President.

- c. ***Secretary*** shall conduct the general correspondence of the Chapter and such other matters as may be directed by the President. He shall have charge of the Chapter charter, bylaws, records, and handbook. The Secretary of the Chapter will be responsible for maintaining all records. He, together with the presiding officer, shall certify all acts of the Chapter, including lists of delegates to CASSAR and NSSAR meetings, establish a quorum at meetings of the Board of Directors, and annual Chapter meetings, maintain Chapter Reconciliation Reports, and Chapter Handbook. He shall keep accurate records of all memberships, proceedings, and orders of the Chapter, and shall give notice to the officers of all votes, orders, resolves,

and proceedings of the Chapter affecting them or appertaining to their respective duties, and any other administrative responsibilities requested by the Board.

- d. **Treasurer** will maintain records of all financial transactions of the Chapter, including receipts and expenditures on behalf of the Chapter. He shall collect and keep the general operating funds of the chapter. Funds shall be deposited in a banking institution approved by the Board of Directors. He shall expend Chapter funds only as directed by the President or the Board of Directors through the adoption of a budget or by specific direction of the Board of Directors for a particular item. Payments for unbudgeted expenditures shall be pre-approved by the President. Audits of the Treasurer's account will be at the direction of the Board of Directors and shall be done at least once every two years in accordance with the California State bylaws. He shall be a signer on Chapter bank accounts and maintain a record of all Chapter funds and assets. He shall serve as a member of the finance committee. He shall allow the audit committee to examine the Chapter accounts. He shall submit a monthly income and expense report to the Board of Directors. Shall file the following reports 990, RRF-1, and FTB-199N annually, and other reports as requested by CASSAR. He may be bonded at the discretion of the Board of Directors.*
- e. **Registrar** shall examine all applications for membership in NSSAR for completeness. He may assist compatriots with supplemental applications in the same manner as regular applications. If the application is found by the registrar to be incomplete, he shall bring the deficiency to the attention of the applicant. He shall forward to the CASSAR registrar all applications for membership found to be complete, together with fees and dues as required, and shall maintain file copies of all applications submitted to the CASSAR registrar.*
- f. **Chaplain** shall lead an invocation and benediction at the beginning and close of each Chapter meeting. He may be assigned such other duties by the President that will improve the spiritual well-being of the Chapter members, such as sending cards, and/or visiting ill or injured members.*
- g. **Historian** shall obtain and preserve material relating to the history of the Chapter and membership, including but not limited to original Charter, news clippings, records of historical and commemorative meetings, minutes of meetings, and names of officers. He shall organize the historical records of the Chapter as requested by CASSAR or NSSAR. He shall supervise the preparation and printing of any society historical publications, other than those of membership rolls, which may be authorized by the Board of Directors.*
- h. **Color Guard Commander** shall be responsible for the safety, training, scheduling, outfitting, recruitment, and retention of all members. He is also responsible for generating invoices, proposals, certificates of insurance and certificates of additionally insured for future activities. He shall safeguard Chapter owned color guard equipment and supplies, maintain and update an annual calendar of color guard events. He shall maintain a log of Chapter members who have completed BSA Youth Protection Training and produce reports to State and National Color Guard Commanders as necessary.*

Section 2. Officer Nomination and Election

The election of chapter officers shall be held at the annual meeting in December. The nominating committee, which shall be the Board of Directors headed by the president of The Eagle Chapter shall present the slate of Officers at the regular meeting in November; here to forth known as the annual meeting. Membership shall be informed of this slate via e-mail and newsletter 14 days prior to the December meeting. At the December meeting nominations from the floor shall be entertained if consent of the nominee has been obtained. An affirmative vote of a simple majority of those presents and having voting power will be necessary for candidates nominated for election to office.

Section 3. Service

All officers will serve in their respective offices for a period of one year or until their successors are elected. The term of office shall begin at the January meeting, with the exception of the chapter past secretary. The chapter past secretary shall continue to serve until the annual reconciliation report has been filed, the change of managers form has been filed and the March annual report has been completed. The newly elected secretary shall conduct all other matters of the office beginning January 1st.

No member of the Chapter shall, in good conscience, accept election or appointment to any office unless he is willing, able, and prepared to devote the necessary time to the faithful discharge of his duties. Officers may be removed from office at the pleasure of the membership as provided in the parliamentary authority and a vote of the entire voting membership of two thirds vote.

Section 4. Office Holding Limitations

No member shall hold more than one elected office at a time. The Eagle Chapter must have a President, secretary and treasurer as required by the NSSAR bylaws, to be a viable working Chapter in the NSSAR.

Article V. Meetings

Section 1. Regular Meetings

The regular meetings of the chapter shall be held monthly, August to May inclusive unless otherwise ordered by the Chapter President or Board of Directors. Notice of regular meetings will be e-mailed within 3 days of such meetings, and posted on the Chapter website. The Board of Directors will determine the location for regular meetings.

Section 2. Annual Meeting

The regular meeting in December shall be known as the Annual Meeting and shall be for the sole purpose of electing officers, receiving reports of officers and committees, presenting awards, and for other business that may arise. All members in good standing will be eligible to cast votes for the annual election of Officers of the Chapter.

All chapter officers shall be required to provide the Chapter secretary with an annual report. Chapter committees shall provide the Chapter secretary with a report. Chapter reports shall be used to write the annual chapter report which shall be sent to the California Society state secretary no later than March 15th as required in the California Society bylaws and article of incorporation.

Section 3. Special Meeting(s)

Special meetings may be called by the President or by the Board of Directors, or shall be called by a written request of five (5) members of the chapter. The purpose of the meeting, time, and location shall be stated in the notice, which shall be sent to all members at least three (3) days before the meeting. No business shall be transacted at any special meeting except for the express purpose for which the meeting is called, and which is specified in the written notice.

Section 4. Quorum

The quorum necessary to transact business at a regular meeting is five (5) voting members in good standing, which must include at least two Chapter officers. The quorum needed to transact business at a Board of Directors meeting is a total of five (5) regular board members, comprised of either elected and/or Appointed Officers. The membership at large which attend a Chapter Board Meeting, shall have the privilege of speaking at the meeting; however, they shall not cast a vote.

Section 5. Location

The Board of Directors will determine the time, date, and location for regular meetings. The President will determine the place and time for meetings of the Board.

Section 6. Displays

The Flag of the United States of America, and the SAR Flag will be displayed at all regular Chapter meetings. A designated area with limited table space for approved handout materials, activity flyers, and speaker provided books, CD's, DVD's, etc. shall be made available upon request.

Section 7. Order of business at Regular meetings

- [1] Call to order by the President;*
- [2] Invocation;*
- [3] Pledge of Allegiance to the American Flag*
- [4] Pledge to the SAR;*
- [5] Approval of Minutes;*
- [6] Reports of officers;*
- [7] Reports of Committees;*
- [8] Correspondence;*
- [9] Old and/or unfinished business;*
- [10] New business;*
- [11] Program, when applicable;*
- [12] Nomination, election, and installation of officers for the ensuing year, when applicable;*
- [13] Benediction;*
- [14] Adjournment.*

Section 8. Circulation and Solicitation

Circulation, distribution, or display of advertising, or solicitation at any meeting for any project, product, group, or enterprise, commercial or otherwise is prohibited unless prior approval of the Board of Directors has been obtained.

The Sons of the American Revolution is a non-political volunteer organization and shall not endorse and political party or political platform at meetings or other society functions.

Article VI. Board of Directors

Section 1. Board Composition

Membership on the Board will consist of current elected officers, appointed officers, and the all-past Presidents of the Chapter. All board members shall have equal voting privileges.

Section 2. Board Duties and Powers

The Chapter President shall have general supervision of the affairs of the Chapter between its business meetings.

Section 3. Board Meetings

The Chapter President will schedule periodic meetings throughout the year. Board of Directors meetings will be held not less than three (3) times each calendar year, in accordance with society guidelines. Guests will be permitted attendance at any of these meetings; however voting is limited to the provisions stated in this document.

Article VII. Committees

Ad hoc committees may be appointed by the President and/or Board of Directors. Such committees may include, but are not limited to, those for auditing, nominating, medals & awards, publicity, observance of patriotic events, and budget & planning, education, 4th Connecticut Regiment & Color Guard, Ladies Chapter Auxiliary, patriotic events, etc.

Article VIII. Parliamentary Authority

The rules set forth in the most current edition of Robert's Rules of Order, Newly Revised shall govern the chapter in which they applicable and in which they are not inconsistent with these bylaws, the bylaws of the State or National Society, the Articles of Incorporation of the State or National Society and any special rules of order the National or California Society may adopt. The Chapter bylaws shall take president over Robert's Rules of Order if a conflict exist.

Article IX. Amendments

The bylaws may be amended by a simple majority (51%) vote of the all the members, provided, the proposed of the amendments have been sent to the membership in writing at least thirty (30) days prior to the request of a vote by email. Voting shall exclude junior members, out of state members and members who are more than 50 miles from the last membership monthly meeting location.

History of Amendments:

Complete Revision February 2024