

The Louisville–Thruston Chapter

Kentucky Society of the Sons of the American Revolution

CONSTITUTION & BY–LAWS

CONSTITUTION

ARTICLE I – Name

The name of the Chapter shall be the Louisville–Thruston Chapter, Sons of the American Revolution. This chapter is named in honor of R. C. Ballard Thruston, who contributed much in the preservation of history in Louisville and other parts of Kentucky.

ARTICLE II – Affiliation

This Chapter shall be a part of the Kentucky and National Societies of the Sons of the American Revolution and shall be subject to all rules and regulations applying to it as such.

ARTICLE III – Objects

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 the men, 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 the 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; to foster true patriotism; to maintain and extend the institutions of American freedom, and 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. Whenever possible this Society shall in particular apply the foregoing purposes to Kentucky, its history and people. Notwithstanding other provisions in this Constitution, the Chapter's purposes will be limited exclusively to exempt purposes within the meaning of IRS 501(c)(3).

ARTICLE IV – Membership

Any man shall be eligible for membership in this Chapter who, being of the age of eighteen years or older, and a citizen of good standing, is the lineal descendant of an ancestor who was at all times unfailing in his or her loyalty to and rendered actual service in the cause of American independence, either as an officer, soldier, marine, militiaman or minuteman in the armed forces of the Continental Congress or any one of the several Colonies or States; or as a signer of the Declaration of Independence, or as a member of a Committee of Safety or correspondence; or as a member of any continental, provincial or Colonial Congress or Legislature; or as a civil officer, either in one of the Colonies or States, or of the National government, or as a recognized patriot, who performed actual service by overt acts of resistance to the authority of Great Britain.

ARTICLE V – Officers

Section 1. The officers of this Chapter shall be a President, First Vice-President, Second Vice-President, Third Vice-President, Secretary, Treasurer, Registrar, Chancellor, Historian, Chaplain, and the immediate Past President. They shall be elected at the February Meeting and installed at the April Meeting of the Chapter. The elected officers shall constitute the Board of Governors.

Section 2. The term of office for the officers of this Chapter shall be two years, effective with those officers elected in February 2013.

Section 3. In the event the office of President becomes vacant, the 1st Vice-President will assume the duties of the President. All other vacancies will be filled by the President with approval of the Board of Governors until the next scheduled biennial February meeting of the Chapter in which a slate of officers is presented for election, at which time they will be elected in the usual manner.

ARTICLE VI – Board of Governors

Section 1 . The Board of Governors shall consist of all the officers listed in Article V.

Section 2. The President and the Board of Governors shall have general supervision over the activities of the Chapter; they shall have the authority to act for the Chapter between meetings, subject to approval at the next Chapter meeting.

Section 3. The Board of Governors shall meet at the call of the President or by any two members of the Board of Governors.

ARTICLE VII – Meetings

Section 1. The Chapter shall hold a minimum of four meetings a year. The first meeting will be held on or near Flag Day, June 14th; the second on or near Constitution Day, September 17th; the third on or near Washington’s Birthday, February 22nd; and the fourth will be the Annual Meeting in April.

Section 2. Special meetings of the Chapter may be called by the President or a majority of the Board of Governors, or by the Secretary at the written request of any ten Chapter members.

ARTICLE VIII– Dissolution

Upon the dissolution of this Chapter, assets shall be distributed for one or more exempt purposes within the meaning of section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code, or the corresponding section of any future federal tax code, or shall be distributed to the federal government, or to a state or local government, for a public purpose. Any such assets not so disposed of shall be disposed of by a Court of Competent Jurisdiction exclusively for such purposes or to such organization or organizations, as said Court shall determine which are organized and operated exclusively for such purposes.

ARTICLE IX – Amendment

This Constitution may be amended at any meeting provided the proposed amendments are sent to each member not less than the (10) days prior to the date of the meeting. A two-thirds (2/3) majority of those present and eligible to vote shall be required for the adoption of any amendment.

BY-LAWS

ARTICLE I – Applications for Membership

Applications for membership shall be made pursuant to the requirements of the Kentucky Society, Sons of the American Revolution.

ARTICLE II – Annual Dues

Section I. Annual Chapter dues for SAR members are payable through the Kentucky Society, NSSAR.

Section 2. The amount of Annual Chapter dues shall be determined at the Annual Meeting in April upon recommendation of the Board of Governors.

Section 3. The Chapter Treasurer shall notify the Treasurer of the Kentucky Society, Sons of the American Revolution, of the amount of Annual Chapter dues approved at the April meeting for the ensuing year.

Section 4. Chapter Life Members shall be exempt from dues.

Section 5. The accounting year for the Chapter shall begin May 1st and end April 30th.

ARTICLE III – Meetings

Section 1. There shall be a June, September, February, and April meeting. The April meeting shall constitute the Annual Meeting.

Section 2. Written notice of Chapter Meetings should be sent out by the Secretary thirty days prior to the meeting. Notice of the meeting must state clearly the date, the time, and place of the meeting.

Section 3. Five officers present at a general meeting shall constitute a quorum for the transaction of business. A majority of the members of the Board of Governors shall constitute a quorum at a Board of Governors meeting.

Section 4. Order of Business. (1) Call to order by the Chapter President. (2) Opening prayer by the Chaplain. (3) Reading and approval of minutes of previous meeting. (4) Reports of Officers. (5) Reports of Standing Committees. (6) Reports of Special Committees. (7) Unfinished Business. (8) New Business. (9) Announcements. (10) Closing prayer by the Chaplain. (11) Adjournment.

ARTICLE IV – Election of Officers

Section 1. A Nominating Committee for new officers shall be appointed by the President soon after he takes office. The committee shall be composed of the 1st Vice-President and four other members including one Past President. The 1st Vice-President shall serve as Chairman of the Committee. He can only vote in case of a tie. The committee shall select a slate of officers and report the names of proposed officers to the Board of Governors thirty days prior to the biennial February meeting. It is the duty of the Committee to get approval from the proposed nominees before they are nominated. After the slate of Officers has been presented at the biennial February meeting, the President shall call for nominations from the floor. If none, a voice vote shall be taken for the entire slate. If there are nominations from the floor, a vote shall be taken on each office.

Section 2. A majority vote by those present and voting shall be necessary for election.

Section 3. Where there are two or more nominees for office, voting shall be by written ballot.

Section 4. New Officers shall be installed at the April (Annual) Chapter meeting and their two year terms shall date from that meeting.

Section 5. Chapter Meetings shall follow Robert's Rules of Order, Revised.

ARTICLE V – Duties of Officers

Section 1. The President shall preside at all meetings of the Chapter and of the Board of Governors and shall exercise the usual functions and duties of the presiding officer. He shall be responsible for the enforcement of the Chapter Constitution & By-Laws. The President shall appoint two or more members to the Standing Committees. He shall serve as ex-officio member of all committees. He shall serve as Chairman of the Program Committee. The President will assume or assign the responsibility to ensure the proper tax - exemption documentation is filed annually with the United States Internal Revenue Service so the Chapter can remain a tax-exempt organization.

Section 2. The 1st Vice-President shall act in the absence of the President and serve as Chairman of the Nominating Committee and Chairman of the Patriotic Education and Observance Committee. He shall be responsible for the flags used at meetings. He shall serve as Chairman of the Presentation of JROTC Medals Committee. He shall perform any other duties that may be assigned to him by the President or the Board of Governors.

Section 3. The Second Vice-President shall act in the absence of the First Vice-President. He shall serve as Chairman of the Chapter Rumbaugh Oration Contest, Chairman of the Membership Committee and Chairman of the Chapter Eagle Scout Essay Contest.

Section 4. The Third Vice-President shall serve as Chairman of the Public Relations Committee and Chairman of the Chapter Knight Essay Contest. He shall also serve as DAR and CAR liaison representative.

Section 5. The Secretary shall conduct the correspondence of the Chapter. He shall have charge of the records of the Chapter. He shall keep in a permanent record book all minutes of all meetings. He shall give due notice of all meetings of the Chapter and the Board of Governors and shall perform such other duties as shall usually pertain to his office.

Section 6. The Treasurer shall collect all funds due the Chapter and shall deposit them in a public bank to the credit of the Chapter. He shall disburse such funds as are authorized by the Chapter in accord with the Constitution & By-Laws. He shall keep a true account of all receipts and disbursements and shall annually make a report of same to the membership. He shall also make a short financial report at each of the Board of Governors meetings. The Treasurer shall be responsible for all finances of the Chapter. All funds shall be disbursed by

check, which shall be signed by the Treasurer. No sum shall be paid out of Chapter funds unless authorized by the annual budget or by the Board of Governors. The Chapter President's signature should also be on the "bank approved signatures card" as a backup for emergencies only, such as the Treasurer being gravely ill or otherwise unavailable.

Section 7. The Registrar shall keep a roll of members of the Chapter on file. The Registrar shall furnish application forms to candidates and assist prospective members whenever he can in preparing their application papers. He shall see that the applications are in proper form before they are sent to the State Secretary. The Registrar shall give the names of all new members to the Chapter Secretary and Treasurer. The Registrar shall be a member of and work with the Membership Committee.

Section 8. The Chancellor shall give opinions on legal matters affecting the Society.

Section 9. The Historian shall serve as Chairman of the Historical Research Committee and shall keep a historical record of Chapter activities. He shall perform such other duties as may appropriately pertain to his office.

Section 10. The Chaplain shall, if possible, be a regularly ordained minister and shall perform such duties as ordinarily pertain to his office.

ARTICLE VI – Standing Committees

Section 1. Standing Committees shall be appointed by the President with the knowledge of other members of the Board of Governors. The appointments shall be made with due regard to the interests and wishes of the individual members of the Chapter. The Standing Committees are listed as follows: (1) Program Committee; (2) Nominating Committee; (3) Membership Committee; (4) Public Relations Committee; (5) Historical Research Committee; (6) Patriotic Education and Observance Committee; (7) Veterans Service Committee; and (8) The Dr. V. Edward Masters Memorial Color Guard Committee. Other Committees and chairmen shall be appointed by the President as he may deem desirable with the knowledge of the Board of Governors.

Section 2. Chairmen of Standing and other Committees shall make a report at meetings of the Board of Governors.

ARTICLE VII – Standing Committee Duties

Section 1. Program Committee. The President shall serve as Chairman and the Board of Governors shall serve as the Program Committee.

Section 2. Nominating Committee. The 1st Vice President shall serve as Chairman of the Nominating Committee. A slate of new officers shall be presented to the Board of Governors thirty days prior to the February Meeting.

Section 3. Membership Committee. The First Vice-President shall serve as Chairman of the Membership Committee. It shall be the duty of the Membership Committee to seek new members for the Chapter and to assist them in every way in the preparation of their applications. The Registrar shall be a member of this Committee.

Section 4. Public Relations Committee. The Third Vice-President shall serve as Chairman of the Public Relations Committee and shall report to the local press and other media of public information activities of the Chapter and such other items as may be ordered by the Board of Governors. He shall serve as DAR and CAR liaison representative. He shall engage in such other activities as may be referred to by the President or Board of Governors.

Section 5. Historical Research Committee. The Historian shall serve as Chairman of the Historical Research Committee. The Committee shall compile a written and photographic archive of the historical activities of the Chapter for submission to the Annual Competition for State and National Awards.

Section 6. Patriotic Education and Observance Committee. The 1st Vice-President shall serve as Chairman of the Patriotic Education and Observance Committee. He shall see that medals and awards are given to promote interest in the history of our country, an intelligent understanding of its government and basic documents such as the Constitution and Declaration of Independence and their underlying principles; an understanding of liberty. It shall promote patriotism and loyalty to the United States and their institutions.

Section 7. Veterans Service Committee. The Veterans Service Committee chairman shall be appointed by the President. The Veterans Service Committee Chairman will coordinate chapter service with the Veterans Administration Volunteers Service Committee at the Zorn Avenue location.

Section 8. Dr. V. Edward Masters Memorial Color Guard Committee. The Louisville–Thruston Chapter Color Guard was formed by Past Chapter President Dr. V. Edward Masters and it was named in his honor after his death. The Committee Chairman is appointed by the President. The Chapter Color Guard Committee Chairman serves as Commander of the Color Guard. The Color Guard receives donations of equipment and funds, which are held in a separate account by the Chapter Treasurer. Color Guard members are responsible for the purchase of their own uniforms. The Color Guard presents the Colors at all chapter general meetings and many other engagements as scheduled by its Commander, including Revolutionary War Veterans grave dedications in the local area. Members of the Color Guard shall be members of the Louisville–Thruston Chapter, KYSSAR, with the exception of drummers and/or fifers.

ARTICLE VIII – Political Pronouncements

It shall be prohibitive to use the name of this organization for the purpose of endorsing any candidate for public office or otherwise subscribe as a body to the principles of any political party.

ARTICLE IX – Charitable Purpose

This Chapter is exclusively for charitable, religious, educational, and scientific purposes, including, for such purposes, the making of distributions to organizations that qualify as exempt organizations under section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code, or the corresponding section of any future federal tax code. No part of the net earnings of this Chapter shall inure to the benefit of, or be distributable to its members, trustees, officers, or other private persons, except that the corporation shall be authorized and empowered to pay reasonable compensation for services rendered and to make payments and distributions in furtherance of the purposes set forth herein. No substantial part of the activities of the corporation shall be the carrying on of propaganda, or otherwise attempting to influence legislation, and the corporation shall not participate in, or intervene in any political campaign on behalf of or in opposition to any candidate for public office.

Notwithstanding any other provision of these articles, this chapter shall not, except to an insubstantial degree, engage in any activities or exercise any powers that are not in furtherance of the purposes of this corporation.

ARTICLE X – Amendment

These By-Laws may be amended by a majority vote of those members present and voting at any meeting of the Chapter, provided notice of the proposed amendments shall have been sent to each member not less than ten days prior to the date of the meeting.

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Revised & Approved April 25, 2015

Douglas T. Collins, President

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