

CONSTITUTION OF THE 88th NY Co. B

ARTICLE I. – PURPOSE

The purpose of the Association shall be to promote the research and preservation of Civil War era historical places of interest, documents, artifacts, to educate the public, and encourage appreciation, understanding and participation through historical representations at, but not limited to, Civil War era living history events and Civil War battle reenactments.

ARTICLE II. - TYPES OF MEMBERS AND DUES

1. There shall be voting and non-voting member of this Association.
2. A voting member, referred to as “member” henceforth, shall be an individual who meets the criteria set forth in Article III of this constitution.
3. A non-voting member shall be an associate member, referred to as “associate”.
4. Membership dues shall be payable annually by the first meeting in January.
Dues Structure: \$20.00 Individual - \$30.00 Family
5. A member or director is not allowed to vote or exercise the duties of office if that person’s dues are not current.

ARTICLE III. – MEMBERSHIP

1. Membership in the Association shall be open to all and no person shall be denied membership based on race, religion, sex, ethnic origin or sexual orientation.
 - a. Members must be 16 years of age to vote.
 - b. Associate Members may be younger than 16, but may not vote.
 - c. Members and Associate Members should demonstrate an interest by paying dues, participating in events, organization, fund raising and progressing to an acceptable level in authenticity.
 - d. Members will complete a trial period of (3) three events, prior to the first membership dues payment. An election by secret ballot will be conducted with two-thirds (2/3) majority rule.
2. Membership shall be terminated by request of the member, death of the member or failure to pay dues by a secret ballot with two-thirds (2/3) majority rule.
3. Consideration for revocation of membership can be based on any one or any of the following complaints:
 - a. Drug possession or use;
 - b. Excessive use of alcohol;
 - c. Endangering themselves, others, and /or property;
 - d. Physical or verbal abuse;
 - e. Lying;
 - f. Stealing;
 - g. A consistent lack of acceptable authenticity.

4. Membership will be revoked upon a two thirds (2/3) majority vote by the active membership by secret ballot.
5. All members, portraying a 19th century soldier, are required to obtain their essential field dress uniform within one (1) year.
 - a. Includes: Sack Coat, Trousers, Belt, Cap Pouch, Cartridge Box, Forage Cap, Canteen
6. All members, portraying other 19th century roles, are required to obtain their associated equipment / uniform within the same one (1) year requirement as stated in #5.
7. All members are encouraged to purchase a qualifying 3 banded musket within 2 years.

ARTICLE IV. - MEMBERSHIP SAFETY

1. To carry a musket onto the battle field a member must be no younger than 16 years of age (or the maturity level).
 - a. After the recommendation from the commanding officer, the general membership is to vote if a member is responsible and capable to carry a musket onto the battlefield.
 - b. Those younger than 16, with a (2/3) two-thirds majority vote, may carry a musket onto the battle field, if deemed responsible and capable enough.
 - c. Some events may have minimum age requirements for soldiers or other individuals to participate on the battle field or parade grounds. All members must abide by event rules, in this case.
2. Members under the age of 16 may portray a field musician if they have qualifications of a functional 19th century musician, or are studying under the guidance of one.
 - a. After the recommendation of the commanding officer, the general membership is to vote if a member is responsible and capable to be a field musician.
3. Members portraying soldiers should be physically fit enough to perform their duties as a 19th century soldier. By a committee vote, a member may be asked to sit out on a particular battle scenario at an event, if it is determined in the best interest of the member's health and safety, by the commanding officer in attendance at the event in question.

ARTICLE V. – PERIOD IMPRESSION

1. Period clothing and other items (toys) while in and around camp Saturday and Sunday.
 - a. Guests that are intending to stay for the day, or an extended period of time, are encouraged to be in period 19th century period clothing or walk around the event periodically to view other camps or exhibits. Please refrain from just sitting and remaining in camp. The camp is to a representation of a 19th century military camp for the spectators.
 - b. Children may be able to play with modern type toys outside of camp (if appropriate) if it does not interfere with the event or other camps.
 - c. For safety purposes, women are encouraged to wear day type period dresses around the campfire.
2. Women as soldiers:
 - a. Women who wish to participate at an event as a soldier must make a strong effort to disguise their female appearance and portray a male soldier. The male portrayal, if questioned by a member of the unit, will be brought to the attention of the committee

members at the event. The issue will be voted by a two-thirds majority vote. If no committee members are present at the event or the vote is a tie, the soldier is allowed on the battlefield.

- i. Women should not wear any facial make-up as soldiers
 - ii. Earrings are prohibited
 - iii. Hair should be pinned under the cap or under the sack coat or shirt.
 - iv. A wedding ring is permitted but diamond rings or other expensive jewelry should not be taken to an event.
 - v. A loose fitting sack coat is encouraged to help hide a woman's physical features.
- b. Women soldiers, after the battle, may dress back into women's period clothing. They are not required to remain in camp as soldiers.

ARTICLE VI. - BOARD OF DIRECTORS

1. The Board of Directors shall consist of the President, Vice President, Secretary, and Treasurer. They shall serve for one year or until successors are elected. Board members may succeed themselves. The immediate past President shall continue in an advisory capacity for one year.

2. The Board of Directors may create additional officer positions to assist the officers provided for in the Constitution, and may create from time to time, such committees and commissions as it shall deem necessary to carry on the work of the association.

3. The membership may, by a majority vote, remove an officer or director from office with a recommendation from the Board of Directors. An officer or director shall be automatically removed from office upon three consecutive absences from regular meetings, unless the reason for such absences is acceptable to the Board of Directors by a majority vote of the remaining officers.

4. The Board of Directors may expend no more than \$50.00 in any month without the approval of the membership, and will also be allowed to use an emergency fund to be provided in the annual budget.

5. The Board of Directors may hold special meetings at the call of the President, or at the call of a majority of the members of the Board, at such time and place as either shall determine.

6. The members shall report Board actions, recommendations to the membership at the next business meeting of the association for approval.

7. Except as otherwise restricted herein, the Board of Directors may act upon any matter within the authority granted to the Board of Directors of non-profit associations under the laws of the State of North Carolina.

ARTICLE VII. - OFFICERS

1. All officers of this association shall be in good standing within the organization.

2. Officers shall be installed at the January meeting and shall serve until January of the following year.

3. Officers shall continue to serve and hold office until successors are elected and installed.
4. All officers may succeed themselves in office. There is no limit on consecutive terms of succession for any officer position.
5. The officers and their duties are:
 - a. **PRESIDENT:** Shall be the chief executive officer of the association and shall, in general, supervise and direct the business and affairs of the association; shall preside and all meetings of the membership and the Board of Directors, of which the President shall be a voting member; shall, with the Secretary and /or Treasurer, sign all legal documents; shall appoint all committees, perform all other duties pursuant to the office of the President.
 - b. **VICE PRESIDENT:** Shall assume the duties of the President in their absence, and perform all other duties pursuant to the office of Vice President.
 - c. **TREASURER:** Shall have charge of all receipts and monies of the association and shall deposit same in the name of the association in a depository designated by resolution of the Board of Directors, and shall disburse such funds as directed by the membership or the Board of Directors; and shall keep accurate records of all receipts and disbursements, and provide an itemized account of same at all meeting of the membership or Board of Directors; shall prepare all checks and withdrawals on behalf of the association upon an of its accounts, and the same shall be honored on both his/her signature and that of the President or in the absence of one or the other, by an officer or officers designated by special resolution of the Board of Directors.
 - d. **SECRETARY:** Shall record and maintain the minutes of all meeting of the membership and the Board of Directors; shall conduct and maintain correspondence of the association as directed by the President, Board of Directors or the membership; shall perform other duties as may be required by the Constitution, the President or the Board of Directors.

ARTICLE VIII. - RULES OF PROCEDURE

1. Except as otherwise specified in these by-laws, all meeting shall be conducted according to Robert's Rules of Order, relaxed.
2. Except as otherwise specified, all votes are to be made by members and passed by a two-thirds (2/3) majority.

ARTICLE VIX. – ELECTIONS

At the October meeting of the membership, the President shall call upon the membership for nominations. At the November meeting of the membership the nominations received shall be presented to the members, at which time the floor shall be opened to any additional nominations from the members. Nominations shall be closed after the November meeting.

ARTICLE X.- COMMITTEES

1. **STANDING COMMITTEES:** All standing committees may be established, modified or abolished, and the duties or functions of such committees may be defined or redefined when appropriate, by the President, subject to the approval of the Board of Directors.
 - a. The President shall name and appoint any member of the association as chairperson of each standing committee as soon as practical after election, and shall present such

appointments to the Board of Directors at the first meeting of the Board of Directors following election of the President.

b. Subject to the provisions of paragraph 1 of this Article, the appointed chairperson of each standing committee shall serve for a term concurrent with the term of the President.

c. Subject to the provisions of paragraph 1 of this Article, the appointed chairperson of each standing committee shall serve for term concurrent with the term of the President.

d. Each chairperson of each standing committee may appoint one or more persons as members of the committee to assist the chairperson. The committee chairperson shall advise the secretary of such appointments.

2. The SAFETY AND PARTICIPATION COMMITTEE shall be established as a permanent committee, consisting of the Board of Directors, the Captain and the First Sergeant. Any interested member in good standing can attend and participate in meetings of the committee and submit suggestions.

a. The committee will be responsible for promulgation and administering the rules and guidelines for event safety and for the participation of minors under the age of eighteen (18) at events, who will be accompanied by a parent or legal guardian.

b. It will be each member's obligation to be familiar with the safety rules and to assist the committee with their application.

ARTICLE XI. - MISCELLANEOUS

No statement, action or commitment of any member, director or officer shall be made outside the normal scope of privileges of members or duties as directors or officers that would embarrass this association or reflect as being the opinion of the association.

ARTICLE XII – MILITARY PROMOTIONS

1. One Captain and one First Sergeant will be elected as field staff by a majority vote of the membership in May of each year, no later than Memorial Day. If a replacement is needed during the year, an election can be held when the need arises.

2. Other staff can be appointed by these two based on applicants demonstrating willingness to assist the Company and satisfy the field staff as to their competence.

3. All field staff will be paid up members in good standing. They must have been in reenacting for at least two seasons.

ARTICLE XIII. – AMENDMENTS

1. Amendments to the Constitution may be added following the procedures detailed below:

2. Proposed amendments shall be submitted and presented to the members and officers in written form at the monthly meeting.

3. At the following monthly meeting, any questions and/or comments about the constitutional amendment may be made among the membership. The proposed amendment may be modified based on the discussion of the membership. Once the discussion and modifications are over, the matter shall be tabled until the next monthly meeting.

- a. At the following monthly meeting, the amendment is brought before the membership for a vote.
- b. A successful vote requires a two thirds (2/3) majority vote of the members.
- c. A successfully passed constitutional amendment shall be added to the constitution document.

ARTICLE XIV. – ADDITIONAL PORTRAYALS

1. Medical Portrayal:

a. Medical Officer:

- i. Should have some medical background or medical certifications.
- ii. Must portray medical officer uniform of the 18th century.
- iii. A medical officer does not have the authority to command any military action.
- iv. Medical officer should get with the event medical staff or event commander for prior approval to be on the battlefield or parade grounds.
- v. It is encouraged for the medical officer to participate with the event medical staff.
- vi. A medical officer has the authority to stop and attend to any individual (even unit commander) if they think there is any risk of their health and safety.

b. Medical Orderlies:

- vii. Must follow orders of any medical officer, event medical staff, event commander, or unit commander.
- viii. Orderly and/or unit commander should get with the event medical staff or event commander for prior approval to be on the battlefield or parade grounds.
- ix. It is encouraged for the medical orderly to participate with the event medical staff and to help them with any medical event scenario.

Revision History:

1. 7/28/2009 – Jason Williams – Initial Creation
2. 1/14/2009 – Jason Williams - Dues