



## *Standing Rules of the*

# National Society of Confederate Descendants

### **ARTICLE I-RIGHTS AND PRIVILEGES OF THE GENERAL MEMBERSHIP**

- 1) All members have equal rights, privileges and obligations within the general organization.
- 2) All members who have been acknowledged of their 1<sup>st</sup> Amendment Constitutional rights, may conduct themselves as their individual character and conscience dictates but are expected to be held accountable for their own individual beliefs and actions.
- 3) All members have the right to be treated within the general organization with respect, courtesy, dignity in a fraternal & sororal decorum.
- 4) All members have the right to execute their rights and privileges within the general organization without any form of gross negativity, hostility, discrimination and harassment.
- 5) All members have the right to report any form of behavioral and procedural violations of the bylaws and standing rules of the organization to their Chapter or the General Executive Council for investigation and disciplinary procedures without the fear of retaliation of the accused.
- 6) All members have the right to a fair and impartial investigation and hearing when accused of any behavioral or procedural disciplinary infractions. Said accused members(s) shall have the

right to face their accusers, ask questions based on based on testimony, investigative reports and other information against them, as well as the right to produce any testimony, reports, documents and other information in their defense. The accused has the right not to answer any questions from the General Executive Council. This shall not be used to infer their guilt.

- 7) All members have the right to make motions in Chapter meetings, Society Conventions or Annual Meetings, and in General Conventions based on any information, reports, and ideas that benefit their respective chapter and general organization.
- 8) All members have the right to debate in the affirmative or in the negative with respect, courtesy, dignity without any form of gross negativity, hostility, discrimination and harassment.
- 9) All members shall be entitled to have one (1) vote in Chapter meetings, Society Conventions or Annual Meetings, and in General Conventions.
- 10) In all questions submitted to the meetings, conventions or annual meetings, the Chapter President, Society President, or President-General shall put the question *viva voce*. If the chair thinks that the vote was inconclusive or a member calls for a division of the house, the presiding officer shall take a standing vote. If on any main motion the yeas and nays are ordered, then the vote shall be taken by signed ballot. The final vote tabulation, including the actual results of each chapter's votes, shall be made patent and entered into the permanent records and archives of the Society of Confederate Descendants.

## **ARTICLE II-CHAPTERS AND SOCIETIES**

- 1) In the business and work of the Chapters and Societies', all the books and forms in use shall be of such form and style as may be prescribed by Robert's Rules of Order – Newly Revised Edition, and general bookkeeping practices.
- 2) Before any application for charter is approved, it must be evident from the application that membership applications for the proposed Charter Members are in proper form and are on file at General Headquarters, or true copies thereof.
- 3) Each application for charter shall carry with it the approval of the General Executive Council who shall verify to the Secretary-General, Treasurer-General, Registrar-General, and the Genealogist-General that the paperwork is in order and that the applicants are qualified, deserving, and will be a credit to the organization.
- 4) When the application for charter and accompanying documents have been examined and found to be correct, and when said application is accompanied by conditions have been complied with, the charter shall be issued.
- 5) The charter shall carry the signature of the President-General and the Secretary-General.

## **ARTICLE III-MEETINGS AND CONVENTIONS**

- 1) All business requires a majority vote unless where in altered by the National Bylaws of the Society of Confederate Descendants, Society Bylaws, and the respective Chapter Bylaws.

- 2) All side conversations are to cease when the meeting is called to order. No one should be interrupting when someone has the floor, during discussions of motions, reports are being delivered, or when the presiding officer is speaking to the camp.
- 3) Any member that wishes to have the floor to speak, must have their hand raised. First hands up will be the first to speak. Members may remain seated if they wish to do so, but must use a raised voice so that all present can hear. In the event an audio system is utilized, then the member must use the microphone provided.
- 4) All individuals that are acknowledged by the presiding officer to have the floor during discussion, must keep their points on topic and will have a limit of 03:00 minutes to speak. The presiding officer shall appoint a time keeper.
- 5) As stated in the National Bylaws of the SDCV Article III, only individuals approved for membership shall vote.
- 6) Robert's Rules of Order 12th Edition will be used as our parliamentary authority except where in altered National Bylaws of the Society of Confederate Descendants, Society Bylaws, and the respective Chapter Bylaws.
- 7) Audio recordings of the business portion of meetings are prohibited, with the exception of the Secretary-General, Society Secretary, and Chapter Secretary who is responsible for taking the minutes. Mobile devices must be kept silent or airplane mode.
- 8) In an event a member of the assembly becomes unruly or acts in a disruptive behavior, the offender will receive one verbal warning. If the disruption continues the presiding officer can use his executive privilege to pause the meeting and have the offender escorted out by a Sergeant-at-Arms. In the event the offender refuses to leave, the Sergeant-at-Arms will contact local law enforcement.

#### **ARTICLE IV-MINUETS OF THE MEETINGS**

- 1) All subdivisions, committees, and other bodies of the Society of Confederate Descendants shall keep and preserve written minutes of their meetings. Such minutes shall include but need not be limited to: the date, time and place of the meeting; the members present; and the substance of all matters proposed, discussed or decided and, at the request of any member, a record of any votes taken.
- 2) Any other information that any member of the body requests shall be included or reflected in the minutes by majority vote of the body.

#### **ARTICLE V-ANNUAL REPORTS**

- 1) Each Chapter President shall make an annual report, in duplicate; utilizing forms furnished by General Headquarters, giving such information as may be required by the General Executive Council. Reports must be submitted by the deadline fixed in advance by the General Executive Council, one copy forwarded to the Society President, the other

to General Headquarters. Separate Chapters in States where no Society have been formed will send a copy to President-General. The report will include a Chapter roster and payment of any per capita dues not previously submitted to General Headquarters. In addition, at their discretion, the Chapter President may submit a final report at the expiration of his term of office.

- 2) Society Presidents shall make an annual report, in duplicate, using forms furnished by General Headquarters, giving such information as may be required by the General Executive Council. Reports must be submitted by the deadline fixed in advance by the General Executive Council, one copy to be mailed to the President-General in which the Society is located, the other to General Headquarters. At their discretion the Society President may submit a final report at the expiration of his term of office.

## ARTICLE VI-PROHIBITIONS

- 1) No debts shall be contracted by this general organization except upon approval of the General Convention or the General Executive Council.
- 2) The use of the seal, badges or name of this general organization for business or advertising purposes without the consent of the General Executive Council and the giving of its badges to persons unauthorized to wear them are emphatically prohibited.
- 3) Military titles used in the general organization shall not be given to or used by members or officers of this general organization, by reason of their being such members or officers. The only exception being those members who are active or retired members of the United States Armed Forces.
- 4) No one can be elected or appointed an officer of this general organization, or its subordinate Societies' and Chapters, unless he or she is a member in good standing of one of its Chapters.
- 5) No member, group of members, Chapter, State Societies of the Society of Confederate Descendants may initiate any civil litigation wherein they act, or attempt to act, with standing and name (directly or indirectly) any member (in their capacity as a member or officer of the Society of Confederate Descendants), any subdivision or the Society of Confederate Descendants as a whole as a defendant or plaintiff without the prior express consent of the General Executive Council (GEC). The same shall apply to naming any member (in his capacity as a member or officer of the Society of Confederate Descendants), subdivision or the Society of Confederate Descendants as a whole as a third party in an already initiated civil litigation. Petitions for said approval shall be distributed in writing to all members of the GEC, stating the name(s) and address (es) of all parties in the proposed litigation, and a brief description of the nature and necessity of the proposed litigation. All reasonable administrative remedies (petitions, motions, hearings etc.. before chapter/society executive councils, society conventions or annual meetings, etc.) available shall be attempted by petitioner(s) prior to submitting such petition to the GEC, or the GEC may refuse consideration of the petition. A majority vote

of the GEC shall be required for approval of the petition. The GEC shall not delay consideration (other than for failure to attempt all available administrative remedies) on the petition to the point it would jeopardize the proposed litigation (such as past filing deadlines), and no later than the next regular meeting of the GEC. Failure to abide by this section in a serious offense and subject to discipline, including expulsion, in accordance with the National Bylaws and Standing Orders.

## **ARTICLE VII-LOGOS/SEALS, BADGES, OBSERVED MEMORIALS AND HOLIDAYS**

- 1) The seal of the Society of Confederate Descendants shall be as displayed on the National Bylaws and Standing Rules of this general organization. It shall be kept in the custody of the General Headquarters.
- 2) A neat, inexpensive pin, bearing a representation of the official seal may be furnished to the members at as low a price as possible.
- 3) It shall be the duty of the Chapter President of the Society of Confederate Descendants to call a meeting of his respective Chapter upon the days appointed by the civil authorities for the commemoration of all Confederate armed services and statesmen, and to commemorate such day by appropriate services.
- 4) This general organization shall observe, with proper solemnity, all Confederate Memorial Days, whether designated by civil authority or local custom.
- 5) March 4th of each year shall be designated and recognized as Confederate Flag Day. All members are encouraged to fly the current Confederate National Flag or any Confederate Flag of their choice.
- 6) The Month of April each year shall be designated and recognized as National Confederate History and Heritage Month. All members are encouraged to celebrate their state's historically recognized and designated Confederate holidays, but during the month of April, members are encouraged to take appropriate actions to properly honor the Confederate States armed forces, her elected and appointed officials, its citizens and innovations by creating educational programs, ceremonies and gatherings to appropriately honor these brave people.
- 7) The Confederate Military Tartan and Confederate Rose Tartan shall be designated and recognized as the Official Tartans of the Society of Confederate Descendants. Members that have a Confederate Ancestor with an appropriate family tartan shall also be recognized.

## **ARTICLE VIII-PARLIAMENTARY AUTHORITY**

- 1) The rules of the current edition of Robert's Rules of Order Newly Revised shall govern all meetings and conventions of the Society of Confederate Descendants and its sub-divisions so far as they are applicable and not inconsistent with the National Bylaws and Standing Rules of the general organization.

- 2) Other Standing Rules of the General Organization may also be adopted by the General Convention which shall be and remain in effect until repealed or revised.

## **ARTICLE VIX-OTHER OFFICERS**

- 1) Each Chapter and Society may have additional officers as desired as deemed necessary and described in their respective set of bylaws. Their titles and duties shall not conflict with the already established officers of the Chapter, Society and General Officers as described.
- 2) The Sergeant-at-Arms shall take charge of the meeting places of the chapter, society, conventions and or annual meetings of the general organization, making all necessary preparation for the safety and security of the premises thereof; thereby assisting the presiding officer, as the case may be, to maintain the dignity and majesty of the organization, by enforcing good order and decorum at all times. The Sergeant at-Arms may be given assistants as may be necessary to carry out the provisions of this section. While the Chapters and Societies are sitting in convention, the Sergeant-at-Arms and his assistants shall meet, as directed, and escort distinguished guests and visitors in and about the convention and must be, during the hours of duty, dressed in a distinctive manner so as to be easily identified as such. They shall perform such other duties as may be assigned to him by the presiding officer, while carrying on the normal functions generally assumed by his office.
- 3) The Historian-General shall collect from year to year all records and data of value and interest to the general organization; compile during his term of office a complete history of the year's activities; and assist Society and Chapter Historians so as to coordinate and unify the work of these officials. He shall perform such other duties as may be assigned to him by the President-General, while carrying on the normal functions generally assumed by his office.
- 4) The Color Sergeant shall preserve, maintain, and display at appropriate times the colors, ensigns, and other emblematic appurtenances of the general organization. He shall perform such other duties as may be assigned to him or her by the President-General, while carrying on the normal functions generally assumed by their office.
- 5) The Editor-in-Chief shall supervise the production of all general circulation publications and periodicals produced by the general organization. They shall perform other duties as may be assigned to him or her by President-General, while carrying on the normal functions generally assumed by his office.

## **ARTICLE X-AMENDMENTS**

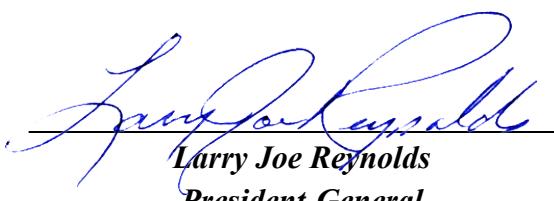
- 1) The Standing Orders may be amended, altered, or repealed by a majority vote of the delegates present and voting in convention assembled, provided that any proposed

amendments, alterations, or repeals shall have been sent to each Chapter in good standing at least thirty (30) days and not more than ninety (90) days in advance to the address on record at General Headquarters. The General Executive Council may promulgate reasonable rules governing the method by which such proposed amendments, alterations, or repeals are to be submitted and distributed.

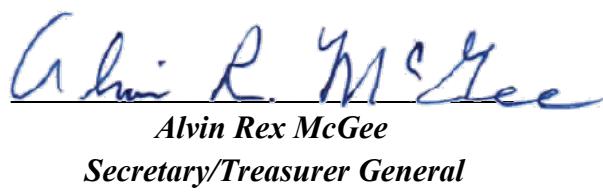
- 2) Any proposed amendment to this set of Standing Rules shall not
  - a) create a conflict of interest with the 501(c)3 Internal Revenue Services (IRS) Code; Section 170(c)2 of the Internal Revenue Code; Federal and or State Copyright Act; State Non-Profit Act; State Business Code; Federal Copyright Act; and or with the Standing Rules.
  - b) be controversial in nature
  - c) or attempt to limit the rights and privileges of the general membership of the organization, except those set forth in Article XII of the National Bylaws of the SDCV.

## **CERTIFICATION**

**This set of the Standing Rules of the Society of Confederate Descendants was Adopted on (Date) by the membership in General Convention assembled, in (Place).**



**Larry Joe Reynolds**  
President-General



**Alvin Rex McGee**  
Secretary/Treasurer General

