CONSTITUTION OF THE OKLAHOMA DIVISION
SONS OF CONFEDERATE VETERANS
Amended in Oklahoma Division Conventions through 27 April 2019

PREAMBLE

Charge to the Sons of Confederate Veterans:

“To you, Sons of Confederate Veterans, we will commit the vindication of the cause for which we fought. To your strength will be given the defense of the Confederate soldiers’ good name, the guardianship of his history, the emulation of his virtues, the perpetuation of those principles which he loved, and which you love also, and those ideals which made him glorious, and which you also cherish.”

- Lt. General Stephen Dill Lee, Commander-in-Chief U.C.V., at the Reunion in New Orleans, La., April 25, 1906

ARTICLE I, TITLE AND PURPOSES

Section 1: This Division shall be known as the Oklahoma Division (herein referred to as the Division), Sons of Confederate Veterans and shall be made up of individual Camps, whose members joined the Sons of Confederate Veterans through the International Headquarters of the Sons of Confederate Veterans. Each member of the Oklahoma Division shall be a member of a Camp.

Section 2: The Oklahoma Division, Sons of Confederate Veterans, shall be a non-profit corporation; incorporated under the laws of Oklahoma, with principal office being the home address or P.O. Box of the Division Commander.

Section 3: The Oklahoma Division, Sons of Confederate Veterans, shall be strictly patriotic, historical, benevolent, non-political, non-racial, and non-sectarian. Each member shall perform his full duty according to his own conscience and understanding.

Section 4: This Constitution shall be the bylaws of the Oklahoma Division, Sons of Confederate Veterans, for all purposes under State or Federal law.

ARTICLE II, OBJECT, PURPOSE AND PROCEDURE

Section 1: We, the Compatriots of the Oklahoma Division of the Sons of Confederate Veterans, with the blessing of Almighty God, have as our mission the promotion of pride and honor in Southern heritage through supporting our Camps by supplying information, leadership and resources, to wit: to collect and preserve such manuscripts, books, papers, documents, flags, relics and memorabilia relating to the War Between the States as would be of assistance in the preparation and perpetuation of an impartial history of the same.

Section 2: To illuminate and clarify the Constitutional, political, social and economic issues and events leading to the War, and, during and after the war, the patriotic motives and heroism of our ancestors: the Confederate Soldier, Sailor, Marine and Government Official, doing so with memorial services, educational programs and other activities recognizing their service.
Section 3: To perpetuate the memory of our Confederate ancestors and the people of the South who supported them. To erect monuments, markers and memorials to them and to properly identify, care for and preserve all existing Confederate graves and markers, battlefields and prisoner of war locations within the State of Oklahoma and elsewhere.

Section 4: To cooperate with the National Confederation and the Army of Trans-Mississippi Department of the Sons of Confederate Veterans.

Section 5: In all matters of procedure not otherwise specified in this document, reference and adherence to the bylaws of the International SCV Constitution shall be followed. No part of the Oklahoma Division Constitution shall be in conflict or supersede the International SCV Constitution and Bylaws. In the event that any such conflict exists, that section of the Oklahoma Division Constitution shall be rendered null and void unto itself and no other provisions shall be affected.

ARTICLE III, ORGANIZATION

Section 1: The Oklahoma Division is a subdivision of the Army of Trans-Mississippi, and subject to its guidelines and direction, in so far as they do not conflict with this Constitution.

Section 2: The Oklahoma Division may be subdivided into brigades consisting of two or more counties contiguous to each other taking into account traditional and historical regions of the State. The number, size, and geographic limits of the brigades shall be determined by the Division Executive Council and submitted to and ratified by the next Division Convention. Written notice of any proposed creation or changes of the brigade organizations shall be given to each Commander of active camps in the Division and to each member of the Executive Council.

Section 3: The smallest organizational unit is the Camp, as properly chartered and constituted according to the rules and guidelines set forth in the General Constitution and the Division Constitution. Camps, being the fundamental units of the Division, shall be organized pursuant to the SCV International Constitution and their own respective internal bylaws, thereby preserving the autonomy and independence of each.

Section 4: The overall Oklahoma Division governing body is the Division Executive Council.

ARTICLE IV, DIVISION CONVENTION

Section 1: The legislative body of the Oklahoma Division shall be the Division Convention, to be held annually each year. Each Camp will be notified at least ninety (90) days in advance of the Convention of the exact date and place thereof.

Section 2: The Division Commander, or in the event of his absence, the Lieutenant Commander, at the request of a majority of Camps or of the Division Executive Council, shall convene the Confederation in special meeting, if he deems the emergency sufficient.

Section 3: The Division Convention shall be convened by the Commander of the Camp where the meeting is held. After prayer by the Division Chaplain, and the address of welcome by the host Camp Commander, the Division Commander shall take charge of the Convention. The Division Adjutant shall call the roll of Division Officers and of its Camps in numerical order. As the Camps are called, the Camp Commander or his designated chairman of each delegation will answer and the Division Adjutant shall record all Convention proceedings.

Section 4: Every Compatriot in good standing shall be privileged to attend all Oklahoma Division meetings.

Section 5: The rules of procedure at all Division Convention shall be those set forth in Robert's Rules of Order, Newly Revised, except wherein they may be altered by the Division Convention pursuant to roll call vote by simple majority.
Section 6: A quorum shall exist at the Oklahoma Division Convention when one-third (1/3) of all camps are represented as provided above.

Section 7: All legislative power shall be vested in the Division Convention, or a special meeting requested by a simple majority of Camps in good standing. A special convention meeting must be requested of the Division Adjutant, in writing, at least 30 days prior to the suggested date of the meeting. A special convention, requested in the aforementioned manner, shall be duly set by the Division Adjutant.

**ARTICLE V. REPRESENTATION, DELEGATES and VOTING**

Section 1: Voting for Division Officers:

a. At each Division Convention held in an even-numbered year, the Division Convention shall elect a Division Commander and Lieutenant Commander. If Brigades exist within the Division, Brigade Commanders shall likewise be elected at the Division Convention. These officers shall be elected for a term of two years, and may succeed themselves in the same office to which they were elected. To be considered for the offices of Commander or Lt. Commander a candidate must be 21 years of age by the time of the Division Convention and had served two years in a position of responsibility at the Camp, Brigade or Division level.

b. Each member of the Division will have one vote that he may cast for Division Commander and one vote that he may cast for Division Lieutenant Commander. Ballots will be published in the Division newsletter, or otherwise distributed to the Division membership, at least sixty (60) days prior to the Division Convention.

c. If Brigades exist within the Division, members of Camps in each Brigade will elect a Brigade Commander for their Brigade. Each member of a Brigade will have one vote he may cast for the Brigade Commander.

d. Members shall declare their candidacy for any of the above offices by submitting a letter to the Division Adjutant at least ninety (90) days before the Division Convention. This letter of candidacy shall be limited to no more than 200 words, and may include names of other members who endorse the candidate.

e. Any member(s) who have been suspended by SCV International HQ cannot hold office at the division level.

f. Members will submit their ballots, either in person or by mail, to their Camp Adjutant at least thirty (30) days before the Division Convention. Members have the option to write in candidates on their ballots. The Camp Adjutant shall verify that each member casting a vote is in good standing and notify the Division Adjutant of the number of votes cast for each candidate.

g. Members have the option to write in candidates on their ballots.

h. Candidates are elected by majority vote. If a runoff is required, the Camp Adjutant will mail revised ballots to all members, listing only the candidates who placed first and second in the initial series of ballots. The Camp Adjutant will then again notify the Division Adjutant of the number of votes cast for each candidate.

i. Each Camp shall select a delegate who will attend the Division Convention and carry the ballots to the Division Convention. An alternate delegate shall also be selected by the Camp to serve if the delegate is unable to attend the Convention. The Division Adjutant will establish procedures to ensure the integrity, security, and validity of the ballots. For purposes of integrity, ballots will be assigned individual numbers.

j. The Division Adjutant shall count the ballots. Each camp at the Convention may assign one member to witness the ballot counting. Thereafter, the Division Adjutant shall announce the results when called upon by the Division Commander.
k. Whenever there is but one candidate for an office, then upon motion and by unanimous consent, a formal ballot may be dispensed with and the candidate elected by acclamation.

Section 2: Voting on all other matters at the Division Convention.
   a. Voting on all issues shall be by Camp Delegate. Each Camp shall appoint one Camp Delegate by any method of their choosing. Each Camp shall be represented by only one Camp Delegate. Camp Delegates shall have only one vote.

   b. Agenda items shall be published in the Oklahoma Division newsletter, or otherwise distributed to all members of the Division, at least sixty (60) days before the annual Division Convention. Each Camp shall discuss and determine by any method of their choosing, their voting choice for each agenda item. Each Camp shall instruct their Camp Delegate of their voting choices. The Camp Delegate for each Camp shall attend the Division Convention and vote according to the Camp’s instruction on each agenda item. A simple majority of the total Camp Delegates present and voting is required to carry any item. Camps shall be represented by only one Camp Delegate. Camp Delegates shall have only one vote.

   c. Items of an emergency nature arising either during or shortly before the Division Convention will be voted on by Camp Delegates present at the Division Convention. The Division Commander will determine if the issue must be voted on at the Division Convention. The members of each Camp present shall caucus to discuss and determine, by any method of their choosing, their voting choice for each emergency item. A simple majority of the total Camp Delegates present and voting is required to carry any item. Camps shall be represented by only one Camp Delegate. Camp Delegates shall have only one vote.

ARTICLE VI, DIVISION OFFICERS

Section 1: The Division Commander shall be elected and shall be the executive head of the Division with full power to enforce the provisions of the Constitution. He shall be Chairman of the Division Convention. He shall be empowered to act for the Division as circumstances, in his judgment, require, in cases not provided in the Constitution subject to appeal by the Division Convention. His term of office shall be two (2) consecutive years.

Section 2: The Division Lieutenant Commander shall be an elected office and shall perform the duties of the Division Commander in his absence, and in case of his death or resignation, shall become Division Commander for the unexpired term. The Division Lieutenant Commander shall assist the Division Commander in the performance of his duties as directed by the Division Commander. His term of office shall be two (2) consecutive years.

Section 3: The Division Adjutant shall be appointed by the Division Commander and shall keep correct records of proceedings of the Convention and other business meetings and issue the general orders of the Division Commander under his signature. He shall collect and be the custodian of the funds of the Division, and he shall make reports of the condition of the treasury when called for by the Division Commander or the Division Convention.

Section 4: Appointed officers shall be filled by the Division Commander and shall serve at his pleasure. The Division Commander may appoint all special committees necessary to the performance of the executive function. Upon the resignation or death of a duly elected Division Lieutenant Commander, the Division Commander shall appoint a new Lt. Commander to fill the unexpired term of office.

Section 5: The Judge Advocate shall be appointed by the Division Commander and shall advise him on all legal matters and the interpretation of the Division Constitution.

Section 6: The Division Chaplain shall be appointed by the Division Commander and shall be the spiritual leader of the Division. He will perform such divine and non-sectarian services, and duties as may be necessary in conjunction with his office.

Section 7: The Division Historian shall be appointed by the Division Commander and shall keep the official history and records of the Division business with assistance from the Division Adjutant. This information will be
made available to all SCV members upon request.

Section 8: Brigade Commanders:

a. If Brigades are created within the Division, then Brigade Commanders shall be elected at the same time as the Division Commander. Candidates for Brigade Commander must be members of a Camp within the geographic boundaries of the Brigade for which they are standing for election, and they are elected only by members within that Brigade. In the event of a vacancy, the Division Commander may appoint one or more interim Brigade Commanders until such time as an election is held.

b. The Brigade Commander shall assist the Camps within his Brigade as needed, and he shall communicate orders and messages from the Division to the Camps within his Brigade.

ARTICLE VII, DIVISION EXECUTIVE COUNCIL

Section 1: The Executive Council shall be composed of the Division Commander, who shall be the presiding officer, the Lt. Commander, the Division Adjutant, the Division Judge Advocate, Brigade Commanders (if any), each Camp Commander, and the immediate past Division Commander if he has served a full term of office.

Section 2: Each member of the Executive Council shall have one (1) vote in Executive Council business, with the following exceptions: the Judge Advocate will not have a vote and the Immediate Past Division Commander will only have a vote in case of a tie.

Section 3: The Executive Council shall have all necessary power in the administration and regulation of the affairs of the Division not especially delegated to or made a part of the duties of some other official committee. One of the duties of the Division - Executive Council shall be the formulation, approval and implementation of a strategic plan for the Division, subject to a simple majority vote approval by the Division Convention. Between annual Conventions of the Division, the administrative power shall be vested in the Division Executive Council of said Division.

Section 4: The term of office of all members of the Division General Executive Council shall commence immediately upon adjournment of the Division Convention at which they were elected or appointed to office, and shall end at the adjournment of the Division Convention at which their terms of office expire.

Section 5: All questions not satisfied at convention affecting the election and/or the eligibility of Division Officers shall be referred to and determined by the Division General Executive Council. The Division General Executive Council shall announce their decision within ninety (90) days from the convening of the convention.

Section 6: A majority of voting members thereof shall constitute a quorum of the Division General Executive Council.

ARTICLE VIII, ANNUAL REPORTS

Section 1: Each Camp Commander shall make an annual report, in duplicate, utilizing forms furnished by International Headquarters, giving such information as may be required by the Division Executive Council. Reports must be submitted by July 1 (or as required by International Headquarters), one copy forwarded to the Division Commander, the other to International Headquarters. The report will include a Camp roster and payment of any per capita taxes not previously submitted to International Headquarters. In addition, at his discretion, the Camp Commander may submit a final report at the expiration of his term of office.

Section 2: The Division Commander shall make an annual report, in duplicate, using forms furnished by International Headquarters, giving such information as may be required by the Division Executive Council. The Report must be submitted by July 15 (or as required by International Headquarters), one copy to be mailed to the Commander, Army of Trans-Mississippi, and the other to International Headquarters. At his discretion the Division Commander may submit a final report at the expiration of his term of office.

ARTICLE IX, FINANCE
Section 1: A Division financial report for the prior fiscal year shall be submitted to the Convention and be made part of the record. The report shall be published in the Division newsletter.

Section 2: The fiscal year of the Division shall be from the end of one Division Convention to the end of the next Division Convention.

Section 3: The revenue of the Division shall be derived from annual membership dues and such other sources as the may be approved by the Division Executive Council.

Section 4: Division per capita taxes shall be set by the Division Executive Council.

Section 5: The Division per capita taxes shall be paid annually by each Camp for every member in good standing. Division per capita taxes are optional for Life Members. Each Camp shall also submit a roster to the Division Adjutant, listing the names and addresses of all members in good standing. The Division per capita taxes and rosters must be delivered to the Division Adjutant thirty (30) days before the Division Convention. Camps that have not paid their Division per capita taxes collected from every eligible Camp member in good standing on or before the aforementioned 30 days shall not be allowed to vote at convention.

Section 6: Camps shall not be allowed representation at the Division Convention unless their per capita taxes have been paid in full to the Division Adjutant prior to the opening of the Convention.

ARTICLE X, PENALTIES, CHARTERS, SUSPENSIONS

Section 1: All issues regarding penalties, charters and suspensions will be governed pursuant to Article III and XIII of the current SCV International Constitution.

ARTICLE XI, DISCIPLINE OF CAMP MEMBERS

Section 1: Each Camp of the Sons of Confederate Veterans shall be the judge of its own membership, subject to the restrictions of the SCV International Constitution.

ARTICLE XII, PROHIBITIONS

Section 1: No discussion of religion or discussion of political subjects regarding a specific political party, nor any endorsement of aspirants for political office, shall be permitted in any Division Convention, meeting or function.

Section 2: No debts shall be contracted by this Division except upon approval of the Division General Executive Council.

Section 3: No assessment shall be levied by the Division upon its members other than the Division dues, except by resolution of the Division Convention.

Section 4: No one can be elected or appointed an officer of this Division unless he is a member in good standing of one of its Camps.

Section 5: No legal action against or on behalf of the Sons of Confederate Veterans, its officers and/or members shall be undertaken or entered into by any member of the Sons of Confederate Veterans in which that member proposes to act as a representative or agent of the Sons of Confederate Veterans without prior approval of the Division Executive Council.

ARTICLE XIII, COMMITTEES

Section 1: The Division Commander shall form standing committees, appointed by the Division Commander, as he deems necessary to carry out the purpose of the Division and to act upon his duties as outlined therein.
Section 2: The committees may subdivide themselves for purposes of facilitating their labors, and shall keep a record of their meetings, make reports annually, or more often, if required by the Division Commander, and shall turn over their record to the Division Adjutant at the expiration of their term of office.

Section 3: Special committees may be appointed by the Division Commander as he deems necessary, or shall be appointed by him when so ordered by the Division Convention or by the Division General Executive Council.

Section 4: All committees shall meet when called by their chairman. Standing committees shall make written annual reports and recommendations to the Division Convention, via the Division Commander. Special committees shall submit written reports to the Division Commander at the conclusion of their assigned duty.

Section 5: There shall be a committee known as the Credentials Committee. The members of the Credentials Committee, which shall include the Division Adjutant, shall be appointed prior to the commencement of Registration at the Division Convention. There shall be not less than two (2) members of the Credentials Committee. There shall be sufficient members of the Committee to be present at the Registration desk at the Division Convention at all times during the published times of Registration. This Committee shall receive the Credential forms from the Camps at Registration for the Division Convention, verify the Credentials by report of the Division Adjutant, arrange the roll of the Convention and assign each Camp its number of votes. This report shall be signed by the committee and given to the Division Commander. After the approval of this report, the meeting shall proceed to business on the basis fixed therein. The Credentials Committee shall have charge of the process of balloting for officers when elections occur in accordance with this Constitution.

ARTICLE XIV, DISSOLUTION CLAUSE

Section 1: In the event of dissolution, the residual assets of the Oklahoma Division, Sons of Confederate Veterans will be turned over to the International Headquarters of the Sons of Confederate Veterans.

Section 2: It is the desire and intention of the Sons of Confederate Veterans to function at all times as an organization which is approved for exemption from Federal income taxes and which is qualified to receive donations which are deductible by the donor for income tax purposes under Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1954 (or the corresponding provision of any future United States Internal Revenue Law).

ARTICLE XV, AMENDMENTS

Section 1: This Constitution may be amended at any Division Convention by the vote of three-fourths of the total Camp Delegates present and voting. Proposed amendments to this Constitution shall be submitted to the Division Adjutant at least sixty (60) days in advance of the Division Convention. It shall then be the duty of the Division Adjutant to send all proposed amendments to each Camp in good standing at least thirty (30) days in advance of the Convention. Each Camp shall discuss and determine, by any method of their choosing, their voting choice for each proposed amendment. Each Camp shall instruct their Camp Delegate of their voting choices. Camps shall be represented by only one Camp Delegate. Camp Delegates shall have only one vote.

ADOPTED: 2006 in Division Convention, City of Shawnee, Pottawatomie County, Oklahoma.

CERTIFICATION:
This Constitution was amended in convention assembled, in Shawnee, Oklahoma, on 27 April 2019.

In witness whereof, this Constitution is amended through the Division Convention under the hand of the Division Commander, duly attested by the Division Adjutant at Shawnee, Oklahoma, this the 27th day of April, 2019.

JAMES L. OREBAUGH
Division Commander

STEVEN B. WARD
Division Adjutant