

W. Va. Room.
P5304

Constitution and By-Laws
of the
United Daughters of the Confederacy
of West Virginia

CONSTITUTION

Article I—Name.

The name of the association shall be "The United Daughters of the Confederacy, of West Virginia."

Article II—Objects.

The objects are historical, educational, memorial, benevolent and social—to preserve the history of the war between the states from a Southern standpoint; to erect monuments of various kinds to the memory of our heroic dead; to record the noble part experienced by our Southern women during and since the war; to aid the survivors of the war and their dependents; to honor the memory of those who served, of those who fell in the Confederate service, and to promote friendship among the members of the society.

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Article III—Membership.

Section 1. The women entitled to membership are the widows, wives, mothers, daughters, sisters, nieces or lineal descendants of men serving honorably in the Confederate army, navy, civil service, or of those men unfit for active duty who aided the cause; also women and their lineal descendants, wherever residing, giving proof of personal service and loyalty to the Southern cause during the war.

Section 2. Seven or more eligible women may organize a Chapter by applying to the State officers for a Charter, and becoming legally incorporated under the State laws. A fee of three dollars shall be paid to the United Daughters of the Confederacy for each Chapter.

Section 3. Each Chapter shall, on or before the first day of each succeeding March, pay the Treasurer of the United Daughters of the Confederacy the sum of 10 cents for each member who may at such date be in good standing on the roll of such Chapter.

Section 4. No person shall vote or hold offices in more than one Chapter at a time, and those enrolled as members of more than one Chapter shall, within thirty days thereafter, file with the Recording Secretary of the United Daughters of the Confederacy, also with the Secretary of each Chapter of which, at that time, they may be members, a written statement as to which Chapter they wish to vote and hold office in. After filing this statement, they shall be entitled to vote or hold office in any Chapter to which they may belong.

Section 5. The date of Chapter meetings may be decided upon by its members at a time most suitable for the good of the Chapter. The number forming a quorum shall be in proportion to the number of members.

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Article IV—Organization of State Divisions.

Section 1. At every State Convention each Chapter shall be entitled to one vote for every twenty-five members, or fraction thereof, provided each fraction be not less than seven.

Section 2. A State Division shall be organized by the adoption of a Constitution and By-Laws, consistent with that of the U. D. C., and by the election of a President and other officers. One or more representatives from any Chapter shall be authorized to cast the full vote to which such Chapter shall be entitled.

Section 3. Each State Division shall furnish blank applications for membership, to be used throughout that Division. These blanks may differ in form, but be consistent with the Constitution of U. D. C. The method of electing and admitting members may also vary in each Division with the same proviso.

Article V—Conventions.

Section 1. State Conventions of the Daughters of the Confederacy shall be held annually on _____ at the place selected by the preceding Convention. The President has power to change date or place of meeting in any emergency.

Section 2. Any Chapter may be represented by proxy, if such proxy be duly appointed in writing and be a resident of state or territory in which such Chapter is located. The proxy may be a non-resident if the state or territory sends no delegate.

Section 3. The President of each Chapter shall have one vote in all Conventions of the U. D. C. No Chapter President shall be authorized to cast her individual vote by proxy.

Article VI—Officers.

The officers of the Daughters of the Confederacy shall be—
The President.

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First Vice-President.
Second Vice-President.
Corresponding Secretary.
Recording Secretary.
Treasurer.
Historian.
Director of Children's Auxiliaries.
Registrar.
Custodian of Crosses of Honor.

The President, First Vice-President, Second Vice-President, Corresponding Secretary, Director of Children's Auxiliaries, Registrar, and Custodian of Crosses of Honor shall not be elected for the same office for more than five consecutive years. The Recording Secretary shall not be eligible for the same office for more than four consecutive years. The term of office of the Historian and Treasurer shall not be limited.

Article VII—Committees.

The officers shall compose an Executive Committee, the President being Chairman. They shall conduct the affairs of the Chapter, having supervision and control over the property, and power to call meetings. When occasions demand, special committee meetings for urgent business may be called by the President at any time at the written request of a majority of members. The action of the Executive Committee shall be reported at the next Annual Convention.

Article VIII—Certificate of Membership.

Section 1. The Chapter shall furnish all members in good standing Certificates of Membership. They shall be supplied with seal attached by the U. D. C., costing 15 cents apiece. These

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must be signed by the President and Secretary of the U. D. C., the President of the State or Territory Division, as well as by the President and Secretary of the local Chapter.

Section 2. A member of good standing, in any Chapter, wishing to change her membership, shall receive an honorable discharge, allowing her to join any Chapter she desires.

Article IX—Badges and Seals.

Section 1. A badge worn by the Daughters of the Confederacy shall represent the Confederate flag (stars and bars), in white, blue and scarlet enamel, surrounded with a laurel wreath, with the monogram "D. C." under the flag, with dates "61-65" in loops of bow tying the wreath. Divisions and Chapters may also use a badge of their own selection.

Section 2. The seal of all State Divisions shall be the same design, adding the name of the division in the outer rim, provided that any State Division which may so prefer shall have the right to use the seal of its own state, putting the name of the division on the outer rim.

Section 3. All Chapters or other official documents shall bear the impress of the seal, and be signed by the President and Recording Secretary. The name, seal and badge can be used only for business purposes.

Article X—Days of Observance.

The birthday of Jefferson Davis, sole President of the Confederate States (June 3), and that of Robert E. Lee (January 19), shall be observed annually. Other days, in addition to these, shall be observed by Chapters at their discretion.

Article XI—Amendments.

This Constitution may be amended by two-thirds vote at any Convention of the U. D. C., if notice of the amendment be

filed with the Recording Secretary forty-five days before the date of said Convention. Within ten days after the receipt of such notice the Recording Secretary shall send the same to the President and Secretary of each State Division, also to those same officers of each Chapter.

BY-LAWS

Article I—Duties of Officers.

Section 1. The President, being the chief executive officer of the Chapter, shall preside at all regular or called meetings; have charge of all matters concerning it, besides the oversight of the other officers. She shall be Chairman of the Executive Committee, have the privilege of attending the meetings appointed by the Chapter, and shall discharge all duties pertaining to the presidential chair. In case of a tie, the President shall cast the deciding vote.

Section 2. The Vice-President shall preside in the absence of the President, in successive order of rank, assuming the duties and responsibilities of the President.

Section 3. The Recording Secretary shall keep the minutes of each meeting, attend to all notices, apprise committees of their appointments, call the roll, read the minutes of the previous meeting, discharge all the duties of her office and give a general report at the annual meeting.

Section 4. The Corresponding Secretary shall attend to the correspondence, under the direction of the President notify members of committees of their appointments, forward the names

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of the committee to the chairman thereof and attend to all duties of her office.

Section 5. The Treasurer shall receive all money and receipt for same; shall have charge of the funds of the Chapter, and make a statement of money received and disbursed. She shall deposit the money in some National Bank, payable only on her checks, with the signature of the President, or in her absence, that of the Vice-Presidents in order of succession.

Section 6. The Historian, the Registrar, the Custodian of the Cross of Honor and the Director of Children's Auxiliaries shall perform all the duties pertaining to their respective offices.

Section 7. The date of Chapter meetings may be at the most suitable time for the good of the Chapter. The number forming a quorum shall be in proportion to the number of members.

Article II—Committees.

Section 1. The Committee on History shall do all in its power to secure from oblivion local incidents pertaining to the late war between the states; matters pertaining to the causes of the war, and to forward the interest of correct and impartial history in its power.

Section 2. The Committee on Transportation shall arrange the rates of transportation to and from all conventions, and the expense of the state delegates shall be paid.

Section 3. The Committee on Credentials shall meet the day before the convention to approve and arrange the credentials of the delegates.

Article III—Assessments and Dues.

Section 1. No Chapter in arrears in settlement of dues for six months shall be represented in the Convention of the Associa-

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tion, and it shall be suspended unless the Chapter shall pay all indebtedness from time of suspension, ten days before the annual convention.

Section 2. No Chapter shall be represented in the Convention of the United Daughters of the Confederacy if reported not in good standing by the division through which it was chartered.

Section 3. Each member, through her local Chapter, must pay the sum of 25 cents annually to the state treasury.

Article IV—Amendments.

These By-Laws may be amended and others annexed at any meeting by a two-thirds vote of those present.

Article V—Rules Governing Conventions.

“The Woman’s Manual of Parliamentary Law,” by Harriet B. Shattuck, shall be the authority on parliamentary rules at all State Conventions.