

SONS OF THE AMERICAN LEGION



Constitution and By-Laws

Squadron 6 Constitution

Constitution of 6 Squadron, attached to the Ernest A. Love Post 6, Department of Arizona

Preamble

Proud possessors of a priceless heritage, we male descendants of veterans of the Great Wars, associate ourselves together as "Sons of The American Legion" for the following purposes:

To uphold and defend the Constitution of the United States of America; to maintain law and order; to foster and perpetuate a true spirit of Americanism; to preserve the memories of our former members and associations of our members and our forefathers in the Great Wars; to inculcate a sense of individual obligation to the community, state and nation; to combat the autocracy of both the classes and the masses; to make right the master of might; to promote peace and goodwill on earth; to safeguard and transmit prosperity the principals of justice, freedom and democracy; to consecrate and sanctify our friendship by our devotion to mutual helpfulness; to adopt in letter and spirit all the great principals for which The American Legion stands; and to assist in carrying on for God and Country.

Article I – NAME

Section 1. The name of this organization shall be the Sons of The American Legion Squadron 6, attached to the Ernest A. Love Post No. 6, Department of Arizona.

Article II – Nature

Section 1. The Sons of The American Legion Squadron, attached to the Ernest A. Love Post No. 6, Department of Arizona, is a civilian organization. Membership therein does not affect nor increase liability for military or police service.

Section 2. The Squadron shall be absolutely non-political and shall not be used for the dissemination of partisan principals nor for the promotion of the candidacy of any person seeking public office or preferment.

Section 3. The Squadron shall be absolutely non-sectarian.

Section 4. Each member shall perform his full duty as a citizen according to his own conscience and understanding, in accord with the law.

Article III - ORGANIZATION

Section 1. This Squadron is organized as a subordinate body of the Sons of The American Legion, Detachment of the Ernest A. Love Post No. 6 and under the sponsorship of Post 6, Department of Arizona, and The American Legion.

Section 2. This Squadron shall be governed by such rules and regulations as may be prescribed by the National Executive Committee of The American Legion, by such rules and regulations as may be prescribed by the Detachment Headquarters, approved by the Department Executive Committee of The American Legion, and by such rules and regulations as may be prescribed by its sponsoring Post of The American Legion, not inconsistent with those prescribed by the National Organization.

Article IV – ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS

Section 1. All male descendants adopted sons, and stepsons of members of The American Legion, and such male descendants of veterans who died in service during the period of April 6, 1917, through November 11, 1918, or any time from December 7, 1941, to date, who served honorably, as set forth in Article IV, Section 1, of the National Constitution of The American Legion, or who died subsequent to their honorable discharge from such service, shall be eligible for membership in the Sons of The American Legion.

Section 2. There shall be no form or class of membership except an active membership.

Article V - OFFICERS

Section 1. The officers of this Squadron shall be Commander, Vice Commander, Adjutant, Finance Officer and Sergeant at Arms, all of whom shall be elected at the annual meeting of the Squadron. The Squadron Commander shall appoint a member in good standing as Chaplin, Historian, and Communications Officer as necessary.

Article VI – EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Section 1. Between Squadron meetings, the administrative power of the Squadron shall be vested in the Squadron Executive Committee, which shall consist of all elective officers for the current year, and in addition the two immediate Past Commanders.

Article VII – DUES

Section 1. The annual membership dues of this Squadron are as follows:

- a. Payable on December 31st of each year, for the following year
- b. Squadron Membership 30.00 per year
- c. Squadron Youth Membership up till 18 years of age \$10.00 per year
- d. Squadron Dual Membership with current Legion Membership \$25.00 per year

A member whose dues for the current year that has not been paid by January 1st shall be classed as delinquent. If his past and present dues are paid in full by February 1st, he shall be automatically reinstated. If he is still delinquent after February 1st, he shall be suspended from all privileges. If he is still under such suspension on June 30th of such year, his membership in The Sons of The American Legion shall be forfeited. A member so suspended or whose membership has been so forfeited may be reinstated to active membership in good standing by a vote of the Squadron and payment of current dues for the year in which reinstatement occurs.

Article VIII – AMENDMENTS

Section 1. This Constitution is adopted, subject to the provision of the National Constitution and the Detachment Constitution of which this Squadron is a subordinate member. Any amendment to the National or Detachment Constitutions which is in conflict with any provision hereof shall be regarded as automatically repealing or modifying the provisions of this Constitution, to the extent of such conflict.

Section 2. This Constitution may be amended at any regular Squadron meeting by vote of two-thirds of the members attending such regular meeting; provided, that the proposed amendment shall have been submitted in writing and read at the immediate preceding Squadron meeting, and provided further, that written notice shall have been given to all members at least five days in advance of the date which such amendment is to be voted upon, notifying said members at such meeting a proposal to amend the Constitution is to be voted upon.

NOTE: Only members in good standing will be privileged to participate in the business of a meeting, vote, or hold office.

SAL Squadron 6 By-Laws

As attached to the Ernest A. Love Post No. 6, Department of Arizona

Article I – MEMBERSHIP

Section 1. Applications for membership shall be made in writing on applications prescribed therefore by the National Organization.

Section 2. All applications for membership shall be acted upon the next meeting of the Executive Committee following the making of such application. The Executive Committee shall present such application to the Squadron at its next regular meeting with its recommendation for acceptance or rejection. Memberships will be voted on by the majority of the membership present.

Article II – NOMINATION AND ELECTION OF OFFICERS

Section 1. Annually, at the March meeting, nominations for Officers will be accepted from the floor for the office of; Squadron Commander, Vice Commander, Adjutant, and Finance Officer and Sergeant of Arms.

Section 2. Nomination of Officers: Nominations for Executive Board Officers will take place at the April Business Meeting with those names posted to ballots for election at the Post 6 Meeting held in May. Names nominated at the April meeting will be posted in the newsletter, website, and social media prior to elections at the May meeting. Any member may nominate a candidate for an office provided he has the consent of the candidate. Membership shall be notified by newsletter of the upcoming election, at least four (4) weeks in advance of the voting date.

Section 3. Those officers shall be declared elected who have by secret ballot received a majority of the votes of the Squadron members in good standing present at the annual Post 6 meeting.

Section 4. The newly-elected officers and members of the Executive Committee shall take office the Sunday of the June State Convention, at which time they shall be installed.

Article III – DUTIES OF OFFICERS

VOTED POSITIONS BY MEMBERS

Section 1. *Squadron Commander:* The Squadron Commander, who corresponds to the President of an organization, shall be the executive head of this Squadron of the Sons of The American Legion, with full power to enforce the provisions of the local Constitution and By-Laws and the policies and mandates of the National and of the Department Committees of the Sons of The American Legion and of the Executive Committee of the Squadron. It is the duty of the Squadron Commander to preside at all meetings of the organization and its Executive Committee; appoint all committees not otherwise

provided for; and perform such other duties as may be required of his office. In his absence, the Vice Commander shall assume his role.

Section 2. Vice Commander: The Vice Commander, who corresponds to the Vice President of a Squadron, shall act as representative of the Commander on all matters referred to him and shall specifically be in charge of membership. He shall perform such other duties as are usually incident to the office. It shall be the duty of the Vice Commander, in the absence of the Squadron Commander, to perform the duties pertaining to that office. In the event that the Squadron Commander becomes vacant for any cause, the Vice Commander shall automatically assume the role of the Squadron Commander, until a new Commander is voted in.

Section 4. Adjutant: The Adjutant corresponds to the Secretary of an organization and shall be charged with the administrative duties required in carrying out the policies and mandates of the National and Department Committees of the Sons of The American Legion and of the Executive Committee of this Squadron. It shall be the duty of the Adjutant to keep a true and faithful account of the minutes of all meetings and keep a list of names and addresses of the members. He shall notify each member of an impending meeting and when and where the meeting is to be held. He shall prepare all communications authorized to be sent by the organization or by the Squadron Commander and shall submit an activity report to the members concerning the achievements and accomplishments of each regularly scheduled meeting.

Section 5. Finance Officer: The Finance Officer shall be the custodian of the funds of the Squadron. He shall be charged with receiving and disbursing the funds of the Squadron and shall make reports upon the condition of the Squadron treasury when called for by the Commander or the Executive Committee; provided, however, that all disbursement shall first be approved by the Post committee heretofore referred to in Section 4, Article 1, of the National By-Laws. He shall perform such other duties as are usually incident to the office.

Section 6. Sergeant-at-Arms: The Sergeant-at-Arms shall preserve order at all meetings and shall perform such other duties as may be from time to time assigned by the Squadron Commander. He should be familiar with Roberts Rules of Order as well as the Constitution and Bylaws of the organization.

Section 7. Special Circumstances: While not ideal and in rare instances, it may be necessary from time to time, to combine the two positions of Adjutant and Finance Officer. When this happens, see Article IV – Executive Committee.

Article III – DUTIES OF OFFICERS (Continued)

APPOINTED POSITIONS BY SQUADRON COMMANDER

Section 7. Chaplin: The Chaplin shall perform such divine and non-sectarian service as may be necessary; adhering to such ceremonial rituals as may be prescribed by the National Membership and Post Activities Committee of The American Legion.

Section 8. Historian: The Historian shall collect from year to year all records and data of value and interest to the Sons of The American Legion and The American Legion, and shall compile during his term of office a complete history of the year's activities.

Section 9. Communications Officer: The Communication Officer shall assist in the duties of collecting and disseminating information, be responsible for planning, installation, operation and maintenance of telecommunications, and computer media websites associated with the members of Sons of The American Legion Squadron 6.

Section 10. Purchasing Agent(s): A Purchasing Agent is anyone entrusted with the duties of making purchases with an issued bank debit card or other finances for Squadron business as described in Article IX – FINANCES, Sect 4. The Purchasing Agent shall report and record all purchases and transactions to the Squadron Finance Officer and be voted by a majority of the present membership at a business meeting.

Article IV – EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Section 1. A quorum of the Executive Committee shall consist of a minimum of 3 members to conduct legal transactions of business.

Section 2. In the event that the Adjutant and Finance officers are the same person, that person receives a single vote on any matter of business.

Section 3. The Squadron Executive Committee, in the event of a vacancy, shall follow the Ernest A. Love Post 6 Bylaws Article II Section 2 guidelines below for filling vacant elected positions that correspond to the National Rules of The American Legion.

"If the Post Commander resigns, is removed, is disabled for more than 90 days or dies, the Vice will serve the remaining term of the Post Commander or until such time as an election can be held.

Any elective office of the Post which has become vacant for any cause shall be filled by a secret ballot majority vote of the General Membership at a regular Membership meeting and the person so elected shall hold office for the unexpired term of the office which he/she succeeds. Nomination and election for the vacant office shall be made at a regular meeting provided that the Post membership has been notified in accordance with Article X, Section 2 herein, at least fifteen days prior to such election. In the event that a candidate runs unopposed, a secret ballot election may be foregone and a candidate can be confirmed by the majority vote of the General Membership."

Article V – POST 6 EXECUTIVE BOARD ADVISOR

Section 1. The jurisdiction of American Legion Post No. 6, Department of Arizona, The American Legion, over this Squadron shall be exercised through ONE assigned member of the American Legion as ADVISOR of said Post appointed annually by the Squadron Commander. This is stated in the Ernest A. Love Post 6 bylaws in Article 4, Section 7 as follows:

“One non-voting member from each chapter of Post 6 shall be encouraged to attend Executive Board meetings and to participate in discussions bringing the specific needs and elements of their chapter into consideration.

Article VI – STANDING COMMITTEES

Section 1. Upon nomination of the Squadron Commander, the Executive Committee shall annually appoint such standing committees as it shall deem advisable for the benefit of the membership of the Squadron as a whole.

Article VII – MEETINGS

Section 1. The regular stated meeting of this Squadron shall be held on the third Thursday of every month.

Section 2. Special meetings shall be called upon a majority vote of the Executive Committee or upon written request of 5 Squadron members.

Section 3. Every member shall furnish to the Membership Chairmen or the Communications Officer their current mailing address or an electronic address (E-mail), to which all notices and documents may be sent, and the same shall be held to have been duly sent to or served upon a member if mailed to such address so furnished.

Section 4. Notice of all special “and/or” emergency meetings of the Squadron shall be communicated to each Squadron member 48 hours previous to the holding of such meeting and at least prior month’s newsletter in advance of the holding of the annual meeting.

Section 5. The notice of all special “and/or” emergency meetings shall state the object and purpose thereof, and no business shall be transacted at such meeting except for such business as is contained in the notice thereof.

Section 6. The Executive Committee shall meet for organization and such business as may come before it within ten days after the annual election on the call of the Commander. The Commander shall call a meeting of the Executive Committee upon the request of five members of the committee.

Section 7. The order of the meeting shall follow the National SAL Handbook guidelines.

Section 8.

Authority: The rules contained in "Robert's Rules of Order Revised" shall govern the organization in all cases to which they are applicable and in which they are not consistent with the By-Laws or the special rules of the order of this organization.

Article VIII – QUORUM

Section 1. Five members, besides a qualifying presiding officer, shall constitute a quorum at any meeting of the Squadron.

Section 2. Three members of the Executive Committee shall constitute a quorum for legal transaction of business.

Article IX – FINANCES

Section 1. All funds of this Squadron shall be deposited in the designated Squadron bank by the Finance Officer.

Section 2. Executive Officers authorized signers on Squadron account are:

- a. Squadron Commander
- b. Squadron Finance Officer
- c. Post Finance Officer and/or Post Commander

Section 3. Withdrawals shall be made upon draft or check signed by an authorized signer as described in Article IX, Section 2. A vote of officers is required for any purchases over \$150.00.

Section 4. Purchasing Agent(s) – Appointed by the Squadron Commander and can be any approved SAL member to a maximum of 2, is authorized to make purchases on behalf of Squadron 6 for squadron business either by an SAL debit card, or, by using their own funds to be reimbursed with receipts used for such business. The authorized agent shall be responsible for the safety and security of any and all receipts or the debit card used. A maximum limit of \$800.00 shall be applied. Any amount over \$150.00 will require a formal officer vote to approve such purchase(s). The Purchasing Agent shall report and record all purchases and transactions to the Squadron Finance Officer.

Section 5. Emergency Funding - The Squadron Executive Board reserves the right to approve withdrawals of funds or purchases over \$150.00 but limited to \$800.00 if such situation is of timely importance and urgency. Such action shall require a vote by the Squadron Executive Board as described in Article VIII – QUORUM Section 2. Documentation of such action shall be entered into squadron minutes for dissemination to Squadron Membership. Situations that apply to this section will be a case by case basis and are, but not limited to;

1. Emergency request for financial support – A one-time only transaction limit per requester
2. Last minute sponsorship donations when time is of urgency and importance
3. Urgent financial request involving American Legion Post 6 and entities

Article X – AMENDMENTS

Section 1. These By-Laws are adopted, subject to the provisions of the National By-Laws and the Detachment By-Laws of which the Squadron is a subordinate member. Any amendment to the National

or Detachment By-Laws which is in conflict with any provision hereof shall be regarded as automatically repealing or modifying the provisions of these By-Laws to the extent of the conflict.

Section 2. These By-Laws may be amended at any regular Squadron meeting by vote of two-thirds of the members attending such regular meeting, provided that the proposed amendment shall have been submitted in writing and read at the immediate preceding Squadron meeting, and provided further, that written notice shall have been given to all members at least five days in advance of the date when such amendment is to be voted upon, notifying said members that at such meeting a proposal to amend the By-Laws is to be voted upon.

Article XI – DISCIPLINARY ACTIONS

Section 1. All members of Sons of The American Legion, Squadron 6 are subject to the rules and regulations of Ernest A. Love Post 6, The American Legion. Any Squadron member found in violation of said rules and regulations shall be subject to the following disciplinary actions;

1. Squadron Executive Board will meet within five (5) days of the supposed infraction. After reviewing all evidence, i.e. electronic surveillance video, witness affidavits, admissions, such gathered information shall be presented to the POST House Committee for review.
2. If said Squadron member is found to be in violation collectively by the POST House Committee and Squadron Executive Board, the following discipline shall be recommended;
 - a. 1st Violation – 45 Day Suspension, 6 month probation and restitution for damages
 - b. 2nd Violation – 90 days suspension, one (1) year probation, restitution for damages
 - c. 3rd Violation – Restitution for damages and permanent revocation of membership and privileges at American Legion POST 6.
3. The POST House Committee reserves the right to overrule Squadron recommendations as they deem necessary for the good of the order.

Accepted and approved Amended By-Laws on April 21, 2022 pending a vote by SAL Squadron 6 membership.

Squadron 6 Adjutant: _____ Date: _____

Squadron 6 Commander: _____ Date: _____

Post 6 Commander: Emily Blaine _____ Date: _____