

ESSENTIAL CIVIL WAR CURRICULUM

Appendix 2

Constitution of the United Confederate Veterans

The Committee on Constitution and Organization, made a report submitting each article, which was read, and discussed, article by article, but was adopted as a whole on June 10, 1889 in New Orleans Louisiana.

Article 1. The objects and purposes of this organization will be strictly social, literary, historical and benevolent. It will endeavor to unite in a general federation all Associations of Confederate Veterans, Soldiers and Sailors, now in existence or hereafter to be formed; to gather authentic data for an impartial history of the war between the States; to preserve relics or mementos of the same; to cherish the ties of friendship that should exist among men who have shared common dangers, common sufferings and privations; to care for the disabled, and extend a helping hand to the needy; to protect the widows and the orphans, and to make and preserve a record of the services of every member, and as far as possible of those of our comrades who have preceded us in eternity.

Art. 2. The officers of the National or General Headquarters will be as follows: A General, a Lieutenant-General an Adjutant-General, a Quartermaster-General, a Commissary-General, a Judge Advocate-General, a Surgeon-General, a Chaplain, and such aides as the General-Commanding may appoint.

Each State having five or more camps, bivouacs or associations, and every five or more camps, bivouacs or associations in contiguous States shall constitute a division, which will be officer ed under a Major-General and a staff similar to that of the General.

The various associations shall be permitted to continue it will be registered and retain their name and organization, but they will be registered in numerical order, according to the date of their formation or incorporation into the United Confederate Veterans, as Camps of Bivouacs No. ___ of the Division of the State or States of _____

The association, camps or bivouacs may, at their option, adopt the following nomenclature for their officers, viz:

Commander; first, second and third (or more) Lieutenant Commanders, Adjutant, Quartermaster, Surgeon, Chaplain and Officer of the Day, Assistant Surgeon, Treasurer, Sergeant-Major, Vidette, a color-Sergeant and two color Guards; and define their duties.

Art. 3. The representation of the various organizations at the annual convention of delegates will be as follows: One delegate for every fifty members in good standing, and one additional for a fraction of twenty or more members; provided, that organizations

having not less than twenty members in good standing on their rolls shall be entitled to one delegate.

The delegates will elect, to serve for one year, the General, Lieutenant-General and the Major-Generals, in their respective divisions. They will also select the time and place of the next annual convention, at which general reunions may also be invited.

By a two-thirds vote they may also change or alter such articles of the Constitution as they may see proper to amend.

Art. 4. The delegates will adopt a general seal and badge for the United Confederate Veterans. The Adjutant-General will furnish, upon proper requisition of the camps, Bivouacs or associations, blank traveling cards, bearing the seal of the Association of United Confederate Veterans, for the use of comrades in good standing, the same to be countersigned by the officer authorized to do so.

Art. 5. Certificates of membership in the Association of United Confederate Veterans will be issued to organizations applying for admission by the General when their Constitution, By-Laws and roll of members has been examined and found to conform with the requirements of this Constitution. A fee of \$5 shall accompany such applications, which fee shall be placed in the general treasury of the Association. Each camp, bivouac or organization, to whom a certificate is issued, and belonging to this General Association, shall annually, on the ____ day of _____, file with the Adjutant-General a true and Correct Roll of its Members in good standing on that date and shall, at the same time pay into the general treasury the sum of twenty-five cents per capital for each, member shown on such roll, and no camp, bivouac, association or, organization, shall be permitted representation in a general convention of the United Confederate Veterans until the said camp, bivouac association or organization, shall have paid said annual tax and all other amounts due by such a camp, bivouac, association or organization.⁷

Art. 6. The Generals and Major-Generals shall be empowered to appoint their respective staffs, and the first General elected under this Constitution is also empowered to appoint the first Lieutenant-General, who will exercise the functions of General in case of a temporary or permanent vacancy in that office.

Art. 7. All papers and documents pertaining to General Headquarters shall be forwarded through the Division Headquarters for verification and endorsement, where division organization has been formed.

Art. 8. Every camp, bivouac or association, will be expected to require of each applicant for membership satisfactory proof of honorable service and discharge in the Confederate Army or Navy.

Art. 9. Every comrade in good standing will be privileged to attend the meetings of any organization belonging to the United Confederate Veterans and receive that fraternal consideration that they design to foster.

Art. 10. It shall be the duty of the Division Commanders and their staffs to aid and urge the formation of new camps, bivouacs, and organizations wherever they can be

advantageously formed within their jurisdiction.

Art. 11. The first General elected under this Constitution is hereby empowered to issue such orders for the good of the organizations as circumstances may, in his judgment, suggest, covering cases not provided for by this Constitution.

Art. 12. Beyond the requirements of this Constitution, the various organizations shall have full enjoyment of the right to govern themselves.

Art. 13. Until the divisions can be formed, as provided for in this Constitution, the various organizations will report directly to General Headquarters.

Art. 14. The discussion of political or religious subjects, nor any political action shall be permitted within the organizations of the United Confederate Veterans, and any camp, bivouac or association that will have acted in violation of this article, shall be declared to have forfeited its membership in this association.
