

BYLAWS of the 5th MISSOURI INFANTRY

Article I – Title

The name of the organization shall be the Fifth Missouri Infantry – CSA. It shall consist of such companies as may be established by the membership under the provisions of these By-laws

Article II – Purpose

The Fifth Missouri Infantry – CSA is a non-profit historical organization (living history), organized under the provisions of USC 501C(3). Its objective is to promote a better understanding of the critical era of American history variously known as the War for Southern Independence, the War Between the States or the Civil War. Specifically, the unit will concentrate on depicting the pro-Southern Missourian in the pre-war area and during the war both as regularly enrolled Confederate infantrymen and as a Missouri *partisan* fighter. This objective will be accomplished by:

- A. Improving members' knowledge and understanding by discussion, readings, and viewing audiovisual presentations, *all of which may include use of electronic communications*.
- B. Presenting accurate and authentic “Living History” demonstrations at encampments, skirmishes, battle re-enactments and other appropriate events in Missouri and other states.
- C. Giving historical presentations to schools, universities, civic groups, and other public forums.
- D. Honoring the valor and sacrifice of the Confederate soldier by participating in dedications, memorial services, etc.
- E. Promoting study of the era by providing research grants or fellowships at Missouri academic institutions.

Article III – Membership

Membership in the Fifth Missouri Infantry – CSA (hereinafter called the Regiment) is open to any individual who subscribes to the principles of the Regiment and pays such dues as may be established by the membership. Each individual member will be part of a group of people who portray a unit (hereinafter called a Company) of the Regiment and which meets the safety and authenticity standards of the Regiment. *The Regiment will operate as a single Company (Company A) unless the combatant membership exceeds 40.*

All individual members must meet one of the following criteria:

- A. Combatant membership is open to males, age 12 and above, who are members of the Missouri Civil War Reenactors Association (MCWRA) or who have otherwise obtained Reenactors Insurance, and who meet the criteria below as Veterans, Veteran Reserves, Recruits or Cadets. In addition to these criteria, anyone age 17 or younger must submit a parental release form for minors before participating in any event and must be accompanied by a legal guardian or provide a consent to treat power of attorney.
 1. Veteran: A veteran is authorized to carry and discharge firearms at events under the general supervision of the staff. Veterans must be age 16 or older, equipped to meet the minimum standards of the unit as determined by the Regimental staff, have attended at least three events (*involving a minimum of four total combat actions*), have demonstrated proficiency in drill and safe use of weapons, have served a probationary period of 120 days, and be approved by a majority of the veterans voting in a meeting of the Company to which the individual belongs. Only current Veterans may vote in elections for Field Staff.
 2. Veteran Reserve: *Veterans who have not participated in at least four combat actions (which can be at one or*

more events) in the past two years will be assigned to the Veteran Reserve. A Veteran Reserve will be automatically reinstated to Veteran status upon participating in the required number of actions, or by unanimous consent of the veterans at any meeting.

3. Recruit: A recruit is a probationary soldier who may carry and discharge firearms only under the direct supervision of a Veteran. He must be age 16 or older and shall not be permitted to discharge firearms in ranks until proficient. Recruits may vote for Organizational Directors only.

4. Cadet: A Cadet is a member age 15 or under who renders an authentic portrayal on the battlefield, such a *musician*, and who meets any minimum standards for his specialty. Cadets must be sponsored at each event by a Veteran. Cadets may not vote at any election.

C. Non-Combatant: Non-combatants are members such as family members of Combatants or others who wish to participate in events without taking the field. Non-combatants who participate in events must adhere to safety and authenticity requirements of the event and the unit. Non-combatants may vote for Organizational Directors only.

D. Associate: An Associate Member is a reenactor affiliated with another unit or a non-reenactor; in either case desiring to support the unit and receive its publications. Associate members may not vote, nor may they participate in the field unless they meet all requirements of the event sponsors, including Reenactor Insurance where applicable. Dues will be as established by the membership.

Article IV – Elections and Voting

Organizational Directors and Field Officers shall be elected in January of each year. Elections will be conducted by secret ballot; the Directors may establish a system of voting electronically or by mail. Eligibility for voting is defined in Article III.

A. Organizational Directors are elected by the total Combatant and Non-combatant membership.

B. Field Staff: Each Company in the Regiment selects its own officers; should more than one company exist, the Regimental Commander will be elected by a majority vote of the entire Veteran membership.

Article V. Officers

There shall be two sets of officers, the Organizational Directors and the Field Staff. Individuals may serve in both capacities.

A. Organizational Directors: The Organizational Directors shall consist of the President, *Vice-President, Secretary and Treasurer, plus a director from any additional company that may be established.* The President and Vice President shall serve a two year term, expiring at the end of even numbered years. The Secretary and Treasurer shall serve a two year term expiring at the end of odd numbered years. The Secretary & Treasurer positions may be combined with the approval of the membership. Directors will serve without pay, but may be reimbursed the necessary and reasonable expenses incurred in performing their duties.

1. The President shall preside over all meetings of the Directors & of the general membership. He shall execute all contracts, with the approval of the Board of Directors.

2. *The Vice-President shall act in the absence of the President.*

3. The Secretary shall maintain minutes of all Director and Membership meetings, making them available to the general membership. He will maintain files of correspondence and the original copies of the Articles of Incorporation. *He will ensure that the corporate report to the Secretary of State's office is accomplished in a*

timely manner. He shall prepare an agenda for each meeting.

4. The Treasurer shall maintain all financial records of the Regiment, including any tax exemption determination. He shall sign all checks for Regimental expenses *and have custody of the Regimental Debit Card.* He shall ensure that the annual IRS filing is accomplished.

B. Field Staff: The Field Staff shall consist of a commander, holding the rank of Captain, and such junior officers and non-commissioned officers as Regimental numbers may justify. The Commander has overall responsibility for the conduct of the Regiment at events. In his absence, he shall appoint the highest ranking attendee as acting commander for that event. All officers and NCOs shall be elected by secret ballot vote of recognized veterans for a term of one year, during the month of January.

Article VI – Meetings

An Annual Meeting shall be held in January or as close thereto as is practicable. Additional meetings may be scheduled as needed.

A. A quorum at any meeting shall consist of at least 30% of the members authorized to vote at that meeting. At least 21 days electronic notice shall be provided for any meeting of the general membership.

B. Directors may meet electronically at any time, or at any event designated as Maximum Effort by the Regiment.

Article VII – Safety

Safety is the paramount consideration at any event or drill. The Regiment shall maintain a safety guide which will include safety standards of the MCWRA as a reference, and ensure that all members sign a form indicating their consent and familiarity at least annually.

Article VIII – Authenticity

In order to ensure authentic impressions at all events, the minimum required equipment for men shall include at least a period shoulder weapon, and trowsers, shoes and a shirt made from period patterns and made of authentic materials. In addition, members must comply with the rules established by event sponsors. The President may appoint members to an Authenticity Committee.

Article IX – Finance and Equipment

A. Financial revenue of the unit shall consist of dues, contributions, and funds raised by other means. Organizational Directors shall approve a budget for income and expenses.

B. Title to all Equipment obtained by the Regiment remains with the Regiment. Members will sign for any equipment and be responsible for loss of or damage to equipment in their possession.

C. Regimental Dues shall be established by the Board of Directors, payable on or before the annual meeting. Individuals who desire membership in the MCWRA may pay those dues through the regiment at the same time. Special family membership dues may be established. Dues may be adjusted as required by a majority vote of the Board of Directors.

Article X – Amendments

These By-laws may be amended by a majority vote of those voting at a meeting of the general membership, voting by secret ballot either in person or electronically, provided that the intent to amend the By-laws and the

substance of the desired amendment is announced *through electronic means at least 30 days prior* to voting.

Article XI – Dissolution

Should the Unit be dissolved, its assets will be distributed as required under Article 7 of the Articles of incorporation, with preference given to Living History or Historical Preservation organizations. Organizational equipment may be sold and the proceeds distributed as described above.