



AMVETS

DEPARTMENT OF OHIO 20TH DISTRICT

SERVING COUNTIES OF:

ASHTABULA, CUYAHOGA, GEAUGA, LAKE, MEDINA, PORTAGE AND SUMMIT

REVISED CONSTITUTION AND BY-LAWS 2022

Preamble

We the American Veterans of World War II, Korea and Vietnam, fully realizing our responsibility to our Community, to our State and to our Nation, associate ourselves for the following purposes: to uphold and defend the Constitution of the United States; to safeguard the principles of Freedom, Liberty and Justice for all; to promote the cause of peace and goodwill among nations; to maintain inviolate the Freedom of our Country; to preserve the Fundamentals of Democracy; to perpetuate the Friendship and associations of the 2nd World War, the Korean, and Vietnam Wars; and to dedicate ourselves to the cause of mutual assistance, this by the grace of God.

ARTICLE 1- NAME

The name of this organization shall be the AMVETS DEPARTMENT OF OHIO 20th DISTRICT

ARTICLE 11- PURPOSE OF ORGANIZATION

The purpose of this organization shall be to further the AMVETS and American Veterans programs in accordance with the Principles and Aims of the National and State Departments, Preamble, Constitution and By-Laws, to serve our Country in peace as in war, and to build and maintain the welfare of the United States of America toward lasting prosperity and peace for all its inhabitants.

ARTICLE 111- MEMBERSHIP OF THE 20TH DISTRICT

Section 1 — The official voting membership of the AMVETS DEPARTMENT OF OHIO 20th DISTRICT shall consist of: Post Commanders or their duly designated representative in the Commander's absence, and there shall be (one registered Post Delegate) for each fifty (50) Post Members or fraction thereof, and shall not exceed five (5) Delegates from each post in the District

Section 2 — This shall be in accordance with the Membership records at the time, of the Department of Ohio AMVETS Executive Director, keeper of the membership records, and shall be so certified in writing from that office.

Section 3 — This Article and Section shall apply to the Awards Committee and all other Committees of the District elected or appointed.

Section 4 — All nominated or elected officers, Delegates, Chairmen or Committeemen shall be members in good standing at the time of nominations or appointments with their District Post, and shall be registered with the Department of Ohio AMVETS Executive Director, of Membership Records and shall be on record with the 20th District Adjutant and First Vice Commander

Section 5 — All elected District Officers shall have at least held an elected office in their home Post of the District for one year.

Section 6 — ALL NATIONAL OR STATE PAST COMMANDERS from the AMVETS DEPARTMENT OF OHIO 20th DISTRICT shall automatically be a Delegate with one (1) vote only.

Section 7 — All Officers and Delegates must abide to the National and State Department Constitution and By-Laws — entire contents and especially Article IV.

ARTICLE IV - 20th EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Section 1 — The executive officers shall be composed of all the 20th District Elected Officers and the immediate Past District Commander.

ARTICLE V - OFFICERS, NOMINATIONS AND ELECTIONS OF THE DISTRICT

Section 1 — The elected officers shall be - District Commander, 1st Vice Commander, 2nd Vice Commander, Adjutant, Finance Officer, Provost Marshal, and Judge Advocate,

Section 2 — There shall be no more than two (2) member delegates elected to any District Office — from any one District Home Post — at any time during the year.

Section 3 — A member delegate may hold only one (1) elected office in the District.

Section 4 — The District Commander Office — all interested candidates should declare their intentions at the April regular meeting date of the District so that the other District Offices may be fulfilled by nominations at the meeting.

Section 5 — Nominations of district offices — shall be called at the regular meeting in April — all candidates should declare their intentions before nominations.

Section 6 — Nominations and elections of district offices — shall be called at the regular meeting in May — all candidates intentions declared before the meeting and shall be in attendance to personally, accept the office and obligations.

Section 7 — Candidate — may be excused only from attendance to a June meeting of Nominations and Elections — personally accepting the office and obligations — due to their illness or serious sudden family emergency – but must be reported at the meeting.

Section 8 — Each office from 1st Vice Commander to Judge Advocate, shall be by secret ballot — one by one — The District Commandeer shall appoint two (2) delegates who are not candidates for office to be the Tellers and shall report their findings to the District Adjutant and announce the winners of each office to the member delegates in attendance at the meeting and recorded by the Adjutant.

Section 9 – A declared candidate for office of District Commander shall have on their person for identification to State Department officials at the time of nomination and election – at the State Department Convention in June – To conform with Article XIV Section 8.

ARTICLE VI APPOINTMENTS OF DISTRICT OFFICES

Section 1 – Appointments by District Commander:

A – Chaplain

B – Legislative, Resolution. Constitution and Bylaws Committee four (4) delegates.

C – Awards Committee and Chairman four (4) delegates.

D – Drawings and Program Committee and Chairman four (4) delegates

E – Ways and Means Committee and Chairman four (4) delegates

F – Annual Audit of Finance Committee four (4) delegates

G – V.A.V.S. Representative

H – Public Relations Officer

I – Service Officer

ARTICLE VII – DUTIES OF DISTRICT ELECTED OFFICERS

Section 1 – District Commander shall conduct all meetings, shall be ex-officio of all committees and responsibility, shall vote only in case of tie, shall rule in accordance with National, State and District bylaws, shall see that subordinate officers fulfill their assigned duties, notify next in line of officer if necessary to be absent,

Section 2 – 1st Vice Commander: - Membership Chairman – shall report on the membership of the District totals progress and of each post totals in the District as reported by the State Department Executive Director from time to time – make plans to increase membership in the District Posts through programs issued from the State Department Membership Vice Commander and work on some suggestive ideas for the District and State Department – shall carry other assigned duties as may be assigned by the District Commander, and duties that are usually incident to the office..

Section 3 – 2nd Vice Commander; - Way and Means Chairman – shall be in charge of raising funds through various programs for the District, such as annual drawings, needs of the VA Hospital and Clinic – Cleveland and Lake County – driver program and planned outings and other assigned duties by the District Commander, and duties that are usually incident to the office.

Section 4 – Adjutant – shall take minutes of all district meetings, shall read the minutes of previous meeting(s) to the delegates for approval, and shall keep records of all meetings on file and correspondence – shall send meeting notices to all delegates on record for the year – shall

keep a schedule of meeting dates and places of meeting and times of meeting throughout the year.

Shall do other duties as assigned by the District Commander and conforms with the National, State and District Constitution and Bylaws. Shall contact the post a minimum of two weeks before the District meeting that their venue is available to hold the meeting as scheduled. Will make sure the hall is set-up properly.

Section 5 - Finance Officer; shall keep records of all District, receipts, disbursements, deposits and withdrawals from the bank checking account, savings account and other accounts that may be established — shall at each regular meeting give a report of all monies received to date, report all reimbursements and date, give balance and date and state balance of all established District funds — shall also state all District obligations, make withdrawals when necessary, pay all bills with statements (that have been approved) at regular meeting. All bills or payments are to be paid by District check with authorized signature of the finance officer, commander, or designated officer listed on the bank statements for the year (must have two (2) signatures to be valid). Must keep on file all bank statements, bankbooks, bank checkbooks- Shall make out written financial reports to the Adjutant and make out the Fiscal Annual Financial Report statement at the end of each fiscal year and ready for auditing by the first meeting that the new officers take office — perform such other duties assigned by District Commander that are incident to the office and conform with the National, State and District constitution and Bylaws and comply with State and National Tax laws. File 990 tax paperwork as required by law,

Section 6 — Provost Marshall; - shall be in charge of the District colors, and at instructions from the District Commander maintain order at all District meetings — shall be in charge of the Hat Fund and Monthly 50/50 drawing and shall collect the monies and pay the winners and deposit all monies and records with the District Finance Officer at the end of the meeting; shall announce the winner and amount collected at each meeting to the district membership — shall perform other assigned duties by District Commander and conform with the National, State and District Constitution and By-Laws.

Section 7 — Chaplain — shall perform such divine and nonsectarian services as may be necessary, adhering to the appropriate ceremonial rituals, Invocation and Benediction prayers at meetings and to conform with other assigned duties by the District Commander and the National, State and District Bylaws.

Section 8 — Judge Advocate — Chairman Legislative Committee — shall advise the District officers and committees on all legal matters and interpretation of the National, State and District Constitution and Bylaws and the parliamentary procedures of Roberts Rules of Order newly revised at all meetings — shall perform all other duties that may be assigned by the District Commander — shall consult with the Legislative Committee on problems that cannot be solved immediately — shall perform assigned duties by the District Commander conforming with the National, State and District Constitution and By-Laws

Section 9 — Public Relations Officer — shall keep the public informed of the activities of the District through the local media, the National and State Departments news and the National and

State Departments Executive Directors — shall perform assigned duties by the District Commander conforming with the National, State and District Constitution and By-Laws

ARTICLE VII — MEETINGS AND MEETING QUORUM AND REGULATIONS

Section 1 — Regular Called meetings shall be on the second (2nd) Tuesday of every month— called at 7:30 PM at scheduled District Post with meeting notices sent out by the District Adjutant.

Section 2 — Meeting quorum — shall consist of at least or minimum of five (5) member delegates of five (5) different member posts of the District Council AMVETS and two (2) elected district officers of whom one shall serve as presiding officer and shall vote only in the case of a tie vote. The other officer (in case of Adjutant absence) may serve as acting Adjutant or (absence of District Commander). There shall be no amendments to the Constitution and Bylaws at this type of meeting.

Section 3 — Regular scheduled meetings with mailed notices — shall be considered as full business meeting but shall conform with Section 2 — quorum.

Section 4 — Special meetings may be approved by the Executive Committee or by the delegate membership at a regular scheduled meeting applies caucus also but must state the purpose and urgency of the meeting, and only that stated business may be acted on. Caucuses are for Conferences or Conventions only.

Section 5 — All businesses of the district such as: finance, nominations, elections, replacing an officer elected or appointed, drawings, permission to solicit in the district for funds or otherwise by an individual or group must be conducted at a regularly scheduled meeting and approved by the membership delegate.

Section 6 — The above rule and regulations does not apply to the District Commander calling for executive, legislative, or other committee meetings.

Section 7 — Vacation periods: no meetings scheduled for August, a transition period of district officers and annual statements (fiscal) of all offices. so, the month of August may be declared vacation period.

Section 8 — The newly elected officers of the district that have been installed officially previously shall take office at the regular scheduled meeting in August (unless declared vacation period) or September meeting, all past officers shall forward all records and statements and property to the newly elected officers and ready for auditing and shall be selected from different posts of the district.

Section 9 — The new elected District commander shall make all the necessary District Office appointments as in Article XIV. At his first conducted meeting, they shall be selected from different posts of the district.

Section 10 — All elected or appointed District Officers may be removed from office after missing four (4) regular scheduled meetings without just cause for neglect of duty, disloyalty, dishonesty or conduct unbecoming a member of AMVETS. Procedures shall be followed by the District as in Article XIV of the State Department Constitution and Bylaws.

ARTICLE IX – DISTRICT DUES AND BONDING

Section 1 – Each Post within the 20th District shall remit annually to the District dues according to their annual membership as of August 31st (Effective August 31, 2022)

- A. 010-100 Members \$30.00
- B. 101-150 Members \$50.00
- C. 151-200 Members \$60.00
- D. 201-250 Members \$70.00
- E. 251-300 Members \$80.00
- F. 301-350 Members \$90.00
- G. 351-UP Members \$100.00

Section 2 – District dues shall be delinquent after January 2nd Posts that are delinquent with District Dues shall not seat delegates at the Department of Ohio convention per the AMVETS Department of Ohio Constitution and Bylaws. Nor will they have voting privileges at the 20th District meetings.

Section 3 – The District Finance Officer shall be bonded for no less than \$5000.00

ARTICLE X - AMENDMENTS TO THE DISTRICT CONSTITUTION AND BY-LAWS

Section 1 — The District Constitution and By-Laws may be revised and amended by request of the District; post delegate member on behalf of his post or by an individual delegate member or the executive or legislative committee that may be approved for study by the delegate members at any regular scheduled meeting, and must be in writing and presented to the District

Commander who shall, in turn, present the amendments or revisions Statement to the legislative committee for study and their recommendations. The committee shall present the resolution for amendment as submitted and their recommendations to the delegate membership for two (2) consecutive readings at regular scheduled meetings on the third (3rd) reading consecutive regular scheduled meeting to be voted upon by the delegate membership for approval or disapproval or further amendments — the District Constitution and By-Laws must conform with the National and State Departments Constitution and y-Laws.

ARTICLE XI- LEGISLATIVE - CONSTITUTION AND RESOLUTION COMMITTEE

Section 1 — The above committee shall be the same in the 20th District AMVETS and should (if approved by delegate membership) be composed of the past 20th District Commanders when possible; four (4) delegates with Judge Advocate the Chairman of different post.

ARTICLE XII - INSTALLATION OF DISTRICT OFFICERS

Section 1 — All elected District Officers must be installed officially before taking office and its duties at a regular scheduled or approved special meeting that conform with the District Constitution and Bylaws.

ARTICLE XIII- FLOWER FUND FOR DECEASED

Section 1 — the District Commander or the District Chaplain must be informed of any deceased 20th District AMVETS, Officer in office, at the present time or any past District Commander.

Section 2 — Officers and Delegates shall be sent sympathy cards to the family and pay respects at funeral home by all the Officers and Delegates in either case if possible; get well cards should be sent to officers and delegates who are seriously ill or operated on in the hospital.

ARTICLE XIV – 20TH DISTRICT COMMANDER

Section 1 – The District Commander shall visit all posts in the District at least once during the annual term of office and install post officers on request (if possible). If not possible assign a Past Post or District Commander.

Approved November 10, 2021, by 20th District Delegates

Robert Horvath

Robert Horvath 20th District Commander.

Jan Hampstead 20th District Adjutant