



**CAMP CONSTITUTION AND BY-LAWS OF
EDMUND RUFFIN FIRE EATERS
CAMP # 3000
SONS OF CONFEDERATE VETERANS**

ARTICLE I. Name.

The name of this organization shall be the Edmund Ruffin Fire Eaters Camp # 3000.

ARTICLE II. Object.

To associate in one united, compact body of men of Confederate ancestry, and cultivate, perpetuate, and sanctify the ties of fraternity and friendship entailed thereby; to aid and encourage the history and achievement from Jamestown to this present era, constantly endeavoring to see that events pertaining to the War of the Federal Invasion and the heroic contributions of all those who served honorably, in whatever capacity, to defend the Confederacy and its right to secede from the union as extolled by the Framers in the Declaration of Independence are authentically and clearly written, and that all documents, relics, and mementos produced and handed down by those active participants therein are properly treasured and preserved for posterity; to aid and assist in the erection of suitable and enduring monuments and memorials to all Southern valor, civil and military, wherever done and where found; to instill into our descendants a devotion to and reverence for the principles represented by the Confederate States of America, to the honor, glory, and memory of our forefathers who fought in that Cause by living to the charge as articulated by Lt. General Stephen D. Lee in New Orleans, Louisiana, April 25, 1906:

“To you, Sons of Confederate Veterans, we will commit the vindication of the cause for which we fought. To your strength will be given the defense of the Confederate soldier’s good name, the guardianship of his history, the emulation of his virtues, the perpetuation of those principles which he loved and which you love also, and those ideals which made him glorious and which you also cherish.”

ARTICLE III. Nature.

The Edmund Ruffin Fire-Eaters Camp #3000 shall be strictly historical and benevolent, non-political, and non-sectarian.

a. Said organization is organized exclusively for charitable, religious, education, and scientific purposes, including, for such purposes, the making of distributions to organizations that qualify under section 501 (c) (3) of the Internal Revenue Code, or corresponding section of any future federal tax code.

b. No part of the net earnings of the organization shall inure to the benefit of, or be distributable to its members, trustees, officers, or other private persons, except that the organization shall be authorized and empowered to pay reasonable compensation for services rendered and to make payments and distributions in furtherance of the purpose set forth in the purpose clause hereof. No substantial part of the activities of the organization shall be the carrying on of propaganda, or otherwise attempting to influence legislation, and the organization shall not participate in, or intervene in (including the publishing or distribution of statements) any political campaign on behalf of any candidate for public office. Notwithstanding any

other provision of this document, the organization shall not carry on any other activities not permitted to be carried on (a) by an organization exempt from federal income tax under section 501 (c) (3) of the Internal Revenue Code, or corresponding section of any future federal tax code, or (b) by an organization, contributions to which are deductible under section 170 (c) (2) of the Internal Revenue Code, or corresponding section of any future federal tax code.

c. In the event of dissolution of the Camp, the Camp's charter and any flags or emblems shall be turned over to the General Headquarters of the Sons of Confederate Veterans or a Camp designated by the Camp's Executive Committee. None of the property, nor any proceeds, shall be distributed to or divided among any of the officers or members or inure to the benefit of any individual. Instead, after all liabilities and obligations have been paid and discharged, the residual assets, including all moneys, real or personal property, investments, credits, endowments, financial records, and any other appurtenances, or things of pecuniary value, shall be turned over to the Division under which the Camp is organized or a Camp designated by the Camp's Executive Committee, if there is no Division, and the Camp's Executive Committee does not designate a Camp, the General Headquarters of the Sons of Confederate Veterans shall be the recipient. The dissolving camp may recommend the use of these funds.

ARTICLE IV. Membership.

Section 1. All male descendants, lineal, or collateral, at least twelve years of age, of those who served in the Confederate Army or Navy to the end of the war, or who died in prison or while in actual service, or who were killed in battle, or who were honorably discharged, shall be eligible for membership.

Section 2. No one shall be admitted to membership until satisfactory proof of the foregoing qualifications be submitted in duplicate on official blank applications prepared for that purpose, such applications bearing recommendation by a member in good standing of the Camp. The original shall be forwarded to the International Headquarters of the Sons of Confederate Veterans and the Camp shall preserve the duplicate.

Section 3. To ensure that applicants meet the national requirements for membership into the Sons of Confederate Veterans, All applications for membership in the Camp, received by the Adjutant, shall be reviewed by the Commander. The Commander may submit the applications to a confidential, three (3)-man membership committee appointed by him, to pass on the acceptability of the candidate for membership. Candidates refused membership may petition the Camp membership for admission, and if receiving favorable approval of two-thirds (2/3) of the membership present, will be granted full membership in the Camp.

Section 4. Annual dues and fees must be submitted with completed applications to the Camp Adjutant.

Section 5. Applications for membership in the Camp must be read at a regular meeting of

the Camp. Upon reading of the application, membership in the Camp will be extended only after receiving two-thirds (2/3) vote of acceptance by the membership present.

Section 6. Active membership in the Camp is membership in the International organization of the Sons of Confederate Veterans.

Section 7. Any member in good standing in the Camp, transferring from the Camp, shall be entitled to a certificate from the Camp Adjutant stating his membership and duration thereof.

ARTICLE V. Dues.

Section 1. The annual dues to the Camp shall be set annually by the Executive Committee, such amount subject to approval by the membership at the Annual Meeting.

Section 2. Members in arrears four (4) months in payment of dues shall be classified as delinquent, and six (6) months' arrearage shall automatically impose suspension. Payment of all back dues within the current year, a payment of a \$5.00 reinstatement fee together with all additional levies for that year, shall permit reinstatement to active membership. A member delinquent one year or more shall be only reinstated upon vote of the Camp and payment of all amounts due by him to the Camp.

ARTICLE VI. Meetings.

Section 1. Annual Meeting. The annual meeting of the Camp shall be in month of November each year on a date determined by the Executive Committee. If the annual meeting shall not be held at the time fixed it shall be held within a reasonable time thereafter, and the officers shall hold over until their successors have been elected.

Section 2. Regular Meetings. The regular meeting of the Camp for the transaction of ordinary business shall be held on a day of each month, at such time and place as may be fixed by the Executive Committee.

Section 3. A special meeting of the Camp may be held at any time upon call of the Commander. The Commander shall also call a special meeting upon demand in writing by not less than twenty (20) percent of the members entitled to vote. Notice of the time, place, and object of any special meeting shall be given all officers and members in good standing, in writing, by United States Mail not less than fifteen (15) days prior to the date fixed for the meeting. The Executive Committee shall establish the place of such meeting in advance.

Section 4. Inclement Weather. In the event of unforeseen severe weather in the county/city where the meeting is occurring, where localities have closed schools or government offices, a scheduled meeting can be canceled by order of the commander.

Section 5. Quorum. One-quarter (1/4) of members of the Camp entitled to vote shall constitute a quorum at any meeting.

Section 6. The rules of procedure at any meeting of the Camp shall be those set forth in Roberts Rules of Order, revised, except wherein they may be altered by the vote of the Camp.

ARTICLE VII. Officers.

Section 1. The officers of the Camp shall be the Commander, First Lieutenant Commander, Second Lieutenant Commander, Adjutant, Treasurer, Sergeant-At-Arms, Judge Advocate, Quartermaster, Surgeon, Chaplain, Color Sergeant, Historian. All officers, shall be elected by a majority vote, by written ballot of the members in good standing present at the annual meeting of the Camp. Officers that serve on the Executive Committee shall be eligible to hold office for a maximum of two, one year terms. Individuals shall become eligible for the same position one year after vacating the position. Officers elected to positions not on the Executive Committee shall hold office for one year, or until the election of a successor. Officers shall take office on the first day following their election.

Section 2. The Executive Committee shall be composed of the Commander, First Lieutenant Commander, Second Lieutenant Commander, and the Treasurer.

Section 3. Meetings of the Executive Committee shall be held at any time and place as the Commander may determine. At least three (3) members of the Executive Committee may call meetings at any time on demand and in writing to the Commander. Meetings of the Executive Committee shall be open to observation by all members in good standing.

Section 4. Three (3) members of the Executive Committee shall constitute a quorum.

Section 5. Resignation of any officer may be accepted by majority vote of the remaining members of the Executive Committee.

Section 6. The Executive Committee is authorized to act in all matters relating to Camp business, unless contrary to a majority vote of Camp members.

Section 7. When an office is vacated as a result of death, resignation, or removal, the Commander shall appoint a successor, upon recommendation of the Executive Committee, such successor to hold office until the next election during the annual meeting.

ARTICLE VIII. Duties of Officers.

Section 1. Commander. The Commander shall preside at all meetings of the Camp and the Executive Committee. He shall be a member ex officio of all regular and special committees, and shall perform all such other duties as usually pertain to his office.

Section 2. First Lieutenant Commander. The First Lieutenant Commander shall perform the duties of the Commander in his absence or at his request. He shall serve as program chairman, securing guest speakers and presentation for Camp functions.

Section 3. Second Lieutenant Commander. The Second Lieutenant Commander shall perform the duties of the Commander in the absence of the Commander and the First Lieutenant Commander. He shall be responsible for the enlistment of new members. He shall maintain an adequate supply of SCV brochures and applications to accomplish the recruitment of new members. He shall monitor membership as to dues payment and meeting attendance. He shall constantly strive for an active, growing membership. He shall prepare and distribute to the membership in good standing- a roster of members, their addresses and telephone numbers.

Section 4. Adjutant. The Adjutant shall conduct all official correspondence pertaining to the proper preparation and forwarding of all reports required of the Camp to International Headquarters, Division, and Brigades. He shall notify all members of special meetings. He shall keep a true record of all meetings of the Camp and have custody of the books and papers of the Camp, except the Treasurer's books of account. He shall be the keeper of the Camp seal. All applications for membership, initiation fees, and first year dues shall be made to the Adjutant. He shall be responsible for the ordering of all items necessary for operations of the Camp. He shall also maintain adequate stock of SCV membership pins, decals, and applications.

Section 5. Treasurer. The Treasurer shall have charge of all funds of the Camp and place the same in such bank or banks as may be approved by the Executive Committee. Such money shall only be withdrawn by check signed by the Treasurer and co-signed by either the Commander or First Lieutenant Commander. He shall keep an accurate account of his transactions and render a detailed report to the membership at any meeting when requested. He shall present a detailed report, in writing, of income and expenditures at the annual meeting. Expenses paid by the Treasurer shall have received approval by the Executive Committee. He shall be responsible for collection of dues and fees, taking proper note of the paying member, his address and other information necessary in the maintenance of Camp records and posting such information with the Adjutant.

Section 6. Sergeant-At-Arms. The Sergeant-At-Arms shall be responsible for maintaining order and decorum in the meeting place.

Section 7. Judge Advocate. The Judge Advocate shall advise the officers and Executive Committee of all legal matters, including the construction and interpretation of the SCV General Constitution and Camp By-Laws. He shall serve as parliamentarian at both regular and special meetings. Upon direction of the Commander, he shall conduct investigations into charges or challenges brought against Camp members. He shall perform such other duties as are usually incident to his office.

Section 8. Quartermaster. He shall be responsible for the operation of the Camp stores,

maintaining adequate stocks and other items necessary for efficient operation. He shall account to the Commander as to any expenditure.

Section 9 Surgeon. He shall be familiar with basic techniques of first aid and shall stand ready to administer basic medical assistance when called upon at meetings and functions of the Camp.

Section 10. Chaplain. The Chaplain provides spiritual guidance for the Camp. He shall represent the Camp in times of bereavement. He shall periodically report to the Commander on the well-being of members confined by illness. In event of a member's death, he shall immediately notify the membership and the Chaplain-in-Chief. He shall be responsible for the procurement of flowers, wreaths, or such other items incidental to the accomplishment of his duties. He shall appoint assistants to aid in the performance of his duties.

Section 11. Color Sergeant. The Color Sergeant shall maintain and safeguard the Camp colors. He shall issue the proper display of colors at all functions of the Camp and will lead members in salutes to the colors. He shall appoint assistants to aid in the performance of his duties.

Section 12. Historian. The Historian shall keep and maintain a written record of the Camp, its officers and members, and its accomplishments during his tenure of office. He shall be responsible for the collection of photographs, newspaper clippings, and such other items as necessary in the proper recording of Camp history. All items will be affixed in a bound volume as to insure preservation.

Section 13. Executive Committee.

The Executive Committee shall:

- a. Approve or disapprove all expenditures presented to the Treasurer for payment, including authorization of further funds for the petty cash account.
- b. Sit in judgment in all disciplinary matters.
- c. Authorize and approve all meeting dates and arrangements.
- d. Rule on all questions affecting the election, eligibility, and conduct of members.
- e. When in the interest of the Camp, transact business on behalf of the membership.

Section 14. Editor.

The Commander shall, upon taking office, appoint an editor and such other staff as necessary in the preparation and distribution of the official Camp Newsletter. The Commander shall periodically review operation of the newsletter to ascertain if its operation is in the best interest of the Camp.

Section 15. Webmaster.

The Commander shall, upon taking office, appoint a web master and such other staff as necessary in maintaining the camps Official Website. The Commander shall periodically review operation of the web site to ascertain if its operation is in the best interest of the Camp.

ARTICLE IX. Committees.

Section 1. Committees may be may appointed by the Commander as necessity dictates and dissolved at his pleasure, except those created by this Constitution or by majority vote of the camp.

Section 2. Committees shall meet when called to do so by the Committee chairman. Committees shall make written reports and recommendations to the Commander when assigned duties are performed. Copies of reports shall be made available to camp members on request.

Section 3. The Commander shall be ineligible to chair any committee.

ARTICLE X. Finance.

Section 1. The fiscal year of the Edmund Ruffin Fire-Eaters Camp shall be from August 1st to July 31st of each succeeding year

Section 2. The revenue of the Edmund Ruffin Fire-Eaters Camp shall be derived from donations to the camp.

Section 3. No debts shall be contracted by the Edmund Ruffin Fire Eaters Camp. Expenditures cannot exceed financial resources.

Section 4. The finances of the Edmund Ruffin Fire Eaters Camp shall be audited and reviewed by a committee formed for that purpose at the discretion of the Camp Commander, by vote of the Executive Committee, or by majority vote of members present.

Section 5. Monthly reports shall be made available to the camp by the Treasurer. A cumulative report shall be made available to the camp at the annual meeting.

Section 6. A petty cash account in the amount of one-hundred (100) dollars shall be established for immediate payment of minor accommodations for speakers at monthly meetings. All receipts for expenditures shall be submitted before further fund for the account are authorized.

Section 6. In the event of the dissolution of the Edmund Ruffin Fire Eaters Camp, all assets remaining after payment of authorized expenditures shall be distributed to the Virginia Division, Sons of Confederate Veterans, which qualifies for tax exemption as provided for by the U.S. Internal Revenue Service, with no part to inure to any member or private individual.

ARTICLE XI. Camp Records.

Section 1. Copies of all historical records of the Edmund Ruffin Fire Eaters Camp shall be made available to members of the camp upon request.

ARTICLE XII. Awards.

Section 1. The Executive Committee shall be responsible for the creation and administration of a program of awards presented to Camp members and non-members deemed worthy of recognition.

Section 2. The Executive Committee shall review and authorize the presentation of certificates and awards, except the Commander's Commendations and Resolutions of respect, which are reserved for the Commander.

ARTICLE XIII. Suspension or Expulsion.

Section 1. Discipline: Camps and Divisions, being the judges of their own members, may impose discipline upon their own members. Camps or Divisions may suspend or expel a member from their respective Camp or Division. At this point the member in question is transferred to HQ Camp #584, being that he is no longer a member in good standing of either the Division or a Camp within that Division. If the Camp or Division wishes to have the member expelled from the Confederation, they shall proffer charges to the disciplinary committee within 30 days of the dispensation of the Camp's or Division's action. At this point the procedures are as described elsewhere in this article. If the member is not expelled from the Confederation at the culmination of these actions, he may petition the Disciplinary Committee for the right to transfer to a Camp different from whence he came. If this petition is denied, he may appeal to the GEC.

Cause for disciplinary action shall be:

- a. Disloyalty
- b. Neglect of Duty
- c. Dishonesty
- d. Conduct unbecoming a member of the Sons of Confederate Veterans
- e. An act repugnant to the Sons of Confederate Veterans Constitution or the objectives and purpose of the Sons of Confederate Veterans.

Section 2. No vote on suspension or expulsion may be taken unless at least fifteen (15) days notice, in writing, shall have been given to the member of the charges preferred and of the time and place of the meeting of the Executive Committee at which such charges will be considered. The notice must be delivered to the member by registered mail. At such meetings, the member under charge will be accorded a full hearing.

Section 3. The Executive Committee shall provide for true and accurate recording of all proceedings of such hearings.

Section 4. Any officer may be removed by a two-thirds (2/3) vote of the members in good standing present at any special meeting called for that purpose. No vote on removal may be taken unless at least fifteen (15) days notice, in writing, shall have been given to the officer of the reasons for his pending removal and of the time and place of the special meeting at which such a ballot on his removal is to be taken. The Executive Committee, upon majority vote, may suspend an officer pending outcome of this special meeting. At such meetings, the officer shall be given a full hearing.

Section 5. Standing Charges proffered by a Camp or Division must be against one of its own members. The General Executive Council or the Convention may proffer charges against any member. Charges may not be proffered by any individual. They shall be in writing clearly stating the facts relied upon and accompanied by all affidavits or exhibits, which are to be used in their support. Such charges shall be filed with the Adjutant, who will immediately notify the Commander. The Commander will call a meeting of the Executive Committee to hear the charges. The Adjutant will give at least fifteen (15) days notice of the meeting to each member of the Executive Committee, to the accuser, and to the accused, which notice shall be in writing and will include a true copy of the charges and of the supporting affidavits and exhibits.

Section 6. Any member suspended or expelled by the Executive Committee may appeal to the full membership of the Camp. Such appeal shall be made in writing to the Adjutant who will notify the Commander. The Commander will call a special meeting of the Camp for the purpose of acting on the appeal. The Adjutant shall give at least fifteen (15) days notice, in writing, to all members of the Camp in good standing—stating the date, time, place, and reason for such special meeting. At the meeting of the full Camp, the Adjutant will read the original charges, the supporting affidavits, and read or display the accompanying exhibits and will read the minutes of the special meeting of the Executive Committee at which the charges were heard and action taken. A full hearing will be given the accuser and accused. A vote will be taken by ballot of the members in good standing present and a two-thirds (2/3) vote shall be required to reverse the action of the Executive Committee.

Section 7. Any member who has been suspended or expelled, and having exhausted the foregoing appeals procedures, has the right to appeal to the Virginia Division and afterwards, if necessary, the General Executive Council, whose decision shall be final. A member expelled by the Camp is not eligible for membership in any other Camp of the Confederation.

ARTICLE XIV. PROHIBITIONS.

Section 1. No discussion of politics, or any political action, or the endorsing of aspirants for any political office, shall be permitted.

Section 2. No assessment shall be levied upon the Camp members other than annual dues and initiation fees, except by resolution of the general membership.

Section 3. Proxy voting shall not be permitted in the conduct of Camp elections or business.

ARTICLE XV. OFFICIAL LADIES.

Section 1. The Camp Commander may appoint only the following ladies to represent the Camp Matron of Honor, Chaperon, Sponsor, and three (3) Maids of Honor.

Section 2. In the event that a position is vacant due to lack of interest or inability to perform the required duties of a position, the Camp Commander may appoint a Camp lady to the position for a period of one (1) year. These appointments shall be confirmed by a majority vote of Camp members present.

ARTICLE XVI. OFFICIAL OBSERVANCES.

Section 1. The Camp shall observe the celebration of Confederate Memorial Day.

Section 2. The Camp shall in the month of April observe the celebration of Confederate History and Heritage Month.

ARTICLE XVII. AMENDMENTS.

Any proposed amendments to these by-laws may be introduced by any member of the Camp at any regular or special meeting called for that purpose. A vote may be taken upon the proposed amendment, provided a copy of the intended amendment has been sent to each Camp member in good standing, by United States Mail, at least ten (10) days prior to the meeting. A two-thirds (2/3) vote of the members present, will be necessary to pass or reject. These by-laws shall take full force and effect immediately upon adoption by the camp.

Adopted this 2nd day of July, 2014, as amended on the 5th day of November 2014 by the members of the Edmund Ruffin Fire Eaters Camp #3000

Camp Commander

Camp Adjutant