



October 2008

CONSTITUTION & BY-LAWS

SOCIETY OF THE THIRD INFANTRY DIVISION

UNITED STATES ARMY

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ARTICLE I. DESIGNATION

The name of the association is the **SOCIETY OF THE THIRD INFANTRY DIVISION, UNITED STATES ARMY**. Incorporated in the State of Illinois, it is a **non-profit, fraternal, social, educational, patriotic, military service organization** which shall always remain non-partisan and non-political. The Society shall exist permanently as a national parent organization with subordinate branches known as Outposts.

ARTICLE II. OBJECTIVES

The Society provides opportunities and facilities uniting past, present and future members of the Third Infantry Division, U. S. Army, in a national program dedicated to the preservation and maintenance of the Third Infantry Division's traditions and history. Specific objectives are:

- 2.1 To foster and strengthen associations and friendships formed during service with the Third Infantry Division, U. S. Army.**
- 2.2 To honor the Third Infantry Division War Dead.**
- 2.3 To perpetuate the memory of other former comrades who shared a background of honorable military service with the Third Infantry Division, U. S. Army.**
- 2.4 To encourage and achieve the mutual benefits and support resulting from a close and cooperative alliance between the Society and the Third Infantry Division, U. S. Army.**
- 2.5 To support the Government of the United States and to give it, in peace and in war, the same devotion and service expected of us as members of its armed forces.**

ARTICLE III. MEMBERSHIP

- 3.1 Membership is open to any eligible person excluding those with a dishonorable discharge.**
- 3.2 Members will comply with the constitution and bylaws.**
- 3.3 The Types of membership are: Life and Annual.**
- 3.4 The classes of Membership are: Regular, Associate and Honorary.**
- 3.5 Eligibility for Regular Membership: Former and current soldiers with honorable service in regular components, supporting, or attached units of the Third Infantry Division.**
- 3.6 Eligibility for Associate Membership: Family of anyone eligible for regular membership, and anyone with a special interest in, or affinity for, the Society.**
 - 3.6.a Associate Members have voting rights and recognition.**
 - 3.6.b Associate Members may not serve as an elected national officer.**
- 3.7 Eligibility for Honorary Membership: Granted by the Executive Committee.**
 - 3.7.a The current Commanding General of the active division is Honorary President**

3.7.b The current Command Sergeant Major is Honorary Vice President.

3.8 Regular and Associate members will pay dues

3.9 Members are entitled to join the outpost of their choice or remain as At- Large Members

3.9.a Members may be transferred to any outpost of their choice by making a request to the National Secretary or their outpost secretary. Outposts may not recruit a member known to be a member of another outpost.

ARTICLE IV. DUES

4.1 Annual membership dues are payable each year prior to July 1 in amounts set forth in the By-Laws.

4.2 Life membership dues are payable at any time in amounts set forth in the By-Laws.

ARTICLE V. MANAGEMENT

5.1 Government. The membership is the governing body of the Society. Annually it elects national officers to represent them and carry out the day-to-day operations of the Society. All members in good standing have one vote in these elections expressed by written ballot published in The Watch, or provided by the Elections Chair in the event The Watch ballot is lost or destroyed. The fiscal year is July 1 through June 30.

5.2. Elective Officers. Elective officers of the Society are: President, Secretary-Treasurer and one Regional Vice President and two Regional Committee Persons from each of the three (3) Regions. All regular members in good standing are eligible to run for an elective National office. Members residing in a region will nominate and vote for regional officers only within the region of their residence.

5.2.a.1. Term of Office. The term of office for all elected officials shall be for two years, or until their successors have been duly elected or appointed. The President shall be limited to one (1) two (2) year term and may be elected again after being out of office for a minimum of two (2 years).

5.2.a.2. Elections will be held for the six regional Committeepersons and the Secretary/Treasurer in the odd years. Election will be held for the President and the Regional Vice Presidents in even numbered years.

5.2.a.3. Regions. For purposes of administration, the United States is considered as three Regions: East, West and Central. The Eastern Region includes New England, all states on the Atlantic Seaboard, the District of Columbia, Pennsylvania, West Virginia, Puerto Rico and Europe. The Western Region consists of those states west of the eastern boundaries of Montana, Wyoming, Colorado and New Mexico. The Central Region encompasses those states lying between the Eastern and Western Regions.

5.2.b. Appointed Officers. Appointed Officers by the President are: Editor of The Watch on the Rhine, Judge Advocate, Historian, Chaplain, Auditor, Active Duty Liaison, Medical Officer and Sergeant-at-Arms.

5.2.b.1. Special assistants may be appointed by and serve at the pleasure of the elected national officers.

5.3 Executive Committee. The Executive Committee shall consist of all current elected national officers, and the Judge Advocate.

5.3.a. The Judge Advocate will not have a vote in the Executive Committee business.

5.3.b. Majority vote of the quorum present determines the outcome of Executive Committee actions.

5. 3. c. Voting by mail or electronic communication is authorized.

5.3.d A quorum of six members is required to conduct business

5.3.e. If a member of the Executive Committee cannot attend one or both of the Executive Committee meetings at the National Reunion, he/she may designate a proxy to cast votes in

his/her behalf. The proxy must be a member of the Executive Committee and from the same region as the absent member. Proxies will not count to make a quorum.

ARTICLE VI. PUBLICATIONS

6.1 The Watch on the Rhine, published bi-monthly and distributed to members in good standing, is the official publication of The Society of the Third Infantry Division. This publication will be directed by the Editor who shall be responsible to see that said publication conforms to and carries out the purpose and spirit of the constitution.

6.2 National Roster will be printed at least once every three years, but can be printed more often. Supplements of new members can be printed, if the Executive Committee votes to do so. All new member information will be printed in the Watch in the Roll Call section. All new members will receive a copy of the National Roster. The roster is for membership use only and will include the following information about each member: Name, Address, Unit, Rank and Outpost. The Executive Committee is free to determine how the roster will be printed, paid for and distributed.

ARTICLE VII. BY-LAWS

7.1 The Society members shall have full power to adopt By-Laws which are not in conflict with the provisions of this Constitution. By-Laws may be adopted, ratified, modified or repealed by society members voting by ballot printed in the Watch on the Rhine. Members with lost or destroyed ballots may secure another official ballot from the Chair of the Election Committee, and replacement ballot will be certified by Election Chair that it is an official ballot for voting.

7.2 The rules contained in Robert's Rules of Order, current edition, revised, shall govern the Society in all cases which are applicable and in which they are not inconsistent or conflicting with the Constitution or By-Laws of this Society

ARTICLE VIII. AMENDMENTS

The Constitution may be amended, altered, or repealed, by two-thirds (2/3) affirmative vote of the members of the Society casting their vote by written ballot on amendments published in THE WATCH ON THE RHINE.

BY-LAWS

SECTION I. REUNIONS

1.1 An Annual Reunion of the Society is provided to maintain the fellowship and camaraderie among the membership and shall be held each year at a place and date determined and announced at the immediate prior Annual Reunion. If a date and place is not determined it shall be the responsibility of the Executive Committee to make a timely assignment and announcement to the members to ensure a reunion each year.

1.2 Annual Reunions shall not be held in any one of the Regional Areas more than once in three consecutive years, unless the other areas waive their rights.

1.3 Bids from sponsors may be submitted as much as three (3) years in advance. At a minimum, an Outpost or other responsible group of members desiring to bid or sponsor an Annual Reunion for the National Society, if acceptable to the membership, will submit its bid at the Reunion before the one they wish to sponsor.

1.4 Each annual reunion will have a banquet and a memorial service. Tours and unit gatherings may be included.

1.5 The Executive Committee will hold two meetings at the reunion, one before annual membership meeting, and one after the membership meeting.

1.5a Executive Committee members unable to attend the reunion may give a proxy to another member with specific voting instructions on each known item of business to be considered.

1.6 One General Membership Meeting for all member in attendance will be held during the reunion. The quorum for this meeting is 50 or 2/3 of the members registered at the reunion which ever is less.

SECTION II. ANNUAL REUNION-CONVENTION

2.1 Business Meetings. One or more business meetings held in conjunction with the Annual Reunion—Convention form the legislative base for the Society. A notice of time and place will be published in The Watch on the Rhine not less than ninety (90) days before scheduled opening of the Annual Reunion—Convention.

2.2 Quorum. A quorum, defined as fifty (50) members or two-thirds (2/3) of the members registered at the reunion—convention, which ever is least, is required for the conduct of Society business. Absent a quorum, business meetings must be cancelled or postponed. The Chair is responsible for a good faith effort to schedule and announce a later meeting. All meetings having a quorum present, may be adjourned, pro-tem by majority vote.

2.3 Voting Privilege. Regular and Associate members in good standing are entitled to one vote. All active duty members of the Third Infantry Division, U.S. Army, attending the Annual Reunion/Convention as personal representatives of the Commanding General or members of the Marne Association are entitled to one vote each.

2.4 Only ballots may be used for the election of national officers and amending the Constitution and by laws. All members may use ballots. The Constitutional Chairperson and or Nominations and election Chairperson will have the official ballots published in the Watch in the Rhine at least 60 days before the annual reunion and thirty days before any special meeting. Members using a ballot must legibly print their name, then sign and date the ballot attesting they are a member in good standing and mail the completed ballot to the appropriate chairperson.

That chair with the national secretary/treasurer will verify membership, count votes and prepare reports for the meeting. The secretary/treasurer is responsible for recording the ballots and will have them available for review at the meetings. Only ballots published in the Watch on the Rhine will be valid and may not be reproduced in any form except by the Election Chair who can on request of the member, copy the ballot, certify the copied ballot as an official ballot

and mail it to the person making request. The request for copied ballots must be justified, such as lost Watch, destroyed issue of the Watch or other situations necessitating the use of a copied ballot which will be determined by the Election Chair.

2.4.a The Absentee ballots should be destroyed by the National Secretary/Treasurer and/or the Nominations/Election Committee Chairman and /or the Constitution and By-laws Chairman, ninety (90) days after the publication of the results in the WATCH following a National Reunion/Convention or special meeting for which they were used.

SECTION III. GOVERNANCE BETWEEN ANNUAL MEETINGS

3.1 Legislative Authority. Between Annual Reunions, legislative authority for the Society is vested in the Executive Committee. Its decisions have immediate effect and remain in force until ratified, modified or repealed by the next Annual Reunion. The Secretary will inform the Society members of actions taken by the Executive Committee during the year. This information will be published in the August WATCH ON THE RHINE prior to the annual reunion.

3.2 Society's Management. The Executive Committee, collectively and individually, is charged with formulation and guidance of the Society's management program; confident that it will operate with the best interest of the Society, no restraints are placed against the Executive Committee's freedom of judgment and action. Majority votes determine what the Executive Committee does or leaves undone.

3.3 It shall be the duty of the Executive Committee further to fix the amount of the Secretary-Treasurer's Surety bond, to assist in the selection and final confirmation of the President's designation of the Editor of The WATCH ON THE RHINE and to perform such other duties as may be assigned by the President. Budgeting is a function of the Executive Committee, and the Executive Committee will discuss the preliminary budget prepared by the Secretary-Treasurer, and adopt a budget prior to the fiscal year.

3.4 National elected officers, committee chairs, and national staff unable to attend will submit a report to the president outlining their annual activities. Elected officers unable to attend shall provide a voting proxy to an Executive Committee member from their region.

3.5 Written complaints and/or charges against a Society member shall be referred to the Executive Committee for prompt consideration. At the same time a copy of the complaint and/or charges shall be sent to the Society member so charged, along with the name of the complainant. After a fair and impartial study, it shall be its duty to take whatever action is deemed necessary and warranted. This may include expulsion from the Society. Written notice of remedial action must be given the member who may, within thirty (30) days, protest to the Committee in writing. If the protest is denied, the member may appeal to the President in writing. If Presidential appeal is denied, the Committee decision will be subject to ratification at the next Annual Meeting, upon written request of the member to the Secretary-Treasurer.

Also, the Committee may "Remove for Cause" any officer of the Society who shall have failed to perform his official duties as provided in these By-Laws; or shall have abused the privilege of his office in a manner which the Committee deems to be detrimental to the Society. Such action shall require two-thirds (2/3) affirmative vote of the membership of the Committee and shall be subject to the redress and appeal procedures set forth above.

SECTION IV. DUTIES OF OFFICERS

4.1 President: The President is the Chief Executive Officer of the Society. He has the leadership role in proposing, formulating and guiding the membership actions and implements their decisions. Duties include chairing meetings of the Society and presiding at the annual Reunion. He represents the membership in official contacts with other organizations. He may appoint assistants and special staff members. Regular members will be selected whenever possible.

4.2 Regional Vice Presidents: Regional Vice Presidents will supervise their regional committeemen and outpost operations within their regions, and assign individual committeemen to interface with a specific outpost(s)

4.3 Committeeman: Regional Committeemen are elected from their Regions to represent all society members and are members of the Executive Committee. They will be assigned to supervise the outposts in their region. They shall submit a written report of their annual activities to the Regional Vice President two weeks prior to the end of the fiscal year.

4.4 Secretary/Treasurer announces meetings, maintains records, conducts correspondence, makes reports, controls and supplies society property, has custody of all society funds, maintains checking and savings accounts and current financial records which must be a true and verifiable history of society assets and liabilities, expressed as dollar balances, receipts and expenditures.

4.4.a He/she shall chair and appoint a committee each three-year period to research and evaluate, the performance of the current publisher of the Watch on the Rhine and other printed publications. The committee shall not be restricted in size but cannot be composed of a majority of members from the Executive Committee. The Watch on the Rhine editor shall serve as counsel to this committee. Meetings by mail, phone, or email are authorized. Committee actions, with recommendations, shall be forwarded to the Society president for a final decision. If performance of our current publisher is deemed unsatisfactory, the President shall direct that the committee secure bids from competing publishers pending final action.

4.5 Editor, Watch on the Rhine: The editor of The Watch on the Rhine under the supervision of the President shall have the Watch published on an established bi-monthly schedule, establish deadlines, solicit submission of news from outposts and members, collate items and material, and direct the preparation and distribution of the newsletter.

4.6 Active Duty Liaison: Shall represent the president at the Third Infantry Division units in the event the Society President cannot attend.

4.7 Chaplain: The Chaplain or a qualified assistant shall direct religious observances of the Society, including the Memorial Services at the annual reunion, and shall represent the Society at Military Religious ceremonies.

4.8 Judge Advocate: The Judge Advocate shall act as parliamentarian at meetings, and shall provide opinions on legal and parliamentarian matters referred to him by the national officers and the membership.

4.9 Historian: The Historian shall record the activities of the society and its members from reports furnished by outposts, other news media and render an annual report when requested.

4.10 Sergeant-At-Arms: The Sergeant-At- Arms shall be responsible for discipline at meetings and perform other duties requested by the Chair.

SECTION V. STANDING COMMITTEES

5.1 Constitution and By-Laws: The chairman shall be designated by the President with the approval of the Executive Committee. The Constitution and Bylaws Committee is not restricted to size, but a majority of members shall not be members of the Executive Committee. The committee will submit a ballot of proposed changes for publication not later than the June Watch on the Rhine.

5.2 Audit: The function of the Audit Committee is to examine the financial reports of the Society at, or shortly after, the close of the membership year (June 30) and report its findings in the October issue of The Watch on the Rhine. In selection of members of the Audit committee, the President shall consider their closeness to the place of residence of the National Secretary-Treasurer so their audit functions can be facilitated.

5.3 Nominations and Elections:

5.3.a The Nominations and Elections Committee shall call for nominations of national and regional officers in the December Watch on the Rhine. Nominations will be accepted from January 1 to April 23.

5.3.b Nominations and Election Committee will submit a ballot for publication in the June Watch on the Rhine listing the nominees for all open offices.

5.3.c During the business meeting at the annual reunion the Chairman will announce the nominees for each office and report the results after tabulating the valid mailed ballots. Only the names published on the mailed ballot will be deemed as Society nominees. If nominations were not made for an office, or unusual circumstances determined by the Judge Advocate and there is not a published nominee for an office, nominations may be made from the floor, and voting will be held at the membership meeting.

5.4 Awards: The President with the approval of the Executive Committee shall designate Awards Committee Chair. The committee is comprised of the Chair and the three Region Vice Presidents.

5.4.a The committee shall call for nominations for awards in the April issue of the Watch on the Rhine.

5.4.b The committee shall select award recipients in accordance with the Awards Protocol.

5.5 Membership: The committee manages a program for recruitment of eligible persons as new members of the Society, and to retaining current members on the rolls. The Chair will work with the Executive Committee, Public Relations Committee and Reunion Hosts in preparing news releases pertaining to Society meetings and activities.

5.6 Public Relations: The committee will inform Army veterans, active duty members and the public about the Society, its purposes and activities. The Chair shall have authority to work with other military groups and, at his/her discretion, to develop and place reciprocal notices in publications of interest to veterans and our military. Reciprocal ads, when negotiated shall be referred to the Society President who will make the final decision regarding content and placement. The Public Relations Chair shall not have authority to release any proprietary information on the Society or its members. In the case of all other ads, the Chair will work with the Executive Committee and the Membership Committee in preparing news releases pertaining to Society meetings and activities. All expenditures must be permitted by the budget.

5.7 Public Relations: This committee will be the Society's contact with all media outlets pertaining to society activities such as the Annual Reunion, membership promotion, tours, special activities, etc.

5.8 Each standing committee is required to present an oral or written report of its activities and decisions to the annual Reunion—Convention.

5.8 The term of all standing committees ends on the closing date of the Annual Reunion—Convention. Reactivation and staffing is the responsibility of the President and the Executive Committee Elect.

SECTION VI. VACANCIES

6.1 Vacancies in any national office other than President will be filled by Presidential appointment with approval of the Executive Committee.

6.2 Vacancies: In the event the Society President cannot continue to serve in office for any reason, the National Secretary/Treasurer will contact the Vice President residing in the region of the departing President. If that Vice President is able and willing to take over the Presidency he/she will serve until the end of the term of the departing President. The succeeding Vice President may accept a nomination to run for a term following his appointed term. If the Vice President of the region of the outgoing President cannot serve as President, the Secretary/Treasurer will contact the next senior Vice President and, if necessary, the last Vice President. In the event none of the three Vice Presidents is able to serve, the Executive Committee will select a Past President to assume the position

6.3 Officers filling vacancies will hold the office for the remaining term of that office.

SECTION VII. OUTPOSTS

7.1 An outpost may be formed and a Charter issued by National Headquarters upon receipt of an application from ten (10) or more members in good standing in the area where the outpost is to be located. All outposts will adhere to and follow the governing rules of the Society.

- 7.1.a Outposts will have a minimum of two officers (a President and a Secretary).**
- 7.1.b Outposts should hold at least two meetings each year.**
- 7.1.c Outposts should send a minimum of two letters to their outpost members each year**
- 7.2 Outposts with less than ten (10) members will be deactivated.**
 - 7.2.a. Those remaining members will notify the National Secretary/Treasurer if they want to be transferred into the outpost nearest their address or stay At Large.**
 - 7.2.b Outpost funds and supplies will be transferred to the National Secretary, who with the approval of the Executive Committee, will determine the use of the funds.**
- 7.3 The Marne Division Association, as long as it continues to have ten or more members in active service with the Third Infantry Division, shall be considered the Society's Active Division Outpost.**

SECTION XIII. DUES

8.1 Annual Dues: Regular and Associate annual membership dues are due and payable on or before July 1 of each year in the amounts specified and approved by the Executive Committee. Outposts may add an outpost operational fee that they retain. New annual members and former members being reinstated who pay dues between January 1 and June 30 will be in good standing until July 1 of the following year. Individuals, whose dues are not paid by the July 1 deadline, will be removed from the national roster by the Secretary/Treasurer and the Roster/Manager by not later than September 30.

All delinquent dues paying members will be re-billed by National and the August issue of the WATCH will notify those members it is their last copy unless reinstated. In order to receive mailings of the Watch on the Rhine all members must be registered in good standing in the national roster of the Society.

8.1.a The amount of annual dues of all categories of membership will be determined by budget needs and emergency situations and will be set by a vote of the Executive Committee subject to approval by the membership at annual meetings.

8.1.b Outposts are responsible for prompt reporting and transfer of money to the National Secretary-Treasurer. The National Secretary-Treasurer will handle assessments, dues and correspondence for At Large members.

8.1.c Outpost funds are not subject to levy by the Society.

8.2 Special Membership Categories will receive the WATCH and all services without charge. Medal of Honor recipients and Honorary Members are in this category. Purchase of Life Membership in the Society carries with it only the guarantee of membership in the Society without additional dues as long as they live and the Society exists. No other guarantee is given or implied.

8.2a The Honorary President and the Honorary Vice President will receive copies of the Watch and will not be charged dues while serving in these positions

8.3 Dues Allocation. Eighty percent (80%) of annual and life dues of members assigned to outposts are allocated to national and twenty percentage allocated to the outpost to which they are assigned. All dues money for at large members is allocated to national.

SECTION IX. MEMBERSHIP SUPPLIES

9.1 The Society furnishes membership cards, and Society letterheads and envelopes. Decals, bumper stickers and other promotional materials are available for sale from the Public Relations Chair. The National Secretary-Treasurer issues membership cards for annual members whenever a new member joins the Society. The National Secretary-Treasurer issues life membership cards.

SECTION X. MEMORIAL SERVICES

10.1 A Memorial Service honoring the Third Division war dead and other deceased comrades will be conducted during the Annual Reunion—Convention.

10.1.a Outpost 7, Washington, D. C., represents the Society in Wreath-laying ceremonies at The Tomb of the Unknowns, and the Third Infantry Division Monument, Arlington National

Cemetery, each Memorial Day and Veterans Day. The Society reimburses Outpost 7 for the cost of these wreaths.

SECTION XI. AMENDMENTS TO BY-LAWS

11.1 Any of the By-Laws of the Society contained herein may be amended, repealed or changed by affirmative vote of two-thirds (2/3) of the votes cast on the official published ballot published in THE WATCH ON THE RHINE. The Constitution and By-Laws Committee will prepare the ballot for changes to the By-Laws for publication in The Watch on the Rhine, collect the mailed ballots, tally the results, and report at the annual meeting.

11.2 All proposals for Constitution and By-law changes submitted by members of the Society through Outpost or Executive Committee route, or by the initiative of the Constitution and By-Laws Committee, will be sent to the National Secretary for submission to the Executive Committee. Once the Executive Committee considers the proposed changes and approves what should be presented to the membership, the Constitution and By-Laws Committee will draft a document without modifying the decisions of the Majority of the Executive Committee pertaining to the proposed changes. This final document must be accepted by a majority of the Executive Committee before publication in THE WATCH ON THE RHINE.

11.3 Approved changes shall be published in THE WATCH ON THE RHINE as soon as possible after Society passage.