

Sons of the American Legion  
Detachment of Indiana  
6<sup>th</sup> District  
Squadron #331 – Brownsburg, IN



## **Constitution**

Constitution of Sons of the American Legion Squadron, attached to American Legion Colonel Billie J. Holmes Memorial Post No. 331, Department of Indiana, located in Brownsburg, Indiana.

### **Preamble**

Proud possessors of a priceless heritage, we male descendants of veterans of all wars, associate ourselves together as "Sons of The American Legion" for the following purposes:

To uphold and defend the Constitution of the United States of America; to maintain law and order; to foster and perpetuate a true spirit of Americanism; to preserve the memories of our former members and the associations of our members and our forefathers in all wars; to inculcate a sense of individual obligation to the community, state and nation; to combat the autocracy of both the classes and the masses; to make right the master of might; to promote peace and good will on earth; to safeguard and transmit to posterity the principles of justice, freedom and democracy - to consecrate and sanctify our friendship by our devotion to mutual helpfulness; to adopt in letter and spirit all of the great principles for which The American Legion stands; and to assist in carrying on for God and Country.

### **Article I - Name**

#### **Section 1.**

The name of this organization shall be the Sons of The American Legion Squadron, attached to American Legion Colonel Billie J. Holmes Memorial Post No. 331, Department of Indiana.

### **Article II - Nature**

#### **Section 1.**

The Squadron is a civilian organization. Membership therein does not affect nor increase liability for military or police service.

#### **Section 2.**

The Squadron shall be absolutely nonpolitical and shall not be used for the dissemination of partisan principles nor for the promotion of the candidacy of any person seeking public office or preferment.

#### **Section 3.**

The Squadron shall be absolutely non-sectarian.

#### **Section 4.**

Each member shall perform his full duty as a citizen according to his own conscience and understanding, in accordance with the law.

### **Article III - Organization**

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**Section 1.**

This Squadron is organized as a subordinate body of the Sons of The American Legion, Detachment of Indiana and under the sponsorship and jurisdiction of Brownsburg American Legion Colonel Billie J. Holmes Memorial Post No. 331, Department of Indiana, The American Legion.

**Section 2.**

This Squadron shall be governed by such rules and regulations as may be prescribed by the National Executive Committee of The American Legion, by such rules and regulations as may be prescribed by the Detachment Headquarters, approved by the Department Executive Committee of The American Legion, and by such rules and regulations as may be prescribed by its sponsoring Post of The American Legion, not inconsistent with those prescribed by the National Organization.

**Article IV - Eligibility**

**Section 1.**

All male descendants, adopted sons, and stepsons of members of The American Legion, and such male descendants of veterans who died in service during all wars during the delimiting periods set forth in Article IV, Section 1, of the National Constitution of The American Legion, or who died subsequent to their honorable discharge from such service, shall be eligible for membership in the Sons of The American Legion.

There shall be no forms or class of membership except an active membership.

**Article V - Officers**

**Section 1.**

The officers of this Squadron shall be a Commander, First Vice Commander, Adjutant, Finance Officer, Sergeant-at-Arms, Chaplain, and Historian, all of whom shall be elected at the annual meeting of the Squadron.

**Article VI - Executive Committee**

**Section 1.**

Between Squadron meetings, the administrative power of the Squadron shall be vested in the Squadron Executive Committee, which shall consist of all elective officers for the current year, and in addition one Past Commander and Post Liaison.

**Section 2.**

All other Past Squadron Commanders shall be members of the Squadron Executive Committee without vote.

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**Article VII - Dues**

Section 1. The annual membership dues of this Squadron shall be established for the ensuing year at the first annual meeting upon recommendation of the Treasurer and concurred in by 2/3 of the members present to vote. The annual membership dues payable after "Close of Books", for the following year. A member whose dues for the current year have not been paid by January first, shall be classed as delinquent. If his dues are paid on or before February first, he shall be automatically reinstated. If he is still delinquent after February first, he shall be suspended from all privileges. If he is still under such suspension by "Close of Books" in June of such year, his membership in the Sons of The American Legion shall be forfeited. A member so suspended or whose membership has been so forfeited may be reinstated to active membership in good standing by vote of the Squadron and payment of current dues for the year in which reinstatement occurs. Provided, however, that the Squadrons, Detachments, and the National Organization may waive the provisions hereof, upon payment of dues for the year in which reinstatement occurs, with reference to former members who have been prevented from the payment of dues by reason of active military service.

**Article VIII - Amendments**

**Section 1.**

This Constitution is adopted, subject to the provision of the National Constitution and the Detachment Constitution of which this Squadron is a subordinate member. Any amendment to the National or Detachment Constitutions, which conflicts with any provision hereof, shall be regarded as automatically repealing or modifying the provisions of this Constitution, to the extent of such conflict.

**Section 2.**

This Constitution may be amended at any regular Squadron meeting by vote of two-thirds of the members attending such regular meeting, provided, that the proposed amendment shall have been submitted in writing, and read at the immediate preceding Squadron meeting, and provided further, that written notice shall have been given to all members at least five days in advance of the date which such amendment is to be voted upon, notifying said members at such meeting a proposal to amend the Constitution is to be voted upon.

NOTE: Only members in good standing will be privileged to participate in the business of a meeting, vote or hold office.

This Constitution shall be in effect as of this 1st day of July 2024.

Signed

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Rich Wagoner", written over a horizontal line.

Commander, Rich Wagoner

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Travis Coulson", written over a horizontal line.

Adjutant, Travis Coulson

Revision 3, July 1, 2024

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**Revision History**

Revision 3, March 2024 – 3/18/2024 Sons of the American Legion Meeting

- Name Changed to represent latest Squadron Name
- Various punctuation and other minor change



Sons of the American Legion  
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**By-Laws**

By-Laws of Sons of the American Legion Squadron, attached to American Legion Colonel Billie J. Holmes Memorial Post No. 331, Department of Indiana, located in Brownsburg, Indiana.

**Article I - Membership**

**Section 1**

Applications for membership shall be made in writing on blanks prescribed therefore by the National Organization.

**Article II - Nominations and Elections of Officers**

**Section 1.**

At the first regular meeting in March, any squadron member may present the name of any other squadron member, in good standing, for nomination to any office. Upon said nominations being seconded, the nomination is to be accepted upon said member accepting the nomination. The nominations will stay open until the April meeting when the election of next year's officers will be held.

**Section 2.**

Elections shall be held on the third Monday in April on meeting night.

**Section 3.**

Those officers shall be declared elected who have by secret ballot received a majority of the votes of the Squadron members in good standing.

**Section 4.**

The newly elected officers and members of the Executive Committee shall take office at the next regular meeting; at which time they shall be installed by proper authority.

**Article III - Duties of Officers**

**Section 1.**

**Commander:** The Commander, who corresponds to the President of an organization, shall be the executive head of this Squadron of the Sons of The American Legion, with full power to enforce the provisions of the local Constitution and By-Laws and the policies and mandates of the National and of the Department Committees of the Sons of The American Legion and of the Executive Committee of the Squadron.

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**Section 2.**

**First Vice Commander:** The First Vice Commander, who corresponds to the First Vice President of a Squadron, shall act as representative of the Commander on all matters referred to him by the commander. He shall perform such other duties as are usually incident to the office.

**Section 3.**

**Adjutant:** The Adjutant, who corresponds to the Secretary of an organization, shall be charged with the administrative duties required in carrying out the policies and mandates of the National and Department Committees of the Sons of The American Legion and of the Executive Committee of this Squadron.

**Section 4.**

**Finance Officer:** The Finance Officer shall be the custodian of the funds of the Squadron. He shall be charged with receiving and disbursing the funds of the Squadron treasury when called for by the Commander or Executive Committee; provided, however, that all disbursement shall first be approved by the Post committee heretofore referred to in Section 4, Article I, of the National By-Laws. He shall perform such other duties as are usually incident to the office.

**Section 5.**

**Sergeant at Arms:** The Sergeant at Arms shall be charged with the responsibility of preserving order at all Squadron meetings and he shall be given the custody of the Squadron Colors. He shall perform such other duties as are usually incident to the office.

**Section 6.**

**Chaplain:** The Chaplain shall perform such divine and non-sectarian service as may be necessary, adhering to such ceremonial rituals as may be prescribed by the National Membership and Post Activities Committee of The American Legion.

**Section 7.**

**Historian:** The Historian shall collect from year to year all records and data of value and interest to the Sons of The American Legion and shall compile during his term of office a complete history of the year's activities.

**Article IV - Executive Committee**

**Section 1.**

Between Squadron meetings, the administrative power of the Squadron shall be vested in the Squadron Executive Committee, which is comprised of the elected officers for the current year and in addition the Post Liaison and previous year Commander.

**Section 2.**

The immediate past Squadron Commander shall be a member of the Executive Committee without vote.

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**Section 3.**

The Squadron Executive Committee shall fill any vacancy in the membership of the Committee occurring between annual Squadron meetings for the remainder of the unexpired term.

**Section 4.**

Any officer or committeeman can be removed for inefficiency by the Executive Committee. A two-thirds vote of said committee being necessary to affect such removal. An officer or Executive Committeeman who absents himself for three or more consecutive Squadron meetings on due investigation, by the Executive Committee, be held to be sufficient proof of inefficiency, warranting such removal.

**Section 5.**

The Executive Committee must consist of; but no less than, the Commander, Finance Officer, and one other member.

**Section 6.**

The Executive Committee can only act with the best interest of the membership at hand. Any decisions made must be brought up at the next scheduled Squadron meeting.

**Article V - Standing Committees**

**Section 1.**

Upon election of the Squadron Commander, the Executive Committee shall annually appoint such standing committees as it shall deem advisable for the benefit of the membership of the Squadron as a whole.

**Article VI - Meetings**

**Section 1.**

The annual meeting of this Squadron shall be held on the third Monday of May in each calendar year for the purpose of elections and appointments and any other business pertinent to this Squadron.

**Section 2.**

The regular stated meeting of this Squadron shall be held on the third Monday of every month of the calendar year.

**Section 3.**

Special meetings shall be called upon a majority vote of the Executive Committee or upon the written request of ten Squadron members. For such meetings the American Legion will be invited.



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**Section 4.**

Every member shall furnish to the Adjutant his address, to which all notices and documents may be sent, and the same shall be held to have been duly sent or served upon a member if mailed to such address so furnished. In default of an address having been furnished by a Squadron member, any notice or documents will be held to have been duly served upon such member five days after the same shall have been deposited in the local post office addressed to such member at such post office address.

**Section 5.**

Notice of all special meetings of the Squadron shall be mailed or emailed to each Squadron member 7 days prior to the holding of such meeting and at least 30 days in advance of the holding of the annual meeting.

**Section 6.**

The notice of special meetings shall state the object and purpose thereof, and no business shall be transacted at such special meeting except for such business as is contained in the notice thereof.

**Section 7.**

The Executive Committee shall meet for organization and such business as may come before it within ten days after the annual election on the call of the Commander. Thereafter the Executive Committee shall meet at the call of the Commander at least every three months and as often as said Commander may deem necessary. The commander shall call a meeting of the Executive Committee upon the written request of five members of the committee.

**Article VII - Quorum**

**Section 1.**

Six members and three qualified presiding officers, shall constitute a quorum at any meeting of the Squadron.

**Article VIII - Finances**

**Section 1.**

All funds of this Squadron shall be deposited in a bank by the Finance Officer. Withdrawals shall only be made using either the debit card with approval by the Finance Officer or Commander or check signed by the Finance Officer or the Commander.

**Article IX - Rules of Order**

**Section 1.**

The procedure at all Squadron meetings shall be governed by Roberts' Rules of Order {Revised}.



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**Article X - Amendments**

**Section 1.**

These By-Laws are adopted, subject to the provisions of the National By-Laws and the Detachment By-Laws, of which this Squadron is a subordinate member. Any amendment to the National or Detachment By-Laws which conflicts with any provision hereof shall be regarded as automatically repealing or modifying the provisions of these By-Laws to the extent of such conflict.

**Section 2.**


These By-Laws may be amended at any regular Squadron meeting by vote of two-thirds of the members attending such regular meeting, provided that the proposed amendment shall have been submitted in writing and read at the immediate preceding Squadron meeting, and provided further, that written notice shall have been given to all members at least five days in advance of the date when such amendment is to be voted upon, notifying said members that at such meeting a proposal to amend the By-Laws is to be voted upon.

NOTE: Only members in good standing will be privileged to participate in the business of a meeting, vote or hold office.

These By-Laws shall be in effect as of this 1st day of July 2024.

Signed

Attest

  
Commander, Richard Wagoner

  
Adjutant, Travis Coulson

Revision 3, July 1, 2024

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**Revision History**

Revision 3, May 2024 – 3/18/2024 Sons of the American Legion Meeting

- Name Changed to represent latest Squadron Name
- Added clarification to Article VI, Section 1
- Fixed Article VI, Section 5 for missing days
- Removed Previous Article VI, Section 7 Related to Canteen and Meetings
- Per State Judge Advocate, Richard Pfeiffer added the last sentence to Article VI, Section 3
- Added info related to the Debit Card in Article VIII, Section 1
- Various punctuation and other minor changes