

Constitution of the Colonel William Grayson Chapter

Rev. #1 11/19/2016

ARTICLE I

Name

The name of this Chapter shall be “Colonel William Grayson Chapter, Virginia Society, Sons of the American Revolution” (herein Chapter).

ARTICLE II

Purpose and Objectives

This Chapter, is established as a local chapter of the Virginia Society, Sons of the American Revolution (hereinafter “VASSAR”). Its purposes are patriotic, historical and educational, and are intended to perpetuate the memory of the men who, by their services and sacrifices during the American Revolution, achieved the independence of the American people. Its objectives include, but are not limited to the following:

- Uniting and promoting fellowship among their descendants;
- Inspiring its members and the community at large to a more profound reverence for the principles of the government founded by our forefathers;
- Encouraging historical research in relation to the American Revolution;
- Acquiring and preserving the records of the individual services of the patriots of the war, as well as documents, relics, and landmarks;
- Identifying and marking significant Revolutionary War sites and the graves of patriots by appropriate memorials;
- Celebrating the anniversaries of significant events of the Revolutionary War and the Revolutionary period;
- Maintaining and fostering patriotism;
- Educating our youth concerning the sacrifices of our patriot forefathers in securing our freedom and the principles embedded in the Declaration of Independence and the Constitution.

ARTICLE III

Membership

1. Any male shall be eligible for membership in the Chapter who, being a citizen of good repute in the community, is the lineal descendant of an ancestor who was at all times unfailing in loyalty to, and rendered active service in the cause of American Independence either as an officer, soldier, seaman, marine, militiaman or minuteman, in the armed forces of the Continental Congress of any one of the several Colonies or States, or as a signer of the Declaration of Independence, or as a member of a Committee of Safety or Correspondence, or as a member of any Continental, Provincial, or Colonial Congress or Legislature, or as a foreign national of, but not limited to, France, Germany, Poland, Spain, Sweden or Switzerland who rendered service in the cause of American Independence, or as a recognized patriot who performed actual service by overt acts of resistance to the authority of Great Britain, provided, however, that no person advocating the overthrow of the Government of the United States by use of force or violence shall be eligible for membership in the Chapter.
2. Every Member of the Chapter shall become, at the same time, a Member of the VASSAR and the National Society of the Sons of the American Revolution (hereinafter "NSSAR"). Every Member of the Chapter will be subject to the rules and regulations of both the State and National Societies, as well as those of the Chapter.
3. There shall be the following classes of membership:
 - (a) Regular or Regular Life Member – A man aged eighteen years and older who meets the requirements for membership outlined in section 1 above;
 - (b) Junior Member – A young man under the age of eighteen whose application has been approved in accordance with NSSAR Bylaws He may attend, but he pays no chapter dues and is not eligible to vote;
 - (c) Memorial membership – A deceased man of the same family as a current member of the Society whose application has been submitted and approved in accordance with NSSAR Bylaws;
 - (d) Associate Member – A regular member of NSSAR who affiliates with the chapter and pays local chapter dues. He shall be approved by the Board of Managers and is entitled to all the privileges of regular members; and
 - (e) Honorary Member – conferred on a member by unanimous vote of all members present at a regular or special chapter meeting.
4. Life NSSAR members shown above are exempt from the payment of NSSAR dues, but, shall pay VASSAR and local Chapter dues and other fees of regular Chapter members.

ARTICLE IV

Fees and Dues

The initiation fees shall be in an amount sufficient to cover membership in NSSAR, VASSAR and the Chapter. Annual membership dues shall be in the amount prescribed by NSSAR, VASSAR and the Board of Managers of this Chapter.

ARTICLE V

Officers, Elections and Committees

1. The Officers of this Chapter shall consist of a President, a Vice President, a Secretary, a Treasurer, a Chaplain, a Historian, and a Registrar.
2. The President, Vice President, Secretary, Treasurer, Chaplain, Historian, and Registrar shall be elected annually. They shall take office at the first Chapter meeting after 1 January of the year following their election.
3. All elected positions are subject to, and eligible for, re-election.
4. Nominations for the foregoing positions may be made by a nominating committee appointed by the President, or by any member in good standing, during the month of October of each calendar year. The election of Officers from among those so nominated will occur during November of each year. Any such election will be conducted by the chairman of the nominating committee appointed under paragraph eight of this Article or by another member of the nominating committee designated by the President. No candidate for office is eligible to conduct the election. A plurality of those present and voting is necessary for election.
5. The President may appoint Officer(s) for the position(s) of Assistant Secretary, Assistant Treasurer, Assistant Secretary/Treasurer, Assistant Registrar(s), Sergeant-at Arms, and Quartermaster.
6. If, for any reason an Officer is unable to complete the service of his term, the President may appoint, with the approval of a majority of the Board of Managers, a member to serve the remainder of the term.
7. Any Officer may be removed from office by a two-thirds vote of those members present and voting at a meeting called by either one quarter of the membership or two-thirds of the Board of Managers.
8. When necessary for conducting Chapter programs or business, the President is authorized to establish committees appropriate to such purposes and designate the chairmen of such committees. The President will appoint a nominating committee at a time sufficiently in advance of the annual election to enable it to

publicize the election, present a slate of nominees and accept nominations made by the membership. Any committee so appointed shall continue until either dissolved by the President or the expiration of the President's term.

ARTICLE VI

Board of Managers

1. A Board of Managers shall consist of: (1) the Officers enumerated in Article V, paragraph 1 and (2) the most recent two past Presidents of the Chapter. In the event one of the last two Presidents is unwilling or unable to serve in this capacity, the President shall appoint the next past President to serve in his stead, selecting consecutively from past Presidents until the two positions are filled.
2. The Officers appointed in Article V, paragraph 4 and the Committee Chairmen appointed in Article V paragraph 7 may attend Board of Manager's meetings at the pleasure of the President as non-voting members.
3. The Board of Managers shall be responsible for conducting the routine business of the Chapter, including setting meeting dates, and such other activities as may be specified in the Bylaws.
4. Four members of the Board of Managers will constitute a quorum for the transaction of any Board of Managers business.

ARTICLE VII

Meetings

1. The Chapter shall conduct regular general meetings at such times as specified by the President and the Board of Managers.
2. Special meetings may also be held at the call of the President, the Board of Managers or when requested in writing by two thirds of the members. The purpose of such special meeting will be to transact such business as is specified by the call.
3. A quorum for the transaction of business at any general or special meeting, except as already specified for the Board of Managers in Article VI, paragraph 3, shall consist of those members attending such meetings.

ARTICLE VIII

Amendments

Amendments to this Constitution may be offered by any member of the Chapter at any regular general meeting, but shall not be acted upon until the next regular general meeting. A copy of the proposed amendment shall be posted on the Chapter website and transmitted by email, fax or other effective means as appropriate by the Secretary at least one week prior to said meeting. A vote of two-thirds of the members present and voting shall be necessary for adoption of any proposed amendment.