

CONSTITUTION
OF
THE COLORADO SOCIETY OF THE SONS
OF THE AMERICAN REVOLUTION

Adopted 24 February 1990
Amended 23 February 1991, 22 February 1992,
22 February 2002, 23 February 2003, 21 February 2004,
February 25, 2006

(Amendments incorporated herein)

ARTICLE 1: NAME

The name of this organization shall be THE COLORADO SOCIETY OF THE SONS OF THE AMERICAN REVOLUTION. It is a corporation, not for profit, incorporated in the State of Colorado on 30 August 1906 (Corporation Record 43215, Book 119 at page 99) and filed its Election to Accept the Colorado Not for Profit Corporation Act on 26 October 1970, as required by Law. This Society was first organized on 4 July 1896, and was the Thirty-third State Society. It is an integral part of the NATIONAL SOCIETY OF THE SONS OF THE AMERICAN REVOLUTION, a corporation created by a special act of Congress of the United States (Act of 9 June 1906, P.L. 214,34 Stat. Chapt. 3065, page 277; amended 6 February 1925, P.L. 362.43 Stat. Chapt. 142, page 808; further amended 8 September 1961, P.L. 87214). The Charter Constitution and Bylaws of Said National Society and the Articles on Incorporation of the State Society are hereby incorporated by reference and made a part of this Constitution and of the Bylaws adopted in pursuance thereof.

ARTICLE II: OBJECTS

That the purposes and objects of said corporation are declared to be patriotic, historical, and educational, and shall include those intended or designed to perpetuate the memory of the patriots who, by their services or sacrifices during the War of the American Revolution, achieved the independence of the American people; to unite and promote fellowship among their descendants; to inspire them and the community at large with a more profound reverence for the principles of the government founded by our forefathers; to encourage historical research in relation to the American Revolution; to acquire and preserve the records of the individual services of the patriots of the war, as well as documents, relics, and landmarks; to mark the scenes of the Revolution by appropriate memorials; and of the Revolutionary period; to foster true patriotism; to maintain and extend the institutions of American freedom and to carry out the purposes expressed in the preamble to the Constitution of our people and the injunctions of Washington in his farewell address to the American people.

ARTICLE III: ELIGIBILITY FOR MEMBERSHIP

SECTION 1. Any man shall be eligible for membership in this Society who, being of the age of eighteen years or over, and 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, or minuteman, in the armed forces of the Continental Congress, or 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 recognized patriot who preformed 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 Society.

SECTION 2. Membership in this Society shall be confined to members in good standing of the National Society of the Sons of the American Revolution, and any member of said National Society shall be eligible for membership in this Society. Procedures governing the admission of members and of their subsequent removal from the rolls of this Society for any reason are set forth in the Bylaws of this Society.

ARTICLE IV: OFFICERS AND BOARD OF MANAGERS

SECTION 1. The officers of this Society shall consist of a President, a Vice President, a Recording Secretary-Historian, a Treasurer, a Membership Secretary-Registrar, a Chancellor, a Chaplain, and when required, an assistant to each office. The duties and powers of officers shall be those customarily appertaining to their respective offices, and those specific powers and duties more fully set forth in the Bylaws of this Society. All officers shall hold office for a period of one year, beginning with their election and installation in February and continuing until their successors are duly elected and installed. Vacancies occurring among the officers, for any reason, shall be filled from among the members in good standing, by the Board of Managers. Such appointments shall be for the balance of the un-expired term and until the next Annual Meeting of the Society. Said appointees shall be eligible for election at said next Annual Meeting. The President shall normally serve for one year and not serve more than two successive terms. Nomination of officers shall be as set forth in the Bylaws of this Society, and their election shall be by ballot at the Annual Meeting. Winning candidates shall be determined by a plurality of the votes cast by members in good standing at the time of the Annual Meeting.

SECTION 2. The Board of Managers of this Society shall consist of no less than fifteen (15) nor more than twenty (20) members of this Society elected at the Annual Meeting from members in good standing; the President of each Chapter with this Society, plus one additional member from each local chapter, if any, pursuant to the provisions of Article VII, Section 3 of this Constitution; all of the officers named in Section 1 in this Article; the National Trustee; all members in good standing in this Society who are serving or who have served as officers of the National Society of the Sons of the American Revolution and all past COSSAR presidents of this Society who are in good standing.

Vacancies among the elected members of the Board of Managers shall be promptly filled by the Board of Managers from among the members in good standing. Elected members of the Board of Managers and those appointed to fill vacancies for the balance of an unexpired term shall hold office for a period of one year or for the balance of the term for which they were appointed expires; or until their successors are elected at the next Annual Meeting. They are eligible for re-election, and are eligible to succeed themselves. The duties and powers of the Board of Managers shall be those customarily appertaining to governing bodies of similar organizations. The Board shall exercise control over the Administrative and Financial affairs of this Society, and shall further perform those duties and exercise those powers set forth specifically in the Bylaws.

SECTION 3. In addition to the elected members of the Board of Managers, any member of this Society who has rendered exceptional and outstanding service to the Society, if elected at an Annual Meeting, shall be an ex officio member of the Board.

SECTION 4. Delegates to the last preceding National Congress who actually attended said Congress shall be ex officio members of the Board until the next Annual Meeting.

ARTICLE V: MEETINGS

SECTION 1. The Annual meeting of this Society shall be held at a time and place designated by the President prior to the meal in honor of George Washington's birth, which meal shall held on the Saturday either before or after February 22nd. The Annual Meeting shall be considered the State Conference. If the President and the Board of Managers believe that there is more necessary business than can be accomplished during the one-day Conference, the President may, with the concurrence of the Board of Managers, call for a Conference to begin on Friday and conclude the following day. Said Annual Meeting shall receive the annual reports of all officers and Chairmen of standing and other committees; elect officers and members of the Board of Managers for the ensuing year; and transact any other business requiring action by the members of the Society. The new officers and members of the Board of Managers shall be formally installed and sworn in at the George Washington luncheon following the annual meeting.

SECTION 2. A quorum at the Annual Meeting shall consist of fifteen (15) members in good standing. A quorum at the Board of Managers meeting shall consist of eight (8) members.

SECTION 3. Any member in good standing may vote at any meeting of the Society in person, or by written proxy.

SECTION 4. Special meetings may be called by the President at any time, and it shall be his duty to do so when requested to do so by five (5) members of the Society in writing. Ten (10) days notice shall be given by mail of such special meeting.

SECTION 5. In addition to the Annual Meeting such other meetings may be held as set forth in the Bylaws.

ARTICLE VI: DUES AND FEES

Upon becoming a member of this Society, each member shall pay into the funds of this Society an application fee as prescribed by the Board of Managers (but for eligible members of the CAR and CR, see Bylaws, Article VI, paragraph 3); and in addition each member shall pay this Society dues in the amount prescribed by the Board of Managers. These fees and dues shall be in addition to any fees and dues payable to the National Society or to local Chapters of the Sons of the American Revolution. The time and the method of payment shall be as set forth in the Bylaws. [For information about National Life Membership, see Colorado Society Handbook]

ARTICLE VII: LOCAL CHAPTERS

SECTION 1. Whenever ten (10) or more members in the same County or conveniently situated area make application to form a local Chapter, the Board of Managers may grant a charter, such Chapter to be named as indicated in the application. Such Chapter may adopt Bylaws not inconsistent with the Constitution and Bylaws of the State and National Societies, but such Bylaws must receive the written approval of the Board of Managers. Before the first of February each year every Chapter shall elect a President and such other officers as provided in its Bylaws.

SECTION 2. The membership of the Chapter is formed from members of the State Society in good standing. Any member who forfeits his membership in the State Society ceases to be a member of the local Chapter or eligible for office therein.

SECTION 3. The President of each local Chapter shall automatically be a member of the Board of Managers of this Society. In addition, every Chapter with ten or more members shall select one of its members as a member of the Board of Managers of the State Society. Excepting the President, all officers of the Chapter and all members of the chapter in good standing are eligible for selection.

SECTION 4. The Secretary of each Chapter shall send a report to the Recording Secretary-Historian of the State Society not later than February first of each year reporting the activities of the previous year, giving a list of the officers and members of the Chapter, and making recommendations for the benefit of the organization.

SECTION 5. When the regular membership of a local Chapter falls below ten (10) as of 31 March of any year, that Chapter shall be de-activated as of 01 April that year. The Chapter members may then become either members-at-large of the Colorado Society or members of a different Chapter (by paying dues to that chapter). Any funds remaining in the treasury of the de-activated chapter shall revert to the treasury of the Colorado Society after payment of appropriate expenses approved by the Board of Managers. Records and supplies, including postage stamps, belonging to the de-activated chapter shall revert to the Colorado Society. After one year a Chapter thus de-activated may apply to the Colorado Society Board of Managers for approval to re-activate provided it has ten (10) or more members.

ARTICLE VIII: AMENDMENTS

This Constitution may be amended by a two-thirds affirmative vote of the members in good standing who vote on such amendment at any regular meeting of this Society, or by letter ballot sent at all members in good standing; provided that such amendment shall have been proposed at a previous meeting of this Society, or by its Board of Managers; and provided further that detailed written notice of the proposed amendment shall have been sent to all members in good standing at least thirty (30) days prior to the said meeting at which said amendment is to be voted upon, or prior to the date set for the counting of the letter ballots.

ARTICLE IX

This Constitution shall take effect upon its adoption.