



**PENNSYLVANIA
WAR VETERANS COUNCIL, INC.**



BYLAWS

As of September 2024

ARTICLE I

Name

Section 1 – The organization shall be known as the Pennsylvania War Veterans Council, Inc. (herein referred to as “Council”). Pennsylvania Entity No. 75-5079.

ARTICLE II

Purpose

Section 1 – The purposes of this organization are to create a mutual understanding and cultivation of comradeship, friendship and cooperation among veterans organizations to discuss legislation and other matters affecting the veteran and veterans organizations insofar as possible in all matters of interest to and affecting the veteran, his/her spouse, dependents and their general welfare; to protect the United States of America’s free and democratic institutions, its principles and to defend our U.S. Constitution and laws; to teach patriotism and Americanism to citizens of the Commonwealth as a whole, and to encourage in all people that spirit of understanding which may guard us against future wars.

ARTICLE III

Membership

Section 1 – The current membership of the Council as of September 2024 is the **The American Legion (TAL), American Veterans (AMVETS), Blinded Veterans Association (BVA), Catholic War Veterans (CWV), County Directors of Veterans Affairs (CDVA), Disabled American Veterans (DAV), Keystone Paralyzed Veterans of America (PVA), Marine Corps League (MCL), Military Officers Association of America (MOAA), Military Order of the Purple Heart (MOPH), Veterans of Foreign Wars (VFW) and the Vietnam Veterans of America, Inc. (VVA)**. Membership is granted to these organizations making the proper dues remittance each year.

Section 2 – Application for membership in this organization shall be restricted to state-level veteran organizations within the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania meeting the following criteria:

- a. Those whose majority membership consists of members or former members of the armed forces of the United States of America;
- b. Those which have been recognized by an Act of congress and named by legislation of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania as a bona-fide veterans organization entitled to the privileges of veterans organizations;
- c. Exception shall be given to the County Directors of Veterans Affairs Association (CDVA) within the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, provided that the CDVA maintains that the president of their organization is a bona-fide wartime veteran and only said president (or designated representative who has served previously as President of the County Directors of Veterans Affairs and has had certification as a bona-fide wartime veteran) shall have the privilege of casting a single vote on behalf of the CDVA on all voting matters of the Council.

ARTICLE IV

Representation

Section 1 – Member organizations shall pay the sum of one hundred dollars (\$100.00) per year per delegate dues. Dues shall be paid by the September meeting of each year. Dues not paid by December 31 of any year will cause the suspension of that organization. The organization suspended shall have no voice or vote in any meetings until reinstated according to Article XII, Reinstatement.

Section 2 – Each member organization of this Council whose membership is less than 50,000 members shall be represented on the Council by two (2) regular delegates who shall be its State Commander and State Adjutant or related position. Those member organizations whose membership exceeds 50,000 members shall be entitled to one additional delegate. Organizations with membership over 50,000 members may designate another delegate for each additional 50,000 members or fraction thereof.

Section 3 – The newly elected State Commanders and State Adjutants or related positions of member organizations shall automatically become the delegates. Each delegate is entitled to one (1) vote.

Section 4 – Each member organization shall be authorized to designate, in writing to the Council, two (2) alternate delegates regardless of the number of authorized delegates. The alternate delegate shall have a vote only in the absence of an authorized delegate.

ARTICLE V

Officers

Section 1 – The officers of the Council shall be a President, Vice President, Treasurer, Secretary, Chaplain, Sergeant-at Arms, and three (3) Trustees.

Section 2 – Only Department Commanders or related position of member organizations can serve as President, Vice President. Bona-fide delegates and alternates are eligible for all other elected offices.

Section 3 –

- a. **Council President**, whose duties shall be to preside over all meetings of the Council, announces the policy adopted by the Council, representing the Council in whatever manner the business of the Council may require.
- b. **Council Vice President**, who shall act as representatives for the President and the Council on all matters referred to them by the Council President or the Council upon the President's request or absence the Vice President shall preside over meetings of the Council and carry out such other duties as may be required.
- c. **Council Treasurer** shall keep all financial records and be the custodian of all funds and disburse those funds as ordered and directed by the Council. The Treasurer shall also distribute a financial statement at each meeting of the Council.
- d. **Council Secretary** shall be the administrative officer of the Council, whose duties shall include the keeping and maintaining of all records, minutes of meetings and correspondence of the Council and such other duties as are usually incident of the office. The Secretary shall also be responsible for all public relations and functions of the organization.
- e. **Council Chaplain** will give the invocation and the benediction at Council meetings and other functions of the membership.
- f. **Council Sergeant-at-Arms** insures and maintains the order at all council meetings and takes charge of the ritual for the opening and closing ceremonies for each Council meeting. The Sergeant-at-Arms will assist in

distribution of information to the membership for handouts and other such items.

- g. **Council Trustees** shall review the financial statement upon request and conduct an annual audit of the Council Treasurer's books.

Section 4 – Election of officers shall take place in September of each year. In the matter of trustees, each must be from different member organizations.

Section 5 – The term of office for all officers shall be from September to the succeeding September.

Section 6 – In the event of a vacancy in any elective office, the Council shall fill the vacancy from its membership.

Section 7 – All Council officers and delegates of their respective organizations shall each have voice and one (1) vote.

Section 8 – The president of the Council shall not succeed himself.

ARTICLE VI

Meetings

Section 1 – Regular meetings shall be held in the months of January, February, March, April, May, September, October and November normally on the first Thursday of those months.

Section 2 – Special meetings shall be called by the Council President or by the Council President upon the written request of any four (4) member organizations.

Section 3 – Each Committee Chairman will be responsible to call for committee meetings as necessary.

Section 4 – The Council shall set the time and place of its next regular meeting.

Section 5 – One third (1/3) of total member organizations of the Council shall constitute a quorum at its meetings.

ARTICLE VII

Committees

Section 1 – The standing committees of the Council shall be as follows: Bylaws, Legislative, Membership, Veterans Affairs & Policy, Honor Guard, Website and Act 66.

Section 2 – Subject to specific provisions of the By-Laws or by special enactment of the Council, all committees may meet at any convenient time and place at the call of the Council President.

ARTICLE VIII

Individual Rights of Member Organization

Section 1 – Member organizations shall retain their individuality and identity with the right to initiate matters of interest to the veteran or to their organization, and to sponsor any matter as individual and independent organizations. These rights and privileges shall not be infringed or contravened by their membership in the Council nor by any action of the Council.

Section 2 – Every member organization of the Council reserves the right to withdraw from membership, but the Council shall nevertheless continue despite any such withdrawal, and any withdrawing member shall be readmitted to membership only upon written application and upon the approval of a majority of the Council.

ARTICLE IX

Amendments

Section 1 – Pennsylvania War Veterans Council may amend these Bylaws by two-thirds (2/3) vote of authorized delegates or voting alternate present at a stated meeting, provided such amendments have been presented to each authorized delegate who has been notified at least fourteen (14) days in advance by first class mail or electronic means of the proposed amendments to be presented for consideration for adoption.

ARTICLE X

Rules of Order

Section 1 – The rules contained in the current edition of Robert’s Rules of Order Newly Revised shall govern the Council in all cases to which they are applicable and which they are not inconsistent with these Bylaws.

ARTICLE XI

ATTENDANCE

Section 1 – Each member organization of the Pennsylvania War Veterans Council must maintain a Fifty (50) per cent attendance record over a six (6) month period. Should this not occur, the organization shall be placed in a suspended status until proper attendance is achieved. The suspended organization shall not have voting privileges during this period.

ARTICLE XII

Reinstatement

Section 1 - The organization requesting reinstatement must first produce documentation from a higher authority within the organization stating that they are currently active and are truly viable.

Section 2 – The organization requesting reinstatement must repay all financial arrearages owed to the Pennsylvania War Veterans Council.

Section 3 – The organization requesting reinstatement must then adhere to their financial obligations outlined in Article IV Representation Section 1 and attendance criteria in Article XI Attendance.

ARTICLE XIII

Conduct Unbecoming

Section 1 – Should any member organization, delegate or alternate delegate of the Pennsylvania War Veterans Council be deemed to have demonstrated conduct unbecoming of Pennsylvania War Veterans Council; they shall be permanently removed by a majority vote of voting members present.

ARTICLE XIV

Advisory Council

Section 1 – In order to be considered for an appointment to a Veterans Home Advisory Council, one needs to be nominated by a sponsoring Pennsylvania War Veterans Council member, hold Veteran status and be approved by the Pennsylvania War Veterans Council. Their name will then be forwarded to the Pennsylvania Department of Veterans Affairs for approval and appointment.

ARTICLE XV

Dissolution

Section 1 – Upon the dissolution of the organization, assets shall be distributed for one or more exempt purposes within the meaning of Section 501 (c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code, or corresponding section of any future tax code, or shall be distributed to the federal government, or to a state or local government, for a public purpose. Any such assets not disposed of shall be disposed of by a Court of Competent Jurisdiction of the county in which the principal office of the organization is then located, exclusively for such purposes or to such organization or organizations, as said Court shall determine, which are organized and operated exclusively for such purposes.