

CONSTITUTION
OF
THE WEST VIRGINIA SOCIETY
OF THE
SONS OF THE AMERICAN REVOLUTION

ARTICLE I – NAME

The name of this Society shall be THE WEST VIRGINIA SOCIETY OF THE SONS OF THE AMERICAN REVOLUTION.

ARTICLE II – OBJECTS

11 The objects of the Society are declared to be patriotic, historical, and educational and
12 shall include those intended or designated to perpetuate the memory of the men, who, by their
13 services and sacrifices during the War of the American Revolution achieved the independence
14 of the American people; to unite and promote fellowship among their descendants; to inspire
15 them and the community at large with a more profound reverence for the principles of the
16 government founded by our forefathers; to encourage historical research in relation to the
17 American Revolution' to acquire and preserve the records of the individual services of the
18 patriots of the war, as well as documents, relics, and landmarks; to mark the scenes of the
19 Revolution by appropriate memorials; to celebrate the anniversaries of prominent events of
20 the war of the Revolutionary period; to foster true patriotism; tom maintain and extend the
21 institutions of American freedom and to carry out the purposes expressed in the preamble of
22 the Constitution of our country and the injunctions of Washington in his farewell address to the
23 American people.

ARTICLE III – MEMBERSHIP

25 Section 1. Any male person shall be eligible to membership in the Society, who, being of
26 the age of eighteen years or over, and a citizen of good repute in the community, is the lineal
27 descendent of an ancestor who was at all time unfailing in loyalty to, and rendered active
28 service in the cause of American Independence, either as an officer, soldier, seaman, marine,
29 militia-man, in the armed forces of the Continental Congress, or of any of the several colonies
30 or States, or as a signer of the Declaration of Independence; or as a member of a Committee of
31 Safety or Correspondence, or as a member of any Continental Provincial or Colonial Congress or
32 Legislature or as a recognized patriot who performed actual service by overt acts of resistance
33 to the authority of Great Britain. The President, Secretary and Registrar of the State Society
34 shall constitute a Committee on Membership, and approval by them shall be approval by the
35 State Society as required by the National Society. The President, Secretary, and Registrar of a

36 chapter shall constitute a Chapter Committee on Membership, and approval by them shall be
37 approval by the Chapter.

38 Section 2. The application for membership shall set forth the name, occupation and
39 residence of the applicant, his line of descent, and the name, residence and services of the
40 ancestor or ancestors in the Revolution from whom he derives eligibility, shall be executed in
41 duplicate upon the form prescribed by the National Society of the Sons of the American
42 Revolution and shall bear the oath or affirmation of the applicant that the statements therein
43 contained are true to the best of his knowledge or belief. Every application shall be endorsed
44 by at least two members of the West Virginia Society of the Sons of the American Revolution
45 and be approved by both the State Registrar and the Registrar General of the National Society
46 before the applicant shall be elected to membership.

47 Section 3. If any applicant is deemed by a chapter, or State Committee on Membership,
48 to be not personally acceptable to the Society, his application shall be referred to the Chapter
49 of State Board of Management for its decision, which shall be by written ballot, three-fourths
50 (3/4) being required to elect.

51 Section 4. Any man above the age of eighteen years residing outside the State of West
52 Virginia may, by original application, be elected to membership in the West Virginia Society of
53 the Sons of the American Revolution, subject to the same qualifications as to eligibility
54 prescribed by this Constitution for residents of West Virginia.

55 Section 5. A member in good standing, upon his written application, shall be given by
56 the Secretary a demit or letter of transfer to any other Society of the Sons of the American
57 Revolution without payment of any fee for the demit. He may resume active membership by
58 advising the State Secretary and remitting a fee for reinstatement and the current annual dues.

59 Section 6. A member of any other State society, in good standing, may transfer to and
60 become a member of the West Virginia Society of the Sons of the American Revolution, or may
61 be permitted to hold dual Membership therein, without fee, upon written application and the
62 presentation of proper evidence of such membership. No dues shall be charged for the year in
63 which such transfer is received or Dual Membership is granted, provided such State and
64 National dues have already been paid to the transferring Society and the prescribed dues have
65 been paid to the National Society. Thereafter, such member shall pay to the West Virginia
66 Society the annual dues assessed by said Society.

67 Section 7. Members of the Children of the American Revolution and Children of the
68 Revolution on reaching the age of eighteen years and being otherwise eligible may be elected
69 members upon proof of their membership in either of said organizations and approval by the
70 State Registrar and the Registrar General of the National Society.

71 Section 8. The membership, for the purpose of determining the right to vote at any
72 annual of special meeting, shall be classified as chapter members or members at large. Chapter
73 members shall include persons who are members of the chapter. Members at large shall
74 include all other persons who are members of the West Virginia society of the Sons of the
75 American Revolution.

76 Section 9. Any man eligible under the Constitution to membership in the Society may,
77 by a vote of two-thirds of the members present at a regular meeting, be elected an Honorary
78 Member, provided that he shall have been recommended for Honorary Membership by the
79 Board of Management and notice thereof shall have been given members with the notice of the
80 meeting. Honorary members shall pay no initiation fee or dues and shall not hold office or
81 vote.

82 Section 10. The official designation of a member shall be Compatrick.

83 Section 11. A Life Active Membership may be provided by the State Society.

ARTICLE IV – OFFICERS

85 Section 1. The officers of the West Virginia Society of the Sons of the American
86 Revolution shall be a President, a Vice-President, a secretary, a Treasurer, a Registrar, a
87 Chaplain, a Chancellor, and a Historian, all of whom shall be elected at the annual meeting and
88 shall hold office for one year and until their successors have been elected and qualified. The
89 First Vice-President shall not be elected from the same chapter as the President.

90 Section 2. The offices of Secretary and Treasurer, Secretary and Registrar, or Treasurer
91 and Registrar, may be combined and held by the same person. No person shall be eligible to
92 serve as President of the West Virginia Society for consecutive terms, either full or partial,
93 aggregating more than two years. A person having served as president for two years shall be
94 ineligible for election to that office for a period of one year.

ARTICLE V – BOARD OF MANAGEMENT

96 Section 1. the Board of Management of the West Virginia Society of the Sons of the
97 American Revolution shall be composed of all of the current State Officers, the National
98 Trustee, the current Presidents of the various Chapters, all living Past Presidents of the State
99 Society, all living Presidents-General of the National Society whose primary membership is in
100 the West Virginia Society and six members of the West Virginia Society of the Sons of the
101 American Revolution, two of whom shall be elected at each annual meeting for a term of three
102 years and until their successors have been elected and qualified. The President shall be the
103 Chairman of the Board, and the Secretary the Secretary thereof. Five members of the Board
104 shall constitute a quorum for the transaction of any business.

105

ARTICLE VI – COMMITTEES

106 Section 1. The President and one of the Vice Presidents designated by the President,
107 the Secretary, the Treasurer, and the Registrar, and two members of the Board of Management
108 designated by the President, if required to make five members shall constitute the Executive
109 Committee, which, in the interim between meetings of the Board of Management, shall attend
110 to all current business, subject to its action being reported and approved at the next succeeding
111 meeting of the board. The president shall be the chairman of the committee and the Secretary
112 the secretary thereof. A majority of the members shall constitute a quorum for the transaction
113 of any business.

114 Section 2. The Credentials Committee shall be composed of the State Secretary, who
115 shall serve as chairman, and two other members appointed by the President.

116 Section 3. The President may appoint such other committees as he deems desirable
117 from time to time.

118

ARTICLE VII – VACANCIES

119 Section 1. Vacancy in office, other than the President, by reason of resignation, death,
120 moving to another state or cause, shall be filled by appointment by the President, subject to the
121 approval of the Board of Management at its next meeting.

122 Section 2. In case of a vacancy in the office of President, the First Vice-President
123 automatically becomes President for the unexpired term and the Second Vice-President
124 automatically becomes First Vice President for the unexpired term.

125

ARTICLE VIII – CHAPTERS

126 Section 1. In furtherance of the objects of the Society it shall be the duty of the Board of
127 Management to encourage the formation of chapters throughout the jurisdiction. Upon the
128 petition of ten or more members residing in the same locality, the Board may, at its discretion,
129 authorize the formation of a Chapter to be known as the _____ CHAPTER OF
130 THE WEST VIRGINIA SOCIETY OF THE SONS OF THE AMERICAN REVOLUTION and fix its
131 jurisdiction. Such chapters may adopt a constitution and by-laws not in conflict with the
132 Constitution and By-Laws of the State Society. A copy of the constitution and by-laws so
133 adopted and all amendments which at any time may be made thereof shall be filed with the
134 Secretary of the State Society. Any person who shall be suspended, expelled or in any way lose
135 his membership in The West Virginia Society of the Sons of the American Revolution shall
136 thereupon cease to be a member of the chapter to which he may belong.

137 Section 3. A Chapter shall hold a minimum of four meetings each year, one of which
138 shall be designated as the Annual Meeting for the election of officers. Any chapter may be
139 adjudged by the Board of Management as having forfeited its chapter for any one or more of
140 the following reasons: 1.) Failure to hold four meetings in any year; 2.) Lack of participation in
141 West Virginia Society events or activities; 3.) Failure to make return of and pay over monies due
142 to the West Virginia Society; Failure to make report to the State Secretary as required under
143 Section 6. Of this Article; 5.) Lack of membership enhancement activity; 6.) Misuse of funds;
144 Inability of a Chapter to grow or function adjudged due to its internal structure; and 8.) Any
145 other supported evidence that the Chapter is not conforming to the objects and spirit of the
146 West Virginia Society.

147 Section 4. Upon forfeiture of the charter of any chapter, all documents, books, moneys,
148 and other properties belonging to and in possession of the chapter shall be delivered over to
149 the West Virginia Society of the Sons of the American Revolution to be taken and held until
150 such chapter has been reinstated, provided, however, that if the chapter has not been
151 reinstated within a period of two years, all such property shall become the property of the
152 State Society and may be disposed of as the Board of Management shall deem wise and
153 expedient.

154 Section 5. Prior to the convening of the annual meeting of the State Society, each
155 chapter shall nominate as delegates to the National Congress, one member in good standing for
156 each fifty chapter members, or part thereof, and shall duly certify such names to the State
157 Secretary. In the event that any chapter fails to make and timely certify such nominations, it
158 shall then be the duty of the delegates at the annual meeting and/or Board of Management, to
159 fill the quota of delegates to the National Congress from the list of nominees and from other
160 members in good standing.

161 Section 6. All chapters shall make such reports to the State Secretary as may from time
162 to time be called for, and shall submit on or before March 20th of each year a report setting
163 forth by name, the additions, transfer and deaths of its membership, a statement of the
164 amounts paid to the Treasurer of the State Society, and such other matters as may be required
165 by the Board of Management.

166 Section 7. The State President may appoint in any county in which no chapter exists a
167 County Chairman to promote the growth of membership in that county and to organize a
168 Chapter in such county.

ARTICLE IX – MEETINGS

170 Section 1. the Annual Meeting of the Society shall be held on the fourth Saturday in
171 April at whatever place and hour shall be designated by the State Board of Management.

172 provided, however, that the Board of Management may fix the date for any Annual Meeting
173 not more than thirty days prior to or thirty days after said date. Special meetings of the Society
174 may be called at any time and place by the State President or the State Board of Management,
175 five days written notice of all special meetings and ten days written notice of the annual
176 meeting being mailed by the State Secretary to all members of the Society. Ten members of
177 the Society shall constitute a quorum for the transaction of business at any regular or special
178 meeting of the Society, provided however that not less than three chapters shall be
179 represented.

180 Section 2. The order of business at the annual meeting shall be as follows:

181 1. Calling the meeting to order by the President.

182 2. Invocation by the Chaplain.

183 3. Song – Star Spangled Banner or Pledge of Allegiance.

184 4. SAR Opening Pledge

185 5. Roll call of delegates.

186 6. Reading of minutes of last annual or special meeting(s).

187 7. Appointment of Session Committees.

188 8. Reports of Officers.

189 9. Report of National Trustee.

190 10. Report of Standing Committees.

191 11. Report of Special Committees.

192 12. Old or unfinished business.

193 13. New business.

194 14. President's address.

195 15. Election of State Society Officers, National Trustee, the Delegate-at-large, two
196 members of the Board of Management, and delegates to the Annual congress.

197 16. SAR Closing Pledge

198 17. Adjournment.

199 Section 3. Special meetings may be called at any time by the President and shall be
200 called by him when directed by the Board of Management, or upon written request of three
201 chapters, properly signed by their officers, or similar request of twenty-five members at large.
202 Ten days previous notice of the time and place of such meetings and the business to be
203 transacted shall be mailed to the several chapters and to all members at large. No business not
204 set forth in the notice shall be transacted at any special meeting.

205 Section 4. The right to vote at any annual meeting of special meeting shall be limited to
206 the delegates in good standing in attendance. Each chapter shall be entitled to one delegate
207 for every twenty-five members of fraction thereof. The members at large shall be entitled to
208 one delegate for every twenty-five or fraction of their number. All officers and former
209 Presidents of the West Virginia Society or the Sons of the American Revolution and the
210 President or Vice President of each Chapter shall be delegates-at-large. Prior to the convening
211 of any annual or special meeting, the names of the delegates to which each chapter is entitled,
212 and the delegates to which the members-at-large are entitled shall be registered with the State
213 Secretary. It shall be the duty of the Secretary, from the names so registered, to prepare the
214 official roll of delegates. No delegate may represent more than one chapter or any chapter of
215 which he is not a member.

216 Section 5. The Board of Management shall hold two regular meetings each year. The
217 first shall be held during the months of September or October of each year, and the second
218 shall be held not less than two weeks before the annual meeting of the Society. Special
219 meetings may be called at any time by the President, or shall be called by the Secretary upon
220 written request of five members of the Board. The hour and place of such meetings shall be
221 determined by the President.

ARTICLE X – NOMINATIONS

Section 1. The Board of Management, at its regular meeting held not less than two weeks before the annual meeting, shall make nominations of officers of the Society for the ensuing year, which nominations shall be mailed to all members of the Society as a part of the notice of the annual meeting, at least ten days before the meeting. Other nominations may be made, but only by written notice signed by ten members of the Society from three or more chapters. If any nominee shall be unable or refuse to serve, or shall be found to be ineligible, nominations to fill the office shall be made from the floor of the annual meeting, and said nominees, if more than one is nominated for an office, shall be balloted upon separately by written ballot until one received a majority of the votes cast.

232 Section 2. The Board of Management shall nominate a National Trustee and Delegate-
233 at-Large to the National Congress, and upon election, the Secretary shall certify the name of
234 such National Trustee to the ensuing Annual Congress of the National Society.

ARTICLE XI – FEES AND DUES

236 Section 1. Each application for membership in this Society shall be accompanied by an
237 initiation fee and dues in the amounts stated in the By-Laws.

238 Section 2. The following male applicants, provided they are eligible and acceptable to
239 membership under the Constitution of this Society, shall be exempt from the payment of an
240 initiation fee, but shall pay the prescribed fee for his certificate of membership and the annual
241 dues as provided in the By-laws.

- 242 (a) A son of a member of the Society, or the National Society of the Daughters of the
243 American Revolution, who, at the time of such son's application is in good standing;
244 or, if deceased, was at the time of his or her death, in good standing in such
245 societies; if elected to membership before attaining the age of twenty-five years.

246 (b) A male member of the National Societies of the Children of the American
247 Revolution, the Children of the Revolution, or the Washington Guards, who, not
248 later than one year after his twenty-first birthday, presents a valid transfer card to
249 the Society.

250 (c) A member of the General Society of the Sons of the Revolution, who, at the time of
251 application for membership, is in good standing in such society.

252 Section 3. Any member on active military shall be exempt from payment of annual dues
253 as long as such dues are exempted by the National Society, and/or are paid by the Chapter.

254 Section 4. All membership dues shall be based on the calendar year and shall be
255 payable on the first day of January of each year. Each Chapter shall collect such dues and remit
256 the State and National dues to the State Treasurer not later than March 20th of the current
257 year. All other fees collected in relation to the business of the Society shall be paid to the State
258 Treasurer at the time of the transaction.

259 Section 5. Any member who has been suspended for non-payment of dues or who has
260 resigned from membership in the Society, may be reinstated upon written application and
261 payment of such sum as shall be fixed by the Board of Management, and the reinstatement fee
262 due the National Society. If, in the opinion of the chapter committee or state committee on
263 membership, the applicant for reinstatement is not personally acceptable to the society, the

264 application shall be referred to the State Board of Management for its decision, which shall be
265 by written ballot, three-fourths vote being required to elect.

266 Section 6. The annual dues of chapter members shall be paid to the Chapter Treasurer
267 and the annual dues of the members-at-large shall be paid to the State Treasurer. A final
268 settlement for each and every member enrolled and not previously accounted for shall be
269 made by the State treasurer not later than March 20th of each year.

270 Section 7. Any member whose dues shall remain in arrears for three months after
271 written notice has been given him may be dropped from the roll of membership by a two-thirds
272 vote of the members present at a Chapter Meeting and/or the Board of Management.

273 Section 8. Upon the transfer of a member-at-large to a chapter, the State Society shall
274 be entitled to the current year's dues of said member.

275 Section 9. In the event fees and/or dues are either waived, increased, or decreased by
276 the National Society, such act will automatically waive, increase, or decrease the amount
277 collected by the State Society, or its chapters for payment to the National Society.

278 Section 10. Applicants elected to membership within sixty days of the end of the
279 calendar year, and who have paid the initiation fee and annual dues prescribed herein, shall not
280 be liable for the payment of dues for the year following their admission.

281 Section 11. The annual dues paid to the State Society, or any portion thereof, may be
282 remitted by the State Board of Management in individual cases where the Board may deem
283 such action justified; however, no general remission of dues shall be made for any reason.

ARTICLE XII – PROPERTY

285 Section 1. Any and all property(ies) whether the same be real, personal or mixed,
286 including documents of whatsoever form, nature or kind, directly or indirectly, whether in the
287 possession of the West Virginia Society or any of its Chapters or members shall be deemed
288 solely owned by the West Virginia Society and controlled by the West Virginia Society
289 Constitution and ByLaws. Any contrary individual claim of ownership of said property shall be
290 void.

ARTICLE XIII – FISCAL YEAR

293 Section 1. The fiscal year of the West Virginia Society of the Sons of the American
294 Revolution shall begin on the first day of April and end on the thirty-first day of the following
295 March. The fiscal year of each chapter shall be the calendar year.

296

ARTICLE XIV - AMENDMENTS

297 Section 1. The Constitution may be amended by two-thirds vote of the members
298 present and voting at an annual meeting of the Society, or a special meeting called for such
299 purpose, provided the proposed amendment has been submitted in writing ten (10) days prior
300 to the meeting day of such annual or special meeting and a copy thereof mailed to the
301 Secretary of each chapter and to each member-at-large.

302

ARTICLE XV - ADOPTION

303 Section 1. This Constitution shall be in force and effect upon adoption; and all Articles
304 and sections of Articles in conflict herewith are hereby repealed.

305

ARTICLE XVI– TRUST AND ENDOWMENT FUND

306 The Trust and Endowment Fund may be established by the State Society. It is a special
307 fund to receive, administer and invest funds which may be donated to it. The donations may be
308 donated for specific purposes according to the desires of the donor. It shall be administered by
309 the Board of Management of the State Society. An annual report of the financial condition of
310 the fund shall be presented each year to the Annual meeting of the West Virginia Society for
311 the meeting's approval.