

By-Laws of the 149th Pennsylvania Volunteer Infantry Regiment

1.0 Purpose of The Unit Pennsylvania Volunteer Infantry Regiment;

- 1.1. The 149th Pennsylvania Volunteer Infantry Regiment (hereafter referred to as “The Unit”) is first and foremost, dedicated to memorializing the actions of the men and women who lived and died during the American Civil War, especially the 149th Bucktails.
- 1.2. The Unit is also dedicated to educating the general public on the history of the Civil War era through battlefield reenactments, living history events, parades, and other events that portray the life and times of soldiers and civilians alike.
- 1.3. The Unit is a non-profit organization with two specific priorities:
 - a. Support the on-going operations of The Unit, (e.g., purchase/repair of equipment, materials, or other costs associated with supporting The Unit).
 - b. Support American Veterans through direct fund raising efforts or in conjunction with other Veterans support organizations.

2.0 Requirements of Membership

- 2.1 Membership in The Unit is open to anyone without discrimination who is willing to abide by the By-Laws prescribed herein; however participation in battlefield reenactments must remain within the bounds of historical representation (e.g., period dress and equipment).

2.1.1 Types of Membership

- a. Active Membership is for anyone who has the desire to and wants to pursue becoming a soldier or civilian. The expectation is that members will participate in the various activities and events where period dress and demeanor is necessary.
 - b. Social Membership is for anyone who has the desire to join the Bucktails but does not want to be a soldier or civilian. This would allow the person, or persons, interested in the Bucktails and the Civil War to add their expertise, or their desire to honor the Unit and it’s objectives without having to fulfill the requirements of purchasing all of the required uniform and/or dress. Some people may want to join just to be involved in the experience or donate their time or help monetarily.
 - c. All rights and responsibilities are the same for Active or Social membership.
- 2.2 Prospective members shall complete an application and submit same to the President of The Unit for consideration for membership.

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- 2.2.1 The President shall confer with the Executive Board and any recommending members and conduct a vote on accepting the new member(s). The President shall inform the prospective member of the results of the vote.
 - 2.3 Accepted members will be asked to complete an Emergency Contact and Medical Emergency Information card to the Commanding Officer, or delegate. Submittal of the Emergency Contact and Medical Emergency Card is entirely voluntary; this information will be used only in the event of an emergency and shall be held private until such use.
 - 2.3.1 Members should complete new cards annually.
 - 2.3.2 Members with temporary or permanent health issues that may present a problem during an event are strongly encouraged to inform the Commanding Officer (or delegate) of the issue in sufficient detail that the member's participation may be evaluated to minimize risk to the member.
 - 2.3.3 ALL members shall follow the appropriate HIPPA / FERPA rules pertaining to personal medical information.
 - 2.4 Members under 18 shall have consent from a parent or legal guardian to participate in reenactment activities. This consent must be documented and submitted to the Commanding Officer and Secretary.
 - 2.5 Family memberships to The Unit shall be limited to the members of The Unit who reside in the same residence. It can be requested, and permitted by the Executive Board for individuals to be covered by the family membership on an individual basis (e.g., college student).
 - 2.6 Membership dues are \$20.00 annually, family or individual. To maintain voting status, dues are to be paid to the Treasurer before or by the Annual Meeting of each year. Any changes to membership dues amounts shall be presented and voted upon at the Annual Meeting.
 - 2.7 Members shall not participate in events until membership dues are paid in full.
 - 2.8 Calendar year dues are due from new members to the Treasurer upon joining The Unit.
- 3.0 Member Responsibilities:
 - 3.1 It is each member's responsibility to conduct themselves in a manner befitting those whom they represent, in a manner that brings no disrespect to the Unit, themselves, or fellow members.
 - 3.2 All Active members are expected to obtain their own uniform and accoutrements, or civilian attire, within a reasonable amount of time of becoming a member.
 - 3.3 Soldier's Uniform Requirements
 - Blue coat (Sack, Frock, etc., and blue trousers,
 - Period cap (Kepi, Forage, bummer or slouch hat),

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- Functional period style canteen
- Brogans or appropriate facsimilie footwear
- Federal Accoutrements Belt with US buckle
- Cartridge Box with sling Cap Box

3.4 Civilian Attire Requirements

- Appropriate male or female camp dress (i.e., trousers or skirt with blouse in period correct style and materials or facsimilie.
- Period correct footwear and headwear (caps, bonnets, etc.) or facsimilies.

3.5 All members shall adhere to the Rules and Regulations of the Reenactment and Living History events we participate in as prescribed by the Host of that event. A set of Rules and Regulations shall be in camp for each individual event.

3.6 Active members shall make every effort to portray themselves and our camp as accurate to the time period as possible.

3.7 Any member, or members, that leave The Unit are expected to return all borrowed property, supplies, etc. in their possession to the person designated by the Board.

3.8 Members are encouraged to attend as many Unit events as possible (Annual Meeting/company drills/ parades/reenactments/living histories, etc.,) to ensure success of The Unit.

3.9 Members must be present at the Annual Meeting to vote until proxy votes are approved through a revision/amendment to the Bylaws. Every member 16 years of age and older has a right within the Unit to vote.

3.10 Each member is responsible to make any misgivings about a prospective member known prior to the prospective member becoming a member.

4.0 Organizational Structure

4.1 The Unit will have two groups to manage operation of The Unit;

4.1.a The Executive Board is the main governing body of The Unit; it oversees the policies and takes care of the general management of The Unit on behalf of all members.

4.1.b The Field Command Organization handles the various tasks associated with battle reenactments, Living History events, parades, etc.,.

4.1.c The Executive Board and Field Command Organization shall be elected from the general membership. NCO's will be appointed by the Commanding Officer.

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4.1.d To preserve independence of thoughts and actions, members will not be allowed to be on the Executive Board and Field Command Organization (as noted in paragraphs 4.5.1 through 4.5.5) at the same time.

4.2 The Executive Board is elected to carry out the will of the members, during and outside of the Annual Meeting. The full membership normally meets annually so the Board is empowered to make decisions on behalf of the full membership in the interim between Annual Meetings, subject to the approval and or changes by the full membership.

4.3 The Executive Board may take action on behalf of The Unit in special circumstances, in which the majority of the Board believes it cannot wait to address all members of The Unit. A majority vote of the Board is required to act, and must be reported to all members.

4.4 Executive Board Members - Board members shall be elected at the Annual Meeting and serve a one year term. In order to give equal representation to all, not more than two members of the same family shall serve on the Executive Board at any one time.

4.4.1 President - Functions as the Chief Executive officer of The Unit. The President shall:

- a. Create an agenda and preside over Unit meetings. The agenda shall be provided to the Communications Officer for distribution to the membership for review and comment. ,
- b. Coordinate and communicate Unit activities such as Living History events, parades, etc., with the Commanding Officer.

4.4.2 Vice-President - In the absence of the President, performs those assigned duties.

4.4.3 Treasurer - Shall collect all dues, and all monies received for The Unit. The treasurer shall:

- a. Pay all bills and any expenditures approved by Executive Board,
- b. Provide a written account of income/deposits and expenditures for the Annual Meeting,
- c. Maintain a list of current active (dues paid) members for The Unit.

4.4.4 Secretary - Shall keep the minutes of all meetings, and shall provide a report of minutes at the Annual Meeting.

4.4.5 Sergeant at Arms – Shall ensure that proper protocols are followed during meetings, maintaining order and accountability, collecting ballots and tallying votes, setting up the meeting venue and equipment, administer sign-in, etc..

4.5 Field Command Organization;

4.5.1 Commanding Officer (CO) - Elected from the general membership, with the following responsibilities:

- a. Coordinating and communicating Unit activities with the President.
- b. Act as the Primary Liaison between the Unit and the Federal Volunteer Brigade (FVB).
- c. Appointing Non-Commissioned Officers (NCOs) (i.e., 1st Sergeant, Corporals, etc.) for The Unit and overseeing the performance of NCOs.
- d. Ensuring that all military members are properly trained in authentic period drill and maneuvers, including the safe use and care of weapons.
- e. Acting as the Primary Safety Officer on the field, in battle, or in camp.
- f. Battlefield decisions of the commanding officer shall be binding and final.
- g. Directing inquiries to proper officers of Brigade Command and of the Unit officers.
- h. Providing an Annual Commanding Officer's Report at the Annual Meeting.
- i. Providing an After Action report to the Communications Officer after the event for distribution to the membership and/or media as appropriate.
- j. Approval of any activities conducted on behalf of the 149th where the CO is not present. After Action report shall be submitted to the CO for review and approval. The CO shall forward the After Action Report to the Communications Officer for distribution to the membership and/or media as appropriate.
- k. Identifying CPR/AED qualified individual(s) at events and in camp.

4.5.2 Quartermaster - Elected from the general membership and is responsible for:

- a. Gathering, holding, and distributing The Unit's equipment and materials.
- b. Maintaining an inventory of all Unit equipment.
- c. Assuring that all Unit equipment is in good working condition.

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- d. Tracking of equipment loaned out to members. Assuring that all loaned equipment is in good condition upon their return.

4.5.3 Communications Officer – Elected from the general membership and is responsible for:

- a. Reviewing and editing correspondence from the Executive Board and Field Command Organization and distributing same to the general membership,
- b. Working with local media to publicize events where The Unit has participated,
- c. Working with the local media to inform the local population of upcoming activities and events of The Unit.

4.6 Civilian Support – The Non-military branch of The Unit that provides support for the activities and events of The Unit.

4.6.1 The Civilian Support group does not report to the CO, but will coordinate with the CO to ensure sufficient personnel and materials are available as needed. Leadership within the Civilian Support group will vary with the complexity of the event and level of support needed.

4.6.2 The Civilian Support group is responsible for:

- a. Coordinating necessary support for camp and Living History events activities (i.e., providing rations and drink for soldiers, general housekeeping, etc.,)
- b. Providing insights into the various roles of civilians during the Civil War era.

4.7 Chaplain – The position of Chaplain is voluntary and filled by a member who wishes to portray that role. The Chaplain will have a rank of Captain. There shall be no more than one Chaplain in the Unit.

5.0 General Information:

5.1 Members of the Unit will normally muster as Privates. Members who wish to muster in as something other than a private shall petition the Executive Board for permission.

5.2 The commanding officer shall make all decisions regarding rank appointments as needed.

5.2.1 The command structure shall be based on "Casey's Infantry Tactic."

5.2.2 In the event the Commanding Officer is unable to attend an event, or is absent from camp, decisions for The Unit will fall to the next Officer in Rank.

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5.3 Firearm Safety

5.3.1 Members participating in live-fire exercises (battle field or other events), shall be evaluated by a Safety Officer prior to participation in the event.

5.3.2 In order to participate in battlefield reenactments with firearms, a member must be at least 12 years of age, and if under the age of 18, must be accompanied by a parent or other adult responsible and accountable for his/her behavior.

6.0 Annual Meeting

6.1 The Annual Meeting is normally held prior to the first event of the year.

6.1.1 As a minimum, the following items/topics shall be addressed by the agenda:

- a) Call to order (President)
- b) Pledge of Allegiance (Sergeant at Arms)
- c) Invocation (Chaplain),
- d) Roll Call (Sergeant at Arms)
- e) Treasurer's Report
- f) Secretary's Report
- g) Commanding Officer's Report
- h) Quarter Master's Report
- i) Old Business (President)
- j) New Business (President)
- k) Election of New Officers (President/Sergeant at Arms)
- l) Voting on Events for the upcoming year (Commanding Officer)
- m) General Discussion / How to improve The Unit (President),
- n) Closing of Meeting (President)
- o) Benediction (Chaplain).

6.1.2 Documented Proxy votes (letter, printed email, etc.) in any meeting are permitted with written notification to two or more Executive Board members as to the absentee vote and their agreement to accept the votes.

6.1.3 Bylaws shall be amended only at an Annual Meeting of the Unit by 75% vote of members present.

7.0 Violation of By-Laws and Serious Misconduct:

7.1 The actions deemed serious enough to warrant a hearing or cause for dismissal from The Unit include, yet are not limited to:

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7.1.1 Any deliberate acts of violence, or any action that willfully, carelessly or negligently threatens the well-being of any member within The Unit, fellow reenactors, the public etc., especially when handling firearms.

7.1.2 Action that may discredit a fellow member.

7.1.3 Willful disregard of Rules and Regulations set forth by an event host.

7.1.4 Substance abuse (illegal or illicit drugs) WILL NOT be tolerated.

7.1.5 Alcohol abuse to the point of a member being visibly intoxicated will not be tolerated while attending or participating in active events while the camp or event is open to the public.

7.2 Any member of The Unit accused of violating the previously stated bylaws, or any serious misconduct shall be seen before The Executive Board and the Members of Unit.

7.2.1. A Determination shall be made by the Executive Board and Members of the Unit as to any member accused of said misconduct.

8.0 Limits of Liability for The Unit

8.1 The Unit cannot and will not assume any liability for:

8.1.1 Injury or sickness

8.1.2 Theft or damage to personal property of a member.

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2014 By-Laws Revision Information

This revision to the By-Laws of the 149th Pennsylvania Volunteer Infantry has been prepared by the undersigned members of the By-Laws Committee for 2014. This By-Law revision is hereby presented to the General Membership for a vote and recommended for approval by the undersigned.

By-Law Committee:

J Benware _____ Date: _____

R Nunkester _____ Date: _____

R Whitmoyer _____ Date: _____

General Membership Approval:

Vote date: _____

Results of the Vote:

Results attested to by the:

President: _____ Date: _____

Vice President: _____ Date: _____

Secretary: _____ Date: _____

Treasurer _____ Date: _____

Sgt at Arms _____ Date: _____