

Constitution
Of The 30th Ohio Volunteer Infantry Association

DRAFT –Amendment Proposed 1/19/13 in Red (see Article III)

Article I: Name

The name of this organization shall be The 30th Ohio Volunteer Association, hereinafter referred to as “The Regiment”.

Article II: Purpose

The Regiment is a non-profit historical and educational group to encourage an interest in national and local history of the Civil War era through public presentations, demonstrations, ceremonial activities, and the reenactment of historical events.

Article III: Membership

A: Membership is open to persons 13 years of age or older and families with an interest in the purposes of the Regiment. Persons under 18 years of age must have written parental consent for participation. Application for membership will be approved or rejected by a majority of members at the next meeting after receiving an application. Upon approval of application and payment of annual dues, and any required insurance fees, the applicant will be considered a member in good standing.

B: Consideration of new member applications shall take place after the election of officers for the coming year.

C: In order to remain a member in good standing, and to be eligible to vote for associational and military (if eligible as a military member) officers, members must pay their annual dues, and any required insurance fees, in a timely fashion as stated in the By-laws.

Article IV: Associational Officers

Associational Officers of the Regiment shall be Chairman, Vice-Chairman, Secretary and Treasurer.

A: The Chairman

The Chairman shall have charge of, and preside at, all meetings of the Association, and perform all duties incident to such office, and such other duties as may be required of him by the members. It shall be his duty to open and close all meetings, regular and special, of the Association. He shall appoint pro-tem officers in case of absence. He shall decide all points of law and order arising at the Association meetings. He shall, in case of a tie, have the deciding vote on any question, except in elections. He shall oversee all property of the Association. He shall sign such cards, certificates, or other papers as may require his signature to make them valid. He shall appoint chairmen of ad hoc committees.

B: Vice-Chairman

The Vice-Chairman shall officiate in the absence of the Chairman at all meetings, and perform any and all duties that the Chairman has a right to and should perform, were he present. He shall perform all other duties as may be required of him by the Chairman.

C: Secretary

The Secretary shall record the transactions of the meetings of the Regiment. These minutes shall be recorded in a “minutes book” provided by the Regiment. The Secretary shall retain copies of all correspondence conducted by the Regiment or received by the Regiment until such time as he may be authorized to dispose of the same, by action of the members. The Secretary shall deliver to his successor all books, files, papers, and any and all other property of the Regiment in his possession. The Secretary shall sign such certificates, cards, or other papers as may require his signature to make them valid.

D: Treasurer

The Treasurer shall keep a complete and accurate record of all financial matters of the Regiment in a book or books provided for that purpose by the Regiment. He shall draw checks against the funds of the Regiment for payment of bills approved by the Regiment. He shall collect all initiation fees and dues and record the same. He shall deposit in the name of the Regiment all funds paid to him, from any and every source, in such banks or bank as the Regiment may select. It shall be his duty to keep an accurate account of all money received and expended by him, and he shall report at each meeting of the Regiment the amount of money handled, along with receipts and disbursements. He shall be responsible for submitting all registration documents and fees for events voted upon by The

Regiment to attend as a unit.

Article V: Military Officers

Military Officers of The Regiment shall include, but not be limited to, Captain, 1st Lieutenant, and 1st Sergeant. Other officers of lower rank may be added as needed by The Regiment.

Article VI: Meetings

There shall be at least two regularly scheduled meetings per year: The first, at which election of Associational and Military Officers shall take place, shall occur in November/December of the present year. The second, at which the event schedule for the following season shall be determined, shall occur in January/February of the following year. Other business matters of The Regiment may also occur at either meeting. Other meetings shall be called by the Chairman as deemed appropriate. Notice of such meetings shall be given to the membership at least two (2) weeks in advance. Time and place of such meetings shall be determined by the Chairman. A Quorum shall consist of at least two (2) Associational officers, at least one of which must be the Chairman or Vice-Chairman, and ten (10) members. The vote of the majority of the members present shall determine the action of the Regiment on any matter.

Article VII: Elections

A: Any member of The Regiment is eligible for election to Associational office, and may hold only one such office at a time.

B: Only military members, as defined in the By-laws, are eligible for election to Military office, and may hold only one such office at a time.

C: Officers serve one year terms and may be elected to successive terms.

D: Voting shall be by secret ballot. Members must be present and in good standing to vote.

E: Elections shall be held prior to admitting new members.

F: Officers elected at the November/December meeting begin their term of office at the January/February meeting.

Article VIII: Amendments

Any member may propose amendments to this Constitution and By-laws by advising the Chairman at any meeting and submitting the proposed changes to him in writing at any meeting. Copies of the changes shall be given all members by arrangements made by the Secretary at least one month prior to the next meeting, at which time it shall be voted on by the Regiment.

Article IX: Dissolution

In the event the Regiment should cease to exist, dissolution shall transfer all assets and property of the Regiment to the Ohio Historical Society.

30th constitution

(Proposed) Bylaws of the 30th Ohio Volunteer Infantry Association

DRAFT –Amendment Proposed 1/19/13 in red (see Sections A and I)

A) General Provisions

1. Unit Impression: For reenactment purposes, the Regiment will portray Company B, 30th Ohio Volunteer Infantry. Members may do other impressions as required by event scenarios.

2. Dues: Dues will be \$10.00 for Single (Individual) Membership or \$15.00 for Family Membership. Dues are due and payable with the member's initial application, and thereafter at the November/December meeting of each year. (amendments passed Dec 1, 2012)

3. Age Requirements: The minimum age to fire any weapon will be as set by the event host, normally 16 years of age.

4. Behavior Considerations: Each member is responsible for behaving in a suitable manner during unit activities, including, but not limited to, meetings and events. We seek to honor those of the Civil War time period, and therefore should be always mindful of how we represent those men and women of the time

5. Safety: Each member is responsible for the maintenance and/or safe operation of equipment and weapons in their possession. The senior infantry officer (or NCO) present at an event is responsible for the safety of the Company. He will conduct a weapons inspection prior to each battle scenario, before firing begins, and will insure that the Company is instructed in safety procedures. Any and all safety rules imposed by the event hosts will be complied with.

6. Termination of Membership: Irresponsible behavior or behavior contrary to the good of the Regiment may be cause for termination of membership. In such cases, the offending member will be advised of the accusations against him by the Chairman, and will be given an opportunity to explain his (her) behavior to the Chairman. The unanimous vote of the elected (Association) officers will be required for termination. Termination for cause will be announced at the next meeting, and will be effective immediately, unless opposed by a majority of the members present.

B) Military Rank Structure

1. All military ranks and ratings are automatically resigned at the end of each year. In addition, any officer or NCO who is no longer willing or able to serve may resign at any time.

2. Officers or NCO's whose performance is unsatisfactory may be relieved by the Chairman at the request of the military membership. Such action may only be taken if a majority of the military members serving under that officer or NCO request such action in writing.

3. Any vacancy among commissioned officers which occurs during the year shall be filled by a special election called by the Chairman. Vacancies among the NCO's will be filled by advancing those next in rank. The method(s) of casting ballots will be determined by the Chairman.

4. The maximum authorized rank structure will consist of: one (1) Captain, one (1) 1st Lieutenant, one (1) 2nd Lieutenant, one (1) First Sergeant, one (1) Quartermaster Sergeant, three (3) Sergeants, and four (4) Corporals.

If the number of active members in the unit does not justify filling the maximum rank structure, the members may elect to leave some positions vacant. This matter will be resolved by vote before nominations are made for the annual election each year.

5. Newly elected commissioned officers will normally serve their first year as 2nd Lieutenants. During this first year, they may wear enlisted uniform with officer's insignia. If elected Captain or 1st Lieutenant, they will be expected to purchase officer's uniforms.

6. In addition to those regularly authorized ranks, members may wear brevet or temporary rank appropriate to their impression at specific events. All such brevet ranks are subject to the approval of the Captain.

7. If the number of men present at an event does not justify their rank, officers and NCO's are encouraged to appear as private soldiers in battle scenarios in order to fill out the ranks.

8. Members with special skills and qualifications may elect to do specialist impressions (e.g. Provost Marshals, Surgeons, Hospital Stewards, Ordnance Sgts., musicians, etc.) with the approval of the Chairman.

9. Officers and NCO's with at least ten (10) years service in the Regiment may, at their option, elect to be "retired" with the highest rank attained. The member will retain the right to wear this rank when appearing with the Regiment, if he so chooses. This rank is purely honorary, will carry no command authority, and will not be part of the rank structure given above.

C) Election of Military Officers and NCO's

1. The election of military officers and NCO's will take place at the annual November/December meeting. Voting will be by secret ballot, with the ballots destroyed after the meeting.
2. Any military member of the unit meeting the eligibility requirements may be nominated for any position as an officer or NCO. Nominations may be made by any *military* member eligible to vote.
3. Nominees should be familiar with the required duties, as outlined in Section D below, for the office for which they are nominated before accepting such nomination, and if elected be prepared to perform those duties by the following Unit Basic Training.
4. Officers and NCO's will be elected for a term of one (1) year.
5. To be eligible for election as an officer or NCO, or to vote for military officers and NCO's, a member must be in good standing, and have performed duty with the military component of the unit at no less than four (4) events during the current calendar year. Mere attendance at an event is not enough to satisfy this requirement; the member must have fallen in and participated in the drills, battle scenarios, living history demonstrations, etc. Unit Basic Training would be counted as one event. Meetings are not counted as an event. At each event, the senior NCO present will keep a record of those participating, and submit a report to the chairman within one week of the close of the event.
6. Elections for commissioned officers and NCO's will be held one at a time, in descending order of rank. The member receiving the second highest number of votes for the final corporal's position to be elected will serve as the alternate for that position in case an NCO position becomes open during the year.
7. The position of Quartermaster Sergeant, if deemed as desirable for that year, will not be elected, but will be appointed by the Chairman.

D) Duties of Officers and NCO's

1. Corporals will be proficient in the School of the Soldier (SoS), to include the Manual of Arms, the various firings, the principles of alignment, marching in line, and marching by the flank. They should be able to teach this material to the privates. Corporals will also be responsible for the safety of their men and will make sure they follow safety procedures. In the absence of sergeants, corporals will perform their duties.

2. Sergeants will be proficient in the SoS, School of the Company (SoC), and the Instructions for Skirmishers (IfS). They should be able to teach this material to the corporals and privates. All sergeants should be familiar with the rules of right and left guides of a company and platoon, and be prepared to serve as guides. Sergeants will assist the First Sergeant with his duties and perform them in his absence.

3. The First Sergeant will be responsible for the administration of the company while at reenactment events, to include preparing required reports and assigning the enlisted men to fatigue and guard details. If no commissioned officers are present at an event, the first sergeant will command the company.

4. Commissioned officers will be proficient in the SoS, SoC, IfS, and School of the Battalion (SoB). They will serve as the principal instructors of the company in the various schools, and will be responsible for training the company to an acceptable level of proficiency. They will also enforce safety procedures and ensure that the company operates according to safe practices. They will apply themselves to the study of period tactical manuals (primarily Casey's, as well as Hardee's, Scott's, etc) and Army regulations and procedures in order to create a more accurate impression. The Captain will command the company on the field at reenactment events. The First Lieutenant will assist the Captain, command the second platoon if the company breaks into platoons, and will command the company in the absence of the Captain.

5. The Quartermaster Sergeant will be responsible for the Regimental property and equipment while in the field, such as the colors, drums, company ammunition (powder, cartridges and caps) and rations, loaner gear and weapons, and any additional Regimental property. He will ascertain what unit property is required at each scheduled event and make arrangements for its transportation to the event. He will keep accounts of all money spent to procure company supplies and will provide them to the Association Treasurer. He will also retain receipts for all

Regimental property loaned or issued to members and will retain them until the property is returned. Quartermasters will turn over their records to their successors

6. The Quartermaster Sergeant holds a "staff" rather than "line" position and therefore will not ordinarily exercise command authority at reenactments. He may serve as a private soldier or perform special duties as prescribed by his commanding officers.

7. The duties and responsibilities of any specialists (musicians, hospital stewards, surgeons, provost marshals, ordnance sergeants, etc.) will be prescribed by the Captain. These individuals will not command troops unless requested to do so by a line officer.

E) Uniform and Equipment Regulations

1. A high degree of accuracy and "authenticity" is encouraged. However, it is not intended to require members to produce their own equipment or to spend large amounts of money acquiring "the best" equipment. Uniforms and equipment should appear to be of the correct cut, color, style and materials of items used during the American Civil War. Impressions should be correct for the event the individual is attending. The final authority for the acceptability of any item will be the Chairman. Rules may be adjusted in cases of financial hardship or medical/physical condition.

2. The basic infantry uniform will consist of a dark blue forage cap, dark blue four-button sack coat, and light blue foot pattern trousers.

3. New members will not be required to purchase period-correct footwear or eyewear during their first season only. Members should procure these items, as needed, before the beginning of their second season.

4. Officers may wear any period-accurate style of uniform they choose.

5. In addition to the basic uniform, members are encouraged to purchase and wear other period correct items appropriate to the event they are attending and the impression they are portraying. This includes, but is not limited to: frock coats, "roundabouts" or shell jackets, slouch or "Hardee" hats.

6. Additional equipment that members should seek to purchase includes, but is not limited to: black leather cartridge box and sling, cap box and waist belt; wool blanket; gum or tarred blanket or poncho; black painted haversack; military or

civilian style shirt; wool socks; canteen; and suspenders (braces); tin plate or canteen half plate; eating utensils and tin cup or mucket.

7. Hat brass should usually be kept to a minimum, if used at all, and should be appropriate to the impression and event portrayed.

8. Enlisted men will carry full-length, three-banded muzzle-loading, single shot smoothbore or rifled muskets when serving in the ranks. Special weapons such as short rifles (two-banders), breechloaders, and repeaters may be authorized by officers if appropriate to the event. Pistols and combat knives will not be carried by soldiers armed with muskets. Sergeants may elect to wear NCO swords. Commissioned officers will wear swords when on duty and may also carry pistols if so desired.

9. Crimson sashes for commissioned officers, and red sashes for NCO's authorized to wear them according to Army Regulations, may be worn at the option of the individual.

10. Members staying in "authentic" camps during events or living histories will be expected to portray an accurate impression of period camp life when the camps are open to the public. Tents and visible camp equipment should be of a style appropriate to the Civil War period. Non-period items are discouraged, but if present should be effectively concealed, especially when the camps are open to the public.

F) Civilians and Non-combatants

1. Women, children and those men not wishing to portray soldiers may travel with the Regiment to events and portray civilians of the Civil War period. This gives additional depth to the Regiment's impression and allows members' families to participate.

2. Members staying in an authentic civilian camp or visiting the military camp at an event are expected to maintain a period correct appearance and deportment when the camp is open to the public. Civilian women should have male escorts when visiting military camp. Clothing styles appropriate to the 1860's should be worn. Modern clothing and equipment is discouraged, but if present should be effectively concealed, especially when the camps are open to the public.

3. The Chairman may appoint a Civilian coordinator for the season to oversee civilian activities, correct breaches of accuracy, see to the needs of civilian members, and to record names to credit members attending an event.

G) Scheduling of Meetings and Events

1. All members are strongly encouraged to attend all unit meetings and scheduled events. Meeting dates and times are set by the Chairman. Event schedules are voted upon by the membership at the January/February meeting: However, additional events may be added during the year.

2. Any member of the Regiment, at any scheduled meeting, may propose an event to be added to the Regiment's calendar. A majority vote by the members present is sufficient for approval.

3. The November/December and January/February annual meetings should be considered mandatory for all members of the Regiment. Association and military officers and scheduled events are all voted upon at these meetings, so it is imperative that members attend to take part in these activities.

4. Basic Training should be considered mandatory for all military members of the Regiment. This is where we set the stage for the upcoming year concerning drill and other instruction. It is vital to our unit impression that we all have current knowledge of the basics of portraying a soldier in the field.

Amendments to these By-laws may be made at any meeting of the Regiment by vote of the majority of those present.

I) Reenactor's Liability Insurance

1. The Regiment may obtain insurance to cover liability for injuries or damages caused by members at events. This insurance may be obtained through the Regiment's membership in an "umbrella" reenactment association (such as the Army of the Ohio) or a separate policy. Any liability insurance coverage shall be approved by a vote of the membership of the Regiment.

2. Once the membership has voted to obtain insurance, all members of the Regiment shall be required to obtain coverage and pay fees as the policy may direct. The amount of such fees shall not exceed \$10 per member.