

# **31ST INFANTRY REGIMENT ASSOCIATION CONSTITUTION**

## **ARTICLE I DESIGNATION**

The name of this organization is the 31st Infantry Regiment Association, Inc., "The Polar Bears". Incorporated in the State of Arkansas, it is a non-profit fraternal, social, educational, patriotic, military service organization, which shall always remain non-partisan and non-political. The Association shall exist permanently as a national parent organization with subordinate branches known as Regions. Insignia: Polar Bear. Motto: Pro Patria. Headquarters of the Association shall be the address of the current Commander of the active duty unit of the 31<sup>st</sup> Infantry Regiment.

## **ARTICLE II OBJECTIVES**

The Association provides opportunities uniting past, present and future members of the 31<sup>st</sup> Infantry Regiment in a national program dedicated to the preservation and maintenance of the 31<sup>st</sup> Infantry Regiment's history, customs and traditions. Specific objectives are:

- 2.1 To foster patriotism, esprit de corps and loyalty of its members to the 31st Infantry Regiment.
- 2.2 to foster and strengthen associations and friendships formed during service with the 31st Infantry Regiment.
- 2.3 To honor the 31st Infantry Regiment War Dead.
- 2.4 To encourage a close and cooperative alliance with the active duty unit of the 31st Infantry Regiment.
- 2.5 To preserve the history of the 31st Infantry Regiment for future generations through the written, pictorial, or recorded recollections of association members.
- 2.6 To support the Government of the United States and its Armed Forces; and to give to them, in peace and war, the devotion and service expected of us as members of its armed forces.

## **ARTICLE III MEMEBERSHIP**

- 3.1 There shall be three classes of membership: Regular, Associate and Honorary.
- 3.2 The types of membership are: Life and Annual.
- 3.3 Eligibility for Regular Membership: Veterans and active duty members with honorable service in units of the 31<sup>st</sup> Infantry Regiment or units attached to the Regiment in peace and war.
- 3.4 Associate Members: Family members of any person eligible for regular membership; any person with a special interest in the Regiment; and other organizations that

supported or support the Regiment, such as Red Cross, Philippine Army personnel, artillery units, etc.

- 3.5 Eligibility of Honorary Membership: Gold Star Wives and Parents. The Commander of the active duty component of the Regiment shall be designated as "Honorary Commander of the 31<sup>st</sup> Infantry Regiment Association". Others as granted by the Executive Board. Honorary members pay no dues.
- 3.6 Members will pay dues and comply with the Constitution and By-Laws.
- 3.7 Associate and Honorary Members shall enjoy the rights and privileges of a member, but shall be restricted from participating in the official organization business and are not entitled to vote on organization matters.
- 3.8 Friends of the Regiment: This category includes non-veterans who support the objectives of the Regiment but are not legally members of the association. They may be authorized to subscribe to the association newsletter, contribute to the association and attend reunions, but are not authorized to participate in business meetings of the association.

#### **ARTICLE IV DUES**

- 4.1 Annual membership dues are payable each year prior to July in amounts set forth in the By-Laws
- 4.2 Life membership dues are payable at any time in amounts set forth in the By-Laws.

#### **ARTICLE V MANAGEMENT**

- 5.1 Government. The membership is the governing body of the Association. It meets once a year in the Annual Reunion/Convention at which time officials are elected to carry out the day-to-day operations of the Association. Each regular member in good standing has one vote in these elections, expressed in person. The fiscal year shall be July 1 through 30 June.
- 5.2 Elective Officers: Elective officers of the Association are: Commander, Vice-Commander, Chairman of the Board of Directors and Regional Directors. Members will only nominate Regional Directors that reside within their region. Nominations will be voted by the general membership at the annual general membership meeting.
- 5.3 Appointed Officers: Appointed officers are: Adjutant and Assistant, Treasurer and Assistant, Secretary and Assistant, General Counsel, Chaplain and Assistant, Historian and Assistant, Quartermaster and Assistant, Membership Chair, Sgt.-at-Arms and Assistant, Editor of the Newsletter and Assistant, and the Reunion Coordinator and Assistant.
- 5.4 The Executive Board shall consist of the Chairman of the Board, the Commander, Vice-Commander, and the Regional Directors. The immediate past Commander shall

act as a consultant and serve on the Executive Board. The Colonel of the Regiment, a retired senior officer, and the Honorary Command Sergeant Major are appointed by the Department of the Army and serve as advisors to the Association Executive Board.

5.5 Term of Office. All Officers shall be elected/appointed at the Annual Reunion/Convention and the term of office shall extend from January 1 of the following year for a period of two years. The time from election/appointment at the Annual Reunion/Convention until January 1 will be viewed as the transfer of duties from one officer to his successor. All officers may succeed themselves, provided they are properly nominated and elected/appointed.

All Directors shall be elected at the Annual Reunion/Convention and the term of office shall extend from January 1 of the following year for a period of six years. The time from election at the Annual Reunion/Convention will be viewed as the transfer of duties from one director to his successor. All directors may succeed themselves, provided they are properly nominated and elected.

5.6 Regions. For purposes of administration the United States is divided into Regions. The Executive Board shall determine the boundaries included in each Region and publish them in the association newsletter. The boundaries and number of Regions may change from time to time depending on the membership.

5.7 The authority and duty of each officer and director shall be as defined in the By-laws. No individual may hold a position of an Executive Board member and an elected/appointed position, sans the position of Historian.

5.8 In the event of demise, resignation or other incapacity, the line of succession of the elected officers will be Commander, Vice-Commander, and Chairman of the Board of Directors, approved by the Executive Board with a simple majority.

5.9 A vacancy occurring in any elective or appointed office during an administrative year shall be filled by action of the Executive Board.

5.10 All officers shall serve without monetary compensation. Any elected or appointed officer, who wishes to make a purchase at the association's expense, must receive permission from the Executive Board to do so and may be reimbursed by the treasury on receiving the Executive Board's approval for the expenditure. All requests for reimbursement require submission of receipts.

## **ARTICLE VI PUBLICATIONS**

6.1 The Association newsletter is designated as the official publication of the Association and serves as the association's focal point for those members unable to attend annual reunions. It also serves as the source of outreach for the association's living history program. It will be published at least three times a fiscal year under the supervision of the Executive Board.

6.2 The Executive Board shall appoint the Editor and Assistant Editor.

- 6.3 The Executive Board shall have full control of all questions of policy in the official publication.
- 6.4 The Editor shall have complete charge and responsibility for the composition, coordinating and publishing the newsletter, subject to the direction and control of the Executive Board. The newsletter's content shall be coordinated with the Commander and Adjutant prior to publication. The Editor may select, as determined by the Executive Board, such additional assistants as he may require from time to time and deemed necessary to assist in the work of the official publication.
- 6.5 The publication shall be sent to all paid up members, associate members and honorary members of the Association and others the Executive Board shall direct.
- 6.6 A national roster is published annually and distributed to all Officers and Directors. The roster, for membership use only, shall list the following information for each member in good standing when known: name, address, unit, rank, telephone, fax and email as well as the type of membership held.

In an effort to ensure the privacy of the members, the roster is not to be distributed to any person other than an officer or director of the Association without express permission for distribution by the Executive Board.

## **ARTICLE VII BY-LAWS**

- 7.1 The Association shall have full power to adopt By-Laws, which are not in conflict with this Constitution. By-Laws may be adopted, ratified, modified or repealed at the Association Annual Reunion/Convention, or any Special Meeting called for that specific purpose under the provisions of Section XII of the By-Laws.
- 7.2 The rules contained in Robert's Rules of Order, 1915 edition or later in copyright, shall govern the Association in all cases which are applicable and in which they are not inconsistent or conflicting with the Constitution or By-Laws of the Association.

## **ARTICLE VIII AMENDMENTS**

- 8.1 This Constitution may be amended, altered or repealed by two-thirds (2/3) vote of all members. The amended document shall be mailed to the membership for approval with a cover letter specifying that "silence is consent". Notice thereof shall be given by publication in one issue of the association newsletter.