



2011
ALSSAR By-Laws Committee Chairman

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By-Laws Committee
Alabama Society
Sons of the American Revolution

Committee Report
Board of Managers Meeting
08 October, 2011

Compatriots,

The Alabama Society of the Sons of the American Revolution is in need of a way to deal with Ethical issues should they arise. Following is proposed By-Law that provides for the establishment of a Committee and guidelines for conducting business as a Committee. The Committee will not be a standing one and will only be formed and convened as necessary.

It is important for our Society and all of its members to conduct themselves in an ethical manner. There have been times when issues have arisen and we need to be able to take care of the discipline of our Society at the State level if at all possible.

The proposed By-Law addresses the members of the Committee, how they are appointed, how the complainant will be notified, how the Committee will conduct their investigations, how they will report to the BOM, who has voting rights and ultimately who has the authority to make final disposition of ethical issues. The people who serve on the Committee should be well respected by the Society and qualified to serve.

The By-Laws Committee respectfully submits the following for your consideration and adoption as an addition to the ALSSAR By-Laws:

DRAFT – 09 August 2011

PROPOSED BYLAW

Title: Ethics Committee

Section 1. When convened by the current ALSSAR President, an Ethics Committee shall consist of the ALSSAR Chaplain, ALSSAR Chancellor, two Past State Presidents, and three past Chapter Presidents, as chosen by the presiding President. The Committee shall elect a Committee Chairman to facilitate the conduct of business. The ALSSAR Chaplain and Chancellor will serve in an advisory role and will not vote on matters brought before the committee.

Section 2. Ethically, this means that all members of the NSSAR are expected to act as gentlemen; that members will conduct themselves in a gentlemanly manner at all times; and that personal derogatory remarks will be avoided. In the event an ethics violation is charged by one ALSSAR or member of another State Society compatriot against another ALSSAR member, that charge or complaint shall be provided by the complainant in writing to the ALSSAR President and shall be referred by the President to the Chancellor for determination that the charge or complaint meets the definition of an ethics violation. Any such complaint deemed to meet the definition of an ethics violation shall be referred to the Ethics Committee for a hearing and determination of facts. The Chancellor may determine there is a substantial and overriding reason to handle the charge or complaint by immediate referral to the NSSAR Chancellor General and the National Ethics Committee; such referral shall be rare and warranted and is usually reserved for appeals.

Section 3. The Ethics Committee, when convened, shall have the responsibility and authority to investigate reports of unethical conduct; scandalous and/or defamatory remarks that are made orally or in publications by members of the Society; objectionable behavior; or, actions of an objectionable and detrimental manner to the organization. Such actions include tending to injure the good name of the society, disturb its well-being, or hamper it in its work. The investigation may be instituted by

a written complaint or by information brought to the attention of the President, Senior Vice President, or the Chaplain. When such complaint or information is made known and unresolved, and the written complaint is submitted, the President will convene the Ethics Committee. In the event the complaint is against the President, the Senior Vice President will appoint the members other than the ALSSAR Chaplain and Chancellor and convene the Committee. In such a case, the Senior Vice President will inform the President of the convening of the Committee and the reason for doing so.

Section 4. The individual named shall be notified in writing by the Ethics Committee Chairman, to include a summarization of the complaint. The investigation of the Committee shall be confidential, conducted without public notice, and attempt to learn all relevant facts. Information obtained in confidence should not be reported to the society or used in a meeting of the Board of Managers. The Committee, as directed by the Chairman, should attempt to meet or discuss the matter with the individual named as having given the unethical or objectionable behavior.

Section 5. If a member is guilty of a serious offense and knows that other members are in possession of the facts, he may submit his resignation from membership. The society has no obligation to suggest or accept such a resignation at any stage, even if it is submitted on the offender's own initiative.

Section 6. The committee shall hold hearings via face-to-face meetings or telephonic conferences, and be provided information and input via email exchange. An individual named shall have two weeks to respond to committee requests for information and notice of a committee meeting or telephonic conference. At the conclusion of the hearing, the committee may take such action as it deems necessary, including but not limited to private or public admonishment by the committee; or recommend revocation of State Society Membership; or recommend non-participation in State Society activities; or recommend other disciplinary action to the President and the Board of Managers. The proceedings of the Committee shall be confidential until such time as the Committee reports its recommendations to the President. Recommendations shall be reported in writing. In the event of a recommendation for disciplinary action, the President shall report the recommendation to the Board of Managers. The Board shall review the findings of the Ethics Committee and take appropriate action or no action as the case requires.

Section 7. Resolutions of the Board of Managers based upon the recommendations of the Ethics Committee shall require a majority vote of the Board of Managers membership present at a properly called meeting, after the individual named has been given written notice of the charges against him and afforded an opportunity to appear before the Board of Managers and offer a defense to the charges. Such resolutions and defense may occur in the same meeting. If the individual fails to adequately defend himself the Board of Managers, by a two-thirds (2/3) vote of the members present, shall determine such disciplinary action as it desires.

Section 8. Unresolved ethical complaints, after State proceedings and efforts, can be appealed by the Chancellor to the NSSAR Chancellor General, upon request of the individual named in the complaint, the President, the Ethics Committee Chairman, or the Board of Managers.

Respectfully submitted,

C. W. Posey, Jr.
ALSSAR By-Laws Committee Chairman