

# KYSSAR CONSTITUTION

Last Revised: 16 November 2024

## **Article I – Name**

The Name of this Society shall be "The Kentucky Society, Sons of the American Revolution" (KYSSAR).

## **Article II – Affiliation**

The Society shall be a part of the National Society, Sons of the American Revolution, and shall in all respects be subject to its Constitution and Bylaws. The KYSSAR recognizes all other State Societies as co-equal.

## **Article III – Purpose**

The objects of this Society are declared to be patriotic, historical, and educational, and shall include those intended or designed to perpetuate the memory of men who, by their services or sacrifices during the War of the American Revolution, achieved the independence of the American people; to unite and promote fellowship among their descendants; to inspire their descendants and the community at large with a more profound reverence for the principles of the government founded by our forefathers; to encourage historical research in relation to the American Revolution; to acquire and preserve records of the individual services of the patriots of the War, as well as documents, relics, and landmarks; to mark the scenes of the Revolution by appropriate memorials; to celebrate the anniversaries of the prominent events of the War; to foster true patriotism; to maintain and extend the institutions of American freedom; and to carry out the purposes expressed in the Preamble of the Constitution of our country, and the injunctions of Washington in his Farewell Address to the American people. Whenever possible, this society shall in particular apply the foregoing purposes to Kentucky, its history, and people.

## **Article IV – Members**

**Section 1** - Membership eligibility in the Kentucky Society, Sons of the American Revolution, is ultimately determined by the National Society. Generally, any male shall be eligible for membership in this Society who, is the lineal descendant of an ancestor who was at all times unfailing in his loyalty, and rendered actual service in the cause of American independence, either as an officer, soldier, marine, militiaman, or minuteman in the armed forces of the Continental Congress or any of the several colonies or states; or as a signer of the Declaration of Independence; or as a member of a Committee of Safety or Correspondence; or as a member of any continental, provincial, or colonial congress or legislature; or as a civil officer of either one of the colonies or states, or of the national government; or as a recognized patriot who performed actual service by overt acts of resistance to the authority of Great Britain.

**Section 2** - Application for membership shall be on forms provided by the National Society. Upon completion of the requirements, the form shall be filed with the Kentucky

Registrar in duplicate, together with all required state and national fees. Upon approval as provided in the KYSSAR Bylaws, one copy with the requisite fees shall be forwarded by the Registrar or by an Assistant Registrar(s), to the National Headquarters, and no membership shall be valid until approved by the Registrar General.

**Section 3** - No person shall be accepted for membership-at-large. All applications must be made through a chapter.

**Section 4** - Categories of membership in the Kentucky Society shall be those established by the National Society, including Annual Members, Life Members, Junior Members, and Memorial Members, except that the Kentucky Society no longer enrolls new Life Members at the state or chapter levels.

#### **Article V – Life Member Trust Fund**

On March 12, 2022, at a meeting of the KYSSAR Board of Governors, a motion was made and approved to dissolve the KYSSAR's Life Member Trust Fund Program. Subsequently, a vote by the General Membership of the Society on that same date occurred at the KYSSAR annual meeting and conferred the motion of the Board of Governors to dissolve the program. It was further decided by the Society's General Membership to purchase National Life Memberships for all of its living members of the program. This would ensure that the Society's Life Members would never be required to pay national dues. It was also resolved that the Society's Life Members would not be billed any State or Chapter dues so long as they remain a living member of the Society.

It was also decided that all remaining funds of the Life Member Trust were to be distributed at the rate of 50% to the Society, and 50% to the Chapters (based on their ratio of living members in the fund).

Through December 2022, attempts were made to contact all known Life Members of the State Society to verify their status. If the status of a Life Member could not be determined after numerous attempts to do so, it was agreed that all such Life Members would be dropped from the Society's membership. However, sufficient funds would be held aside for a designated period of time in case Life Members were located, so that a National Life Membership could be obtained in their name. The designated period of time for holding the aforementioned sufficient funds will be determined by the Board of Governors.

#### **Article VI – Officers**

**Section 1** - The officers of this Society shall be a President, President-Elect, Vice President, Secretary, Treasurer, Recording Secretary, Registrar, Genealogist, Chancellor, Historian, Surgeon, Chaplain, Assistant Treasurer, and Assistant Registrar(s). They shall rank in the order listed in this section. In the event that there are multiple Assistant Registrars, their rank shall be determined via a blind draw conducted by the president at the start of their term.

**Section 2** - In the event of the death, resignation, permanent disability, recognized inability, or removal of an officer for any reason, the Board of Governors shall appoint an interim officer to serve the unexpired portion of the term in accordance with the provisions of the Bylaws.

## **Article VII – Elections**

**Section 1 – Nominating Committee:** A Nominating Committee shall be proposed by the President-Elect and approved either by the Society President or its Board of Governors sometime after the summer meeting (typically held the third Saturday in August), but no later than sixty (60) days prior to the fall meeting (typically held the second or third Saturday in November). The President-Elect shall serve as chairman of this committee, and the Vice President shall serve as vice chairman. The committee shall consist of no fewer than six (6) members in good standing of the State Society, drawn from at least three (3) different chapters. The current Society Chancellor shall serve as the advisor to the Nominating Committee during such matters. The Nominating Committee Chairman may also solicit the input from additional advisors on topic-specific information relating to the matters of the Nominating Committee.

**Section 2 – Nomination of Kentucky Society Officer Candidates:** For each annual Society election, the Nominating Committee shall nominate no less than one (1) qualified candidate (as defined in Article XIV of the KYSSAR Bylaws), for every officer position of the Kentucky Society. The Nominating Committee shall also ensure that all candidates are of at least 18 years of age when they take office. The Nominating Committee shall inform all candidates of the duties of office, and shall obtain from each his approval before the candidate nominations are presented to the Society. In making its candidate nominations for office, the Nominating Committee shall give consideration to appropriate distribution among the chapters.

**Section 3 – Nomination of Kentucky SAR Nominees for Designated National Officers:** The Nominating Committee shall nominate no less than one (1) qualified nominee (as defined in Article XIV of the KYSSAR Bylaws), for the Designated National Officers of Trustee and Alternate Trustee for the Kentucky SAR. In addition, when it is the Kentucky SAR's turn, the Nominating Committee shall be tasked with the presentation to the Society of no less than one (1) qualified nominee (as defined in Article XIV of the KYSSAR Bylaws), for the position of Central District Vice President General (VPG). The Kentucky Society's turn is designated by the Central District. The Nominating Committee shall also ensure that all nominees are of at least 18 years of age when they take office. The Nominating Committee shall inform all nominees of the duties of office, and shall obtain from each his approval before the nominees are presented to the Society.

**Section 4 – Meeting Notice:** No later than thirty (30) days prior to the Society's fall meeting, the Nominating Committee shall present its candidates for the Officers of the Kentucky Society, and the Kentucky SAR Nominees for Designated National Officers, which shall be sent to the membership with the notice for that meeting. The Nominating Committee may also choose to endorse officer candidates for the Kentucky Society, and/or nominees for Kentucky SAR Designated National Officers, and include those endorsements in the above stated announcement and required notice for that meeting.

**Section 5 – Presentation of Candidates and Nominees:** At the Society's fall meeting, the Nominating Committee shall present its candidates for the Officers of the Kentucky Society, and the Kentucky SAR Nominees for Designated National Officers. Nominations of additional candidates and/or nominees for office may be made from the floor at that time, provided that the candidate and/or nominee be present, be a member

of the Kentucky Society in good standing (as defined in Article XIV of the KYSSAR Bylaws), be at least 18 years of age when they take office, and willingly accept the nomination. For those members who are deemed by the Nominating Committee to meet the aforementioned floor nomination qualifications listed in this section, the Nominating Committee shall inform them of the duties of their respective office, and obtain from each his approval before his nomination is presented to the Society.

**Section 6 – Time of Elections:** Elections for the Officers of the Kentucky Society, and for the elections of the Kentucky SAR Nominees for Designated National Officers, will be conducted at the Society’s fall meeting. Each member of the Kentucky Society, at least 18 years of age, in attendance and in good standing (as defined in Article XIV of the KYSSAR Bylaws), shall be entitled to one (1) vote. The results of all elections at that meeting are final, and those elected will immediately be announced to the Society.

**Section 7 – Time of Installations:** The Kentucky Society Officers, who were elected at the previous fall Society meeting, shall be installed at the Society’s annual meeting (typically held the second or third Saturday in March). The Kentucky SAR Nominees for Designated National Officers shall be formally elected and installed at the next annual Congress of the National Society.

**Section 8 – Vice President General:** The Kentucky SAR nominee for Vice President General for the Central District, having been elected at the Society’s fall meeting, is then further nominated by the Kentucky SAR at the Central District Meeting (typically held the second or third Saturday in October prior to the National Congress), and subsequently elected and installed at the next annual Congress of the National Society.

**Section 9 – Voting Protocols:** In the event that more than one (1) officer candidate of the Kentucky Society, and/or nominee of the Kentucky SAR Designated National Officers, is nominated for the same office, a majority of votes cast by the members present and voting shall decide the outcome of the elections. Voting shall be by written ballot in accordance with the provisions of the KYSSAR Bylaws. The Society’s election officials for all contested elections shall be appointed by the KYSSAR State President from members of the Kentucky Society in good standing (as defined in Article XIV of the KYSSAR Bylaws), who are in attendance at the meeting. The current Society Chancellor shall serve as the advisor to the duly appointed election officials during such matters.

## **Article VIII – Board of Governors**

**Section 1** - The Board of Governors shall superintend the interests and control the management of the affairs and funds of the Society between meetings of the Society in accordance with the provisions of the Bylaws. It shall recommend plans to the Society for promoting its purposes, and shall prepare business for the meetings of the Society. It shall supervise all publications issued in the name of the Society. It may require the attendance of any member or any committee of the Society for consultation and advice. It shall further perform such additional duties as may be required by the Constitution, Bylaws, standing rules, or resolutions of the Society.

**Section 2** - The Board of Governors shall consist of the officers of the Society, as enumerated in Article VI, Section 1 of this Constitution, together with the immediate Past-

President of the Society, the Society's Trustee and Alternate Trustee, any General Officers of the National Society who are members of the Kentucky Society, and the president and one other delegate from each chapter.

**Section 3** - In the event that a chapter president be unable to attend a meeting of the Board of Governors, he may designate a proxy. The name of the designated proxy shall be submitted to the president, vice president, and secretary of the Society no later than twenty-four (24) hours prior to the start of the scheduled meeting. All other members must be present in person in order to participate and vote.

**Section 4** - Each member of the Board of Governors shall have one (1) vote.

### **Article IX – Meetings**

**Section 1** - The annual meeting of the Kentucky Society shall be held in the spring of each year at a date, time, and place recommended by the President-Elect and approved by the Board of Governors (typically the second or third Saturday in March), for the purpose of conducting the business of the Society. In addition, a minimum of two (2) other meetings of the Society shall take place between annual meetings in accordance with the provisions of the KYSSAR Bylaws. Of the two (2) minimum additional meetings, one shall be held in the summer (typically held the third Saturday in August), and the other shall be held in the fall (typically held the second or third Saturday in November). The specific date, time, and place of the summer and fall meetings shall be recommended by the President and approved by the Board of Governors. Notice of the date, time, and place of all Society meetings shall be sent to all members at least thirty (30) days in advance.

**Section 2 - Society Fall Meeting:** The Society's fall meeting shall be the meeting for the annual election of Kentucky Society Officers and the Kentucky SAR Nominees for Designated National Officers.

**Section 3 - Annual Meeting:** At the annual meeting of the Society, the Kentucky Society officers elected at the Society's fall Meeting, shall be installed.

**Section 4** – Each member of the Kentucky Society, at least 18 years of age, in attendance and in good standing (as defined in Article XIV of the KYSSAR Bylaws), shall be entitled to one (1) vote.

**Section 5** - Additional meetings of the Kentucky Society beyond the annual, summer, and fall meetings shall be held only when: (1) Requested by the President and approved by the Board of Governors; (2) Requested directly by the Board of governors; or (3) Upon the official request of a majority of chapter presidents.

**Section 6** - The Board of Governors shall meet at the same date and place as the annual meeting of the Society, but in a separate session prior to the meeting. A minimum of two (2) additional meetings of the Board of Governors shall take place between annual meetings, in accordance with the provisions of the Bylaws.

**Section 7** - Any member of the Kentucky Society may attend the meetings of the Board of Governors, but only those designated as members in Article VIII, Section 2, of this Constitution, shall have a vote.

### **Article X – Chapters**

**Section 1** - Any ten (10) or more members in good standing of the Kentucky Society, resident in this state, may request a charter from the Board of Governors to officially form a chapter. The members of the proposed chapter shall adopt an appropriate name for the chapter, and submit said name in their request to the Board of Governors for an official charter.

**Section 2** - Each chapter shall adopt a constitution and/or such bylaws as are not inconsistent with those of the Kentucky Society or the National Society.

**Section 3** - Each chapter shall have a President, Vice President, Secretary, Treasurer, Registrar, and such other officers as it may elect.

**Section 4** - Each chapter shall meet at least twice each year with one (1) meeting designated as the annual meeting for the election and installation of officers. All chapters are encouraged to meet more often.

**Section 5** - Each chapter shall send two (2) delegates, including its president (or his designated proxy), to each annual meeting of the Society, and to all meetings of the Society's Board of Governors.

### **Article XI – Committees**

**Section 1** - Standing Committees of the Kentucky Society must be approved by the Society or the Board of Governors, with its composition and purpose incorporated into the Bylaws of the Society. The chairmen and members of standing committees shall be appointed by the president in accordance with the provisions of the Bylaws.

**Section 2** - Such ad hoc committees as may from time to time be needed shall be recommended by the President, and approved by the Board of Governors. The chairmen and members of ad hoc committees shall be appointed by the president in accordance with the provisions of the Bylaws.

### **Article XII – Bylaws**

Bylaws not inconsistent with the KYSSAR Constitution, the NSSAR Constitution, or the NSSAR Bylaws, may be enacted for the further regulation of the business of the Kentucky Society.

### **Article XIII – Amendments**

Amendments to the KYSSAR Constitution may be proposed by any member of the Kentucky Society in good standing. Proposed amendments shall be presented to the Board of Governors, and then referred to the Constitution & Bylaws Committee who would then report on the proposed amendment at the next Board of Governors meeting or meeting of the Kentucky Society. The Committee could recommend to “pass” the

proposed amendment, “not pass” the proposed amendment, or “pass with amendments”. This Constitution may be amended at any properly called meeting of the Kentucky Society, provided that the proposed amendments have been sent to all chapter officers for distribution to their members along with the notice for the meeting, but not less than thirty (30) days prior to the date of the meeting. An official notice published in the KYSSAR newsletter or on the KYSSAR website meets this requirement. An affirmative vote of two-thirds of those members present and in good standing shall be required for the adoption of any amendment. In addition, the Constitution shall be reviewed as needed for possible amendments. The Society’s Constitution & Bylaws Committee Chair shall serve as chairman of the review and amendment process. The Society’s Chancellor shall serve as adviser to the Constitution & Bylaws Committee Chair on such matters.

# Amendments

- **Article VI, Section 1**..... **9 Mar 2013**  
Add Surgeon to officers.
- **Article IV, Section 4**..... **8 Mar 2014**  
Remove “Youth” and add “Junior”.
- **Article V, Section 4**..... **8 Mar 2014**  
Remove “registered”, and add USPS.
- **Article VI, Section 1**..... **8 Mar 2014**  
Add Recording Secretary.
- **Article XIII**..... **8 Mar 2014**  
Add “publication in the KYSSAR newsletter meets this requirement”
- **Article VI, Section 1**..... **16 Nov 2019**  
Add “Genealogist” and “Assistant Treasurer”, add “The Assistant Treasurer is an appointed position of the President.”
- **Article IV, Section 4**..... **11 Mar 2023**  
Add “Annual Members”.
- **Article V, Sections 1-6**..... **11 Mar 2023**  
Strike all six (6) “Life Member Trust Fund” sections; Add replacement verbiage including historical summary and distribution of funds.
- **Article VI, Section 1**..... **11 Mar 2023**  
Reverse officer order of “Treasurer” and “Recording Secretary”; Add “Assistant Registrar”; Strike “The Assistant Treasurer is an appointed position by the President”.
- **Article VI, Section 2**..... **11 Mar 2023**  
Add “recognized inability”; Add “in accordance with the provisions of the Bylaws”.
- **Article VII, Section 1**..... **11 Mar 2023**  
Add “President-Elect proposes the Nominating Committee”; Add the option of approval by Board of Governors; Add “sometime after the summer meeting, but no later than sixty (60) days prior to the fall meeting”; Add “Vice President is Vice Chair of Nominating Committee”; Add “Chancellor shall serve as the advisor to the Nominating Committee during such matters”.
- **Article VII, Section 2**..... **11 Mar 2023**  
Strike “slate of officers”; Add “no less than one (1) qualified candidate for every office”; Strike “a Trustee, an Alternate Trustee”; Strike “and, when appropriate, a nominee for Vice President General for the Central District”.
- **Article VII, Section 3**..... **11 Mar 2023**  
Add “thirty (30) days prior to the fall meeting”.

- **Article VII, Section 4**.....**11 Mar 2023**  
Substitute “fall” meeting for “meeting before the annual meeting”; Substitute “qualified candidates” for “slate of officers”; Add verbiage stating conditions for nominations from the floor.
- **Article VII, Section 5**.....**11 Mar 2023**  
Add “officers...shall be elected and installed at the annual meeting”; Substitute “annual meeting” for “meeting at which elections are to take place”; Add Trustee and Alternate Trustee “are approved by the Society at the annual meeting”.
- **Article VII, Section 6**.....**11 Mar 2023**  
Add Vice President General for the Central District “is approved by the Society at the annual meeting”.
- **Article VII, Section 7**.....**11 Mar 2023**  
Add “In the event that more than one (1) candidate is nominated for the same office, or any other elected position as deemed necessary”; Add “Voting shall be by written ballot”; Add “The Nominating Committee shall serve as the Society’s election officials for all contested elections”; Add “The current Society Chancellor shall serve as the advisor to the Nominating Committee during such matters”.
- **Article VIII, Section 1**..... **11 Mar 2023**  
Add “in accordance with the provisions of the Bylaws”.
- **Article VIII, Section 3**.....**11 Mar 2023**  
Add “The name of the designated proxy shall be submitted to the president, vice president, and secretary of the Society no later than twenty-four (24) hours prior to the start of the scheduled meeting”.
- **Article IX, Section 1**..... **11 Mar 2023**  
Add “recommended by the President-Elect”; Add “In addition, a minimum of two (2) other meetings of the Society shall take place between annual meetings in accordance with the provisions of the Bylaws. Of the two (2) minimum additional meetings, one (1) shall be held in the summer, and the other shall be held in the fall. The date, time, and place of the summer and fall meetings shall be recommended by the President and approved by the Board of Governors”.
- **Article IX, Section 2**.....**11 Mar 2023**  
Add “elected and”; Add “Also at that meeting, the Society shall approve”.
- **Article IX, Section 4**.....**11 Mar 2023**  
Add “beyond the annual, summer, and fall meetings”; Add “requested”; Add “and approved by the Board of Governors”; Strike “any two (2) chapters”; Add “a majority of chapter presidents”.
- **Article IX, Section 5**..... **11 Mar 2023**  
Add “prior to the meeting”; Strike “and no less than two (2) additional times between annual meetings at a time and place determined by the President”; Add “A minimum

of two (2) additional meetings of the Board of Governors shall take place between annual meetings, in accordance with the provisions of the Bylaws”.

- **Article X, Section 1**.....**11 Mar 2023**  
Add “in good standing”; Strike “new”; Add “proposed”; Add “and submit said name in their request to the Board of Governors for a charter”.
- **Article X, Section 2**.....**11 Mar 2023**  
Add “and/or”.
- **Article X, Section 3**.....**11 Mar 2023**  
Add “Vice President”.
- **Article X, Section 4**.....**11 Mar 2023**  
Strike “once”; Add “twice”; Add “with one meeting designated as the annual meeting”; Add “and installation”.
- **Article X, Section 5**.....**11 Mar 2023**  
Strike “when possible”; Add “or his designated proxy”.
- **Article XI, Section 1**..... **11 Mar 2023**  
Add “The chairmen and members of standing committees shall be appointed by the president in accordance with the provisions of the Bylaws”.
- **Article XI, Section 2**.....**11 Mar 2023**  
Strike “appointed”; Add “recommended”; Add “and approved by the Board of Governors”; Add “The chairmen and members of ad hoc committees shall be appointed by the president”.
- **Article XIII**..... **11 Mar 2023**  
Strike “annual”; Add “any”; Add “In addition, the Constitution shall be reviewed for possible amendments no sooner than three (3) years from the last review, and no later than five (5) years. The Society’s Chancellor shall serve as chairman of the review and amendment process.”
- **Article IV, Section 2**.....**04 Nov 2023**  
Add “or by an Assistant Registrar(s),”
- **Article VI, Section 1**..... **04 Nov 2023**  
Add “(s)” to Assistant Registrar to read “Assistant Registrar(s)”; Add “In the event that there are multiple Assistant Registrars, their rank shall be determined via a blind draw conducted by the president at the start of their term.”
- **Article IV, Section 1**..... **16 Nov 2024**  
Add language regarding membership being ultimately determined by the National Society; Add “Generally”; Strike “man”; Add “male.”
- **Article VII, Sections 1-9**.....**16 Nov 2024**  
Add two additional Sections; Numerous additions/deletions to each Section including separation of election elements (i.e., Nominating Committee, Nomination of Kentucky Society Officer Candidates, Nomination of Kentucky SAR Nominees for Designated

National Officers, Meeting Notice, Presentation of Candidates and Nominees, Time of Elections, Time of Installations, Vice President General, and Voting Protocols).

- **Article IX, Section 1**.....**16 Nov 2024**  
Add language stating “Typical” timeframes of the spring (a.k.a. annual), summer, and fall KYSSAR Meetings.
- **Article IX, Section 2**.....**16 Nov 2024**  
Add “The Society’s fall meeting shall be the meeting for the annual election of Kentucky Society Officers and the Kentucky SAR Nominees for Designated National Officers.”
- **Article IX, Section 3**.....**16 Nov 2024**  
Add “At the annual meeting of the Society, the Kentucky Society officers elected at the Society’s fall Meeting, shall be installed.
- **Article IX, Section 4**.....**16 Nov 2024**  
Add “at least 18 years of age”; Add “(as defined in Article XIV of the KYSSAR Bylaws)”.
- **Article XIII – Amendments**.....**16 Nov 2024**  
Add “properly called”; Add language regarding amendment proposals and meeting notifications being sent to “all chapter officers for distribution to their chapter members”; Add “not less than thirty (30) days prior to the date of the meeting”; Add “or on the KYSSAR website.”
- **Article XIII – Amendments**.....**16 Aug 2025**  
Add “Amendments to the KYSSAR Constitution may be proposed by any member of the Kentucky Society in good standing. Proposed amendments shall be presented to the Board of Governors, and then referred to the Constitution & Bylaws Committee who would then report on the proposed amendment at the next Board of Governors meeting or meeting of the Kentucky Society. The Committee could recommend to “pass” the proposed amendment, “not pass” the proposed amendment, or “pass with amendments”.; Add “as needed”; Strike “no sooner than three (3) years from the last review, and no later than five (5) years”; Replace “Chancellor” with “Constitution & Bylaws Committee Chair; Add “The Society’s Chancellor shall serve as adviser to the Constitution & Bylaws Committee Chair on such matters.”