



SALUTE VETERANS NATIONAL HONOR SOCIETY

Constitution

ARTICLE I

NAME

The name of this organization shall be SALUTE Veterans National Honor Society hereinafter referred to as SALUTE.

ARTICLE II

MISSION

The mission of SALUTE is to recognize the academic success of student veterans.

Colleges and universities which grant baccalaureate or advanced degrees that support this mission may establish chapters or individual membership affiliations with SALUTE. Undergraduate and graduate students and professionals of sound scholarship and character who support this mission may be elected to membership.

ARTICLE III

MEMBERS

SALUTE is a membership corporation, with active members and national honorary members (members) as set forth below. Unless otherwise designated, all references to meetings of members and other related provisions within this Article shall apply to both active and national honorary members.

Section 1. Classes of Members. Members shall meet the following minimum criteria for membership. Any chapter, at its discretion, may establish higher criteria.

A. Active Members. Collegiate or professional members who pay dues shall be active members of SALUTE.

1. Collegiate Members. Collegiate members shall be students enrolled in undergraduate or graduate programs at the time of initiation.

a. Undergraduate students shall be enrolled in an accredited academic institution, have been honorably discharged from the armed services or provide proof of current duty station, completed 12 semester hours or its equivalent of 1 semester, and have a minimum 3.0 grade point average.

i. Students with a grade point average between 3.75 and 4.0 will be classified as Alpha tier.

ii. Students with a grade point average between 3.50 and 3.74 will be classified as Bravo tier.

iii. Students with a grade point average between 3.25 and 3.49 will be classified as Charlie tier.

iv. Students with a grade point average between 3.00 and 3.24 will be classified as Delta tier.

b. Graduate students shall be enrolled in an accredited graduate program, have been honorably discharged from the armed services or provide proof of current duty station, completed 12 semester hours of graduate work or equivalent, and have a minimum grade point average of 3.5 on a 4.0 scale.

2. Professional Members. Alumni of collegiate chapters shall be professional members. Others meeting the following criteria may be elected to professional membership: have made a distinctive contribution to their profession or veterans services and not been previously initiated into SALUTE or (b) earned one or more degrees qualifying them to work in a profession with the above scholastic eligibility requirements.

B. National Honorary Members. National honorary members shall be persons outside the field, excluding those who are employed in the field, who have made distinctive scholarly and research contributions to the field.

Section 2. Membership in SALUTE is open to qualified candidates including persons with disability, without regard to age, color, gender, national origin, race, religion, and/or sexual orientation.

Section 3. Privileges of Membership.

A. Active members shall have the right to vote, hold office, be elected as delegate to the Conclave, be elected or appointed to committees of SALUTE and the chapters to which the members belong provided other uniform criteria are met, and shall have such other privileges as the Board of Directors or the Assembly of Delegates shall determine.

B. National honorary members shall have all the privileges of active members except the right to vote, hold office, or serve on committees.

Section 4. If a member fails to pay dues, fees, or assessments, active membership shall automatically terminate. A member may be reinstated by payment of required dues, fees, or assessments.

Section 5. A member desiring to resign from SALUTE shall submit such resignation in writing to the Executive Director. A member shall not be entitled to return of fees or dues.

Section 6. Any member having resigned from membership may be reinstated upon application to the Executive Director and upon meeting such uniform terms and conditions as may be established by the Board of Directors.

Section 7. Membership in SALUTE may be suspended or terminated by the Board of Directors for just cause. Sufficient cause for such suspension or termination of membership may be violation of this Constitution or any lawful rule or practice adopted by SALUTE or other conduct deemed by the Board of Directors to be prejudicial to the best interests of SALUTE. A statement of the charges shall be sent by registered mail to the last recorded address of the member, accompanied by notice of the time and place of the meeting at which the charges are to be considered. At least thirty days notice shall be given, and the member shall have the opportunity to appear in person or to be represented by counsel and to present any defense to such charges before action is taken by the Board of Directors. The Board may adopt such rules as may be necessary to assure due process to the member. The decision for suspension or termination shall be by a two-thirds vote of the Board of Directors. A member suspended or terminated for just cause shall not be entitled to return of dues.

Section 8. The amount of any national dues, fees, and assessments for any class of membership in SALUTE shall be established by the Board of Directors. The dues year shall be the same as the fiscal year, July 1 - June 30. Undergraduate collegiate members shall not be required to pay further national dues until after the baccalaureate degree is granted.

ARTICLE IV

OFFICERS AND STUDENT BOARD MEMBERS

Section 1. The officers of SALUTE shall be the Chair, Chair-Elect, First Vice Chair, Second Vice Chair, and Secretary. To be eligible for nomination to any national office except that of Student Board Member, a candidate shall have previous service as a Society or predecessor society officer, committee chair, committee member, chapter adviser, or alumni chapter officer and shall have been an active member for a minimum of twelve months prior to nomination.

Section 2. There shall be three elected collegiate Student Board Members.

Section 3. Officers shall be elected by mail ballot. Each active member shall be eligible to vote. Completed ballots shall be postmarked 45 days after distribution in order to be counted. Student Board Members shall be elected by the Assembly of Delegates.

Section 4. Officers shall hold office for the following terms or until their successors are elected. The Chair-Elect shall be elected biennially in even years to serve a one-year term as Chair-Elect followed by a two-year term as Chair. The First Vice Chair and Secretary shall be elected in even-numbered years to serve two-year terms. The Second Vice Chair shall be elected in odd-numbered years to serve a two-year term.

Section 5. No member shall be eligible to serve more than two consecutive terms in the same office. A member having served more than half a term shall be deemed to have served a term. The term of office shall begin on January 1 following the election.

Section 6. Any elected officer or Student Board Member may be removed for just cause. Sufficient cause for such removal may be violation of this Constitution or any lawful rule, practice, or procedure adopted by SALUTE or other conduct deemed by the Board of Directors to be prejudicial to the best interest of SALUTE. For removal of an elected officer/Student Board Member for cause, it shall be necessary for the Board of Directors to hold a formal hearing. A statement of the charges shall be sent by registered mail to the last recorded address of the officer/Student Board Member, accompanied by notice of the time and place of the meeting at which the charges are to be considered. At least thirty days notice shall be given, and the officer/Student Board Member shall have the opportunity to appear in person or to be represented by counsel and to present any defense to such charges before action is taken. The Board of Directors shall adopt such rules as may be necessary to assure due process to the officer/Student Board Member. The decision for removal shall be by a two-thirds vote of the Board of Directors.

Section 7. Should the office of Chair become vacant, the Chair-Elect shall become Chair automatically, to serve for the unexpired term and for the term immediately following. In even years, the First Vice Chair shall fill the vacancy for the unexpired term. Should the office of Chair-Elect become vacant, it shall be filled by the First Vice Chair. A vacancy in any other office shall be filled by the Board of Directors.

Section 8. No member other than a Society employee shall receive compensation for service to SALUTE, unless specifically authorized by the Board of Directors.

Section 9. The Board of Directors may authorize reimbursement of expenses incurred in the performance of their duties for SALUTE and prescribe procedures for approval and payment of such expenses.

ARTICLE V

DUTIES OF OFFICERS AND STUDENT BOARD MEMBERS

Section 1. The officers shall perform the duties prescribed by this Constitution and by the parliamentary authority adopted by SALUTE.

Section 2. The Chair shall preside at all meetings of the Assembly of Delegates and Board of Directors, serve as liaison to the Constitution Committee, serve as an ex officio member of all committees except the Nominating Committee, and provide leadership of SALUTE on behalf of the members.

Section 3. The Chair-Elect shall preside in the absence of the Chair and fill any vacancy in the office of Chair, recommend appointments for expiring committee memberships to the Board of Directors and shall have such other duties as may be determined by the Board of Directors to accomplish Society priorities.

Section 4. The First Vice Chair shall fill any vacancy in the office of Chair-Elect and Chair in even years, and shall have such other duties as may be determined by the Board of Directors to accomplish Society priorities.

Section 5. The Second Vice Chair shall have such other duties as may be determined by the Board of Directors to accomplish Society priorities.

Section 6. The Secretary shall keep a record of all proceedings of the Conclave and the Board of Directors and of all decisions made by mail ballots, develop an annual summary of Society activities and accomplishments for inclusion in SALUTE history, provide leadership for maintaining the policies and procedures manuals, and shall have such other duties as may be determined by the Board of Directors to accomplish Society priorities.

Section 7. The Student Board Members shall serve as fully participating members of the Board of Directors and represent an ownership of diverse people who have many points of view and shall have such other duties as may be determined by the Board of Directors to accomplish Society priorities.

ARTICLE VI

MEETINGS

Section 1. The meeting of SALUTE shall be known as the Conclave; it shall be held at a time and place the Board of Directors shall determine and at which time the Assembly of Delegates shall meet.

Section 2. The Assembly of Delegates shall be the policy-making body of SALUTE, subject to this Constitution and the laws of the State of Colorado. The voting members of the Assembly of Delegates shall consist of the voting members of the Board of Directors, one delegate from each collegiate chapter, and one delegate from each alumni chapter with a membership of 100 members or fewer. An additional delegate for each 100 members above a membership of 100 shall be allowed alumni chapters. A quorum shall consist of a majority of the registered voting delegates.

Section 3. The official call to Conclave giving the time and place of the meetings of the Assembly of Delegates shall be published in an official publication of SALUTE at least 90 days in advance of the Conclave.

ARTICLE VII

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Section 1. The Board of Directors shall consist of the Chair, Chair-Elect, First Vice Chair, Second Vice Chair, Secretary, three Student Board Members, and Executive Director. The Executive Director shall be an ex officio member without vote.

Section 2. The Board of Directors shall have general supervision of SALUTE between meetings of the Assembly of Delegates; shall develop governing policies that concern ends, executive limitations, board process, and board/executive director relations; and is vested with full power to conduct all business of SALUTE between meetings of the Assembly of Delegates. The Board of Directors shall be subject to the orders of SALUTE and none of its actions shall conflict with action taken by SALUTE. The duties of the Board of Directors shall include: appoint an Executive Director who shall be chief administrator of SALUTE; cause to be bonded all officers and employees entrusted with property, real or personal, belonging to SALUTE; cause the financial reports of SALUTE to be examined annually and at the time shall determine what level of examination is needed; report budget policy and financial status to the Assembly of Delegates; review the reports of officers and committees of SALUTE and any recommendations and resolutions to come before the Assembly of Delegates and to make recommendations thereto; propose policies to the Assembly of Delegates for their consideration; adopt rules and regulations for the conduct of the affairs of SALUTE; and perform such other duties as are prescribed or permitted by the laws of the State of Colorado for a Board of Directors or by this Constitution and the policies adopted by the Assembly of Delegates.

Section 3. Regular meetings of the Board of Directors shall be called by the Chair or by any three members of the Board.

Section 4. Special meetings of the Board of Directors may be called by the Chair and shall be called upon the written request of a majority of the voting members of the Board of Directors. Ten days' notice shall be given except for meetings that be called during a Conclave. Business shall be limited to that which is stated in the call.

Section 5. A majority of the voting members of the Board of Directors shall constitute a quorum.

Section 6. Any action required or permitted to be taken at a meeting of the Board may be taken without a meeting, without prior notice, and without a vote if a consent in writing, setting forth the action so taken, is signed by a majority of the Directors having not less than the minimum number of votes necessary to authorize or take the action at a meeting where all eligible directors were present and voted. Such consent shall have the same effect as a vote of the directors and may be stated as such in any articles or document filed with the State of Colorado.

ARTICLE VIII

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

The Executive Director shall serve under the direction of the Board of Directors as the chief executive officer of SALUTE. The Executive Director shall implement policies and programs of the Assembly of Delegates and Board of Directors; be responsible for relations with chapters, members, and external groups; supervise and manage the offices of SALUTE and engage all employees; serve as custodian of properties, deeds, records, and archives belonging to SALUTE and hold, invest, and disburse monies according to policies established by the Board of Directors; provide leadership for long-range planning; serve as Editor of Society publications; and coordinate and expedite work of the Assembly of Delegates, Board of Directors, and national committees.

ARTICLE IX

COMMITTEES

Section 1. Committees shall be established by the Assembly of Delegates or by the Board of Directors. The Committee Chair and members shall be appointed by the Board of Directors with the exception of the Editorial Committee and the Nominating Committee, which shall be elected. To be eligible for service on a national committee, a candidate shall have been an active member for the preceding twelve months prior to appointment.

Section 2. The Committees of SALUTE shall include the following:

A. The Awards Committee shall review selection policies, review applications for awards, and select recipients. This is a staff committee.

B. The Constitution Committee shall recommend to the Board of Directors amendments to the Constitution and shall review and approve bylaws of individual chapters. This is a board committee.

C. The Editorial Committee shall determine editorial policies, select guest editors and themes, identify and recommend reviewers, determine review procedures, and make recommendations for fiscal policies regarding scholarships to the Board of Directors. The membership shall consist of six professional members and two student members. The editor shall serve as an ex officio member, without vote. Two professional members shall be elected by mail ballot annually to serve three-year terms or until their successors are elected. The two student members shall be appointed annually by the Board of Directors for terms of one year or until their successors are appointed. This is a staff committee.

D. A Nominating Committee of five shall be elected by mail ballot. Each active member shall be eligible to vote. Terms shall be for two years or until the successors are elected. Two members shall be elected in even-numbered years; three members shall be elected in odd-numbered years. Members of the Nominating Committee shall not serve consecutive terms. The Committee Chair shall be appointed annually by the Board of Directors from among the five members. It shall be the responsibility of the Nominating Committee to propose at least one candidate for each office and committee vacancy to be filled. A member of the Nominating Committee may not be nominated for any office or committee vacancy without resigning as a member of the Nominating Committee. This is a board committee.

Section 3. A vacancy in any committee shall be filled by the Board of Directors.

ARTICLE X

CHAPTERS

Section 1. Collegiate Chapters.

A. A chapter of SALUTE may be established in a college or university in the United States of America and its territories offering a baccalaureate or advanced degree as defined in Article II. The institution shall be fully accredited by its regional accrediting agency, and the program shall meet uniform criteria determined by the Board of Directors.

B. A chapter-at-large may be established by two or more institutions that are so located that a joint chapter is feasible and provided that each institution is qualified except in size of program.

C. International chapters may be established according to uniform criteria determined by the Board of Directors.

D. A group desiring a charter for a collegiate chapter shall petition the Board of Directors of SALUTE. The petition shall be approved by upper administration of the institution. The qualifications of such petitioning groups shall be examined by the Board of Directors and, if approved, submitted to the chapters by mail ballot. A two-thirds vote of those chapters returning ballots by a date clearly specified on the mail ballot shall be required for a charter to be granted.

Section 2. Alumni Chapters.

A. An alumni chapter may be established in a geographic locality. Professional members who cannot participate in a collegiate or alumni chapter may belong to a National Alumni Chapter.

B. At least fifteen professional members of SALUTE living in a geographic area and desiring to form an alumni chapter may petition the Board of Directors for a charter. Upon approval of their aims and proposed program, the Board of Directors may grant a charter.

Section 3. Chapters in Good Standing. A chapter in good standing shall comply with the Constitution, shall meet uniform criteria determined by the Board of Directors, shall have filed all required reports with the Executive Director, and shall be current in all financial obligations to SALUTE. The Board of Directors shall apply uniform criteria to determine those chapters which are not in good standing. Only chapters in good standing shall be eligible to vote in a mail ballot or to have a delegate to Conclave.

Section 4. Chapters Not in Good Standing.

A. A chapter shall be declared inactive by the Board of Directors in the event that (1) the institution at which the chapter is located fails to meet the requirements listed in Section 1 of this Article or (2) the chapter requests inactive status.

B. A chapter may be placed on probation by the Board of Directors if it fails to meet the criteria for a chapter in good standing for two consecutive years.

C. A chapter may be suspended for cause by the Board of Directors by a two-thirds vote. Sufficient cause for such suspension may be violation of this Constitution or any lawful rule or procedure adopted by SALUTE. Due notice shall be given by the Board of Directors to the chapter in question by registered mail, and reasonable opportunity shall be allowed for the chapter to meet the requirements or correct infractions before final action to suspend is taken.

Section 5. Each chapter shall determine the number of meetings to be held during the year and report the same on the Chapter Annual Report.

Section 6. A chapter may have at least three elected officers representing the functions of President, Vice President, Secretary, Treasurer, and Editor. The elected officers shall be the members of the chapter Executive Committee.

Section 7. Collegiate chapters shall have chapter advisory councils. A chapter advisory council shall consist of three or more professional members, at least one of whom shall be a member of the faculty of the institution.

Section 8. Chapter dues shall be determined by the chapter.

Section 9. Alumni chapter names shall be chosen by the members of the chapter.

Section 10. Election of Members. Nominations of collegiate members shall be made by the Chapter Advisory Council. Nominations of professional members may be made by either a collegiate or an alumni chapter. Election shall be by a two-thirds vote of the chapter or by mail ballots returned by a date clearly specified on the ballot. National honorary members shall be nominated by a chapter or active member and elected by the Board of Directors by a two-thirds vote.

ARTICLE XI

LEADERSHIP COUNCIL

At the conclusion of the term of office, each Board Chair shall become a member of the Leadership Council. The Leadership Council shall recognize the contribution of chairs and shall have such other duties as may be determined by the Board of Directors or the Assembly of Delegates.

ARTICLE XII

PUBLICATIONS

Section 1. The official publication of SALUTE shall be called The SITREP. It shall be published and distributed regularly as a refereed journal and a communication link to the membership.

Section 2. Additional publications may be authorized by the Board of Directors.

ARTICLE XIII

PARLIAMENTARY AUTHORITY

The rules contained in the current edition of Robert's Rules of Order Newly Revised shall govern SALUTE in all cases to which they are applicable and in which they are not inconsistent with this Constitution and any special rules of order SALUTE may adopt.

ARTICLE XIV

AMENDMENT OF CONSTITUTION

This Constitution may be amended in any one of the following ways:

Section 1. An amendment approved by the Board of Directors by majority vote may be adopted by the Assembly of Delegates by a two-thirds vote, provided that the amendment has been submitted in writing to the chapters 120 days before the meeting.

Section 2. An amendment approved by the Board of Directors by a two-thirds vote may be adopted by the Assembly of Delegates by a three-fourths vote without notice to chapters.

Section 3. An amendment approved by the Board of Directors by a two-thirds vote may be submitted to the chapters by mail ballot to be acted upon at a regular or special meeting of each chapter. Adoption shall be by a two-thirds vote of those chapters returning ballots by a date clearly specified on the mail ballot.

Section 4. An amendment approved by the Board of Directors by a majority vote and by the Assembly of Delegates by a two-thirds vote without notice to chapters may be submitted to the chapters by mail ballot to be acted upon at a regular or special meeting of each chapter. Adoption shall be by a two-thirds vote of those chapters returning ballots by a date clearly specified on the mail ballot.