

# By-Laws of Longstreet's Corps, Inc.

## ARTICLE I. Name

**Section 1.** This organization shall be known as Longstreet's Corps, Army of Northern Virginia, hereafter in this document referred to as "The Corps."

## ARTICLE II. Organization

**Section 1.** The Corps is registered as a Non-Stock Corporation in the Commonwealth of Virginia

**Section 2.** The Corps is registered as a 501(C) 3 Non-profit organization under the rules of the IRS.

**Section 3.** The Corps will have three branches, Infantry, Cavalry, and Artillery plus a Headquarters company. Branch commanders and the officer in charge of the headquarters company will be appointed by the Corps Commander. Corps Staff will be assigned to the headquarters company. Civilians not associated with a member unit or unit on probation may be authorized a representative to liaison with the corps as needed at the discretion of the Corps Commander.

**Section 4.** Support units such as medical, signal, music, sharpshooters, Naval, and Marine, engineers (pioneers), and others the Commander may designate as a support unit will be assigned to the headquarters company. The Chief of Staff may assign support units to subordinate units for a given reenactment as needed or appropriate.

## ARTICLE III. Objectives

**Section 1.** The Corps shall, as close as possible, in manner and dress, portray the first Corps (Longstreet's Corps), Army of Northern Virginia, as it was in the period 1862-1865.

## ARTICLE IV. Membership

**Section 1.** Membership in the Corps will be divided into the following classes: Charter Member Units, Full Member Units and Probationary Units.

1. Charter Member Units will be given all privileges associated with Full Membership. The following organizations are considered Charter Member Units.
  - a. 8th Virginia Infantry, Co. I&F
  - b. 9th Virginia Infantry
  - c. 18th Virginia Infantry, Co. G
  - d. 1st Texas Infantry
  - e. 6th Virginia Cavalry
2. Full Member Units are defined as organizations who have successfully completed the probationary process and have been approved, by a 3/4 majority of the membership, at an annual meeting.
3. Probationary Units are defined as those organizations that have completed the following:
  - a. Have a Charter or full member unit sponsor them for membership.
  - b. Send a letter of intent stating their desire to become a member unit and provide a copy of their by-laws and roster to the Corps Commander or adjutant no later than December 31.
  - c. Have a representative at the annual meeting in which they petition for membership or be properly excused by permission of the Corps Commander.

- d. Be voted in as a Probationary Member at the Annual Meeting by a 3/4 majority of the Full Member Units.
- e. Have provided proof of insurance, or paid Corps insurance, and have paid Corps dues.

**Section 2.** The probation period will normally last twelve (12) months or until the next annual meeting for units beginning probationary status at an annual meeting, during which time the organization will be observed by the full member units of the Corps for authenticity and performance.

1. Once a unit has successfully completed the probationary period and has been accepted by the 3/4 majority of votes cast at the Annual Corps Meeting, it shall be authorized all privileges of a full member unit.
2. The membership can vote to extend probation for one year.

**Section 3.** Unsatisfactory probationary units can be dropped from the rolls by a 3/4 majority vote of all Corps unit representatives at the annual meeting.

**Section 4.** Units which desire to join the Corps during the period between annual meetings must complete the following:

- a. Have a full member unit sponsor them for membership.
- b. Send a letter of intent to the Corps adjutant stating their desire to become a member, a description of their unit, a copy of their unit bylaws, and a roster.
- c. If accepted as probationary members provide proof of insurance or pay for Corps insurance and pay Corps dues.

The Corps Adjutant will consult with the sponsoring unit and notify the membership of the application. After 30 days from notification the adjutant may recommend to the Corps Commander that the unit be accepted as a probationary member. The adjutant will notify the unit of the commanders decision. If after being accepted as a probationary member the unit attends at least 3 Corps events they may be considered for full membership in accordance with Section 2 above at the next annual Corps meeting.

## **ARTICLE V. Corps and Corporate Officers**

### **Section 1.** Corps Commander

1. A Corps Commander shall be elected by a 3/4 majority vote of the Corps unit representatives in attendance at the annual meeting. The Corps Commander term of office shall be one year or until the following annual meeting. There is no limit on the number of terms an individual may serve.
2. In the event the current serving Corps Commander resigns or is incapacitated, the senior Branch Commander will serve as Corps Commander until an emergency meeting of the Board of Directors can convene and appoint an interim Commander who will serve until the next annual meeting. In this event all Corps staff will remain in place until a new Commander is elected by the membership.

### **Section 2.** Duties, rank and privileges of the Corps Commander

1. The Corps Commander shall take charge of all Corps units and attached units at events.
2. The Corps Commander shall hold at least the rank of Brigadier General while performing the duties of Corps Commander, as event rules allow.
3. If the Corps Commander cannot be present at an event he shall designate his replacement from the Corps Staff or the Commanders of Corps units.

4. If appropriate, the Corps commander will call a meeting of Corps unit commanders and NCO's immediately following any officers meeting at any event attended by Corps elements. This is to ensure that all Corps officers and NCO's have the same understanding of the event regulations and schedules.

**Section 3.** The Corps Commander will have the following corporate duties:

1. Serve as the President of the Corporation in all matters concerning Longstreet's Corps Inc. or appoint a representative.
2. Preside over Corps related meetings.
3. Appoint members of the Corps to serve on the Board of Directors of the Corporation.
4. To serve as member by ex-officio on all corporate committees.
5. To direct and assist any corporate officer in the performance of his/her duties.

**Section 4. Corps Staff**

1. The Corps staff will be appointed by the Corps Commander to serve under his command. Their appointment or removal shall be at the Corps Commanders discretion. The term of the staff shall not exceed that of the commander.
2. Members of the Corps staff may serve positions on the board of directors at the discretion of the corps Commander, subject to Section 5 below.
3. The Chief of staff shall command the headquarters company. All members of the Corps staff and support units will be assigned to the headquarters company.

**Section 5. Board of Directors.**

1. The Corporate Board of Directors will consist of the following offices.
  - a. President
  - b. Vice President
  - c. Secretary
  - d. Treasurer
  - e. Registered Agent
  - f. Three (3) Directors

**Section 6.** The corporate duties of the Vice President are as follows:

1. Assist the President in his duties as necessary.

**Section 7.** The corporate duties of the Secretary are as follows:

1. Keep minutes of corporate meetings and maintain them in a permanent file.
2. To keep a file of important Corps records.
3. To supervise all corporate elections and secret ballots or appoint a representative to do so in the case of a conflict of interest.
4. Maintain roster of all organizations and members of the Corps.

**Section 8.** The corporate duties of the Treasurer are as follows:

1. Collect, administer and distribute all corporate funds and to maintain these records in a proper manner.

2. Prepare an annual financial statement of the corporate accounts and present it at the annual meeting.
3. Serve on any committees that concern expenditure of corporate funds.
4. Administer collection and payment of any corporate donations, dues, and insurance.
5. Research and provide advice on Corps insurance.

**Section 9.** The corporate duties of the registered agent are as follows:

1. Act as the liaison between the Corps and the Commonwealth of Virginia in all matters concerning the corporation according to the rules established in the Code of Virginia.
2. The registered agent must either be a resident of the Commonwealth of Virginia or a lawyer licensed to practice in the Commonwealth of Virginia.

**Section 10. Corporate Directors:**

1. There will be three (3) Directors on the Board of Directors.
2. Two (2) Directors will be elected from the general membership of the Corps Member Units.

**Section 11. Duties of the Directors**

1. Assist the President and the board of directors in their duties as necessary.
2. Directors have one vote each in matters concerning the Board of Directors.

## **ARTICLE VI. Meetings, voting and committees.**

**Section 1.** Annual Meeting

1. An annual meeting of the Corps shall be held each year at a time and place recommended by the Adjutant and approved by the Commander. The Adjutant shall coordinate his proposal with the Branch Commanders and the Corps Chief of Staff. The meeting shall occur no earlier than October and no later than March. Each year the adjutant will announce the time and location for the meeting for the next year..

**Section 2.** Special Meetings

1. Special meetings can be called by the Commander or by a majority of the membership. The Corps Commander or an appointed representative must be present to preside over the meeting.

**Section 3.** The Corps commander may appoint a Parliamentarian as necessary at meetings who will help guide the Corps meeting by Roberts Rules of Order, Revised Edition.

**Section 4.** Attendance and voting.

1. Unit representatives to annual and general meetings shall be the officers and non-commissioned officers, or their appointed representatives, of the Corps member units.
2. Each full member unit of the Corps will have two (2) votes to decide any matter of Corps business. Voting representatives will be appointed by their respective units and will vote according to the decision of the majority of their unit.
3. The Corps Commander will have the power to vote only in case of a tie.

4. Members of the Corps staff or board of directors will not have a vote in Corps business unless designated as one of the representatives of their home unit.

5. A Roll Call vote will be performed unless dispensed with by the Corps Commander.

### **Section 5. Committees**

1. Should a need arise for special committees for a decision of policy or judicial nature, the committee shall first be formed on a volunteer basis. Should this format be insufficient, names shall be drawn at random to fill the same.

2. The Corps commander will serve as member by ex-officio on all corporate committees.

3. Committees will be disbanded after their business is done or at the discretion of the Corps commander. All committees will be disbanded at the end of the Corps commanders term in office.

## **Article VII. Reenactments/Events**

**Section 1. Scheduling.** A schedule of events will be presented at the annual meeting to which member units will vote on attendance of individual events.

**Section 2. Event Ratings.** The upcoming events will be voted upon and put into three categories; Corps Events, Corps Sanctioned Events and Company Events.

1. Corps Event: All Corps units will form a battalion/brigade under the leadership of the Corps staff or their designated substitutes. All units should have maximum attendance and are to be in Confederate uniform unless they have prior approval of the Corps commander. Individual soldiers may galvanize with their company commanders approval.

2. Corps Sanctioned Events: Corps units that attend will form a battalion/brigade, with the attending Corps and company officers forming the battalion staff as needed. Smaller units could combine into companies. Units that want to galvanize may do so.

3. Company Events: Attendance is at a unit's discretion. Units may form together into companies. Units that want to galvanize may do so.

All events not approved as Corps Events or Corps Sanctioned Events are automatically considered Company Events and need not be voted on.

**Section 3. Event Guidelines:** The following general guidelines shall be followed by all Corps units when in the field.

1. Camps shall be laid out in accordance with the practices of the period and the lay of the ground. They shall include company streets with a headquarters area at the head of the street when practicable. Higher level headquarters should be as near the center of the camps as practicable. Unit cohesion will be maintained wherever possible. Commanders will provide for special camps as needed for civilians or units that desire special camps such as soldier only or hard core camps.

2. Respect for differing styles of camping will be maintained. Military protocol and decorum will be followed by members of the Corps at all events.

**Section 4. Event Orientation:** Branch Adjutants are urged to prepare Operations Orders prior to each event, These Orders should cover how and when and where to report for field duty and should cover a brief history of the event and the units to be portrayed. Daily operations Orders are encouraged, especially for larger events. These should include scenarios and expected outcomes. All units are encouraged to conform with the tactics and appearance appropriate for the event.

## Article VIII. Uniform Code

**Section 1.** A substantial uniform of the Civil War period shall be worn in accordance with each individual's unit uniform regulations.

**Section 2.** A substantial Infantry uniform shall consist of the following:

1. Headgear (kepi, bummer, or slouch)
2. Uniform coat (shell or frock coat) with light blue or no trim.
3. Period military or civilian trousers.
4. Cotton or flannel shirt of the period.
5. Period suspenders.
6. Period wool or cotton socks (no stripes or elastic)
7. Period style shoes (Davis bootie, brogans. officers may wear period style boots).
8. Period eyeglasses.
9. 2 or 3-band Enfield, Springfield or other period musket(no Zouave rifles) with bayonet.
10. Period accouterments, to include belt, buckle, cap box, cartridge box, canteen, haversack and bayonet scabbard.
11. Period vest (optional).

**Section 3.** A substantial Cavalry uniform shall consist of the following:

1. Headgear (kepi, bummer, or slouch)
2. Uniform coat (shell, sack or frock coat) with yellow or no trim.
3. Period military or civilian trousers.
4. Cotton or flannel shirt of the period.
5. Period suspenders.
6. Period wool or cotton socks (no stripes or elastic)
7. Period style shoes (Davis bootie, brogans. officers and cavalry may wear period style boots).
8. Period eyeglasses.
9. 2 or 3-band Enfield, Springfield or other period muskets, carbines or shotguns.
10. Period accouterments, to include belt, buckle, cap box, sword belt and carbine sling, period sword and Cartridge box.
11. Period vest (optional).
12. Mounted Cavalry equipment consisting of:
  - a. Saddle, Mclellan, Jennifer, Hope. Period style civilian (brown or black) cersingle in period style.
  - b. Bridle(in brown or black) Standard Union or confederate issue, civilian or halter bridle.
  - c. Halter and lead strap (in brown or black) standard union or confederate issue, civilian or halter bridle, lead strap-leather or rope.
  - d. Saddle blanket any substantial wool blanket

**Section 4.** A substantial Artillery uniform shall consist of the following:

1. Head gear(kepi, bummer, or slouch)
2. Uniform coat ( shell for enlisted, shell or frock for officers) with red or no trim.
3. Greatcoat
4. Period trousers
5. Cotton or flannel shirt
6. Period suspenders
7. Wool or cotton socks
8. Period shoes or boots
9. Period eyeglasses
10. Period accouterments, haversack, canteen, belt, raingear

11. Period vest

**Section 5.** Side arms shall be worn only by officers, cavalry and senior NCO's.

**Section 6.** Sabers/Swords shall be worn only by officers or cavalry. NCO's may wear swords at dress occasions.

**Section 7.** Civilians should wear appropriate period dress at all times while in camp or on the field.

**Section 8.** Mounted Cavalry and others who are mounted should have the following equipment.

- a. Curry comb. Brush, hoofpick, feedbag, and period water bucket.
- b. Period saddle, period saddlebags, or valise.
- c. Cavalry horses should be black, brown, gray, or white. Paints should be discouraged.

## **ARTICLE IX. REGULATIONS REGARDING INDIVIDUAL SAFETY**

**Section 1.** The safety regulations followed by the Corps are contained in the separate document entitled "Longstreet's Corps Safety Regulations."

## **ARTICLE X. CORPS DRILL**

**Section 1.** Corps infantry units will utilize Major William Gilham's Manual of Instruction for the Volunteers and Militia of the United States. When conducting drill, Infantry units will utilize school of the soldier manual of the musket. Corps drill will conform with the school of the battalion, and all units will conform to heavy and light infantry tactics, except for cavalry and artillery which shall conform with their own tactics. Exceptions to this section may be approved by the corps commander.

**Section 2.** At each Corps event there will be two (2) periods of infantry drill, not to exceed forty-five (45) minutes. These periods of instruction will be mandatory for all Corps units wishing to participate.

**Section 3.** At the discretion of the Corps commander, the period of instruction stated in Section 2 above may be shortened if weather conditions so merit.

**Section 4.** All attempts will be made to schedule a Corps camp of instruction as near to the beginning of the year as possible. Units are encouraged to work together on a regional basis to schedule camps of instruction. Multi branch camps of instruction are encouraged.

## **ARTICLE XI. General Regulations**

**Section 1.** The minimum age to carry firearms or crew artillery pieces shall be left to the discretion of the individual units, unless restricted by event regulations.

**Section 2.** The use of illegal drugs shall not be tolerated during any participation in any Corps event. Infractions of this regulation will result in immediate dismissal from the event and possible restrictions from further events.

**Section 3.** Consumption of alcohol will only be allowed if its use does not conflict with event regulations, event sponsor's orders or local/state laws. Consumption of alcohol shall be confined to camp, out of public view and only from period containers. Commanding officers of individual units will be responsible for upholding this regulation.

**Section 4.** Members shall be responsible for conducting themselves in an orderly manner so as to show consideration for those other units participating. Members will be responsible for actions and conduct of family and guests.

**Section 5.** Unit commanders shall handle disciplinary action within their units. Inter-unit discipline issues or disputes will be reported to the Corps Provost through the chain of command. The Corps Commander will take appropriate action on minor issues. More serious issues will be decided by a board of officers appointed by the Corps Commander.

**Section 6.** Officers of member units shall handle improper actions of Corps officers.

**Section 7.** Officers of member units will be elected/appointed by the members of their respective companies or regiments in accordance with unit regulations.

**Section 8.** Officers commanding companies or batteries and below will normally hold the rank of Captain or below. Staff Officers at Battalion level will normally hold the rank of Major with the restriction of one Major per Battalion staff. Corps staff will normally hold the rank of Lt Col with a limit of one Lt Col per staff. Commanders of the three branches will normally hold the rank of Colonel. Exceptions at all levels must be approved by the Corps Commander. All members of the Corps should strive to match rank to the size of the event, level of command at the event, and number of soldiers commanded. The corps commander may make brevet promotions for larger events or special occasions. Brevet promotions are for single events only. Officers and NCO's will revert to permanent rank after the event..

**Section 9.** The acceptance of non- member units who wish to fall in with the Corps as guests, at an event, will be left to the discretion of the Corps commander.

**Section 10.** Measures voted upon and approved by the proper majority at the Annual Meeting or any sanctioned Corps meeting will be considered binding and applicable to all Corps units and their membership. Units who do not abide by these decisions may be subject to reduction to probationary membership, limitation of privileges, or dismissal from Longstreet's Corps. Disciplinary actions will be handled by a committee appointed by the Corps Commander.

**Section 11.** The Corps will reserve the right to charge annual dues to member units.

Amount of dues will be set by vote of the general membership at the annual meeting. Failure to pay dues, or other fees, by the deadline set may result in reduction to probationary membership, limitation of privileges, or dismissal from Longstreet's Corps. Disciplinary actions will be handled by the treasurer and a committee appointed by the Corps Commander.

**Section 12.** All units within the Corps must be insured to protect the unit and the Corps. Units electing not to use the Corps insurance must provide a copy of their insurance policy to the Adjutant at the annual meeting.

## **ARTICLE XII. Colors**

1. The Corps shall be formed under the First National, Second National, third national or Battle Flag of the Confederacy. Appropriate state flags, of Corps units, will be used as designated by the Corps Commander.

## **ARTICLE XIII. Miscellaneous**

1. Corps officers shall maintain a copy of these regulations in their possession at all Corps events.

2. Matters not covered in these bylaws will be referred to Roberts Rules of Order, Revised Edition.

3. These regulations may be amended by a two-thirds (2/3) majority vote of unit representatives at a general meeting.

Amended January 28, 1995

Amended January 27, 1996

Amended April 12, 1997

Amended January 30, 1999

Amended February 2001

Amended February 2003

Amended January 28, 2012

— Current Copy approved at field meeting, Gettysburg, July 2013—