

Constitution

National Society of Pershing Rifles



MARCH 2013

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NATIONAL HEADQUARTERS

NATIONAL SOCIETY OF PERSHING RIFLES

CONSTITUTION OF THE NATIONAL SOCIETY OF PERSHING RIFLES

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Preamble

We the Pershing Riflemen, in order to develop outstanding traits of leadership, military science, military bearing, and discipline to the highest degree possible within the framework of a military oriented honorary fraternity, establish this Constitution for the National Society of Pershing Rifles, a member organization of the Pershing Rifles Group.

Article I

Section 1 - Name

This organization shall be known as the National Society of Pershing Rifles.

Section 2 - Symbols

The colors of this organization shall be blue and white; the flower shall be the white rose.

Article II – Organization

Section 1 – General

This organization shall consist of the National Headquarters, its several Regiments, and of such college-level units within each Regiment that possess a Pershing Rifles Charter issued by the National Headquarters.

Section 2 – National Headquarters

The National Headquarters shall ceremonially remain at The University of Nebraska Lincoln. Functionally, however, it shall move from year to year with the National Commander's University. The National Headquarters will be charged with the responsibility of providing command, administrative, operational, and logistical support to the several Regimental Headquarters and Chartered Units of the National Society of Pershing Rifles, and to conduct the day-to-day business of the Society on a national platform.

Section 3 – Regimental Headquarters

The location of the various Regimental Headquarters shall be functionally located at the Regimental Commander's host University. All Regimental Headquarters are

subordinate to this Constitution, the standard operating procedures of this organization, and all directives issued by the National Legislative Body and the National Commander. Regimental Headquarters shall not issue any directives, orders, by-laws or such documents that conflict with this Constitution or the standard operating procedures of this organization.

Section 4 – Chartered Units

The location of the various Chartered Units shall be determined by the location of the unit's host institution. A Pershing Rifles Charter shall obligate a unit to abide by and enforce this Constitution, the standard operating procedures of this organization, and all laws and directives issued by the National Legislative Body and the National Commander. Chartered Units shall not issue any directives, orders, laws, by-laws or such documents that conflict with this Constitution or the standard operating procedures of this organization.

Chartered units shall be entitled to initiate new members into the National Society of Pershing Rifles.

Section 5 – New Units

Any organization which is in accordance with this Constitution, the statutes of the National Legislative Body, and which has complied with all requirements deemed necessary by the Unit Level Expansion Standard Operating Procedures may, upon approval of the Regimental Headquarters and the National Commander, be installed as a Chartered Unit of the National Society of Pershing Rifles.

Article III – Organization

Section 1 – General

- a) Involved Units: This organization shall consist of the National Headquarters, its several Regiments, and of such college level units within each Regiment that possess a Pershing Rifles Charter issued by the National Headquarters.
- b) Good Standing: Units in Good Standing have paid their dues and are in compliance with Constitutional regulations, and Standard Operating Procedures and directives.
- c) Probation: Units may be placed on probation if they are not compliant with regimental, national, or host university regulations.
- d) Suspension: Units may be placed on suspension if suspended by the host university, are on probation for one month, or are found guilty of violations of article 3, section 3 of this Constitution.

- e) Revocation: The membership of any active unit may be revoked as the ultimate disciplinary action by the national headquarters.

Section 2 – National Headquarters

The National Headquarters is charged with the responsibility of providing command, administrative, operational, and logistical support to the several Regimental Headquarters and Chartered Units of the National Society of Pershing Rifles, and to conduct the day-to-day business of the Society on a national platform.

Section 3 – Regimental Headquarters

The organization of all Regiments and Units shall be determined by the National Headquarters.

Section 4 – Chartered Units

The location of the various Chartered Units shall be determined by the location of the unit's host institution. A Pershing Rifles Charter shall obligate a unit to abide by and enforce this Constitution, the standard operating procedures of this organization, and all laws and directives issued by the National Legislative Body and the National Commander. Chartered Units shall not issue any directives, orders, laws, by-laws or such documents that conflict with this Constitution or the standard operating procedures of this organization. Chartered units shall be entitled to initiate new members into the National Society of Pershing Rifles.

Article IV – Membership

Section 1 – Classes

There shall be four classes of membership within the National Society of Pershing Rifles:

1. Active: Active membership shall be open to any individual enrolled in any college, university, or Service Military Academy. Members at educational institutions that do not have a Pershing Rifles Unit will report to the Regimental Commander of their region. All candidates should possess outstanding leadership characteristics and conform to the highest ideals of the National Society of Pershing Rifles, and must complete an induction program controlled by a Chartered Unit of the Society. These criteria having been met, the individual obtains active status in both the Chartered Unit and the National Society of Pershing Rifles. Upon being duly initiated in a formal ceremony prescribed by the National Headquarters, an active member in good standing shall be eligible to introduce motions from the floor, to speak in regard to any question, to make nominations for office, and to vote on any matter within the rank of their respective Chartered Unit. The same

will be true for each active member with exceptions of nominations for office and voting, at all national conventions and assemblies.

2. Alumni: Anyone who has successfully completed a new member induction process, and has successfully graduated from the host university, or has left for other than disciplinary reasons, shall be granted alumni status. Once granted alumni status and accepted from the individual in question, members are subject to the Pershing Rifles Alumni Association, and may no longer be granted active status within the National Society of Pershing Rifles. Upon two years of being an inactive member, no individual may become active again unless, while enrolled in a University, is granted the approval of the Regimental Commander in the University's prescribed region and the National Commander. If such a Rifleman is enrolled in a University in which there is no Pershing Rifles Company in existence, said Rifleman shall report and be subordinate directly to the Regimental Commander of the region.
3. Honorary: Honorary members may be initiated into the National Society of Pershing Rifles by a Chartered Unit upon approval of the National Commander. Honorary members may not hold office or vote.
4. Inactive: A Pershing Rifleman who has not yet been granted Alumni status.

Section 2 – Standing

- a) Academic Requirement: To be inducted into Pershing Rifles, the inductee must meet the academic requirements of their Host University.
- b) Good Standing: A member in good standing has met academic requirements and paid their dues.
- c) Member Revocation: The membership of any active member may be rescinded by the Chartered Unit as an ultimate disciplinary action, upon approval of the National Commander. Further, an active member may be placed on probation, or suspension by their Chartered Unit according to their unit's established by-laws and/or standard operating procedures for reasons defined within such documentation.

Section 3 – Statement Against Discrimination

The National Society of Pershing Rifles does not discriminate in the selection of members or appointments. Discrimination is defined as denying individuals membership or appointment on the basis of a person's age, race, national origin, color, gender, sexual orientation, creed, handicap, or place of residence.

Article V – National Legislative Body

Section 1 – Authority

The National Legislative Body shall be the supreme and only legislature for the entire National Society of Pershing Rifles. Its legislative authority shall be second only to this Constitution.

All **legislation** of the National Legislative Body shall be in accordance with the provisions set forth in this Constitution and its amendments. All **actions** of the National Headquarters, the various Regimental Headquarters, and all Chartered Units shall be in accordance with this Constitution and the provisions of the National Legislative Body.

Section 2 – Composition

The National Legislative Body will be composed of the National Commander, the various Regimental Commanders, and all Chartered Unit Commanders representing units in good standing with the National Headquarters.

Section 3 – Representation

All active units are required to send either five members or 50% of their membership to participate at the Pershing Rifles National Convention (NATCON) each year, whichever is more feasible. With authorized exceptions by the Command Staff, a unit may be excused from the aforementioned requirement.

Each Chartered Unit Commander will be given one vote on decisions affecting the National Society of Pershing Rifles. Regimental Commanders are recognized as non-voting members of the National Legislative Body. The National Commander shall not be given a vote except in the event of a tie.

Section 4 – Delegation

In the absence of any voting member of the National Legislative Body the vote normally assigned to the aforementioned officer can only be delegated in writing and should be sent to the Regimental Commander, the National Commander, the G-1 and the Chief of Staff. The vote will then be cast by the Regimental Commander for the unit. The Regimental Commander may vote one time for each proxy he or she is representing.

Section 5 – Operation

A two-thirds majority of active chartered units in good standing shall be required to constitute a quorum of the National Legislative Body. The quorum may be attained by proxy of votes or by participation via conference call.

Quorum will be required to complete any action before the National Legislative Body except as otherwise directed by this Constitution. The National Legislative Body will meet in the Spring of each year at the National Convention.

The National Legislative Body will convene in the Fall of each year at a location to be determined by the National Legislative Body to constitute the Commander's Call.

Section 6 – Order

Meetings of the National Legislative Body shall be conducted using Robert's Rules of Order as a guide. During meetings of the National Legislative Body, the President shall be the National Commander, the Chief of Staff will serve as the Parliamentarian, and the G-1 will serve as the Recording Secretary.

Article VI – The National Commander

Section 1 – Authority

The National Society of Pershing Rifles shall be under the authority of the National Commander, who shall be the custodian of the official seal, who shall choose and maintain a National Headquarters Staff capable of carrying out the business of the organization, and who shall possess such other authority as specified in the Standard Operating Procedures of the National Society of Pershing Rifles. The National Commander shall have the authority and express duty to carry out all policies deemed advisable by this Constitution and/or the National Legislative Body.

Section 2 – Election and Term

The National Commander shall have a term of office that shall begin with his/her induction, and end with the following induction. At his/her discretion, prior to the Spring National Convention, the retiring National Commander shall nominate an active Pershing Rifleman to be his/her successor. The National Legislative Body members may nominate active Pershing Riflemen in good standing to be considered for National Commander by submitting nomination packets to National Headquarters by December 31st of the year prior to NATCON. Each nomination packet shall include for the nominee a clearly professional photograph, Pershing Rifles résumé, a statement of what they want to accomplish as National Commander, and a recommendation from their local Unit Advisor. Any member nominated must be approved by a $\frac{2}{3}$ vote of the National Legislative Body. The vote shall be by secret ballot. In the event the retiring National Commander's nominee is not confirmed, the incoming National Commander shall be elected utilizing Robert's Rules of Order.

Section 4 – Removal

The National Commander may be removed from office by a $\frac{3}{4}$ majority of the National Legislative Body; the National Headquarters and Regimental Commanders may convene a meeting in which $\frac{3}{4}$ of members may also remove the National Commander from office.

Section 5 – Succession

In the event the National Commander is unable to complete his/her term, the Deputy National Commander shall become the National Commander.

Article VII – Finances

Section 1 – Dues

The National Headquarters shall have the sole authority to assess the Chartered Units of the National Society of Pershing Rifles for the purpose of providing an operating budget for the organization and its National Headquarters. Assessment shall be proportional to the number of active members in the Chartered Units at the time of assessment. Any changes in the amount/manner of dues must be approved by the National Legislative Body.

Section 2 – Reporting

The National Headquarters shall compile a detailed financial report each year, at the end of the fiscal year. This report shall be published by the National Headquarters and disseminated to the Chartered Units of the National Society of Pershing Rifles.

Section 3 – Fiscal Year

The fiscal year shall begin on 01 October and shall conclude on 30 September of each year.

Section 4 – Review

Portions or all of the National Headquarters' Financial Report may be discussed from the floor of any assembly for clarification by the National Headquarters Chief Finance Officer.

Section 5 – Commander Exception

The National Commander may not serve as the National Headquarters Chief Finance Officer. A Chief Finance Officer must be appointed to the National Headquarters Staff each year.

Section 6 – Spending Authority

Any expenditure more than 500 dollars requires the approval of the Board of Directors of The Pershing Rifles Group and the National Command Staff.

Article VIII – Interpretation

Section 1 – Authority

The final interpretation of this Constitution shall be that of the National Legislative Body.

When the National Legislative Body is not in session, the National Headquarters shall have the power to interpret this Constitution with oversight from The Pershing Rifles Group Board of Directors. This interpretation authority is subordinate to that of the National Legislative Body.

Documents subordinate to this Constitution shall be changed occasionally as required by the National Headquarters.

Section 2 – Amendments

Any chartered unit of the National Legislative Body may submit a proposed amendment to this Constitution. Any such amendments shall be submitted to National Headquarters. Two-thirds of quorum of the National legislative body will be required to approve a proposed amendment in order for it to modify or become a part of this Constitution.

By Order of the National Legislative Body

Official:



Paul C. Omichinski
Major General, Pershing Rifles
Commanding

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