



**ALLIED ORDERS OF THE  
GRAND ARMY OF THE REPUBLIC  
CENTRAL REGION ASSOCIATION  
BY-LAWS**



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**BY-LAWS**

**Preamble**

We, the members of the Central Region Association, have formed this organization for the purpose of bringing together organizations within the Allied Orders of the Grand Army of the Republic in the true spirit for which they were organized and receive information and inspiration for renewed efforts directed at perpetuating the memory of the Grand Army of the Republic and our ancestors who fought to save the Union during the years 1861-1865.

**I. Organization**

The organization shall be known as the Allied Orders of the Grand Army of the Republic Central Region Association. This organization is an independent entity not subject to the Constitution & Regulations of the individual Allied Orders.

**II. Objectives**

- Section 1 – To perpetuate the memory of the Grand Army of the Republic and our ancestors who fought to save the Union through historical preservation, community education and participation in historical observances.
- Section 2 - To inculcate true patriotism and love of country and to spread and sustain the doctrine of equal rights, universal liberty and justice for all.
- Section 3 - To support the continuation of our constitutional Union.
- Section 4 - To provide educational opportunities for Allied Orders organizations in the Central Region aimed at strengthening basic knowledge and leadership skills.
- Section 5 - To work together as brothers and sisters and exchange information and ideas for the purpose of helping Allied Order Departments in the Central Region exceed goals established in support their respective National organizations.

**III. Membership**

- Section 1 - Membership in the Central Region Association is open to any Department in the five Allied Order organizations (Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War, Auxiliary to the Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War, Daughters of Union Veterans of the Civil War, Ladies of the Grand Army of the

Republic and the Woman's Relief Corps). Individual Camps, Auxiliaries, Tents, Circles and Corps may become members of the Central Region Association provided they are not affiliated with a Department in their respective organizations.

Section 2 - The geographic boundaries of the Central Region Association are defined as encompassing the states of Colorado, Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Kansas, Kentucky, Michigan, Minnesota, Missouri, Nebraska, Ohio, Tennessee, Wisconsin, Wyoming (For most Allied Order organizations, Colorado & Wyoming are combined into one Department).

Section 3 - All attendees at a Central Region Association Conference who (1) belong to any Allied Order Department and (2) paid the conference registration fee, shall have the right to bring issues to the floor and vote. These issues shall include, but are not limited to nominations, elections, resolutions, amendments to the by-laws, and other motions for the good of the order

#### **IV. Amendments**

Section 1 - These By-Laws shall only be amended by a two-thirds (2/3) vote of the registered attendees (Section III, Membership) present at any two consecutive Central Region Association Conferences. All amendments must be presented in written form, made through a motion, and seconded.

Section 2 - These By-Laws and/or any amendment shall become effective upon proper approval of the Central Region Conference

#### **V. Finances**

Section 1 - For accounting purposes, the Central Region Association administrative year shall be defined as the one year period commencing on 01 October through 30 September of the following year.

Section 2 - Central Region Conference registration fees shall be fixed annually by vote of the Central Region Conference.

Section 3 - Prior approval is not required for expenditures less than \$50 that are deemed necessary for the conduct of Central Region business. For expenditures greater than \$50, prior approval from the Executive Committee (defined in Article VIII, Section 4) shall be required.

- Section 4 - The host Allied Order member organization shall be responsible for covering expenses associated with execution of the conference (meeting room, banquet, entertainment, etc.)
- Section 5 - All elected and appointed officers of the Central Region Association shall be responsible for any expenses they incur in accomplishing the duties of their office unless previously approved by the Central Region Conference.
- Section 6 - A financial gift may be made to the host organization in recognition of their efforts in organizing and hosting the Central Region Conference. The recommendation, along with the level of funding, shall be presented to the Central Region Conference for approval. A stipulation shall be made that these gifts go to support a specific project being worked by the host organization, as opposed to contributing to the host organizations general fund.

## **VI. Meetings**

- Section 1 - The annual Central Region Association Conference shall be held on the first Saturday in October each year. The date and location of the annual Central Region Conference for the following two years shall be determined by majority vote of the members present.
- Section 2 - The Central Region Commander will preside over the annual Central Region Conference. In the absence of the Commander, the Senior Vice Commander will preside. If neither Commander nor Senior Vice Commander are present, the Junior Vice Commander will preside over the meeting. The Secretary/Treasurer will preside in the absence of the Commander, Senior Vice Commander and Junior Vice Commander. If no member of the Executive Committee is present, then the membership attending may elect a temporary presiding officer.

## **VII. Education & Training Programs**

- Section 1 - A key element of the Central Region Conference is training and education. Training programs shall be educational in nature and focus on enrichment and growth of the individual Allied Order member organizations. Training topics to be considered include, but are not limited to, effective leadership, public relations, fund raising, volunteerism, team building, recruiting and retention, etc.
- Section 2 - To maximize the benefit of the training with the Central Region, each member organization shall develop processes to efficiently disseminate key information obtained during training sessions at the Central Region Conference to subordinate organizations (e.g., Camps, Auxiliaries, Tents, Circles, Corps).

## **VIII. Elected & Appointed Officers**

- Section 1 - Elected officers in the Central Region Association shall include Commander, Senior Vice Commander, Junior Vice Commander and Secretary/Treasurer. The term in office of the Commander, Senior Vice Commander and Junior Vice Commander is one (1) year. These officers shall be elected annually at the Central Region Conference. The term in office of the Secretary/Treasurer shall be three (3) years.
- Section 2 - Persons elected Commander, Senior Vice Commander and Junior Vice Commander shall serve no more than three (3) consecutive one-year terms. There shall be no term limit for the Secretary/Treasurer.
- Section 3 - Appointed officers in the Central Region Association shall include the Patriotic Instructor, Chaplain, Color Bearer, Guide, and Historian. The Commander, upon his/her election, shall appoint these officers for a term of one (1) year.
- Section 4 - The Executive Committee of the Central Region Association shall consist of the four elected officers (Commander, Senior Vice Commander, Junior Vice Commander and Secretary/Treasurer). The primary responsibility of the Executive Committee is to serve as the decision-making authority in between Central Region Conferences.

## **IX. Nomination & Election of Officers**

- Section 1 - The nomination of officers for elected positions in the Central Region Association shall be based on recommendations made by the Conference Nominating Committee as specified in Article XII. Candidates must submit their intents to the Nominating Committee subsequent to appointment of the Nominating Committee.
- Section 2 - Those nominated for offices must be present at the Central Region Conference in order to be elected.
- Section 3 - Election of officers shall be conducted by office, commencing with Central Region Commander. The election shall be conducted by vote, voice or written, of the registered attendees. The election shall be determined by majority vote. If no majority can be obtained, then the candidate with the least votes from the first ballot will be dropped. This process will be repeated until one candidate receives a majority vote.

## **X. Duties of Officers**

- Section 1 - The responsibilities of the Central Region Commander include: (1) presiding over the annual Central Region Conference; (2) appointing all

appointed officers and committees; (3) ensuring that all Central Region officers and committees perform their duties; (4) representing the Central Region at various functions; (5) consulting with past Central Region Commanders for advice on Central Region matters; (6) providing assistance, if requested, to Allied Order organizations in the region that are in need of help; and (7) serving as a liaison between the Central Region and the Allied Order organizations.

Section 2 - The responsibilities of the Central Region Senior Vice Commander include: (1) presiding at the annual Central Region Conference in the absence of the Central Region Commander; (2) acting as a personal representative upon the request of the Central Region Commander; (3) preparing a Central Region annual report; (4) forwarding information about Central Region activities to the Editors of the individual Allied Orders National newsletters; (5) serving as chairman of the Central Region Awards Committee; and (6) carrying out other responsibilities delegated to the position by the Central Region Conference and Central Region Commander.

Section 3 - The responsibilities of the Central Region Junior Vice Commander include: (1) presiding at the Central Region Conference in the absence of both the Central Region Commander and Senior Vice Commander; (2) tracking key data within the Central Region as determined by the Central Region Conference; (3) communicate with each Allied Order organization regarding Central Region news and activities; and (4) carrying out other responsibilities delegated to the position by the Central Region Conference and Central Region Commander.

Section 4 - The responsibilities of the Central Region Secretary/Treasurer include: (1) processing and reporting correspondence with the Central Region; (2) preparing minutes/proceedings of annual Central Region Conference; (3) maintaining copies of annual Central Region Conference minutes/proceedings; (4) maintaining a copy of the Central Region Rituals and Ceremonials; (5) keeping financial records of the Central Region; (6) preparing an annual financial report for review and approval by the Central Region Conference Auditing Committee; (7) serving as custodian of Central Region property not otherwise provided for; (8) maintaining a bank account in the Region's name as a repository for Central Region funds; and (9) preparing and transmitting any and all financial reports as may be required by law.

Section 5 - The responsibilities of the Central Region Patriotic Instructor include: (1) collection and dissemination of information to Central Region officers and Allied Order member organizations relating to patriotism; (2) leading the Pledge of Allegiance at the opening of the Central Region Conference;

and (3) carrying out other responsibilities delegated to the office by the Central Region Conference and/or Central Region Commander.

Section 6 - The responsibilities of the Central Region Chaplain include: (1) providing opening and closing prayers at the Central Region Conference; (2) providing a necrology report to be compiled based on inputs provided by the individual Allied Order member organizations; and (3) carrying out other responsibilities delegated to the office by the Central Region Conference and/or Central Region Commander.

Section 7 - The responsibilities of the Central Region Historian include: (1) collecting, recording and storing historical information associated with the Central Region Association; (2) maintaining an inventory of historically significant documents and artifacts; (3) providing a report to the Central Region Conference highlighting historically significant items obtained and placed into inventory since the previous Conference; and (4) carrying out other responsibilities delegated to the office by the Central Region Conference and/or Central Region Commander.

Section 8 - The responsibilities of the Color Bearer include: (1) coordinating posting and retrieval of colors during the Central Region Conference; and (2) carrying out other responsibilities delegated to the office by the Central Region Conference and/or Central Region Commander.

Section 9 - The responsibilities of the Guide include: (1) escorting newly elected officers to their respective stations during officer installation; and (2) carrying out other responsibilities delegated to the office by the Central Region Conference and/or Central Region Commander.

## **XI. Vacancy in Office**

Section 1 - If a vacancy should occur in the office of Central Region Commander, then the sitting Senior Vice Commander shall move into the position of Commander to complete the unexpired term. If a vacancy should occur in the office of Central Region Senior Vice Commander, then the sitting Junior Vice Commander shall move up into the position of the Senior Vice Commander to complete the unexpired term.

Section 2 - If a vacancy should occur in the office of Central Region Junior Vice Commander, then the Central Region Commander shall appoint an individual from one of the Allied Order member organizations to complete the unexpired term.

Section 3 - If a vacancy should occur in the office of Central Region Secretary/Treasurer, then the Central Region Commander shall nominate

an individual to complete the unexpired term. The nominee must receive a unanimous vote of approval from the Executive Committee prior to assuming duties.

Section 4 - If a vacancy should occur in any appointed office of the Central Region, the Central Region Commander shall appoint an individual from one of the Allied Order member organizations to complete the unexpired term.

## **XII. Committees**

Section 1 - The standing committees of the Central Region Association shall include: (1) By-Laws Committee and (2) Awards Committee.

Section 2 - The By-Laws Committee shall annually review the Central Region By-Laws, bringing forward any resolutions and recommended revisions to the attention of the Central Region membership.

Section 3 - The Awards Committee shall review nominations for Central Region awards, and make recommendations to the Central Region Commander as to their merit. The Awards Committee shall also control design and production of awards to be distributed. The Chairman of this committee shall be the Senior Vice Commander.

Section 4 - Special committees may be created by action of the Central Region Commander and shall exist for the period of time designated in the creation thereof. Duties and responsibilities shall be defined at the time of creation.

Section 5 - The conference committees of the Central Region Association shall include: (1) Nominating Committee; (2) Resolutions Committee; and (3) Auditing Committee.

Section 6 - The Nominating Committee shall solicit and bring forward recommendations relative to nominations for the Central Region elected offices. Recommendations may consist of one nominee per office, or an election between multiple nominees.

Section 7 - The Resolutions Committee shall review resolutions brought before the Central Region Conference and make recommendations to the Central Region Conference. These recommendations shall be subject to vote by the membership attending the Conference.

Section 8 - The Auditing Committee shall review the financial report of the Central Region Secretary/Treasurer and conduct a full audit of Central Region treasury. This committee shall make recommendations relative to

acceptance of the Secretary/Treasurer's financial report and/or corrective action that needs to be taken.

Section 9 - All standing, special and conference committees shall, except as otherwise noted, consist of personnel from member organizations that are in good standing with the Central Region Association. The Central Region Commander shall appoint the Chairman and membership of each committee. The Central Region Commander shall serve as an ex-officio member of all standing, special and conference committees, unless otherwise specified.

### **XIII. Reports**

Section 1 - All officers of the Central Region Association shall present an annual written report at the Central Region Conference. These reports shall be submitted to the Central Region Secretary/Treasurer no later than 30 days prior to the Central Region Conference.

Section 2 - Other reporting requirements are as specified in the job descriptions of the various officers referenced in Article X.

### **XIV. Badges**

Section 1 - As no Central Region badge exists for display by the general membership at Central Region functions, members shall wear the membership badge of the Allied Order organization(s) in which they are members.

Section 2 - The only badges associated with the Central Region Association are the Central Region Commanders badge and the Central Region Past Commanders badge. The Past Commanders badge shall be awarded only to Commanders who successfully complete their term of office.

Section 3 - The Central Region Commanders and Past Commanders badges may be worn along with the individual Allied Order organization membership badges at Central Region functions. Wearing the Central Region Past Commanders badge at individual Allied Order functions is subject to the Constitution & Regulations of each Order.

### **XV. Awards**

Section 1 - Only two Central Region awards are authorized for presentation to members of the Central Region: (1) Central Region Meritorious Service Award and (2) Certificates of Appreciation

Section 2 - The Meritorious Service Award shall be considered for members of the Central Region who have provided significant contributions to the Central

Region over a significant period of time. It is not intended as a supplemental award for contributions supporting individual Allied Order organizations.

Section 3 - Certificates of Appreciation shall be considered for members of the Central Region whose efforts contribute to the furtherance of the Central Region Association.

Section 4 - Nominations for the Meritorious Service Award and Certificates of Appreciation shall be directed to the Awards Committee for action. Recommendations by the Awards Committee shall be submitted to the Central Region Commander for approval.

#### **XVI. Disposition and Dissolution of Assets**

Section 1 - In case the Central Region Association ceases to exist, all Central Region property shall be turned over to the Executive Committee at the time of disbandment.

Section 2 - The Executive Committee shall convene and come to a consensus on a plan to disposition all non-financial assets amongst the Allied Order organizations in the Central Region.

Section 3 - Financial assets in the name of the Central Region Association will be divided equally amongst Allied Order Departments in the Central Region at the time of disbandment and used for the purpose for which the Order exists.

#### **By-Laws Committee**

Don Palmer, Chairman	Department of Missouri	SUVCW
Barbara Knopke	Department of Kansas	LGAR
Maggie Grothe	Department of Wisconsin	ASUVCW
Lee Ann Teller	Department of Indiana	DUVCW
Alan Russ	Department of Kansas	SUVCW

**APPROVED : 04 October 2008**



# G.A.R. Allied Orders Central Region Association General Order #1 2009 Series

Whereas, there seems to be an inconsistency in terminology between Article III Section 1 and Article III Section 3 in the by-laws of this organization;  
and, whereas it takes a two year period of time to change the by-laws;

Therefore section 3 shall be reconciled with section 1 in the following manner until such time as the by-laws are amended:

1. Attendees desiring to bring issues to the floor and vote at a conference must be members of one of the departments in section 1 (or Individual Camps, Auxiliaries, Tents, Circles and Corps inside such departments provided they are not affiliated with any department defined in section 1).
2. Such attendees who are members of such Allied Orders as defined in section one and within the territorial boundaries of the states outlined in section 2 become members of the conference upon paying the registration fee.

By Order of the Commander:

Walter E. Busch  
2009 Commander

Attested by:

Jack Shaw  
Secretary/Treasurer