

## **Constitution of the Choctaw Veterans Association**

### **ARTICLE I NAME**

This Association shall be known as the "Choctaw Veterans Association" hereafter referred to as the "Association" it is an organization for all enrolled Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma Veteran of service in the United States Armed Forces.

### **ARTICLE II OBJECTIVES**

The Association is dedicated to the fulfillment of the following purposes:

- a. To enhance and accredit the cohesiveness, esprit de corps, and Choctaw traditions of service in the Armed Forces of the United States.
- b. To seek out using whatever means available, Choctaws who served in the Armed Forces of the United State and inform them of the existence of the Association and encourage all eligible individuals to become members.
- c. To promote Americanism, sponsor youth activities; conduct patriotic ceremonies and functions, community activities, and social activities.
- d. Other activities may include representing Choctaw veterans before legislative bodies concerning legislation that affects veterans as a class and informing member of such proposed legislation, social welfare of the organization members and immediate family members, providing assistance to veterans and their families in applying for federal veterans administration benefits, and perpetuating the memory of veterans and comforting their survivors.

### **ARTICLE III- OPERATION**

Section I The Association will operate on a calendar year basis.

Section II The Association shall operate as a not for profit organization.

Section III An annual audit will be conducted by a recognized financial agency selected by the Executive Council.

Section IV. The Association shall not engage in partisan political politics or endorse political parties or candidates or public officials, Nothing herein shall restrict individual members from being individually engaged in political activities, political parties, or political office. provided, however, members may not mention their membership In the Association when involved in such political activities,. political parties, or political office in a manner so as to imply endorsement by the Association.

## **ARTICLE V ANNUAL MEETING**

Section I There shall be an annual meeting of the Association.

Section II The annual meeting shall be conducted at a place and time as determined by to Executive Council.

Section III The Executive Council shall announce the date and place selected for the annual meeting not later than one year prior to the annual meeting.

Section IV In the event of a national or natural emergency, to Executive Council shall have the authority to cancel or postpone annual meetings.

## **ARTICLE V MEMBERSHIP**

Section I. Membership is open to all Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma enrollees that are veterans of service of the Armed Forces of the United States, whether active duty, retired, reserve, National Guard, or honorably discharged veterans of Service of the Armed Forces of the United States for the purposes of this Association, the Armed forces of the United States are The U. S. Army, The U.S Navy, The U.S. Coast Guard, The U.S. Marine Corps, and The US Air Force and their reserve components

Section II Members shall be classified as General, and Honorary. To be recognized as an active member in any of these classifications, the member must be In good standing and current in his dues.

Section III Membership classifications are as follows:

a. General membership will be conferred upon an individual eligible for membership who pays a specified amount of dues annually, as directed by the Executive Council and approved, by the general membership.

b. Honorary membership is open to distinguished persons such as guest speakers and other dignitaries. Honorary memberships must be voted upon by the Executive Council.

## **ARTICLE VI — ORGANIZATION OF THE ASSOCIATION**

Section I. The officers of the Association shall be as follows: .

- a. President
- b. Vice president (who shall be president-elect and shall succeed the President)
- c. Three members-at-Large.
- d. The immediate Past President.

Section II. The Executive Council shall be:

- a. President .
- b. Vice President.
- c. Three Members-at-large.
- d. The immediate Past President

Section III. holding office or other positions of influence and trust shall be limited to eligible members as defined in this Constitution.

Section IV. Responsibility and Authority of the Executive Council.

a. The Executive Council shall be the governing body of the Association. It shall be responsible for the management of the affairs of the Association including funds, programs and regulations. It shall have authority to approve budgets, authorize , expenditures, seek and accept contributions and approve anal meeting sites and program arraigngements.

b. A majority opinion of the Executive Council shall prevail in all matters pertaining to the Association.

c. The Secretary/treasurer shall have a vote only as a tiebreaker.

d. In addition to business conducted at the annual meeting, two shall be three Quarterly conference calls made by the Executive council between annual meetings for the purpose of conducting Association business. Said calls are to be conducted at a time that is convenient for the majority of the Executive Council members. The President or Secretary/treasurer shall have the authority to initiate additional conference calls as deemed necessary

e. The Executive Council may delegate authority and functions to the Secretary/Treasurer or specific members of the Association.

f. The Executive Council shall perform such other duties as are prescribed by the ` Constitution and bylaws.

Section V. Committees

a. The Association will have the following standing committees whose duties and responsibilities we outlined in the job descriptions and policy statements approved by the Executive Council.

Directory

Date Base

Historical

Membership

Newsletter

Public Relations

Annual Meeting

b. Vacancies for the Chairmanship of all committees will be filled by appointment by the President

c. All appointments to chairmanship of committees are subject to ratification by the Executive Council.

## **ARTICLE VII; VOTING**

Section I. All active members with the exception of Honorary members we entitled to vote.

Section II. Attending members in good standing am eligible to vote and shall constitute a quorum for the transaction of business at annual meetings of the Association. Voting-by proxy is NOT permitted.

### **ARTICLE VIII- CONSTITUTION AND BYLAWS AMENDMENTS**

The Constitution and Bylaws may be amended by the following procedures:

- a. Proposed amendments will be submitted to the Association Headquarters or any Association Officer 90 days prior to the annual meeting.
- b. The Executive Council must approval proposed amendment(s). Such approval shall be limited to verifying the legality of such amendments in accordance with the Associations constitution and bylaws, and verifying the proposing party/parties membership and veteran status.
- c. The adoption of the amendment(s) at an annual meeting of the Association is by a two-thirds majority of the members present and voting at the business session

### **ARTICLE IX CHAPTERS**

Chapters may be initiated upon approval of the Executive Council. Chapters may have such officers organization- and meetings as they may determine, not in conflict with the Constitution and bylaws of the Association. Each chapter will be required to provide the Executive Council with the names of its officers and activities on an annual basis.