

CONSTITUTION AND BY-LAWS  
OF THE  
GENERAL JUBAL A. EARLY CAMP 556

*SONS OF CONFEDERATE VETERANS*

**Preamble:**

*As we, the Charter members of the General Jubal A. Early Camp 556, Sons of Confederate Veterans, unite in bonds of brotherhood and, seeking the perpetuation of our Southern Heritage, we submit ourselves joyfully to the Charge of Gen. Stephen D. Lee:*

*To You, Sons of Confederate Veterans, we submit the vindication of the cause for which we fought. To your strength will be given the defense of the Confederate soldier's good name, the guardianship of his virtues, the perpetuation of those principles he loved and which made him glorious and which you also cherish. Remember, it is your duty to see that the true history of the South is presented to future generations.*

*Time has not dimmed this vision, nor have the echoes of these spoken words faded from our hearts. They reverberate within us today as loudly and as clearly as at the moment they were spoken. We have no mission which extends beyond this commission; we commit ourselves, fully and faithfully, to fulfill this charge to the best of our abilities.*

*In all things let us submit ourselves to the faith of our forefathers, who found the strength, courage and eternal hope through all suffering and adversity in His Word. By Providence we are today citizens of the United States of America, and subject to its lawful authority. We, as members of the General Jubal A. Early Camp 556, shall fully and faithfully perform duties as citizens as proscribed in the Sons of Confederate Veterans Constitution."*

**Article I – NAME**

This Camp shall be known as the General Jubal A. Early Camp 556, of the Florida Division, Sons of Confederate Veterans.

**Article II – Aims and Objectives.**

This Camp shall be strictly patriotic, historical, educational, benevolent, non-political, non-racial and non-sectarian. Each member shall perform his full duty as a citizen according to his own conscience and understanding. Discussions at camp events of matters that pertain to a specific political party or candidate, either positive or negatively, shall be strictly prohibited. This camp shall not endorse any political party or political candidate.

**Article III – Rules of Membership**

1. All male descendents, lineal or collateral, of those who served in the Confederate Army or Navy and who fully meet the membership requirements of the International Sons of Confederate Veterans may be admitted to the Camp as full members. Only active members of the Camp in good standing shall have the rights of voting, holding office, or being selected as delegates or alternates to International or Division Conventions.
2. Affiliate, non-voting, membership for males or females is recognized through an auxiliary organization, known as the Confederate Legion of the General Jubal A. Early Camp 556.

3. All applications for membership shall be reviewed by the Enlistment Committee. Approval rests on considerations of personal qualifications as well as Organizational requirements. The Enlistment Committee will recommend acceptance or rejection of the applicant for membership. Upon recommendation by this committee final acceptance is voted upon by the camp at the next business meeting.
4. Membership shall be retained so long as dues are current. Dues are due as of August 1 each year and are considered delinquent as of February 2 of the following year. Only full members in good standing may vote on Camp policy or hold an officer position.
5. Membership privileges may be revoked for failure to pay dues, for acts considered disruptive to the Camp or disparaging to Southern heritage, or for behaviour which brings reproach upon the Camp or the Sons of Confederate Veterans. Disciplinary action may be referred to the Disciplinary Board by the Commander or by the membership by majority vote at any Camp Business Meeting. The Commander may temporarily apply sanctions and/or suspend the membership privileges of a member pending resolution by the Disciplinary Board. Notification to the member facing disciplinary action will be made by certified mail which will be postmarked 21 days prior to the day of the hearing.

#### Article IV – Officers & Elections

The standing officers of the Camp shall be Commander, 1st Lt. Commander, Chaplain, Judge Advocate and Adjutant. These officers are elected for 2 year terms with elections held during June of even numbered years. Balloting is normally secret, but a voice vote may be held for positions in which the candidate is unopposed. Vacancies in the Officer Corps may be filled by the Commander. An Officer so appointed shall serve until the end of his predecessor's unexpired term.

Offices of 2<sup>nd</sup> Lt. Commander, 3<sup>rd</sup> Lt. Commander, 4<sup>th</sup> Lt. Commander, Paymaster, Quartermaster or any other office, may be created by the will of the Commander or the camp and the vacancy filled by election at a normal business meeting.

The office of Paymaster may be incorporated in with the office of Adjutant.

#### Article V – Duties of Officers

1. The **Commander** shall chair all business meetings of the Camp (but may delegate the chair for any meeting), fill vacancies occurring in office, appoint all committees, serve as ex-officio member of all committees except the nominating committee, and shall be the chief executive officer of the Camp. Upon his election the Commander shall appoint Aid-de-Camps or other appointed positions and they shall serve at the pleasure of the Commander.
2. Any Lt Commanders, in descending order shall, in the absence or at the direction of the Commander, perform the duties of his office. They shall assume other duties as directed by the Commander.
3. The **Adjutant** shall keep all camp records including minutes of Camp Business Sessions. He shall maintain a complete and up-to-date roster of all Camp members and Legionnaires. He shall deal with all member problems, including demits and failures to receive materials from Headquarters. He shall assume other duties as directed by the Commander.
4. The **Chaplain** shall be responsible maintaining a Christian atmosphere in all Camp activities. He will offer an invocation and a benediction at all such meetings. He will be responsible for ministering to those members who are sick or are in need of spiritual council. He shall be the spiritual leader of the Camp. He shall assume other duties as directed by the Commander.
5. The **Judge Advocate** shall act as Parliamentarian at all Camp meetings and shall preside over all disciplinary hearings and elections. Elections shall be the sole providence of the Judge Advocate. He shall perform other duties as directed by the Commander.

6. The **Paymaster** shall receive all dues and other funds of the Camp, give receipt for the same and deposit them in a bank designated by the Camp Commander. He is authorized to co-sign all cheques in conjunction with the commander and is to be held responsible for the correctness of accounts in matters over which he has total control. He shall assume other duties as directed by the Camp Commander.
7. The **Quartermaster** shall act to find suitable meeting facilities, shall obtain all special materials including rental equipment as required and shall perform other duties as directed by the Commander.

**Aid-de-Camp or Appointed Positions:**

1. The **Colour Captain** shall be responsible for the organization and training of the Colour Guard. He shall conduct the Guard in all ceremonies and shall be responsible for ensuring that an appropriate stand of colours is present for all meeting and ceremonies.
2. The **Enlistment Officer** shall be responsible for assisting in the recruitment of new members. He shall be responsible for following all leads on prospective members. He shall assist in completing research to prove membership eligibility. He will also chair the Enlistment Committee to review all new applications and shall perform other duties as directed by the Commander.
3. Special Projects Director
4. Media, Communications and Liaison Director
5. Newsletter Editor
6. Program Director
7. Webmaster

**Article VI -- Succession**

Succession will be in this order within the camp officer corps: After Commander, 1st Lt. Commander, subsequent Lt. Commanders, Adjutant and then Chaplain.

**Article VII – Committees**

The Enlistment Committee shall review all applicants for membership in the camp. This Committee shall review all enlistment documentation and conduct an interview of prospective members. The Committee shall include 3 to 5 members, appointed by the Commander. The Enlistment Officer, or that officer appointed to fill that position, and the Chaplain shall be permanent members and the remainder may be chosen either from the Officer Corps or from the ranks.

The Finance Committee shall oversee all Camp expenditures. This Committee will be chaired by the 1<sup>st</sup> Lt. Commander and will include the entire officer corp.

The Audit Committee shall be made up of three men appointed by the Finance Committee to perform an annual end of the year (beginning June 1 and ending May 31) audit of the books. This Audit Committee will be comprised of two members at large and one officer of the camp (other than the Paymaster).

The Nominating Committee shall be comprised of 5 members, three from the Standing Officers and two from the membership at large. Excluded from this committee will be the Commander and any Lt. Commanders. Additional nominations may be made by any member in good standing, speaking from the floor at the time of the election. The proposed candidate must accept his nomination, before being included in any subsequent balloting, and the nomination must be seconded by another member. The Nominating Committee will provide a recommended slate of candidates during the business meeting prior to the June election in the even numbered year and that slate will be published in the newsletter prior to the election. The Commander shall appoint this committee.

**Article VIII – Amendments**

These Bylaws may be amended at any regular meeting of the Camp by a 2/3 vote of those present, provided that the amendment has been submitted in writing at the previous regular business meeting. Amendments shall become effective upon adjournment of the meeting at which they are adopted. Any Amendment which is in conflict with the Constitution or the Standing Rules of the International Sons of Confederate Veterans or of the Florida Division, SCV shall be deemed null and void.

#### **Article IX – Meeting Requirements**

1. **Fellowship or Program meetings** will normally be held every other month on the 3rd Thursday of the month. This time may be altered by the Commander to accommodate special speakers or to avoid conflict with other events. A permanent change of the meeting date will require a change of these bylaws and is subject to a vote of the Camp Membership.
2. **Business meetings** will be held at least three times per calendar year. Ideally, their occurrence will alternate monthly with the Fellowship or Program meetings.

Because of pressing need the Commander may call a Special Business Meeting out of the normal routine given that a mailed notice to all camp members is postmarked 10 days prior to scheduled meeting.

3. **Officer Calls** may be called at any time by the Commander, for the benefit of the smooth operation of the camp. In addition to officers, aid-de-camps, full Camp members or Legionnaires may be invited to attend. Officer Calls will never replace the function of Camp Business Meetings.

#### **Article X – Parliamentary Authority**

The rules of procedure at any camp business meeting are set forth in Roberts Rules of Order, Newly Revised, except wherein they may be altered by the assembly. It is the responsibility of the Judge Advocate to insure that proper protocol and procedures are followed and to advise during the conduct these meetings. Camp Officers who may preside at these meetings should work to gain a familiarity with rules and procedures.

#### **Article XI – Decorum & Discipline**

1. This Camp is established to maintain and promote pride in our common Southern Heritage. It is an organization for Southern Gentlemen. With the exception of Business Meetings, which require membership to participate, all meetings are open so that family and friends are both welcome and encouraged to attend. All such activities are to be conducted as family affairs and members should always act accordingly. Business meetings are to be conducted in accordance with Robert's rules which are designed to ensure proper conduct, even as controversial matters are considered. Individuals who have difficulty in maintaining proper decorum shall be excluded from such meetings.

Members are expected to deal with internal Camp issues through the prescribed procedures. Members shall not disparage or insult fellow members, the Sons of Confederate Veterans, the symbols of Southern heritage or conduct themselves in such a manner so as to cause conflict within the Camp. Said conduct amounts to conduct unbecoming a member of the camp, and invites disciplinary action.

Members who fail to abide by the decorum requirement may be brought before the Disciplinary Board.

2. The Disciplinary Board shall consist of the Judge Advocate, a member appointed by him and a member appointed by the commander. The Disciplinary Board is empowered to temporarily suspend membership privileges and to bar members from all Camp functions. Such suspensions may only extend until the next Camp Business Meeting. At that time, the Board may recommend withdrawal of membership or other sanctions. Such sanctions require a majority vote of the membership present.