

Catholic War Veterans
National Constitution & By-Laws Change
July 3, 2018 for August 2018 National Convention

Executive Summary

The purpose of this change to the Catholic War Veteran's Constitution and By-Laws is to create and define additional Officer positions of "Regional Commander" and "Regional Adjutant". Regional Commanders will be the equivalent echelon level as Department Commanders. Regional Adjutants will serve as the assistant to the Regional Commander to keep records and provide computer support. As new Posts are created around the country in states not currently serviced by a Department, it is becoming increasingly more important that we provide these Posts an administrative liaison with National and ensure that they receive appropriate representation at National Board Meetings and Conventions. This change to the Constitution and By-Laws affects several Articles and may seem confusing if viewed just as the change. This cover letter describes the change in detail so that Convention Delegates may clearly understand the issue under consideration.

Additional Discussion

The Catholic War Veterans have Posts scattered throughout the country in states that are rarely, if ever, in attendance at the National Convention and never at a National Board Meeting. We would hope that additional Posts will be established in these states and that each will eventually form a Department. Until that occurs, 4 Regional Commanders (NE, SE, NW, and SW) will be created to geographically gather these Posts that have no Departments and provide representation at all National gatherings. As our organization transitions into a more technologically driven organization regarding administration and personnel management, we must provide an administrative level for these "Non-Aligned Posts" to reduce the burden on National and to make it more efficient for National Officers to communicate up and down the Chain of Command.

It is important to recognize that Department Commanders will retain complete jurisdiction over operations within their states. Although all states currently with a Department will be contained within one of the Regions, the Department Commander will have no allegiance to the Regional Commander. It is necessary to include all states when defining a Region as Department Charters may be granted or revoked. It is not desirable to change our Constitution each time we add or remove a Department Charter. Posts that exist in States without a Department Commander will be defined as "**Non-Aligned Posts**" and be placed under the Regional Commander so long as they remain Non-Aligned. If a Department loses their Department Charter, their Posts will immediately become Non-Aligned and shift to the Regional Commander. If a State qualifies and is granted a Department, all Posts within that

state will immediately become **“Aligned”** and shift from the Regional Commander to the Department Commander. If there are no Non-Aligned Posts within a Region, that Region will become Inactive and will have no assigned Regional Officers or suffrage.

Regional Commanders will be like and unlike Department Commanders. At National Conventions and National Board Meetings they will enjoy equal suffrage and status. They may vote and maybe involved in discussions as necessary to represent their Non-Aligned Posts. At Conventions, they may only vote for themselves and any proxies granted them by their Posts in the same manner as Department Commanders. Regional Commanders, like Department Commanders, may not concurrently serve as a National Officer. This is generally where the similarities end. Regional Commanders **do not** have a separate organization. They have no staff except for the Adjutant, receive no Per Capita dues from their Non-Aligned Posts, hold no official meetings or Conventions, and are not elected by the Posts in their region. Regional Commanders and Adjutants will be appointed by the National Commander and approved by the National Board by a majority vote at the Fall National Board Meeting. If a Regional Commander for any reason is unable to continue in that position, the Regional Adjutant will assume the duties until the next National Board Meeting when the National Commander will appoint a replacement. A Regional Commander will be appointed annually and serve for no more than two consecutive terms unless no other names are put forward for consideration from that Region. Additionally, unless there are no recommended alternative names to consider, consecutive Regional Commanders may not hail from the same Post.

Regional Commanders will have no disciplinary power over their Non-Aligned Posts. Regional Adjutants shall train Non-Aligned Posts regarding computer personnel database management, disseminate information from National to those Posts and maintain records of correspondence. National shall reimburse administrative fees (primarily postage) incurred by the Regional Commander and Adjutant. Only the Regional Commander will be eligible to receive travel compensation for attending National Board Meetings and the Pre-National Convention Board Meeting.

This is a necessary change for our organization to move forward and expand. All Delegates are asked to review the issue carefully and support this change. ***At the Convention, this change will be voted on as a single change although it affects several Articles.*** If you have questions, please refer them to the members of the National Board of Directors.

Constitutional Changes

1. **Article IV section 6:** Change item b. from “State Department” to “State Department/ Regions”.
2. **Article V section 1:**
 - a. Initial Line currently reads: “The Officers of each Membership Unit shall consist of:”
Change initial line to read “The Officers of each Membership Unit, except Regions as noted below, shall consist of:”
 - b. Add after line m: “Note: Regions shall only have a Commander and an Adjutant.”
3. **Article VI section 1:** Change item b. from “State Department Commanders” to “State Department/Region Commanders”.
4. **Article VI section 6:** Change both instances of “State Department Commander” to “State Department/Region Commander”.
5. **Article VII:**
 - a. Change title from “State Department” to “State Departments and Regions”.
 - b. **Add New Section 10 to read:** A Post shall be considered “Non-Aligned” if they have no State Department.
 - c. **Add New Section 11 to read:** Four administrative Regions will consist of all Non-Aligned Posts within that Region:
 - i. **Northeast Region:** Maine, New Hampshire, Vermont, Rhode Island, Massachusetts, Connecticut, Pennsylvania, New York, New Jersey, Delaware, Maryland, Michigan, Indiana and Ohio.
 - ii. **Southeast Region:** Virginia, West Virginia, North Carolina, South Carolina, Kentucky, Tennessee, Mississippi, Alabama, Louisiana, Georgia and Florida
 - iii. **Northwest Region:** Alaska, Washington, Oregon, Montana, Idaho, Wyoming, North Dakota, South Dakota, Nebraska, Minnesota, Illinois, Iowa and Wisconsin.
 - iv. **Southwest Region:** Hawaii, California, Nevada, Arizona, Utah, Colorado, New Mexico, Kansas, Oklahoma, Missouri, Arkansas and Texas.
 - d. **Add New Section 12 to read:** If no Non-Aligned Posts exist within the states of a Region, that Region will be considered “Inactive” and have no suffrage. Regions are “Active” so long as a Non-Aligned Post exists within the Region. If only one Non-Aligned Post exists within a region, the National Commander shall designate the Post Commander and Post Adjutant as Regional Commander and Regional Adjutant. If a state within a geographical Region is granted a Department Charter, the Posts within that new State Department will no longer be part of that administrative Region and will be considered Aligned. Conversely, if a state within a Region loses its State Department Charter for any reason, Posts within that State will be designated Non-Aligned and become part of that administrative Region and be represented by the Regional Commander.
 - e. **Add New Section 13 to read:** Regions are not required to hold any specific meetings or a Regional Convention. Upon activation (or reactivation) of a Region, the National Commander will designate a Commander and an Adjutant. Subsequently, each Post within a Region will submit, if desired, the name of a candidate and biography for the positions of Regional Commander and/or Adjutant NLT 31 August to the serving Regional Commander for consideration. The Region Commander will submit all candidates to the National Commander NLT 15 September with a recommendation for each position. The National Commander will choose a Commander and Adjutant and have the selection confirmed by a majority vote of the National Board at the Fall Board Meeting. No Regional Commander may serve more than two complete terms unless

there is no recommended replacement. Consecutive Regional Commanders may not hail from the same Post, unless no other candidates are put forward for consideration.

- f. **Add New Section 14 to read:** The purpose of the Region Commander is to give all Posts equal representation at National Board Meetings and at the National Convention. Regional Commanders have equal representation with state Department Commanders at these meetings but shall have no disciplinary power. They shall provide a liaison between the Regional Non-Aligned Posts and the National Department.

By-Law Change

Article IX Section 2: Change "State Department" to "State Departments/Regions".

CHANGE To The NATIONAL CONSTITUTION & BYLAWS

Present

ARTICLE III – MEMBERSHIP

Section 3. There shall be admitted to membership a Catholic priest or permanent deacon, who is an American citizen, notwithstanding that such priest or permanent deacon is not a veteran as herein defined, provided that if such priest or permanent deacon is admitted, he shall not have suffrage on matters of veteran's policy. "Veteran's policy" is defined as any matter dealing with veterans, contained in any federal, state or local statute; judicial or administrative decision; or in any rule, regulation, ordinance or directive of any federal, state or local agency or department; or any proposal relating to any of the foregoing.

Proposed Change

Section 3. There shall be admitted to membership a Catholic priest or permanent deacon, who is an American citizen, notwithstanding that such priest or permanent deacon is not a veteran as herein defined, provided that if such priest or permanent deacon is admitted, he shall not have suffrage on matters of veteran's policy. "Veteran's policy" is defined as any matter dealing with veterans, contained in any federal, state or local statute; judicial or administrative decision; or in any rule, regulation, ordinance or directive of any federal, state or local agency or department; or any proposal relating to any of the foregoing.

Life membership will be awarded to all priest or Deacons for their service to our organization and not be required to pay any dues to National Department, Department or Post. The National Department, Department or Post will be required to submit an application for Life Membership and approval by National Executive Director or National staff before any action is taken.

Submitted by:

Jose M. Garcia PNC
April 4, 2018