

**BEFORE THE 28TH ENCAMPMENT OF THE  
DEPARTMENT OF TENNESSEE WITH MISSISSIPPI  
SONS OF UNION VETERANS OF THE CIVIL WAR**

**RESOLUTION**

*Adoption of the Final Report of the  
Special Committee to Review Membership Qualifications and  
Recommendations to National Encampment*

The 28th Encampment of the Department of Tennessee with Mississippi finds:

- a. On March 8, 2022, Commander-in- Chief Michael A. Paquette appointed a special committee to review membership qualifications.
- b. As reported to the 2022 National Encampment, this original special committee performed an extensive analysis of gender identity issues relating to membership in the SUVCW. The committee examined organization's governing documents and procedures against the backdrop of the current state of the literature, science, and law.
- c. At the 2022 National Encampment, the Encampment voted to establish the current Special Committee on Membership Qualifications as a follow-on to the original committee charged to develop recommendations for the 2023 National Encampment.
- d. The 19-page Final Report of the Special Committee has been circulated to the Departments and recommends the following:

**Recommendation 1:** The Constitution of the Order is hereby amended as follows:

Article III, Eligibility to Membership, is hereby amended to read as follows:

All male descendants assigned at birth as biologically male, whether through lineal or collateral line of ages lineages specified in Article VII of this Constitution who are blood relatives of soldiers, sailors, marines or members of the Revenue Cutter Service, who were regularly mustered and served honorably in, were honorably discharged from, or died in the service of the Army, Navy, Marine Corps or Revenue Cutter Service of the United States of America or such State regiments as were called into active service and were subject to orders of United States general officers, during the War of the Rebellion between April 12, 1861 and April 9, 1865; who have never been convicted of any infamous or heinous crime; and who have, or whose ancestors through whom membership is claimed have, never voluntarily borne arms against the Government of the United States of America shall have eligibility to membership.

**Recommendation 2:** The Constitution of the Order is hereby amended as follows:

Article VII, Membership, Section 2, Subsections (a) and (b), are hereby amended to read as follows:

Section 2. Associates. There shall be two classes of Associates.

(a) Associates are males assigned at birth as biologically male at least fourteen (14) years of age who do not meet the blood relative qualifications stipulated in Article III of this Constitution and Section 5 of the Articles of Incorporation but otherwise meet the requirements for membership established by the National Organization.

(b) Junior Associates are males assigned at birth as biologically male at least six (6) years of age but less than fourteen (14) years of age who do not meet the blood relative qualifications stipulated in Article III of this Constitution and Section 5 of the Articles of Incorporation but otherwise meet the requirements for membership established by the National Organization.

**Recommendation 3:** The Constitution of the Order is hereby amended as follows:

Article VII, Membership, is hereby amended to add a new Section 6 to read as follows:

Section 6. A Brother who has been duly elected to membership in the Order shall not be subsequently disqualified from membership or be involuntarily discharged from the Order solely because of that Brother's change in gender or sexual identification.

**Recommendation 4:** The Regulations of the Order are hereby amended as follows:

Chapter III, Article X, Junior Associates, Section 2 is hereby amended to read as follows:

Section 2. Junior Associates shall be males assigned at birth as biologically male at least six (6) years of age but less than fourteen (14) years of age, who do not meet the ancestor service qualifications stipulated in Article III of the Constitution and Section 200303 of the Articles of Incorporation but otherwise meet the requirements for membership established by the National Organization.

**Recommendation 5:** It is recommended that Form 3, Membership Application, be amended so that the declaration in Part II, Application Information and Declaration, be amended to read as follows:

I declare that I am a male, assigned at birth as a biological male, and that this application has been examined by me and to the best of my knowledge and belief is true, correct and complete and, if accepted, I will obey and support the National Constitution of the Order, the Bylaws of the Department and the Bylaws of the Camp.

**Having considered the Report and Recommendations, the 28th Encampment of the Department of Tennessee with Mississippi resolves:**

- a. The work of the Special Committee is commended.
- b. Adoption and approval of the Final Report of the Special Committee and its Recommendations.
- c. The Department Encampment will communicate such adoption and approval to cause the Report and Recommendation's inclusion for consideration in the general orders preceding the 2023 National Encampment.
- d. The Department Encampment instruct its officers and delegates attending the 2023 National Encampment fully and favorably support adoption and approval the Final Report of the Special Committee and its Recommendations.

**ADOPTED this \_\_\_\_\_ day of March, 2022.**