

## **ARTICLE XII - MILITARY ORDER OF THE COOTIE**

### **Sec. 1201 - Formation.**

#### **(a) Formation.**

- (1) Pup Tents.** Pup Tents may be formed and chartered in accordance with the National Constitution and Bylaws of the Military Order of the Cootie provided that no Pup Tent shall be formed by less than fifteen (15) members in good standing of the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States, and, provided further that no Pup Tent shall be chartered unless the Post with which such Pup Tent is to be affiliated has consented to the chartering thereof. Consent shall require two-thirds vote of the members present and voting at a regular or special meeting, provided that Post members are given written notice that a vote will take place, such notice to be given the entire membership in writing at least ten (10) days prior to the regular or special meeting called for the aforementioned purpose.

Each Pup Tent shall be assigned a number by the Military Order of the Cootie.

Each Pup Tent shall be subject to the jurisdiction of the Post with which it is affiliated. It shall also be subject to the jurisdiction of the Department Convention, Council of Administration and Commander of its respective Department of the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States with respect to matters within their authority.

Each Pup Tent shall function in accordance with the National Bylaws and Ritual of the Military Order of the Cootie and lawful orders issued by Supreme (National) and Department officers of the Order, provided they do not conflict with the Congressional Charter, Bylaws and Manual of Procedure of the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States, the Bylaws of the Department in which it is situated or the Post with which it is affiliated or lawful orders issued by the Commander-in-Chief, the National or Department Council of Administration or Department Commander.

- (2) **Grand Pup Tents (Department Units).** Grand Pup Tents may be formed by a vote of the Department Convention. Each Grand Pup Tent of the Military Order of the Cootie shall be governed by and under the jurisdiction of the Convention, Council of Administration, and Commander of its respective Department of the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States, who shall decide questions of law and usage for the Grand Pup Tent subject to an appeal to the Commander-in-Chief or National Council of Administration; but the Grand Pup Tent shall function in accordance with the Supreme (National) Bylaws and Ritual of the Military Order of the Cootie and lawful orders issued by National and Department officers thereof, provided they do not conflict with the Congressional Charter, Bylaws and Manual of Procedure of the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States and Bylaws of the Department with which the Grand Pup Tent is affiliated or the lawful orders issued by the Commander-in-Chief and/or National or Department Council of Administration and the Department Commander.

**(b) Suspension and Discontinuance.**

- (1) The Commander-in-Chief or National Council of Administration of the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States may suspend the Supreme National Charter of the Military Order of the Cootie for a period not to exceed sixty (60) days, for conduct of the organization, its Convention, National Officers or National Council of Administration which may be detrimental to the best interest of the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States. Upon recommendation of the Commander-in-Chief, the National Council of Administration may, by two-thirds (2/3) vote, cancel and revoke the charter of the Military Order of the Cootie, provided written notice of such recommendation is given to the Supreme Commander and the Supreme Quartermaster/Adjutant at least ten (10) days prior to any National Council action and the Supreme Commander or their designee has been afforded an opportunity to appear before the National Council and be heard concerning such recommendation.
- (2) The Commander-in-Chief may direct the suspension, for a period not to exceed sixty (60) days, or the cancellation of the charter of any subordinate unit (Grand Pup Tent or Pup Tent) of the Military Order of the Cootie, upon recommendation of the Commander of the Department wherein such unit is located, when it is shown the conduct of officers or members thereof may be detrimental to the best interest of the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States.
- (3) **Disbanding of Pup Tent by a Post.** A Post may, by vote of eighty percent of its members present and voting at a meeting following a written notice mailed or delivered to each member of the Post in good standing at least ten (10) days before said meeting, vote to request cancellation of the charter of its Pup Tent. The notice must state the contemplated action and the reason therefor. If the Post votes to request cancellation of the charter of its Pup Tent, it shall certify the action in writing

and forward same to the Department Commander who shall forward it to the Commander-in-Chief with their recommendations. If the Commander-in-Chief believes that it is in the best interest of the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States to do so, the Commander-in-Chief shall direct the Supreme Commander of the Military Order of the Cootie to cancel the charter of the Pup Tent.

- (4) **Change of Post Affiliation.** For a Pup Tent to change affiliation, it must first receive consent from two-thirds vote of the members of the Post to which it is now affiliated present and voting at a regular or special meeting providing the Post members are given written notice that a vote will take place, such notice to be given the entire membership in writing at least ten (10) days prior to the regular or special meeting called for the aforementioned purpose.

The new Post to which the Pup Tent will be affiliated must provide consent by two-thirds vote of the members present and voting at a regular or special meeting, providing the Post members are given written notice that a vote will take place, such notice to be given the entire membership in writing at least ten (10) days prior to the regular or special meeting called for the aforementioned purpose.

The change of affiliation then must be approved by the Grand Commander, as well as the Supreme Commander of the Military Order of the Cootie.

Once approval has been given, all records and properties of the Pup Tent will then be transferred with the Pup Tent to the new Post of affiliation.

- (5) While the charter of the Supreme (National) Organization of the Military Order of the Cootie, or a subordinate unit thereof, is suspended said unit shall not be permitted to function and the officers thereof shall be without authority; provided, however, it or its officers shall have the right to appeal to the Commander-in-Chief to lift the suspension; and in the case of suspension of the charter of the National Organization, an appeal may be made to the National Council of Administration of the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States.

- (c) **Suspension of Officers.** The officers (elected and appointed) of the Military Order of the Cootie or of subordinate units thereof may be suspended by action of the Commander-in-Chief of the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States, subject to review by the National Council of Administration. While so suspended, the offending officer or officers of the Military Order of the Cootie shall be without authority, and if it is found that the conduct of an officer or officers thereof is detrimental to the best interest of the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States, the National Council of Administration of the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States may order the removal of such officer or officers.

- (d) **Disposition of Property.** In the event of a surrender, cancellation or forfeiture of a charter of a subordinate unit of the Military Order of the Cootie, all official records, money and other property shall be surrendered to such officer or officers as is provided in the Supreme (National) Bylaws and Ritual of the Military Order of the Cootie.

- (e) **Reports.**

- (1) The Supreme (National) Commander of the Military Order of the Cootie shall, within thirty (30) days after induction into office, submit to the Commander-in-Chief an itemized report of the financial and membership status of the National Organization of the Military Order of the Cootie for their information and for submission by the Commander-in-Chief to the National Council of Administration.
- (2) The Grand Commander of the Military Order of the Cootie shall within thirty (30) days after induction into office, submit to the Department Commander of the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States an itemized report of the financial and membership status of the Grand Pup Tent (Department Unit) of the Military Order of the Cootie for their information and for submission by the Commander to the Department Council of Administration.

- (f) **Liaison.** The Commander-in-Chief of the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States shall appoint a committee who shall meet with a committee appointed by the Supreme (National) Commander of the Military Order of the Cootie. This combined committee shall meet at intervals between National Conventions of the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States to consider all matters affecting the welfare of the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States insofar as the activities of the Military Order of the Cootie are concerned. The purpose of this committee shall be to coordinate the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States and the activities of the Military Order of the Cootie so that there shall be full compliance with the Congressional Charter, Bylaws and Manual of Procedure of the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States and best interest of both the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States and the Military Order of the Cootie are furthered.
- (g) **Auxiliary Approval by Post.** No Pup Tent Auxiliary shall be chartered unless the Post with which such Pup Tent is affiliated has consented to the chartering thereof. Such consent shall be given in the same manner as consent to the chartering of the Pup Tent as provided in this section.

### **Sec. 1202 - Eligibility.**

An application for membership in the Military Order of the Cootie must be accompanied by a certificate verifying satisfaction of the requirements for membership specified in the Bylaws. The certificate shall bear the endorsement of the Post Commander attested by the Post Adjutant.

### **Sec. 1203 - Bylaws, Ritual.** (See Section 1203 of the Bylaws)

### **Sec. 1204 - Incorporation.**

- (a) The Articles of Incorporation of the Military Order of the Cootie of the United States, should it incorporate, and any amendments thereto, must have the following provisions:
  - (1) The active and voting membership of this corporation shall, at all times, consist of and be confined to the active membership in good standing of the Military Order of the Cootie of the United States and the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States.
  - (2) This incorporated organization shall be and remain under the jurisdiction of the National Convention, Commander-in-Chief and National Council of Administration of the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States and subject to its charter, Bylaws and Manual of Procedure and the Bylaws and Ritual of the Military Order of the Cootie.
  - (3) In the event of a dissolution of this corporation, or the simultaneous dissolution of this corporation and the forfeiture of the charter issued to it by the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States, title to all of the assets shall pass to the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States to be disposed of according to its Bylaws. At no time shall the assets of the corporation be distributed among the individual members thereof.
  - (4) The Articles shall, in addition, contain a provision specifically excluding from the powers of the corporation the power to own or hold real property.
- (b) The Articles of Incorporation of any Grand Pup Tent, should it incorporate, and any amendments thereto, must include the following provisions:
  - (1) The active and voting membership of this corporation shall, at all times, consist of and be confined to the active membership in good standing of the (Grand Pup

Tent, Military Order of the Cootie, Department of, Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States) or (Pup Tent, Military Order of the Cootie, Post \_\_\_\_\_, Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States).

- (2) This incorporated organization shall be and at all times remain under the jurisdiction of the National Convention, Supreme Commander and National Council of Administration of the Military Order of the Cootie of the United States, the Commander-in-Chief of the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States and the (Department of \_\_\_\_\_, Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States) or (Post No. \_\_\_\_\_, Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States) and subject to the Bylaws and Ritual of the Military Order of the Cootie of the United States and the Charter, Bylaws and Manual of Procedure of the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States.
- (3) In the event of a dissolution of this corporation or the simultaneous dissolution this corporation and loss or forfeiture of its charter, title to all assets shall pass to the Grand Pup Tent of \_\_\_\_\_ Military Order of the Cootie of the United States to be disposed of according to the Bylaws. At no time shall the assets of this corporation be distributed among the individual members thereof.
- (4) The Articles shall, in addition, contain a provision specifically excluding from the powers of the corporation the power to own or hold real property.

(End of Article XII)