

CONSTITUTION
OF
THE TEXAS AMERICAN LEGION PRESS ASSOCIATION
(TEXALPA)

Adopted at the 1999 Annual Meeting of the Texas American Legion Press Association, at Fort Worth, Texas, on July 11, 1999, during the 1999 Annual Convention of the Department of Texas.

ARTICLE I
NAME

SECTION 1. The name of this organization shall be "The Texas American Legion Press Association", and officially abbreviated as "TEXALPA".

ARTICLE II
PURPOSES AND OBJECTIVES

SECTION 1. The purposes of TEXALPA shall be to foster publications and advance the standards and practices in communication with "The American Legion, Department of Texas in the department, divisions, districts, and posts, in their Auxiliary, Sons of The American Legion, or affiliated organizations as may be represented by the membership.

SECTION 2. This purpose shall be carried out through the specific objectives:

- a. To promote understanding, cooperation, and an exchange of ideas among members.
- b. To promote the development and application of improved methods and programs of communication.
- c. To demonstrate the practical value of effective communication and public relations, both internal and external.
- d. To promote the training and development of individual members through the collection and dissemination of information of value and interest to the members.
- e. To encourage the professional development of members.
- f. To assist in promoting the purposes and programs of The American Legion.
- g. To act as the voice of TEXALPA membership before the Department of Texas, The American Legion.
- h. To strive for the highest ethical standards in carrying out these objectives and the objectives of the National American Legion Press Association; and to consider legislative proposals affecting publications or mailing of the publications.

ARTICLE III
ELIGIBILITY and MEMBERSHIP

SECTION 1. Membership in TEXALPA shall be open to Public Relations Officers, Publicity Committee Chairpersons, and staff members of publications of American Legion organizations at all levels, their Auxiliary, and Sons of The American Legion organizations, and to other persons closely allied with public relations, publications and news services of The American Legion,

provided that no person shall be eligible for TEXALPA membership unless he/she is a member in good standing in The American Legion, Auxiliary, Sons of The American legions, or affiliated organizations.

ARTICLE IV ANNUAL MEETING and VOTING

SECTION 1. The legislative and administrative body of TEXALPA shall be the Annual Meeting, which shall convene at the city in which the Annual Department of Texas, The American legion convention is held, and at a time immediately prior to, during, or immediately following such annual Department of Texas, The American Legion convention.

SECTION 2. Each member in good standing, present and registered at the ANNUAL MEETING OF TEXALPA, shall be entitled to one (1) vote.

SECTION 3. There shall be no proxy voting. Twelve (12) registered members of TEXALPA shall constitute a quorum at the Annual Meeting.

SECTION 4. In addition to the Annual Meeting, a separate breakfast meeting may be held at the Department American Legion Annual Conventions, Fall DEC, and/or Med-Winter DEC for such purposes as determined by the President.

ARTICLE V OFFICERS and EXECUTIVE BOARD

SECTION 1. Elections and appointments:

- a. The Annual Meeting shall elect a President, one (1) Vice President from each Division of The Department of Texas, a Judge Advocate, a Sergeant-at-Arms, Chaplain and a Historian.
- b. The Vice-Presidents shall appoint a District Director within each District within their respective Divisions.
- c. The President shall appoint a Secretary/Treasurer.
- d. The above Officers shall remain in office until their successors are duly elected or appointed.

SECTION 2. President Duties:

- a. The duties of the President shall be to act as the administrator of TEXALPA. He/she may call upon the Executive Board for counsel and assistance. He/she shall have the power to appoint committee and to carry out the policies and programs of the Association. He/she shall make an annual report at the Annual Meeting. He/she shall preside at the sessions of the Annual Meeting, the Executive Board Meetings, and the special "Breakfast" meeting.
- b. In the event of a vacancy in the office of President, the Vice Presidents shall name one (1) of the Vice-Presidents to assume the office of President until the next Annual Meeting. In such event, the replacement shall be called Acting President and shall assume all the duties and responsibilities of the President. The Naming of such replacement may be done by mail or any other expeditious means.

SECTION 3. Vice-President Duties:

- a. Vice-Presidents shall assist the President in carrying out the policies and programs of TEXALPA through appointed District Directors.
- b. Vice-Presidents will preside, if expedient by mutual agreement, at meetings in the absence of the President.
- c. Vice-Presidents shall assume the leadership of TEXALPA in their respective Divisions.

SECTION 4. District Director Duties:

- a. District directors shall assist the President and Vice-Presidents in carrying out the policies and programs of TEXALPA within their respective Districts.
- b. In the absence of the Division Vice-President, the District Directors may name an Acting Division Vice-President to preside at meeting, by mutual agreement.
- c. District Directors shall assume the leadership of TEXALPA within their respective Districts.

SECTION 5. Secretary/Treasurer Duties:

a. Secretarial Duties:

- TEXALPA.
- 1. The Secretary shall maintain the membership and financial records of
 - 2. The Secretary shall handle the correspondence of TEXALPA; keep the Executive Board advised of the membership and financial standing of TEXALPA with periodic reports, and make periodic reports to the membership as to the activities of TEXALPA either by correspondence or through an Association Publication.
 - 3. The secretary, when authorized by the President, may employ any necessary clerical help.
 - 4. The Secretary shall keep an up-to-date mailing list of all current Texas members of NALPA and TEXALPA and assist with correspondence.

b. Treasurer Duties:

- 1. The Treasurer shall maintain the financial records of TEXALPA and shall process and record all Texas membership applications to NALPA and TEXALPA, and deposit all money received to a bank account in accordance with Article VI, Section 7. The Treasurer shall forward all money received for NALPA dues to the Executive Director of NALPA upon receipt thereof.
- 2. The Treasurer shall pay all TEXALPA bills approved by the President.
- 3. The Treasurer shall provide a current roster of all NALPA and TEXALPA membership to the president at least once a quarter. This list shall include the members' names, post, and unit or squadron numbers, mailing address, telephone numbers and applicable e-mail addresses.

4. The Treasurer shall be bonded in an amount to be set by the Executive Board, except that such bond is initially set at \$2,000.00. The premium for such fidelity bond shall be paid by TEXALPA.

SECTION 6. Judge Advocate Duties:

- a. The Judge Advocate shall be the legal consultant and advisor to TEXALPA.
- b. The Judge Advocate shall serve as parliamentarian at all meeting of TEXALPA and of the Executive Board.

SECTION 7. Historian Duties:

- a. The Historian shall compile and keep an up-to-date history of TEXALPA, and shall collect and preserve said history which shall include such correspondence, photographs, documents, printed articles, memoranda and historical items as may be collected by or entrusted to the Historian.

SECTION 8. Chaplain and Sergeant-at-Arms shall perform the duties implicit to their office and other functions as directed by the President.

SECTION 9. Any vacancy in office between Annual Meetings shall be filled by appointment by the President immediately subject to subsequent approval by the Executive Board. Such appointment to fill a vacancy shall be effective only until the next Annual Meeting.

SECTION 10. There shall be an Executive Board composed of the elected and appointed officers of TEXALPA and all Past Presidents who are 'dues-paid-up members in good standing'. A quorum shall consist of a majority of the current elected and appointed officers. The Executive Board shall meet at the Department American Legion Convention, Fall DEC, and Mid-Winter DEC.

SECTION 11. Administrative authority between Annual Meetings shall rest in the Executive Board with the exceptions that amendments to this Constitution and changes in policies and programs can only be made at and by the Annual Meeting.

SECTION 12. No person shall be accepted for nomination for office in TEXALPA or as a member of the Executive Board unless and until the annual dues for the year for which they are nominated shall have been paid and received. This rule applies equally to appointed Officers.

ARTICLE VI FINANCES

SECTION 1. The Annual Dues for membership in the National American Legion Press Association (NALPA) is ten (\$10.00) dollars per year with the membership year to start at the conclusion of each Annual Meeting of NALPA, as required by the NALPA By-Laws. Membership of TEXALPA members in NALPA is optional, but highly encouraged. In the event of a change in NALPA dues, this Section 1. will automatically change accordingly.

SECTION 2. The annual dues for membership in TEXALPA are five (\$5.00) dollars per year with the membership year to start at the conclusion of each Annual Meeting of TEXALPA, and coinciding with the dues term of regular membership in The American Legion. In the event of a change in TEXALPA dues, this Section 2. will automatically change accordingly.

SECTION 3. All dues for membership in both NALPA and TEXALPA shall be paid to the Treasurer of TEXALPA for the ensuing year at the Annual Meeting of TEXALPA, or immediately following such meeting. Either or both memberships for new members enrolling during the period between Annual Meetings of TEXALPA are payable to the Treasurer when application for membership is made.

SECTION 4. Other income may include any profit from sale of patches, pins, or other merchandise that may be offered by TEXALPA for the use and benefit of its members.

ARTICLE VII AMENDMENTS

SECTION 1. This Constitution may be amended at any Annual Meeting of TEXALPA by the affirmative vote of two-thirds (2/3) of the current-in-dues, registered members present on the floor, provided that any proposed amendment must have been presented in writing to the Executive Board at its meeting at the Med-Winter American Legion DEC, and such proposed amendment then mailed to the membership not less than thirty (30) days prior to the opening day of the Annual Meeting.

ARTICLE VIII REPEAL AND SAVING

SECTION 1. This revised Constitution was submitted to and adopted at the 2007 Annual Meeting of TEXALPA held in _Irving_____, Texas, on July _30_____, 2007 Any previously dated Constitution is now declared null and void.

SUBMITTED

John S. Brukner, Judge Advocate
Chairman, Constitution Committee

M. E. Magers
Secretary/Treasurer
TEXALPA

J. R. Carney
President
TEXALPA