

**CHAPTER 2003—SONS OF UNION VETERANS OF THE CIVIL WAR**

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**§ 200301. Organization**

(a) FEDERAL CHARTER.—Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War (in this chapter, the “corporation”) is a federally chartered corporation.

(b) PLACE OF INCORPORATION AND DOMICILE.—The corporation is declared to be incorporated and domiciled in the District of Columbia.

(c) PERPETUAL EXISTENCE.—Except as otherwise provided, the corporation has perpetual existence.

(Pub. L. 105–225, Aug. 12, 1998, 112 Stat. 1452.)

HISTORICAL AND REVISION NOTES

| <i>Revised Section</i> | <i>Source (U.S. Code)</i>        | <i>Source (Statutes at Large)</i>                        |
|------------------------|----------------------------------|--|
| 200301 .....           | 36:531.<br>36:532.<br>36:534(1). | Aug. 20, 1954, ch. 774, §§1, 2, 4(1), 68 Stat. 748, 749. |

This section is substituted for the source provisions for consistency in the revised title and to eliminate unnecessary and executed words.

**§ 200302. Purposes**

The purposes of the corporation are—

(1) to perpetuate the memory of the Grand Army of the Republic and of the men who saved the Union in 1861 to 1865;

(2) to assist in every practicable way in preserving, and making available for research, documents and records pertaining to the Grand Army of the Republic and its members;

(3) to cooperate in honoring all those who have served our country patriotically in any war;

(4) to teach patriotism, the duties of citizenship, the true history of our country, and the love and honor of our flag;

(5) to oppose every tendency or movement that would weaken loyalty to, destroy, or impair our constitutional Union; and

(6) to inculcate and broadly sustain the American principles of representative government, equal rights, and impartial justice for all.

(Pub. L. 105–225, Aug. 12, 1998, 112 Stat. 1452.)

HISTORICAL AND REVISION NOTES

| <i>Revised Section</i> | <i>Source (U.S. Code)</i> | <i>Source (Statutes at Large)</i>         |
|------------------------|---------------------------|---|
| 200302 .....           | 36:533.                   | Aug. 20, 1954, ch. 774, §3, 68 Stat. 749. |

In clause (5), the words “destroy, or impair” are substituted for “or make for the destruction or impairment of” to eliminate unnecessary words.

**§ 200303. Membership**

(a) GENERAL.—Except as provided in this chapter, eligibility for membership in the corporation and the rights, privileges, and designation of classes of members are as provided in the constitution and bylaws of the corporation.

(b) REQUIRED SERVICE.—Eligibility for membership in the corporation is limited to male blood relatives of an individual who—

(1) served at any time during the period from April 12, 1861, through April 9, 1865, as a soldier or sailor in—

(A) the United States Army, Navy, Marine Corps, or Revenue-Cutter Service; or

(B) a State regiment that was called into active service and was subject to orders of United States general officers during that period; and

(2) was discharged honorably from, or died in, that service.

(Pub. L. 105–225, Aug. 12, 1998, 112 Stat. 1453.)

HISTORICAL AND REVISION NOTES

| <i>Revised Section</i> | <i>Source (U.S. Code)</i> | <i>Source (Statutes at Large)</i>         |
|------------------------|---------------------------|---|
| 200303 .....           | 36:535.                   | Aug. 20, 1954, ch. 774, §5, 68 Stat. 750. |

In subsection (a), the words “are as provided in the constitution and bylaws of the corporation” are substituted for “shall . . . be determined as the constitution and bylaws of the corporation may provide” for consistency in the revised title.

In subsection (b)(1), the words “at any time” are added for clarity.

**§ 200304. Governing body**

(a) NATIONAL ENCAMPMENT.—(1) The national encampment is the supreme governing authority of the corporation.

(2) The national encampment is composed of officers and elected representatives from the States and other local subdivisions of the corporation as provided in the constitution and bylaws. However, the form of government of the corporation must be representative of the membership at large and may not permit concentration of control in a limited number of members or in a self-perpetuating group not representative of the membership at large.

(3) The meetings of the national encampment may be held in the District of Columbia or in any State, territory, or possession of the United States.

(b) COUNCIL OF ADMINISTRATION.—(1) During the intervals between the national encampments, the council of administration is the governing board of the corporation and is responsible for the general policies, program, and activities of the corporation.

(2) The council of administration shall consist of at least seven members elected in the manner and for the term provided in the constitution and bylaws.

(c) OFFICERS.—(1) The officers of the corporation are a commander in chief, a senior vice

commander in chief, a junior vice commander in chief, a secretary, a treasurer, and other officers as provided in the constitution and bylaws. One individual may hold the offices of secretary and treasurer.

(2) The manner of selection, term of office, and duties of the officers are as provided in the constitution and bylaws.

(Pub. L. 105-225, Aug. 12, 1998, 112 Stat. 1453.)

HISTORICAL AND REVISION NOTES

| Revised Section | Source (U.S. Code) | Source (Statutes at Large)                    |
|-----------------|--------------------|---|
| 200304(a) ..... | 36:536.            | Aug. 20, 1954, ch. 774, §§ 6-8, 68 Stat. 750. |
| 200304(b) ..... | 36:537.            |   |
| 200304(c) ..... | 36:538.            |   |

In subsection (a)(2), the words “several”, “always”, and “thereof . . . the hands of” are omitted as unnecessary.

In subsection (a)(3), the words “State, territory, or possession of the United States” are substituted for “State or Territory” for consistency in the revised title and with other titles of the United States Code.

In subsection (b), the text of 36:537(b) is omitted as obsolete.

In subsection (c), the words “One individual may hold the offices of secretary and treasurer” are substituted for “(which latter two offices may be held by one person)” to eliminate unnecessary words. The word “provided” is substituted for “may be prescribed” to eliminate unnecessary words.

§ 200305. Powers

The corporation may—

(1) adopt and amend a constitution and bylaws for the management of its property and the regulation of its affairs;

(2) adopt and alter a corporate seal;

(3) choose officers, managers, agents, and employees as the activities of the corporation require;

(4) make contracts;

(5) acquire, own, lease, encumber, and transfer property as necessary or convenient to carry out the purposes of the corporation;

(6) borrow money, issue instruments of indebtedness, and secure its obligations by granting security interests in its property;

(7) sue and be sued; and

(8) do any other act necessary and proper to carry out the purposes of the corporation.

(Pub. L. 105-225, Aug. 12, 1998, 112 Stat. 1453.)

HISTORICAL AND REVISION NOTES

| Revised Section | Source (U.S. Code) | Source (Statutes at Large)                                   |
|-----------------|--------------------|--|
| 200305 .....    | 36:534(2)-(10).    | Aug. 20, 1954, ch. 774, §§ 4(2)-(10), 18, 68 Stat. 749, 752. |
|                 | 36:548.            |  |

In this section, the text of 36:548 is omitted as executed and obsolete.

In clause (1), the word “alter” is omitted as unnecessary. The words “not inconsistent with the laws of the United States or any State in which the corporation is to operate” are omitted as unnecessary.

In clause (2), the word “use” is omitted as unnecessary.

Clause (5) is substituted for “take by lease, gift, purchase, grant, devise, or bequest from any public body or

agency or any private corporation, association, partnership, firm, or individual and to hold absolutely or in trust for any of the purposes of the corporation any property, real, personal, or mixed, necessary or convenient for attaining the objects and carrying into effect the purposes of the corporation” and “transfer, convey, lease, sublease, encumber and otherwise alienate real, personal or mixed property” for consistency in the revised title and to eliminate unnecessary words. The words “subject, however, to applicable provisions of law of any State (A) governing the amount or kind of property which may be held by, or (B) otherwise limiting or controlling the ownership of property by, a corporation operating in such State” are omitted as unnecessary.

In clause (6), the words “for the purposes of the corporation” are omitted as unnecessary. The words “issue instruments of indebtedness, and secure its obligations by granting security interests in its property” are substituted for “issue bonds therefor, and secure the same by mortgage, deed of trust, pledge or otherwise” for consistency in the revised title. The words “subject in every case to all applicable provisions of Federal and State laws” are omitted as unnecessary.

In clause (7), the words “complain and defend in any court of competent jurisdiction” are omitted as unnecessary.

In clause (8), the words “any other act” are substituted for “any and all acts and things” to eliminate unnecessary words. The words “objects and” are omitted as unnecessary.

§ 200306. Exclusive right to name, seals, emblems, and badges

The corporation and its subordinate divisions have the exclusive right to use the name “Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War”. The corporation has the exclusive right to use and to allow others to use seals, emblems, and badges the corporation adopts.

(Pub. L. 105-225, Aug. 12, 1998, 112 Stat. 1454.)

HISTORICAL AND REVISION NOTES

| Revised Section | Source (U.S. Code) | Source (Statutes at Large)                  |
|-----------------|--------------------|---|
| 200306 .....    | 36:547.            | Aug. 20, 1954, ch. 774, § 17, 68 Stat. 752. |

The words “sole” and “or refuse” are omitted as unnecessary. The words “corporation adopts” are substituted for “as it may legally adopt” for consistency in the revised title and to eliminate unnecessary words. The words “and such emblems, seals, and badges as have heretofore been used by the Illinois corporation described in section 548 of this title and the right to which may be lawfully transferred to the corporation” are omitted as executed and obsolete.

§ 200307. Restrictions

(a) STOCK AND DIVIDENDS.—The corporation may not issue stock or declare or pay a dividend.

(b) POLITICAL ACTIVITIES.—The corporation or an officer or agent as such may not contribute to, support, or assist a political party or candidate for public office.

(c) DISTRIBUTION OF INCOME OR ASSETS.—The income or assets of the corporation may not inure to the benefit of, or be distributed to, an officer or member during the life of the corporation or on its dissolution or final liquidation. This subsection does not prevent the payment of compensation to an officer or reimbursement for actual necessary expenses in amounts approved