CONSTITUTION OF THE
SEVENTEENTH DISTRICT
Department of Missouri, Inc.
The American Legion

PREAMBLE

For God and Country, we associate ourselves together for the following purposes:
To uphold and defend the Constitution of the United States of America;
To maintain law and order;
To foster and perpetuate a one hundred percent Americanism;
To preserve the memories and incidents of our associations in all wars;
To inculcate a sense of individual obligation to the community, state, and nation;
To combat the autocracy of both the classes and the masses;
To make right the master of might;
To promote peace and good will on earth;
To safeguard and transmit to posterity the principles of justice, freedom and democracy;
To consecrate and sanctity our comradeship by our devotion to mutual helpfulness.

ARTICLE I – NAME

SECTION 1. The name of this organization shall be the Seventeenth District, Department of Missouri, Inc., The American Legion.

ARTICLE II – NATURE

SECTION 1. The American Legion is a civil body. Membership shall not increase or decrease for military or police service. Former service rank does not exist in The American Legion.

SECTION 2. The Seventeenth District, Department of Missouri, Inc., The American Legion may participate in bringing about the correct solution of public policies in a non-political manner. No person or persons representing the Seventeenth District shall disseminate partisan principles or promote the candidacy of any person seeking public office, nor participate in any controversy

between labor organizations and employers, or in any disputes, questions, or matters, except such as are defined in the preamble of the Constitution of The American Legion.

ARTICLE III – ORGANIZATION

SECTION 1. The Seventeenth District, Department of Missouri, Inc., The American Legion is that jurisdiction of The American Legion lying within the boundaries of the said Seventeenth District as are defined and outlined from time to time in the Constitution of The American Legion, Department of Missouri, Inc.

ARTICLE IV – ELIGIBILITY

SECTION 1. Eligibility for membership in the said Seventeenth District shall be governed by the provisions of the National Constitution and By-Laws of The American Legion.

SECTION 2. There shall be no form of membership except active membership.

ARTICLE V – LEGISLATIVE

SECTION 1. Legislative policy shall be vested in the membership of this District. Such legislative policy shall be enacted by said membership during the course of regularly scheduled membership meetings. There shall be at least one regularly scheduled membership meeting each calendar quarter.

SECTION 2. The District Executive Committee shall be subject to and representative of the District membership. The District Executive Committee shall have general supervisory powers over the affairs of The American Legion and Posts thereof in the District, subject to the power and jurisdiction vested in the Department Executive Committee. The District Commander shall be the presiding officer of the District Membership Meetings and the District Executive Committee.

SECTION 3. Nothing in this article shall interfere with or detract from the powers and duties of the Department Executive Committee.

SECTION 4. Quorum shall exist when five (5) Posts in good standing are represented.

SECTION 5. The order of business of the District Membership Meetings and District Executive Committee Meetings shall be as outlined in Section 3, Manual of Ceremonies of the current

American Legion Officer's Guide. A two-thirds vote of all members present is necessary to change the order of business or suspension of the rules.

SECTION 6. Procedures in all business shall be governed by Robert's Rules of Order, Newly Revised, unless otherwise provided.

SECTION 7. Each member, from any Post in good standing within said District, present at any District Meeting or Convention, will be allowed one vote on all matters coming before the Meeting or Convention. A majority votes governs.

ARTICLE VI – OFFICERS

SECTION 1. The officers of this District shall be seven (7) elective officers; namely, Commander, Senior Vice Commander, Vice Commander at Large, Service Officer, Historian, Chaplain and Sergeant-at-Arms, and two (2) appointive officers, namely, Adjutant/Finance Officer, to be the same officer and Judge Advocate. Additional Vice Commanders and Assistant Sergeants-at-Arms may be appointed by the District Commander as necessary. Said appointments must be confirmed by a majority vote of the membership at the next regularly scheduled meeting.

SECTION 2. All Elective Officers shall be elected at a meeting of the District Membership. Said election meeting shall be held not less than thirty (30) days or more than sixty (60) days prior to the Department of Missouri, Inc., Convention. The District Commander and other elected officers shall be elected in odd numbered calendar years and shall serve two (2) year terms. All appointive officers shall be appointed by the District Commander, with approval of the District Executive Committee and hold office for one (1) year. All officers shall hold office as stated above or until their successors are regularly elected or appointed and installed. All elective and appointed officers are voting members of the District Executive Committee.

SECTION 3. The District Caucus shall elect, at the Department of Missouri, Inc., Convention, delegates to the National Convention as follows: One (1) for each 1,000 members or major fraction thereof, as of the date fixed by the Department of Missouri, Inc., Convention.

SECTION 4. Upon death, resignation or removal of any elective or appointed officer, the vacancy thus created, for the unexpired term, shall be filled by appointment by the District Commander, with the approval of the District Executive Committee.

SECTION 5. All elective officers shall take office on the adjournment of the annual Department of Missouri, Inc., Convention.

ARTICLE VII – COMMITTEES

SECTION 1. The District Commander shall appoint those committees required by the Department of Missouri, Inc., as dictated on the annual Department of Missouri, Inc., District forms:

District Committee Chairmen Form, and
District Officer Certification Form

SECTION 2. In addition to the above committees, the District Commander may from time to time appoint such other committees as may be deemed necessary.

SECTION 3. All appointive officers and committee chairpersons and members thereof, provided for by this Constitution, shall hold office at the pleasure of the appointing authority.

ARTICLE VIII – EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

SECTION 1. Between District Membership Meetings, the administrative powers shall be vested in the District Executive Committee, which shall be composed of the elective and appointed officers of this District and Commanders of the Posts assigned to the District.

SECTION 2. The District Executive Committee shall meet at the discretion and call of the District Commander. The District Commander shall call a meeting of the District Executive Committee upon written request of any two (2) members of the Committee.

SECTION 3. Five (5) members of the District Executive Committee shall constitute a quorum.

ARTICLE IX – ORGANIZATION OF POSTS

SECTION 1. The Constitution of the Department of Missouri, Inc., shall govern.

ARTICLE X – DISCIPLINE

SECTION 1. The provisions of the National and Department of Missouri, Inc., Consititutions and By-Laws shall govern discipline of Posts and members of the Seventeenth District.

SECTION 2. No Post with this District shall move its headquarters from one city, village or town to another, until the District Commander shall have been notified in writing of the proposed change, and permission is grant by the Department Executive Committee

ARTICLE XI – INDIVIDUAL TRANSFERS

SECTION 1. The Constitution of the Department of Missouri, Inc., shall govern.

ARTICLE XII – AUXILIARIES

SECTION 1. The Constitution of the Department of Missouri, In., shall govern.

ARTICLE XIII – SONS OF THE AMERICAN LEGION

SECTION 1. The Constitution of the Department of Missouri, Inc., shall govern.

ARTICLE XIV – BY-LAWS

SECTION 1. The District Executive Committee shall have the authority to adopt by-laws not inconsistent with the provisions of this Constitution. Said by-laws shall contain the Parliamentary rules of the District.

ARTICLE XV – AMENDMENTS

SECTION 1. This Constitution may be amended at any District meeting by the affirmative vote of two-thirds of the total authorized representatives present. Amendments of an emergency nature may be made by the affirmative vote of two-thirds of the members present at a District Executive Committee Meeting (regularly scheduled or called for this purpose). Such changes are in effect only until confirmation by the affirmative vote of two-thirds of the members present at the next scheduled District Membership Meeting.

SECTION 2. Any ruling of the Department of Missouri, Inc., or National Headquarters of The American Legion which shall effect or conflict with any provision herein shall de deemed an amendment and become effective and a part of this Constitution, without action by the District.

ARTICLE XVI – PER CAPITA

SECTION 1. Each Post of the Seventeenth District shall pay to the Adjutant/Finance Officer, prior to the convening of the last District meeting held prior to the Department of Missouri, Inc., Convention each year, a per capita tax for each member in good standing as such membership is determined at the time of the Department of Missouri, Inc., Convention of the

preceding year. Amount of said per capita tax to be determined at the last District meeting held prior to the Department of Missouri, Inc., Convention of the preceding year. No delegate from any Post shall be permitted to vote or hold office in the District unless the per capita tax of their Post has been paid. The District Commander shall appoint an auditing committee to check the records to determine those Posts eligible to vote at the Department of Missouri, Inc., Convention. The fund obtained from the per capita tax shall be used by the District Commander, with the approval of the District Executive Committee, for the payment of obligations necessary for the promotion of the various programs of The American Legion with the Seventeenth District.

This Constitution adopted and approved by action of the Seventeenth District of The American Legion Department of Missouri, Inc., at regular meeting on December 14, 2025 and supersedes previous Constitutions of the Seventeenth District.

Barbara Riggle
Commander

Mark Reed
Adjutant/Finance Officer

Revised: December 14, 2025