

RACW FEDERAL BRIGADE

Organization and Bylaws

(Revised – Unknown)

1. Elections

A. Procedures

1. Nominations for the position of Brigade commander must be made and submitted to the election coordinator who will then submit them to the editor of the RACW Shoulder Arms (or other widely circulated club newsletter should the need arise) newsletter for inclusion in the Sept. issue. Election ballots will be included in the Nov/Dec. issue of the Shoulder Arms (or other widely circulated club newsletter) and be mailed to the election committee for counting. Returned ballots will include the member's RACW club identification number and will be checked against a club roster upon return to the election committee.
2. Nominations for any Union Brigade office can be made by any Union Brigade member who is of good standing and is a veteran member. (Good standing to be defined as a member current with all RACW and unit financial obligations.)
3. The new Brigade Commander shall assume office on January 1st and the term shall run until December 31 of the same year.
4. Ballots will be returned to the election committee chair. The election committee shall be comprised of one representative from each unit. The ballots shall be opened only in the presence of a quorum/majority of the committee members. Each committee member shall be selected by their respective units. The committee members shall elect the election committee chair.
5. All nominees for the Brigade Commander shall be given the opportunity to write a statement which will be sent to all brigade members either before or at the time of balloting.
6. The election coordinator shall be nominated by the brigade commander and approved by a majority vote of the unit commanders.
7. In the case that there is only one nominee for the position of brigade commander, this candidate may be elected to the position by way of acclamation. A unanimous vote of all unit commanders within the brigade shall be required for selection by way of acclamation. Failing in a unanimous vote, the election shall go forward as prescribed within these bylaws.

B. Nominee Qualifications for Brigade Commander/Officials

1. An official in the Union Brigade shall not be restricted in the number of times he can run for or hold an office.
2. Nominees for Brigade Commander or other elected brigade positions shall have served as an officer or unit NCO.
3. No member shall be eligible to hold an office in the Union Brigade until that member has been a veteran Union member for the period of at least one year.
4. A brigade member shall be able to vote in brigade matters only after he/she has been a veteran member within the brigade and is considered to be a member in good standing.
(A veteran member shall be defined as someone who has participated in at least two events in the present season.)
5. The Brigade commander may seek other office within the RACW in accordance with RACW bylaws.
6. The Brigade shall conduct mid-year/mid-term elections should the position of Brigade Commander become vacant due to resignation or other events which shall not allow the commander to complete his term in office. Nominations will be called for by mail followed in two weeks after close of nominations by a vote by mail. All bylaw rules governing voting will apply. A brigade commander voted into office in mid-term shall only until normal election time, upon which he may seek reelection.
7. Brigade commander shall not serve dually as brigade and unit commander.

2. Unit Rules within the Brigade

A. Rank and Duties

1. The ranks and duties of the officers and NCOs in each regiment/battery/troop shall be determined by that group.
2. Unit commanders shall not exceed the rank of Captain.
3. The following rank ratio formula shall apply to all infantry units.
 - Units comprising less than 8 shall be commanded by a rank no higher than 1st. Sgt.
 - Units of 8-10 shall be commanded by a rank no higher than 2nd. Lt.
 - Units of 11 or 12 shall be commanded by a rank no higher than 1st. Lt.
 - Units of more than 12 shall be commanded by a rank no higher than Capt.
4. Cavalry, artillery and other special needs units shall determine their own rank ration policies.

B. Units designations, new units

1. Unit designations shall be determined by those individuals comprising the unit.
2. Establishment of a new unit shall have brigade approval prior to submittal to the RACW board. Approval voting may occur at a brigade meeting and shall be by secret ballot.

C. Misc.

1. Rules regarding unit conduct not specified in these bylaws shall be the domain of the individual units in accordance with the rules of the RACW.
2. Brigade bylaws shall take effect upon ratification by the membership. (Initial adoption will require a simple majority vote of approval.)
3. Amendments to the bylaws shall be voted upon at the same time and shall be included on the same ballot as that of the annual Brigade Commander election. Amendments to these bylaws shall require a two-thirds majority vote for approval and shall take effect at the beginning of the upcoming year.

3. Brigade Equipment

A. Purchases

1. The Brigade commander shall provide a full accounting of brigade fund expenditures.
2. Brigade expenses shall include the purchase and maintenance of a command fly, command tent, chairs and other necessary items along with Brigade wide brochure and publications.
3. Money remaining after Brigade expenses are met shall be returned to the individual units on a pro-rated basis, based on the unit membership size at the time of the brigade allotment from the RACW. (An emergency fund may be established, not to exceed \$500.)
4. The Brigade commander shall also be responsible for the proper handling of donations made to the Brigade which shall become either part of the brigade treasury or be listed among brigade assets. The Brigade at large may lay no claim to any money or equipment donated to a specific unit Brigade.

B. Equipment Maintenance

1. Any equipment, either purchased or donated for use by the Brigade commander or his staff or deemed to be for the use of the brigade as a whole shall be the responsibility of the commander or his designee as to its safe keeping.
2. Brigade equipment shall remain the property of the brigade and control of said equipment will be assumed by successive commanders.

4. Duties of the Brigade Commander

1. The Brigade commander shall authorize the expenditure of brigade funds on items as provided for in these bylaws. All expenditures in excess of \$1,000.00 will be authorized by a committee of unit commanders on a majority vote.
2. The brigade commander shall enjoy all rights and privileges afforded him under the rules of the RACW. These rights and privileges are enumerated in the RACW bylaws, Article IV, Section 1, paragraph E and G. Article IV, Sec. 2, 3 and 4. These include the right of the Brigade commander to appoint a battalion representative in the case that the commander is serving a dual role in another RACW board position, the appointment of a Brigade provost marshal, Battalion (Brigade) Sergeant Major and an Executive Staff.
3. Holding the position of Brigade Commander shall not preclude him from seeking other office within the RACW. Should the brigade commander be elected to a RACW office, the RACW bylaw rules regarding the selection and function of a brigade representative shall govern.