

OF THE BIG TEN CONFERENCE VETERANS OF FOREIGN
WARS OF THE UNITED STATES

ARTICLE I

NAME, PURPOSE AND SCOPE

Section 101. This Association shall be known as the **Big Ten Conference, Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States** hereinafter referred to as the **Conference**.

Section 102. The purpose of the Conference is to propose recommendations for the good and welfare of the member states, promote unity among the member states, aid and assist the member states, and promote the interest of the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States, as declared in the Congressional Charter and By-Laws and Manual of Procedure thereof.

Section 103. The Conference shall comply with the provisions of the Congressional Charter and By-Laws and Manual of Procedure of the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States.

Section 104. All matters affecting the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States shall be topics for the legitimate discussion and actions at its meetings.

ARTICLE II

MEMBERSHIP

Section 201. Membership in the Conference shall consist of the following states: **Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Michigan, Minnesota, Missouri, Nebraska, Ohio, South Dakota, and Wisconsin.**

Section 202. A State, wishing to become a member of the Conference, may, by written request apply for consideration. The request must be received by the Conference Chairman, with a copy to the Conference Secretary-Treasurer, no later than July first (1st) of any calendar year.

Application for Conference membership will be provided to all member states, for information only, at the next Conference meeting which is held at the National Convention.

The Conference Chairman, with the assistance of the Conference Secretary-Treasurer, will prepare a resolution detailing all pertinent information. This resolution shall be communicated to all member states no less than forty-five (45) days prior to the convening of the Conference at its next October meeting.

The Conference will consider membership applications as Item Number One (1) under new business. To be accepted as a member state, the applying state must receive no less than two-thirds (2/3) majority vote of the member states.

Section 203. Once accepted, a new member state shall have the rights and privileges of all other member states. The member state shall be inserted alphabetically in the rotation. No new member state shall be eligible to host an October meeting for at least three (3) years after acceptance into the Conference.

Section 204. Any member state may withdraw by request in writing, including a properly executed copy of withdrawal resolution adopted at their state convention. Such request shall be submitted no later than July First (1st). A member state, which ceases to become a member of the Conference, shall forfeit all right title, and interest in any dues, fees, or funds, and financial interest in the Conference, and shall not be entitled to any refunds.

ARTICLE III

OFFICERS

Section 301. The elected Officers of the Conference shall be a Chairman. Vice Chairman, Secretary-Treasurer, and Chaplain. The Chairman. Vice Chairman, Secretary-Treasurer and Chaplain shall be elected for the ensuing year at the Annual Fall Conference meeting and shall serve until their successors are elected and installed. The duties of these Officers shall be similar to the duties of their analogous National Officers.

Section 302. The immediate Past Commander-in-Chief from the Big Ten Conference shall serve as the Steering Committee Chairman until a successor has been installed. If unable to serve, the next immediate Past Commander-in-Chief shall serve.

Section 303. The Chairman shall appoint a Parliamentarian. Guard and Sergeant at Arms for each meeting and such other committees as are needed.

ARTICLE IV

MEETINGS

Section 401. The Conference shall meet annually on the third (3rd) week end in October. This meeting will be held in member states on a rotating basis. Beginning in October 2003, the following sequence will be followed: Illinois. Indiana, Iowa, Michigan, Minnesota, Missouri, Nebraska, Ohio, South Dakota and Wisconsin.

Section 402. A state may request a deviation from the rotation system if, due to circumstances beyond their control, they find they are unable to host a meeting. Their request must be in writing to the Conference Chairman, with a copy to the Conference Secretary-Treasurer. The written request must be received no later than October first (1st) of the year preceding the year of the scheduled meeting. The request must be signed by the current State Commander and State Senior Vice Commander, and attested to by the State Adjutant.

There are two (2) options available: First (1st), elect not to host their scheduled meeting and not be eligible to host a meeting until their rotation turn comes again, OR Second (2nd), exchange their date with the next state in sequence.

If the Second (2nd) option is chosen, complete documentation must be included with the original request. A written agreement between the two (2) states must be submitted and signed by both. State Commanders and State Senior Vice Commanders, and attested to by both State Adjutants.

Section 403. The Conference shall meet during the National Convention. Additional meetings may be held as determined by the Conference Chairman or at the request of three (3) or more member states. The Chairman shall coordinate with National Convention officials to secure acceptable meeting space.

Section 404. It shall be mandatory upon the Chairman to convene a special meeting upon the request, in writing, of the majority of the member states.

ARTICLE V

DELEGATES AND VOTING QUORUM

Section 501. Each member state shall have a minimum of five (5) delegate votes. States shall have an additional delegate vote for each fifty-thousand (50,000) members or fraction thereof. Membership totals used for this determination shall be as of June thirtieth (30th) for the preceding membership year.

Section 502. All Past Commanders-in-Chief, all Past State Commanders and all Past Conference Chairmen not appointed by their states as a voting delegate shall be considered delegates and may participate in all Conference business, but shall have no vote.

Section 503. A quorum for the transaction of any Conference business shall consist of delegates from a majority of the member states.

Section 504. When a roll call vote is required, the Secretary-Treasurer shall shuffle cards with the member states' names and draw one at a time to determine the order of the vote. After all votes have been cast recorded, and tallied and the result is a tie, there shall be successive ballots conducted using individual written ballots until the vote is resolved. Further, the Conference shall not require any voting delegate to be bound by the previous vote or past practice.

ARTICLE VI

FINANCIAL

Section 601. The fiscal year for the Conference shall be from September first (1st) to August thirty-first (31st) of the following year.

Section 602. Each state shall pay to the Secretary-Treasurer, upon receipt of notice, the sum of Six Hundred Twenty Five Dollars (\$625.00) for the first five (5) voting delegate and One Hundred Twenty Five Dollars (\$125.00) for each additional voting delegate to sustain the activities of the Conference. Such dues are payable September 1st of each year. Any member state owing funds to the Conference shall not be entitled to vote until such funds are paid.

Section 603. The Secretary-Treasurer shall notify, in writing, member states of the annual dues which then are payable not later than September first (1st) of each fiscal year. Any member state owing funds to the Conference will be considered in arrears and shall not be eligible to vote until such arrears are fully satisfied.

Section 604. Assessments may be levied at any regular meeting or special meeting called for this purpose. The Conference officers shall determine if a need exists and prepare a resolution detailing all particulars. The resolution must be forwarded to all member states no less than thirty (30) days prior to a regular meeting or special meeting scheduled for this purpose. No assessment may be adopted which is greater than the annual dues in effect for that year.

Section 605. The Chairman, Vice Chairman, and Secretary-Treasurer shall prepare and present a proposed budget at the October meeting.

Section 606. The Secretary-Treasurer shall receive and hold all monies, securities and other personal property of the Conference as may pertain to his office. He shall pay out or expend monies only after the Conference has authorized payment by a motion made and passed at a meeting. He shall collect all monies due the Conference and

provide a receipt. He shall properly maintain the books and records, and shall perform such other duties incident to his office. At the proper time, he shall deliver to his successor all property in his possession or under his control.

Section 607. The Secretary-Treasurer of the Conference shall be required to make a financial report to the Conference at any scheduled meeting. This report shall be audited by a committee appointed by the Chairman.

Section 608. The Quartermaster of the Department in which the Secretary / Treasurer is a resident shall serve as second (2nd) signer on the Conference checking account in the event the Secretary / Treasurer is unable to sign checks due to illness or death.

ARTICLE VII

NATIONAL OFFICE

Section 701. The Conference shall endorse their candidate for Junior Vice Commander-in-Chief at the National Convention one (1) year prior to the National Convention that he is to be elected to that office. This provision shall be effective beginning in year 2006.

Section 702. The Conference nominee for National Chaplain, Surgeon General, and Judge Advocate General will be selected at the meeting in conjunction with the appropriate National Convention.

Section 703. There shall be no time limitation on any individual for the declaration of candidacy for any National Office.

ARTICLE VIII

MISCELLANEOUS PROVISIONS

Section 801. Each member state shall designate one of its members to serve on the Steering Committee.

Section 802. The member state hosting the October meeting shall provide, on a complimentary basis, twenty (20) registration packets, including all tickets. Ten (10) of these shall be for the use of the VFW Conference for Head Table guests, officers, etc. at the discretion of the Conference Chairman. The remaining ten (10) shall be given to the Conference Auxiliary President to be used for their Head Table guests, officers, etc.

Section 803. All questions and procedures shall be governed by Roberts Rules of Order.

Section 804. The terms "he", "his", or "him" as used in these By-Laws shall denote both masculine and feminine articles.

ARTICLE IX

AMENDMENTS

Section 901. These By-Laws may only be amended or altered at the October meeting by a two thirds (2/3) majority vote of the delegates. The amendment must be proposed by a member state or recommended by an elected Conference officer. Written notice, together with a copy of the proposed amendment, must be received by the Conference Chairman and Secretary-Treasurer no later than August first (1st) of any calendar year.

The Secretary-Treasurer will prepare copies of the notice and proposed amendment for distribution to the member states at the National Convention meeting.

All amendments adopted at any October meeting shall take effect on November first (1st) of that calendar year.
(By-Laws as adopted October 19, 2013)

TO AMEND THE BIG 10 CONFERENCE CONSTITUTION
WHEREAS, the current Big 10 Conference Constitution was revised on October 19, 2013, and

WHEREAS, the Conference voted to review the existing Constitution by appointing a Constitution Review Committee, and

WHEREAS the Committee met May 23, 2013,

BE IT RESOLVED The Conference will Amend the Big 10 Conference Constitution, as revised October 19, 2013 by deleting the Constitution in its entirety and inserting in its place the attached document entitled "By-Laws of the Big Ten Conference Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States."

OFFICERS AND DELEGATES PRESENT AND VOTING FOR CHANGE. (LISTED BELOW)
October 20th, 2019

CHAIRMAN GERALD GORSKI _____

VICE CHAIRMAN: CHRIS JOHNSTON _____

SEC / TREA : RICHARD R UZL _____

DELEGATE STATE COMMANDERS:

ILLINOIS ** BRADLEY GOULD _____

INDIANA ** MIKE SIMS _____

IOWA ** RUSSELL SAFFELL** _____

MICHIGAN ** MIKE FINEIS _____

MINNESOTA ** CHAD SOLHEID _____

MISSOURI ** TROY WILLIAMS _____

NEBRASKA ** JOE SMITH _____

OHIO ** DAN FAULKNER _____

SOUTH DAKOTA ** SEAN JOHNSON _____

WISCONSIN ** DONALD LYNCH _____

