

THE AMERICAN LEGION
CONSTITUTION OF PIKE COUNTY POST #197, INCORPORATED
DEPARTMENT OF GEORGIA

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 association in all wars; to inculcate a sense of individual obligation to the community, state and nation; to combat the autocracy of the classes and the masses; to make right the master of might; to promote peace and goodwill on earth; to safeguard and transmit to posterity, the principles of justice freedom and democracy; to consecrate and sanctify our comradeship by our devotion to mutual helpfulness.

ARTICLE-I-NAME

The name of this organization shall be the “Pike County American Legion Post #197, Incorporated (Inc.), Department of Georgia.” This Organization may be referred to in this document as the “Post”, or the “Organization”.

ARTICLE-II-OBJECTIVE

The objective of this Post shall be to promote the principles and policies set forth in the foregoing preamble, and the National, Department of Georgia, and District Constitutions of The American Legion.

ARTICLE-III-NATURE

Section 1. This Post is a patriotic Veteran’s organization devoted to mutual helpfulness. It is committed to mentoring youth and sponsorship of wholesome programs in our communities, advocating Americanism, patriotism, and honor; promoting strong national security; and continued devotion to our current servicemembers and fellow Veterans. This Post is a nonpartisan, not for profit organization, and its success depends entirely on active membership, participation, and volunteerism. This organization belongs to the people it serves and the communities in which it thrives.

Section 2. This organization shall be nonpolitical, and not be used for the dissemination of partisan principles or the promotion of the candidacy of any person seeking public office or advancement.

ARTICLE-IV-MEMBERSHIP

Section 1. Eligibility for membership in this Post shall be as prescribed by the National Constitution of The American Legion.

Section 2. Any person shall be eligible for membership in the American Legion who has served on federal active duty in the United States Armed Forces since December 7, 1941, and has been honorably discharged or is still serving. Eligibility dates remain open in that all active-duty members of the U.S. Armed Forces are eligible to join The American Legion at this time until the date of the end of hostilities as determined by the Government of the United States. U.S. Merchant Marine Veteran eligibility is from December 7, 1941 to December 31, 1946 (WWII).

Section 3. There shall be no special levels or categories of membership; all members are equal. Rank does not exist in The American Legion; no members shall be addressed by their military title in any meeting of this Post.

Section 4. Membership dues shall be paid annually for the following year no later than 31 December. After 1 January, the member becomes delinquent, and after 1 February the member's Post privileges are suspended.

Section 5. No person may be a member at any time of more than one Post.

Section 6. Application for membership shall be made in writing or on-line under such regulations as prescribed by The American Legion National Executive Committee. All applicants and transfers must be verified by a Post officer using Department of Defense Form 214 - Certificate of Release or Discharge from Active Duty, United States Uniformed Services Identification Card, Veterans Affairs' issued identification card, or State issued identification card with veteran designation. Applicants must pay the Post Membership dues for the current membership year.

Section 7. All applicants for membership shall be acted upon at a Post general membership meeting following the making of such application, and shall at such meeting, be accepted, rejected or referred for further investigation and consideration. If a majority of the members cast their vote against the acceptance of said applicant, then such application shall be recorded as rejected at which time the applicant may reapply in six (6) months.

Section 8. Any member of this Post may be expelled or suspended for Cause by two-thirds (2/3) vote of the members present at the regular meeting of the Post after charges are preferred under oath in writing, and a fair hearing had upon the member charged.

Section 9. No person who has been expelled by a Post will be admitted to membership in this Post, without the consent of the expelling Post, except that where such consent has been asked for and denied by such Post, may then appeal to the Executive Committee of the Department of the expelling Post for permission to apply for membership in this Post, and shall be ineligible for membership until such permission is granted.

ARTICLE-V-OFFICERS AND COMMITTEES

Section 1. The administrative affairs of this Post of The American Legion shall, except as may be otherwise provided by the By-Laws, be under the supervision of an Executive Committee which shall consist of up to three (3) Executive Committee members at large in addition to the officers of the Post. The term of office of members of the Executive Committee shall be for one (1) year. This Post, by its By-Laws, may provide for such other standing or special committees as the business of the organization may require.

Section 2. The officers of this Post shall be a Commander, a Senior Vice-Commander, and up to two (2) Junior Vice-Commanders, a Finance Officer, and an Adjutant which will be nominated from the floor at the meeting preceding the annual election. A Judge Advocate, a Chaplain, a Historian, a Service officer, and a Sergeant-at-Arms will be appointed by the Commander-elect with the approval of the Executive Committee-elect.

Section 3. All elected Officers and Executive Committee members shall be elected annually and they shall hold office until their successors are duly installed or as otherwise provided. Any Officer or Executive Committee member may be removed for inefficiency by the Executive Committee by a two-thirds (2/3) vote of said committee being necessary to affect such removal.

Section 4. Every member of this Post in good standing who is current in annual membership dues and has no pending Legion disciplinary action shall be eligible to hold office in this Post.

Section 5. The duties of Officers and the Executive Committee shall be provided in the By-Laws.

ARTICLE-VI-FINANCE

Section 1. The revenue of this Post shall be derived from annual membership dues, and from such other sources as approved by the Post Executive Committee.

Section 2. The amount of such annual membership dues shall be determined by this Post for the ensuing year.

Section 3. The Post shall pay to the Department of Georgia and National Headquarters annual membership dues for every member of the Post.

Section 4. The Post Commander, Adjutant, Finance Officer and any appointee by the Post Commander will be bonded through The American Legion, Department of Georgia.

ARTICLE-VII-AMENDMENTS

Section 1. This Constitution is adopted subject to the provisions of the National Constitution of The American Legion and of the Department Constitution of the Department of Georgia, The American Legion. Any amendments to said National Constitution or Department Constitution which is in conflict with any provisions hereof shall be regarded as automatically repealing or modifying the provisions of this Constitution to the extent of such conflict.

Section 2. This Constitution may be amended at any regular Post meeting by vote of two-thirds (2/3) of the members of said Post attending such regular meeting, providing the proposed amendment shall have been submitted in writing and read at the next preceding regular meeting of said Post, and providing, further, written notice via either email, text, and/or U.S. mail shall have been given to all members at least ten (10) days in advance of the date when such amendment is to be voted upon, notifying said members that at such meeting a proposal to amend the Constitution is to be voted upon. Best effort will be made to notify all members.

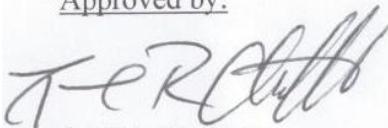
Section 3. All previous Constitutions adopted or purported to be in effect within Pike County American Legion Post #197, Inc. Department of Georgia are rescinded and repealed and this approved, attested, signed, dated and certified constitution shall be deemed to supersede the same.

ARTICLE-VIII-CORPORATION

This Post acts as a corporation in which the Post Commander, Adjutant, and Finance Officer will serve as the Chief Executive Officer/Chairperson, Chief Operations Officer/Secretary, and Chief Finance Officer/Treasurer, respectively. The Post Officers shall serve as the officers of the corporation and the Executive Committee and Board of Directors acting as one shall be responsible for the management of the corporation's affairs.

Date: 6 June 2024

Approved by:



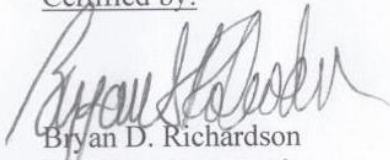
Paul R. Chatterton
Commander, Post 197
The American Legion
Department of Georgia

Attested by:



Stephen A. Golias
Adjutant, Post 197
The American Legion
Department of Georgia

Certified by:



Bryan D. Richardson
Past Post Commander
Judge Advocate, Post 197
The American Legion
Department of Georgia

Original hard copy document signed and dated and on file.