



NATIONAL ORDER OF TRENCH RATS

WRITING AND SUBMITTING A RESOLUTION.

1. Drafting an Imperial Rendezvous resolution.
 - A. Proper construction.
 - B. As the foundation of our NOTR programs, it is important that the NOTR Resolution be fully understood in terms of its basic purpose and proper construction. If resolutions are ill-conceived or badly constructed, they act as poor standard-bearers for our legislative mandates, and they cause unnecessary problems for those who must identify their purposes and translate them into legislative form.
 - C. On the other hand, properly constructed resolutions provide identifiable goals that are easily transposed into bill form.
 - D. The best way to deal with the proper construction of a resolution is to first break it down into its component parts. In doing so, we find three parts that can be readily labeled.

2. Drafting a Resolution
 - A. Part One: The Title or Statement of Purpose.
 1. The Title should be as concise as possible. A lengthy title will often contain information that should be presented in the “Whereas Clauses” and thus creates the impression of rambling.
 2. A Title should not be made too short. Titles of one or two words only will leave everyone completely in the dark about the actual purpose of a resolution. The object is not to keep a person guessing about the intent of the resolution, but to present a clear, instant recognition of its purpose.

 - B. Part Two: The “Whereas Clauses” or Justification of Purpose.
 1. The “Whereas Clauses”, or Justification of Purpose, is the meat of a resolution. It is here that your sales pitch is made. Unfortunately, it is here that most people go astray, completely ruining an otherwise good resolution.

2. The most common and understandable error in this regard can be termed as the “overkill” syndrome – too many “Whereas Clauses.” In an attempt to build as good a case as possible for their cause, many resolution writers fall victim to “overkill” and provide superfluous justifications. In making this error, there are too many “don’ts” that are violated.
3. A few examples are:
 - a. Don’t repeat yourself.
 - b. Don’t exaggerate.
 - c. Don’t go astray of the subject.
 - d. Don’t unduly antagonize others.
 - e. Don’t make unreasonable demands, etc.
4. Any one or a combination of these and other “don’ts” in a long-winded list of “Whereas Clauses” can be boring, create confusion, or any number of undesired reactions. In short – use the “Whereas Clauses” to make your point, not belabor it.
5. Part Three: The Resolved clause or final Declaration and Course of Action to Achieve the Purpose.

3. PART THREE:

1. The resolved Clause or Final Declaration and Course of Action to Achieve the Purpose.
2. The purpose of Part Three, the Resolved Clause, is to explicitly express the course of action to be taken that will achieve your goal.
3. Here again, a resolution, good in all other aspects, can be impaired by an improper “Resolved Clause.” For example, a common misuse of the “Resolved Clause” goes something like this:
 - a. THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, by the National Order of Trench Rats in National Convention assembled in Orlando, Florida, August 4 -7, 2013, that we support this goal.
4. “Resolved Clauses” of this type are vague about the necessary action to be taken and end the resolution in a very weak fashion. Be specific about the action to be taken.
5. It is also important to avoid the temptation of continuing to give “Whereas” justifications in the “Resolved Clause.” Keep your “Resolved Clause” short and specific.
6. One final point. Use the “AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED” addendum sparingly. Most commonly used to indicate parties, (the Imperial Golden Rodent, members of the Imperial Executive committee, etc.) who are to receive copies of the resolution, the content of this clause is commonly misused by inserting

unnecessary information or further justifications (“Whereas Clauses”).

7. If a doubt exists about using the “FURTHER RESOLVED” clause, then as a rule of thumb, do not use it.

4. Example of a Properly Constructed Resolution.

A. Note: “Whereas Clauses” not verbose, provide, solid, defensible justification.

B. Title: Concise, to the point, instant recognition of purpose.

Example:

Concurrent Payments of VA Disability Compensation and Military Retired Pay.

WHEREAS, ex-service members who are retired from the military on length of service must waive a portion of their retired pay in order to receive disability compensation from the Department of Veterans Affairs, and

WHEREAS, it would be more equitable if the laws and regulations were changed to provide that, in such cases, the veteran would be entitled to receive both benefits concurrently since eligibility was established and earned under two entirely different sets of enabling laws and regulations;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the National Order of Trench Rats in National Convention in Orlando, Florida, August 4-7, 2013, supports legislation and changes in applicable regulations which would provide that a veteran who is retired for length of service and is later adjudicated as having service-connected disabilities, may receive concurrent benefits from the military department and from the VA without deduction from either.

Submitted by (Name, Dugout, Signature, Date)

Dugout Golden Rodent

Dugout REG

FORMAT:

Resolution Title _____

Whereas, _____

Whereas, _____

Therefore, Be it Resolved,

Be it Further Resolved,

Adopted by Dugout # ____ at the
_____ meeting.

_____ Dugout Golden Rodent

_____ Dugout REG