

Excerpts from the Texas Division Dispatch April 2018

Listed below are the **proposed Special Rules of Order to be voted on at the 2018 Reunion.**

Rule 1. Dress and Decorum

a. The Chair shall have **power to regulate and restrict the admission into the meeting hall all visitors and guests** and shall take care to maintain the dignity and **majesty** of the convention by enforcing good order and decorum at all times.

Comments:

Are members in good standing, who are not delegates, listed as visitors and guests?

Members of good standing SHOULD NOT BE KEPT FROM ATTENDING ANY MEETING WHERE THE BUSINESS OF THEIR ORGANIZATION IS BEING CONDUCTED.

MAJESTY? has the leadership deluded themselves into thinking they are royalty? This is an Annual Business Meeting and not a visit to the King's throne.

b. Delegates are expected to conduct themselves as gentlemen, refraining from any personal insults.

Comments:

LEADERSHIP is expected to conduct themselves as Gentlemen also, refraining from any personal insults, TO DELEGATES, GUESTS OR VISITORS, as has happened in the past at DEC meetings.

c. For admission into the assembly hall and to facilitate identification and seating, delegates, members, guests, and convention staff shall be required to wear the badge issued by the Registration and Credentials Committee upon registration and may be required to present positive identification. **Delegates shall sit in an area separate from non-delegates since this will facilitate voting and debate.**

Comments: This will segregate the Delegates from the Alternate Delegates. The Alternates need to sit as near as possible to their delegates, so that they can follow the proceedings and be ready if they are called on to replace a delegate.

d. Delegates and guests should wear proper business attire **(i.e., coat and tie for men)**

Comments: This is an unnecessary Dress Code that should not be imposed on members who have already made great monetary sacrifices to give of their time and money to travel a great distance to perform their duty. Not all men have a coat and tie in their wardrobe and should not be shamed into buying something they will seldom wear.

e. All cell phones or other electronic devices shall be turned off or put on silent mode while the convention is in session.

Comments: This is a standard practice.

f. **The Division Commander** may appoint a parliamentarian and any necessary assistants and such other temporary staff as **he** deems appropriate. These persons need not be members of the SCV **and their presence in the hall is at the discretion of the Chair.**

Comments: A third party Professional Parliamentarian is considered is a best practice.

Recommendation is to hire a third party Professional Parliamentarian and that HE ACTS AS PRESIDEING OFFICER/CHAIR FOR THAT MEETING:

Professional Presiding Officer

A professional presiding officer is a skilled parliamentarian who temporarily substitutes for a group’s usual presider in such circumstances as when there are deep divisions within the organization and it is felt an expert outsider will better give the appearance of impartiality, or when the group must deal with particularly intricate issues such as adopting a bylaws revision or conducting disciplinary procedures.

Who are these individuals the Division Commander wants brought in as temporary staff or assistants who need not be members of the SCV? Are these paid positions? Is this simply a way to get people into the convention that really have no business here? Why does he need this Carte Blanche for his personal assistants?

Rule 2. Debate

a. Before entering into debate, delegates shall first be recognized by the chair and upon recognition shall state his name, Camp name, camp number, and city.

Comments:

b. No delegate shall speak in debate more than once on the same question in the same session while another desires the floor, nor longer than three (3) minutes without leave of the Convention; which shall be granted by two-thirds (2/3) vote of those present and voting, without debate.

Comments:

c. Debate on any single question shall not extend for more than sixty (60) minutes, taking together all speakers for and against and any subsidiary motions. The time for debate maybe extended by leave of the Convention, granted by two-thirds (2/3) vote of those present and voting, without debate.

Comments:

d. Debate on any individual secondary motion shall not extend for more than ten (10) minutes, taking together all speakers for and against; without leave of the Convention granted by a two-thirds (2/3) vote of those present and voting; without debate.

Comments:

e. In order to make a secondary motion, including calling the question, a delegate must first be recognized to speak either for or against the pending question.

Comments:

Rule 3. Voting

a. The chair shall put **all main and secondary questions viva voce.** If a delegate calls for a division of the assembly or the Chair feels that the vote was inconclusive, the chair shall take a standing vote.

Comments: Any member can call for a ballot vote, and every member should want at a minimum a counted standing vote. **If accepted by the body this will give the chair unacceptable power.**

RRO 11th EDITION §6. DESCRIPTION OF CLASSES AND INDIVIDUAL MOTIONS

Incidental Motions # 8 page 71 line 18

“A member can move that a vote be taken (a) by ballot, (b) by roll call, or (c) by a counted standing vote, especially if a division of the assembly has appeared inconclusive and the chair neglects to order a count. This grouping also includes a motion (d) that the polls be closed or reopened in a ballot vote. All these motions are grouped under the heading of Motions Relating to Methods of Voting and the Polls (30).

b. Nominations for each office to be filled by the Convention shall be limited to a nomination and a second. The nominating speech shall be no more than three (3) minutes. The candidate’s speech shall be no more than ten (10) minutes. The chair shall determine order of candidate speeches.

Comments: UNCLEAR WHAT IS BEHIND THIS RULE. It reads that Nominations for each office is limited to A nomination and A second. Does this mean that only ONE NOMINATION CAN BE MADE TO EACH OFFICE? OR DO they really mean that you cannot make a nominating speech. This is not addressed in TX or National constitutions. RRO includes it in it's suggestion for Standing RULES.

RRO 11th Edition §59. ORGANIZATION OF A CONVENTION OF AN ESTABLISHED SOCIETY

Rule 7. Nominations for each office to be filled by the convention shall be limited to one nominating speech of three minutes and one seconding speech of one minute for each nominee.

Rule 4. Announcements

a. Notices for announcement to the Convention shall be in writing, signed by the person (or a proper representative of the person) under whose authority the announcement is issued, and shall be presented to the desk.

Comments:

Rule 5. Minutes

a. The Division Adjutant shall cause the minutes of all sessions of this Convention, including reports presented, to be recorded for publication. Said minutes shall be approved by the Division Executive Council and made part of the permanent records.

Comments: Why is the Adjutant going to be taking the minutes?

Nowhere in the TX SCV Div Constitution does the description of the adjutant's duties say he is to take the minutes of the proceedings.

Here again the Texas Division Leadership is ignoring the Texas Division Constitution :

TXSCV CONSTITUTION

SECTION 6. DIVISION OFFICERS

6.4.3 CHIEF OF STAFF

The **Division Chief of Staff** shall be charged with the administration of the policies of the Division Convention, the Division Executive Council and the Division Commander. He shall coordinate the Division Staff in its duties. **He shall keep the proceedings of the Division Convention, special Division meetings, and the Division Executive Council.** He shall issue the general orders of the Division Commander, under his signature. He shall issue and maintain meeting notices and agendas of the Convention and of the Division Executive Council. He shall maintain records of such Division awards as directed by the Division Commander.

6.4.4 The Division Adjutant is the principal financial and administrative officer of the Texas Division, and shall ensure that the financial records are kept in good order, in such manner and according to such procedures approved by the Division Executive Council, and shall properly administer and record all receipts and disbursements. He shall establish financial accounts at a FDIC banking institution as deemed necessary to hold the Division's monies. The Division Commander and the Division Adjutant shall be signers on said accounts and can act separately from the other. He shall prepare budgets for the expenditure of Division funds on a yearly basis. He shall make reports of the condition of the treasury when called for by the Division Commander. He shall maintain a roster of all members and life members of the Texas Division. He shall review requests for funds and shall report his finding and recommendations to the Division Commander and Executive Council for action. He shall maintain the Division Adjutant's Manual and shall guide the Brigade and Camp Adjutants in their duties. He shall maintain the official updated version of the Division Constitution and shall cause this to be published yearly in the Division Newsletter and on the Division Website. The Division Adjutant shall receive the annual Camp Reports and compile a Division report detailing the personnel, by camp, of the Texas Division. He shall be in charge of determining a quorum at all official Texas Division meetings and conventions.

Rule 6. Enabling Powers

a. The Division Adjutant shall have power to correct scrivener's errors and make non-substantive changes in grammar, spelling, punctuation, and numbering to any and all motions and resolutions and any amendments to the Constitution adopted by this Convention and ordered for publication.

Comments:

The Division Adjutant is not the Chief of Staff.

TXSCV CONSTITUTION

SECTION 6. DIVISION OFFICERS

6.4.4 CHIEF OF STAFF

The **Division Chief of Staff** shall be charged with the administration of the policies of the Division Convention, the Division Executive Council and the Division Commander. He shall coordinate the Division Staff in its duties. **He shall keep the proceedings of the Division Convention, special Division meetings, and the Division Executive Council.** He shall issue the general orders of the Division Commander, under his signature. He shall issue and maintain meeting notices and agendas of the Convention and of the Division Executive Council. He shall maintain records of such Division awards as directed by the Division Commander.

RRO 11th EDITION

Only the assembly can amend captions or headings under the rules applicable to bylaws or other papers if such change could have any effect on meaning, and this authority may not be

delegated. Corrections of article or section numbers or cross- [page 599] references that cannot result in a change of meaning can be delegated, however, to the secretary or, in more involved cases, to a committee. An assembly may delegate its authority in this connection in a particular case, by adopting, for example, a resolution such as the following:

Resolved, That the secretary [or, "the . . . committee"] be authorized to correct article and section designations, punctuation, and cross-references and to make such other technical and conforming changes as may be necessary to reflect the intent of the Society in connect
