

1. **PREAMBLE**

- (a) The Palmetto Battalion, Inc. is a “War Between the States” reenacting organization dedicated to the preservation of our “Southern Heritage”.
- (b) Only units from South Carolina can portray South Carolina units within the Palmetto Battalion without prior approval of the battalion staff.
- (c) The Palmetto Battalion does not support or condone any subversive organizations or hate groups that disrespect the history and heritage we try to portray.

2. **DEFINITIONS**

- (a) **Active Member** – is a member of an affiliated unit within the Battalion who pays their battalion dues and attends at least three (3) *Battalion Approved Events* per year, two (2) of which must be either *Sponsored* or *Affiliated* events within a *Reenacting Year*.
- (b) **Battalion** – as used within this by-law refers to the Palmetto Battalion, Inc. and its affiliated units.
- (c) **Battalion Approved Events**
 - (1) *Sponsored* –
 - (i) Events hosted by the Palmetto Battalion; and
 - (ii) Is approved by the majority of the Battalion membership for voting privileges and where the majority of the Battalion agrees to attend; and
 - (iii) Where the battalion rank structure, by-laws, field orders, and safety rules will apply to the whole event.
 - (2) *Affiliated* –
 - (i) Events hosted by a unit or organization associated with the Palmetto Battalion; and
 - (ii) Is approved by the majority of the Battalion membership for voting privileges where the majority of the Battalion agrees to attend; and
 - (iii) Where the battalion rank structure, by-laws, field orders, and safety rules will apply to the whole event.
 - (3) *Other* –
 - (i) Events hosted by a unit or organization not associated with the Palmetto Battalion; or
 - (ii) Is approved by the Battalion membership for voting privileges but where the majority of the Battalion does not agree to attend, or
 - (iii) Where the battalion rank structure, by-laws, field orders, and safety rules will not apply outside of the battalion.

- (d) **Company Officer** – an *Active Member*, as defined by paragraph 2(a), of a company who is elected to the position of Captain or Lieutenant of the Company.
- (1) Newly elected lieutenants shall hold the rank of Second Lieutenant for their first year in grade. Those re-elected after serving a year’s time in grade may petition the Battalion staff for approval to assume the rank of First Lieutenant. Once approved, they may remain a First Lieutenant as long as they are elected to that position within the Company.
- (e) **Form-1 Morning Report** – along with the weekend roster, is used to determine the number of officers and rifles participating in the event.
- (f) **Reenacting Year** – the period of January 1st to December 31st.
- (g) **Rifles** – Men who are in the ranks and on the field with muskets (NCO’s and Privates), as shown in the “Total” column of the Form-1 Morning Report, and do not include the Company officers.
- (1) Only those men who are dues paying members of the Palmetto Battalion, and serving as a *Rifle*, will be counted on the company’s attendance roster for purposes of petitioning for, or maintaining, Independent Company Status.
- (2) Any man who would normally carry a rifle will be counted “in the ranks and on the field” if he is a working volunteer for the company hosting the event. This should be noted on the Form-1 morning report. The morning report and weekend roster will be used to determine the number of rifles present.
- (3) No one under the age of eighteen (18) years of age shall be allowed to participate in any function sponsored or affiliated by the Palmetto Battalion, or any unit thereof, unless he/she is accompanied by a parent or legal guardian who shall remain present throughout that function, or there is a completed *Parental Consent and Registration Form* on file with the event host or Battalion Adjutant.
- (4) No one under sixteen (16) years of age may participate on the field during a battle, skirmish, tactical or similar event without a parent or legal guardian physically present with them on the field to take responsibility, unless they are:
- (i) An infantryman at least sixteen (16) years of age;
- (ii) A messenger or functional musician at least twelve (12) years old;
- (iii) An artilleryman at least fourteen (14) years old, except for position 1–4 which must be sixteen (16) years old; or
- (iv) A medical steward at least fourteen (14) years old.

3. MEMBERSHIP & DUES

- (a) Only *Active Members*, as defined by paragraph #2 of these bylaws, are entitled to vote in Battalion elections, be elected or appointed to office on Battalion staff, and determine Battalion policy.
- (b) Dues for Palmetto Battalion membership are payable to the Battalion Adjutant on or before November 30th of each year. A 30-day grace period may be granted at the discretion of the Battalion Adjutant.
- (c) The dues for membership in the Palmetto Battalion are \$20.00 per adult (i.e., 18 and older), \$15.00 for teenagers 16 to 18 years of age, \$10.00 for children under 16, and \$50.00 maximum for a family in the same household.
 - (1) New members joining the Battalion after/before dues are normally collected, and who wish to be added to their Company's attendance roster, may pay a prorated fee as depicted below. However, no events attended during the current season prior to officially joining the Battalion will be counted.
 - (2) Past members of the Battalion who rejoin after/before dues are normally collected, and who wish to be added back to their Company's attendance roster, may also pay a prorated fee as depicted below. Likewise, no events attended during the current season prior to officially rejoining the Battalion will be counted.

Date	Fee
Between March 30 th to June 30 th	\$15 per adult (i.e., 18 years of age and older) \$10 per teenager (16 to 18 years of age) \$8 for child under 16 years of age \$40 max for family in the same household
After June 30 th to September 30th	10 per adult (i.e., 16 years of age and older) \$8 per teenager (16 to 18 years of age) \$5 for child under 16 years of age \$25 max for family in the same household

- (d) Battalion members who are members of the Armed Forces and/or their reserves, and who are currently deployed overseas in a combat zone, and thus are unable to attend any events, may be counted as *Active Members* and their battalion dues waived for the time they are deployed.
 - (1) *Detached Service* – Battalion members who are members of the US Armed Forces and currently deployed overseas in a combat zone, and thus are unable to attend any events, may not be counted as a *Rifle* by their perspective unit for the purpose of establishing or maintaining company status, but may be recognized on the Form-1 Morning Report as being on *Detached Service*, and this service brought to the attention of the battalion during morning colors to honor their sacrifice to the country.

- (e) Only *Active Members* portraying active military impressions are allowed to vote on issues identified as military, such as the annual calendar, military leadership within the Battalion, etc. All *Active Members* are permitted to vote on non-military issues.
- (f) All members of the Palmetto Battalion are bound and required to follow the Palmetto Battalion Field Orders and Safety Regulations. Any member found not complying with these attachments will be brought before the staff and subject to disciplinary action.
- (g) Only dues paying members of the Palmetto Battalion will appear on the individual company rosters to receive credit for attendance.
- (h) Any Battalion member conducting himself in a manner deemed unsafe or contrary to the mission of the Palmetto Battalion is subject to reprimand by the Battalion staff. Repeated unsafe or inappropriate behavior may result in termination of membership.

4. **BATTALION STAFF**

- (a) The elected staff of the Palmetto Battalion shall consist of the:
 - (1) *Colonel* – Overall commander of the “Palmetto Battalion” and shall act as moderator at all meetings. The colonel may call meetings of the battalion staff as he deems necessary.
 - (2) *Lieutenant Colonel* – The executive officer of the battalion. He shall act in the capacity of the Colonel in his absence and command the opposing forces at an event, as necessary. Likewise, he will serve as the chairman of the Battalion By-Law Committee.
 - (3) *Color Sergeant* – Responsible for the care, custody, and security of the battalion colors.
- (b) The appointed members of the Palmetto Battalion staff serve at the pleasure of the Colonel and shall consist of:
 - (1) *Surgeon* – Shall carry the rank of Captain and should be a medical doctor, paramedic or emergency medical technician (EMT). Others “doctors” within the battalion will carry appropriate rank as deemed by the battalion staff.
 - (2) *Adjutant* – Shall act as the secretary at all meetings, assist the Colonel with correspondence, keep records pertaining to the battalion, and act as the treasurer. The adjutant, at a minimum, shall carry the rank of 1st Lieutenant but may be brevetted up to the rank of Major if the Colonel feels the need.
 - (3) *Aid de Camp* – also known as “Chief of Staff” is the personal assistant to the Battalion Colonel and may be brevetted up to the rank of Major if the Colonel feels the need.
 - (4) *Sergeant Major* – Responsible with maintaining a roster of events, assigns details such as fatigue duty, provost and camp guards, and assists the officers in carrying out all duties as may be directed by the Colonel.

- (5) *Provost Sergeant* – Shall carry the rank of Master Sergeant and shall be responsible for the security of the battalion camp.
- (6) *Chaplain* – responsible for the content and conduct of religious services and invocations. He need not be an ordain minister but should be above reproach, have a good knowledge of the Holy Bible, and have a strong conviction and devotion to do the will of our Father in heaven.
- (7) *Editor of “The Vindicator”* – responsible for the construction and publishing of the Battalion’s newsletter.

5. **BATTALION ADVISORY BOARD**

- (a) The Battalion Advisory Board will be comprised of past battalion commanders, current Captains of each field company or, in his absence the current lieutenant or first sergeant, and one (1) representative, who is an Active Member, from each regimental unit not represented in this structure.
- (b) For the purpose of changing Field Orders and Safety Regulations, the elected battalion staff members shall serve as the governing body of the battalion. The appointed members of the battalion staff may attend in an advisory capacity, but will have no vote.

6. **UNIT AFFILIATION**

- (a) All units seeking affiliation with the Battalion must attend three (3) *Sponsored* or *Affiliated* events with a minimum of at least five (5) of their members at each of these events, during a *Reenacting Year* before being voted on by the membership for unit affiliation.
- (b) All units within the Battalion will retain an “active status” as long as there remains at least one (1) *Active Member* of the Battalion on its membership rolls. However, units of less than five (5) *Active Members* of the Battalion are not entitled to representation on staff for voting purposes.
- (c) Any unit that elects to leave the Battalion and later petitions for re-admittance must comply with paragraph 6(a) of these by-laws.
 - (1) If said unit was an *Independent Company* within the battalion prior to leaving, and desires *Independent Company* status after being readmitted into the Battalion, the unit will have to meet the requirements outlined in paragraph 7(a) of these by-laws.
- (d) Any unit that choses to leave the Battalion, either by their own volition or by vote of the Battalion membership, will not be allowed to fall in with the Battalion at any out of state event the Battalion is invited to participate in without the unanimous consent of the Battalion staff described in paragraph 4 of these By-Laws.
 - (1) Requests will be made in writing by the former unit’s primary representative to the Battalion Adjutant no later than 30-days prior to the event in question. Final vote by the Battalion staff will be posted no later than 20-days prior to the event in question.

- (2) If the Battalion staff is unable to meet in person to vote on the request, the vote may be conducted via electronic means and the results communicated to the former unit's representative in writing via electronic means no later than 20-days prior to the event in question.

7. **INDEPENDENT COMPANY STATUS**

- (a) An *Independent Company* is a single regimental unit within the Battalion that has a sufficient number of battalion members to form their own company without the addition of other affiliated units to provide the necessary number of rifles and officers to form a company.
- (b) Prior to qualifying as an *Independent Company*, the unit seeking such status must petition the Colonel of the Battalion to make their intent known.
- (1) To become a new *Independent Company* of infantry in the Battalion:
- (i) The unit's officers and NCO's must be *Active Members* of the Battalion and be in attendance for a minimum of five (5) *Sponsored* or *Affiliated* events or four (4) *Sponsored* or *Affiliated* events and one (1) *Other* event during the preceding reenacting year.
 - (ii) The unit must have sixteen (16) *Rifles*, who are *Active Members* of the Battalion, in attendance for a minimum of five (5) *Sponsored* or *Affiliated* events or four (4) *Sponsored* or *Affiliated* events and one (1) *Other* event during the preceding reenacting year.
- (2) During the *Reenacting Year* prior to obtaining *Independent Company* eligibility, units will be assigned to another company within the Battalion, at the discretion of the Colonel.
- (3) Once the guidelines for *Independent Company* status are met, Battalion members who are not members of the petitioning unit will vote to allow or disallow *Independent Company* status. If approved by the general membership, the Colonel will assign the new company their own letter designation.
- (c) To maintain *Independent Company* status:
- (1) The company's officers and NCOs must be *Active Members* of the Battalion and be in attendance for a minimum of three (3) *Sponsored* or *Affiliated* events or two (2) *Sponsored* or *Affiliated* events and one (1) *Other* event during a reenacting year.
 - (2) The company must have sixteen (16) *Rifles*, who are *Active Members* of the Battalion, in attendance for a minimum of three (3) *Sponsored* or *Affiliated* events, or two (2) *Sponsored* or *Affiliated* events and one (1) *Other* event during a reenacting year.
 - (3) Any man who would normally carry a rifle will be counted as a *Rifle* if he is a working volunteer for the company hosting the event. This should be noted on the Form-1 report.
 - (4) If a company does not meet the sixteen (16) *Rifles* requirement, or does not have at least one officer and one NCO who maintain their Battalion membership during a reenacting year, that company will be placed on probation for the next reenacting year.
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8. RECORD OF ATTENDANCE

- (a) It is the responsibility of each member of the Battalion to know the time and place of morning roll call and attend the same. Members failing to attend morning roll call may fail to receive credit for attending a given event.
- (b) For the purpose of determining member participation and voter eligibility, the senior NCO present from each company shall perform roll call each morning and complete the muster form provided by the Adjutant.
- (c) In the event a company is split, separate musters should be taken and combined by the senior NCO of that company before submittal.
- (d) Event Attendance rosters must be received by the Battalion Adjutant no later than thirty (30) days after the conclusion of any event on the Battalion schedule, and no less than thirty (30) days prior to scheduled Battalion elections.
- (e) Rosters received by the Adjutant after that time period may not count towards recognition for Battalion privileges, such as voting rights in Battalion elections.
- (f) The Battalion Adjutant has sole authority to extend the required 30-day minimum if circumstances dictate.
- (g) Only dues paying members of the Palmetto Battalion will appear on the individual company rosters to receive credit for attendance.
- (h) In the event the Adjutant is not present at an event, attendance rosters must be mailed or emailed to him within thirty (30) days following an event.

9. ELECTIONS

- (a) Battalion elections will be held annually near the end of the reenacting year at a time and place to be named by the Battalion staff.
- (b) All “*Active Members*” of the battalion are entitled to vote in the yearly staff elections and will vote for the staff positions of Colonel, Lt. Colonel, and Color Sergeant, as well as the awards specified in paragraph 16 of these bylaws.
 - (1) Any member who is not an “*Active Member*” and/or current with their battalion dues will not be allowed to vote in any election, nor can they nominate an individual for a staff position, accept nomination, or hold a position on the battalion staff.
 - (2) To avoid an affiliated unit/company from monopolizing control of the battalion, no more than two (2) members of the same affiliated unit/company may be nominated and/or be elected to fill an elected position on the Battalion staff.
 - (3) Only those members assigned to a particular company are entitled to vote for the Captain, Lieutenant, Sergeants and Corporals of their company.
 - (4) Only “*Active Members*” of the Battalion who are members of the artillery will vote one the position of Commander of Artillery.
- (c) A simple majority is required in all elections for a winner to be declared. In the event of an election where there are multiple candidates and no candidate receives a simple majority, a run-off will be held between the two (2) candidates receiving the greatest number of votes.
- (d) The staff of the Palmetto Battalion shall serve from the conclusion of the last, in-state, Battalion affiliated event of the year following elections until the conclusion of the last, in-state, Battalion affiliated event, one year later. A military change of command ceremony will conclude the event and place the incoming staff in “office”.
- (e) For the purpose of Absentee Ballots, nominations for the positions of Colonel, Lieutenant Colonel, Color Sergeant, and Annual Awards must be made in writing to the Adjutant no less than sixty (60) days prior to the date of the yearly elections for distribution to the membership.
- (f) No member of the Palmetto Battalion shall serve more than four (4) consecutive terms as Colonel of the Battalion. After completion of four (4) consecutive terms, the Colonel may return to the ranks or, if elected, to some other staff position. Nothing in this article is intended to preclude a past commander from serving this required break in service and again serving as Colonel should he be so elected.
- (g) All past commanders of the Palmetto Battalion shall, at the end of their term of office, become lifetime members as well as being automatically appointed as ex-officio members of the Battalion Staff with full voting rights for a period of one (1) year.

10. CHANGES TO THE BYLAWS

- (a) In order that the membership may have time to properly consider the business of the Battalion, any new business or changes to the By-Laws that any members wish to submit at the yearly election meeting must be submitted in writing to the Adjutant no less than sixty (60) days prior to the date of same election.
- (b) Battalion business which does not meet these time constraints, but is of critical importance to the Battalion, will be considered if agreed to by the staff.

11. IMPEACHMENT OF OFFICERS

- (a) The impeachment of any person holding rank within the Battalion may be for just cause on the grounds of non-performance of duties, improper performance of duties, not working in the best interest of the Battalion, or acting in a manner as to bring the Battalion into disrepute with the public or other segments of the reenacting community.
 - (b) For Company and Battalion level officers, the method for the removal or impeachment of such person(s) is as follows:
 - (1) At least five (5) *Active Members* must submit in writing to the Battalion Adjutant a list of charges and a request for impeachment. A Battalion meeting to decide the charges must be called within thirty (30) days of the Adjutant receiving the charges.
 - (2) At the Battalion meeting, one (1) of the signatories of the charges will have twenty (20) minutes maximum to state the charges and present their case for removal.
 - (3) The person charged shall have twenty (20) minutes maximum to counter the charges and present their defense.
 - (4) At the conclusion of the above, the *Active Members* present shall vote on the question. For the impeachment to carry, at least 2/3 of the members present must vote for removal.
 - (c) If the person in question is not a Company or Battalion level officer, the above method will be followed except that the written charges will be delivered to the Captain or Lieutenant. All voting will be done by the effected company only and the Battalion Adjutant will be advised of the results within five (5) days.
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12. COMMANDER OF ARTILLERY

- (a) One (1) position for Commander of Artillery will be established at the Battalion command staff level. This individual will be the overall commander of all Battalion Artillery and will hold the rank of either Major or Lieutenant Colonel, as determined by the Battalion Colonel.
- (b) The duties of this position will be to assure that the rules, regulations, policies and procedures set forth by the Battalion are adhered to at all affiliated events, to coordinate the deployment of the guns, and command the Battalion Artillery on the field.
- (c) Due to the highly technical nature of the Artillery, all candidates for the position of Commander of Artillery must meet the following minimum requirements established for this position:
 - (1) The candidate will be an *Active Member* in good standing of the Battalion and one of its artillery batteries for five (5) years and will have attended a minimum of three (3) *Sponsored* or *Affiliated* events per year for each year during that entire period, prior to election.
 - (2) The candidate will have five (5) years of documented experience within the artillery branch, prior to election.
 - (3) The candidate must have held the position of 2nd Lieutenant of Artillery in any battery within the Battalion for a period of one (1) year, prior to election. This service need not be concurrent to the election year and prior service is acceptable.
 - (4) The candidate will hold a current qualification as a gun crew member from the National Civil War Artillery Association (NCWAA). This qualification must be kept current for the term of office.
 - (5) The candidate will have attended Officers/NCO Training School held by the Battalion, prior to election.

13. MUSICIANS & BAND

- (a) A principle musician may be appointed by the Battalion Colonel to be in charge of all battalion field musicians and coordinate field music performance with the staff, check qualifications of musicians before entry on the field, drill musicians at battalion events, maintain a list of qualified musicians with rank and age (if under 16), and publish a list of preferred tunes and sources for music.
- (b) A drum/fife major will be appointed to assist the principle musician in the area that is not his primary instrument (fife major if principle musician is drummer, drum major if principle musician is fife).
- (c) Only functionally qualified musicians will be allowed to participate at battalion events.
- (d) Requirements for qualification are:
 - (1) Minimum age of twelve (12) with authentic uniform and instrument,
 - (2) Ability to follow basic marching commands,
 - (3) Certification as a drummer/fife by the International Association of Field Musicians, or the ability to play Yankee Doodle, Bonnie Blue, Welcome Here, and Ed Kellog's.
- (e) Participation can be revoked if a musician refuses to participate in drill or to follow instructions from the acting principle musician or drum/fife major.

14. FILMING OR VIDEOING OF BATTALION ACTIVITIES

- (a) The Battalion will not condone the filming or videoing of its activities for the purpose of profit, without the express consent of the Battalion staff.
- (b) Any filming or videoing of the Battalion's activities for profit may be done only after compensation for the Battalion's services has been agreed upon and received by the Battalion staff, and on written assurance such film or video will not be used by the producer in an improper or exploitative fashion.
- (b) This clause does not prohibit the filming or videoing of the Battalion's activities at a regular reenactment by not for profit parties, provided the name of the Palmetto Battalion is not used.
- (c) The event host is responsible for denying access to the event site by profit seekers wishing to film the Battalion's activities without the Battalion's authorization.

15. PALMETTO SOLDIERS RELIEF SOCIETY (PSRS) - DELETED

- (a) The Palmetto Soldiers Relief Society (PSRS) officially disbanded on November 9, 2014.

16. ANNUAL AWARDS

- (a) Nominations for awards will be submitted to the battalion adjutant in time to be voted on by the membership during annual elections. Those nominated must meet the criteria specified for each award. Nominations should include specifics as to why the member is deserving of the award above other nominees.
- (b) Awards will be presented during the change of command ceremony and installment of new officers, with exception of the *Joshua L. Torrence Service Award*, which may be presented anytime during the year and should be presented by the ranking Battalion officer present and before the spectators at the conclusion of the day's battle.
- (1) ***Bert Miller – Officer of the Year Award:*** In honor of the late Bert Miller, the first Colonel of the Palmetto Battalion. This award is presented to an *Active Member* of the Battalion for their authentic portrayal of an Officer of the time while on the field of battle, and for their exemplar leadership and service in promoting the Battalion and the hobby. Such impression may be in the infantry, artillery, or cavalry.
- (2) ***Ernie Black - Sergeant of the Year Award:*** In honor of the late Ernie Black, former Sergeant Major of the Battalion. This award is presented to an *Active Member* of the Battalion for their authentic portrayal of a Sergeant of the time while on the field of battle, and for their exemplar leadership and service in promoting the Battalion and the hobby. Such impression may be in the infantry, artillery, or cavalry.
- (3) ***Steve Burt - Soldier of the Year Award:*** In honor of the late Steve Burt, this award is presented to an *Active Member* of the Battalion for their authentic portrayal of an average soldier of the time while on the field of battle, and for their exemplar service in promoting the Battalion and the hobby. Such impression may be in the infantry, artillery, or cavalry where the soldier carries a weapon or serves on a gun.
- (4) ***Member of the Year Award:*** This award is presented to an *Active Member* of the Battalion for their authentic portrayal of a civilian, medical, or other non-combat military impression and for their exemplar service in promoting the Battalion and the hobby not covered by another award.
- (5) ***Joshua L. Torrence Service Award:*** In honor of Joshua L. Torrence, a member of the Palmetto Battalion as well as a Lance Corporal in the United States Marine Corps, who was killed in action on 14 March 2005, in Fallujah, Iraq. This award is presented to those *Active Members* of the Battalion in recognition for their service to the nation as members of the United States Armed Forces while deployed overseas in a combat zone.

17. BATTALION FINANCES

- (a) At the discretion of the Colonel, he will have the authority to approve spending of up to \$250 of Battalion funds without the consent of the Battalion governing body, and up to \$500 with the consent of, in extreme circumstances where such funds are immediately needed to cover expenses for an event.
- (b) Details justifying why the funds were needed will be submitted in writing by the Colonel to the governing body and general membership to avoid the appearance of financial impropriety.