



Palmetto Battalion

By-Laws

September, 2008

1. The Palmetto Battalion, Inc. is a "War Between the States" reenacting organization dedicated to the preservation of our "Southern Heritage".
2. Only units from South Carolina can portray South Carolina units within the Palmetto Battalion without prior approval of the battalion staff.
3. All units seeking membership in the Palmetto Battalion must attend three(3) Battalion Affiliated events with a minimum of at least five(5) members at each of these events before being voted on by the membership for unit affiliation.
4. All units within the Battalion will retain an "active status" as long as there remains at least one active member of the Battalion on its membership roles. However, units of less than five(5) "active members" are not entitled to representation on staff for voting purposes.
 - 5a. "Active members" are members who not only pay their dues, but who attend at least two "Battalion Affiliated" events and one "Other" event. Only those "active members" are entitled to vote in elections and in determining Battalion Policy. Only "active members" portraying ACTIVE military impression will be allowed to vote on issues identified as military, such as the annual calendar, military leadership within the Battalion and etc. All "active members" will be permitted to vote on non-military issues.
 - 5b. Event Attendance rosters must be received by the Battalion Adjutant no more than thirty (30) days after the conclusion of any event on the Battalion schedule. Rosters received by the Adjutant after that time period may not count towards recognition for Battalion privileges such as voting rights. All Attendance Rosters must be received by the adjutant no less than thirty (30) days prior to scheduled Battalion elections; events that occur at and/or after that thirty (30) day window will be considered for the following years attendance requirements. The Battalion Adjutant has sole authority to extend (only) the requirement minimum if circumstances dictate.
6. The dues for membership in the Palmetto Battalion are \$20.00 per adult, \$10.00 for children under 16, and \$50.00 max for a family in the same household. This is payable on or before the 1st of July of each year.
7. Any member who is not an "active member" and current with his battalion dues will not be allowed to vote in any election, nor can he hold any office on battalion staff.
8. Battalion elections will be held annually near the end of September on a date and site deemed appropriate by the battalion staff. The membership shall be notified no later than June 15th (of that year) of the exact time and place.
9. All "active members" of the battalion are entitled to vote in the yearly staff elections and will vote for the following positions: Colonel, Lt. Colonel, Sgt. Major, Color Sergeant, and Soldier of the year. Only those members assigned to a particular company are entitled to vote for the Captain, Lieutenant, two(2) Sergeants and four(4) Corporals of their company.
10. 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.

11. 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".
12. For the purpose of Absentee Ballots: Nominations for the positions of Colonel, Lt. Colonel, Sgt. Major, Color Sergeant, and Soldier of the Year 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.
13. No member of the Palmetto Battalion shall serve more than six (6) consecutive terms as Colonel of the Battalion. After completion of six (6) 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.
14. 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.
15. 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. 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.
16. The method for the removal or impeachment of any person holding rank or otherwise within the Battalion for just cause, such as 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 is as follows; at least five(5) active members must submit a list of charges and a request for impeachment to the Adjutant in writing. A Battalion meeting to decide the charges must be called within thirty(30) days of the Adjutant receiving the charges. 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. The person the charges are brought against shall then have twenty(20) minutes maximum to counter the charges and present their defense. At the conclusion of the above, the active members present shall vote on the question, and for the impeachment to carry at least 2/3 of the voting members present must vote for removal. If the person in question is on the company level, the above method will follow 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.
17. The Palmetto Battalion will not condone the filming or videoing of its activities for the purpose of profit, without the express consent of the Battalion staff. 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 the written assurance such film or video will not be used by the producer in an improper or exploitative fashion. 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. Additionally, the event host is responsible for denying security access to the event site by profit seekers wishing to film the Battalion's activities without the Battalion's authorization.

18. For past service to the Palmetto Battalion, member Bert Miller has been elected to the permanent position of "General of South Carolina Troops". This position carries no field authority and does not require him to discharge any duties he is not inclined to perform. He may on any ceremonial occasion he chooses assume his rank of General.
19. All members of the Palmetto Battalion are bound and required to follow the attached "Field Orders" and Safety Regulations. The attachments may be changed by a vote of the Staff. Any member found not complying to these attachments will be brought before the staff and subject to disciplinary action as above in #16.
20. The Palmetto Soldiers Relief Society (PSRS) is the Auxiliary of the Palmetto Battalion.
21. Prior to qualifying to become a new Palmetto Battalion Company you must petition the Colonel of the Palmetto Battalion to make your intent known. To obtain new company status for the infantry in the Palmetto Battalion you must have in attendance 20 rifles (men in the ranks and on the field), not including the company officers for a minimum of 5 Battalion Affiliated events or 4 Battalion Affiliated events and one "Other" event. "Other" event is defined as an event that cant be used for voting purposes during the reenactment year from July the 1st through June 30th. Company officers are defined as Captain and Lieutenant. Rifles are those who have paid Battalion dues and in the ranks for drill and battle. During the year of obtaining your eligibility you may be assigned to another Palmetto Battalion Company at the discretion of the Colonel. Once these guidelines have been met, the Palmetto Battalion membership will vote to allow or disallow Company status. If approved by the general membership the Colonel will assign a new company a letter. There will never be more that ten (10) companies in the Palmetto Battalion.
22. To remain an Infantry Company in the Palmetto Battalion you must put on the field a minimum of 16 rifles for three affiliated events or two affiliated events and one "Other" event for a period from July the 1st to June 30th of the reenacting year. Affiliated and "Other" events are defined as those events that have been voted on and approved by the Palmetto Battalion membership for voting purposes. Rifles are defined as men in the ranks and on the field with muskets not including the Company officers as shown in the total column of the from one (1) morning report. Company officers are defined as Captain and Lieutenant. Any man who would normally carry a rifle will also be counted "in the ranks and on the field" if he is a working volunteer for that company hosting the event. This should be noted on the form one (1) morning report. The morning report and weekend roster will be used to determine the amount of rifles. *If the company does not meet the 16 rifle requirement then that company(s) is placed on probation for a year. If the 16 rifle requirement is not met the second year then the Colonel will assign that company to another company. The company can continue working on their numbers and if they meet the 16 rifle requirement during a future reenacting year from July the 1st to June the 30th they can petition the Battalion membership to have their company letter back. The Colonel has the authority to combine companies for parade, drill and the battle as he sees needed for uniformity.

* The matter will be discussed with the company commander if 16+ rifles are being reported on the morning report and less is attending parade and drill.
23. Battalion members who are members of the Armed Forces, and their reserves, and currently deployed overseas in a combat zone, may be counted as "Active Members" and their battalion dues waived for the time they are deployed. These members may not be counted as "Rifles on the Field" by their perspective unit for the purpose of establishing or maintaining company status, but may be recognized on the Form-One Morning Report and during parade as being on "Detached Service" to bring attention to their service to the country.

24. One (1) position for Major of Artillery will be established at the PB command staff level. This individual will be the overall commander of Artillery at all PB affiliated events. The duties of this position will be to assure that the rules, regulations, policies and procedures set forth by the PB are adhered to at affiliated events and to coordinate the deployment of the guns and the overall Command of the artillery on the field. Due to the highly technical nature of the Artillery, all candidates must meet the following minimum requirements established for this position:

- (1) The candidate will be a member in good standing of the PB and one of its artillery batteries for five (5) years and will have attended a minimum of three (3) 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 will have held any of the following positions in the PB or one of its batteries for a period of one (1) year, prior to election: 2nd. Lt. of Artillery in any battery in the PB. 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 PB, prior to election.