

SONS OF THE AMERICAN LEGION (SAL) SQUADRON 282 BYLAWS
DISTRICT 22, AREA 5, DETACHMENT OF CALIFORNIA
AMERICAN LEGION LA MESA POST 282

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PREAMBLE

Proud possessors of a priceless heritage, we male descendants of veterans of the Great Wars, associate ourselves together as "Sons of the American Legion" 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 true spirit of Americanism; To preserve the memories of our former members and the associations of our members and our forefathers in the Great Wars; To inculcate a sense of individual obligation to the community, state and nation; To combat the autocracy of both the classes and the masses; To make right the master of might; To promote peace and good will on earth; To safeguard and transmit to posterity the principles of justice, freedom and democracy; To consecrate and sanctify our friendship by our devotion to mutual helpfulness; To adopt in letter and spirit all of the great principles for which the American Legion stands; and to assist in carrying on for God and Country.

ARTICLE I - NAME

Section 1. The name of the organization shall be the Sons of the American Legion (SAL) Squadron 282, a Program of the American Legion La Mesa Post 282; American Legion District 22, Area 5, Detachment of California, hereafter referred to as "Squadron", located in the J. A. Parks Memorial Building in La Mesa, California.

ARTICLE II - OBJECTS

Section 1. The objects and purpose of this Squadron is a defined Program of La Mesa Post 282 (a mutual benefit non-profit 501(c)(19) Veterans Organization) and shall so exist to promote the principles, policies, and programs as set forth in the Post's Bylaws, the above Preamble and in the Articles of Incorporation of American Legion La Mesa Post 282 (dated 12 Jan 1932, Corporation #147881 as amended), and in the National and Detachment Constitutions of the American Legion/Sons of the American Legion.

ARTICLE III - NATURE

Section 1. The Sons of The American Legion, Squadron 282, Detachment of California, is a civilian organization. Membership therein does not affect nor increase liability for military or police service.

Section 2. The Squadron shall be non-sectarian and absolutely non-political. It shall not be used for dissemination of partisan principles or for the promotion of the candidacy of any person or group seeking public office or preferment.

Section 3. Each member shall perform his full duty as a citizen according to his own conscience and understanding, in accord with the law.

Section 4. The mission of Squadron 282 is to place an emphasis on preserving American traditions and values, improving the quality of life for our nation's children, caring for veterans and their

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families, teaching the fundamentals of good citizenship, and to assist with Programs and needs of Post 282.

ARTICLE IV - ORGANIZATION

Section 1. This Squadron is organized as a subordinate body of the Sons of the American Legion, Detachment of California, as a Program of Post 282 under the sponsorship and jurisdiction of American Legion La Mesa Post 282, Detachment of California, The American Legion.

Section 2. This Squadron shall be governed by such rules and regulations as may be prescribed by the National Executive Committee of the American Legion, by such rules and regulations as may be prescribed by the Detachment Headquarters, approved by the Detachment Executive Committee of the American Legion, and by such rules and regulations as may be prescribed by its sponsoring Post of the American Legion and these Bylaws, not inconsistent with those prescribed by the National Organization.

Section 3. Changes to Squadron 282 organization, structure, Bylaws, etc., must be approved by the Commander of American Legion La Mesa Post 282 prior to implementation unless change is otherwise dictated by an authorized higher authority; in such case, the La Mesa Post 282 Commander and the Post's Executive Board shall be so informed.

ARTICLE V - MEMBERSHIP ELIGIBILITY

Section 1. Membership does not have age restrictions and is open to all male descendants, adopted sons (their male descendants), stepsons (their male descendants), grandsons, great-grandsons (etc.) of members of The American Legion, a deceased member of The American Legion, or a deceased Veteran who would be eligible for membership in the American Legion, if alive, who served during WWI, WWII, Korean War, Vietnam War, Lebanon, Grenada, Panama, Persian Gulf War, various recognized campaigns, or the War on Terrorism.

Section 2. If a current American Legion member drops his/her membership with The American Legion, the SAL member may continue his membership by keeping his dues updated each year (continuous membership, no lapses). Should his dues lapse, he would become ineligible for membership until, and if, the qualifying Veteran re-joined The American Legion or passed away.

Section 3. The Squadron, Detachment and National Constitutions and By-Laws require all new members show and provide a copy of document(s) of their eligibility for membership. Suggested forms of proof are Form DD214, service discharge, National Cemetery Burial Record, a certified copy of a Death Certificate with service dates, or VA Medical Center Records with service dates. The Squadron shall obtain and retain the master list from National Hq as proof of eligibility. DD Forms 214 or other such documents shall not be retained due to privacy (Privacy Act).

Section 4. There shall be no form of class of membership except active membership.

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ARTICLE VI - APPLICANTS AND MEMBERSHIP

Section 1. Candidates for membership in this Squadron shall make application upon a form prescribed by the National Organization, pay therewith the established dues then payable as required, and furnish official evidence of eligibility which will be returned to the applicant.

Section 2. All applications for membership shall be acted upon at the first business meeting following the receipt of the completed application. If a simple majority of Squadron members cast their vote against the acceptance of such applicant, then such applicant shall be recorded as rejected. A rejected applicant may again submit application and be considered after a period of six months from the date of such rejection.

Section 3. Members may be suspended or expelled under the same procedures provided for the suspension or expulsion of a member of The American Legion.

ARTICLE VII - OFFICERS

Section 1. The officers of Squadron 282 shall be Commander, 1st Vice Commander, 2nd Vice Commander, Adjutant, Finance Officer, Chaplain, Historian, Sergeant-At-Arms, and three Executive Board (E-Board) members. The Commander may, at his discretion, combine the offices of Adjutant and Finance Officer and, if desired, name an Assistant to any other appointed position as needed.

Section 2. The Commander, Vice Commanders, and the E-Board are elective positions. The non-elective officers, i.e., appointed by the Commander and serving at his pleasure, shall be Adjutant, Finance Officer, Chaplain, Judge Advocate, Historian and Sergeant-at-Arms. The Squadron Advisor, appointed by the Post 282 Commander, is not an officer of the Squadron but may attend any official meeting.

Section 3. Nominations for elective officers and the members of the Squadron Executive Committee will begin at the Post's regular membership meeting in April of each year and the nominations will remain open until closed immediately prior to the election held at the regular membership meeting in May of each year. The announcement of, and for, nominations, counting of ballots, and announcement of the results shall be by the Adjutant. One other person will be designated at the meeting to verify the ballot count.

Section 4. Post officers shall be elected/appointed for a term of one year, or until a successor has been elected/appointed, at the regularly scheduled meeting in May of each year – AT LEAST 20 DAYS PRIOR TO THE OPENING OF THE ANNUAL DETACHMENT CONVENTION. They shall be impressively installed, preferably by a ritual team, in accordance with the prevailing National Manual of Ceremonies at the Squadron's June meeting, and shall then immediately assume the elected/appointed position.

Section 5. That in the event any Squadron Officer and/or Committee member shall absent himself for three consecutive meetings of the regularly scheduled business meetings without being formally excused, member willingly ceases membership in the Squadron or Sons of the American Legion,

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member decides he/she will not perform the office for which elected or appointed, or member departs the office for unknown reasons, such office shall be declared vacant and be so ratified by membership at the same meeting that the office has been declared vacant.

Section 6. The vacancy so created (Section 5, above) shall be filled by election or appointment, as per the same for which originally filled with the exception being for the elected Commander and Vice Commander positions whereas the junior elected officer would automatically be eligible to rise to a more vacated senior position without vote of the membership; the then vacated lower ranked elected officer position would at that time require an election to occupy that vacant office.

Section 7. For elective positions, the voting will take place at the next regularly scheduled meeting following the vacancy which will provide for a period of announcement of the vacancy. Written notice is defined as meeting minutes posted on the bulletin board, website, and electronic mailing to those who have provided a current email address. For appointed office, fill can be immediately made upon position vacancy since no pre-announcement is necessary.

ARTICLE VIII - SQUADRON EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Section 1. The members of the Executive Committee shall consist of all elective officers for the current year, Adjutant, Finance Officer, and the three elected E-Board members. The Squadron Commander shall be the Chairman of the Squadron 282 Executive Committee. Other Post 282 officers and Past Squadron Commanders may be invited to Squadron Executive Committees for consultation purposes but shall not have an official vote.

Section 2. Between regularly scheduled business meetings of the Squadron, the members of the Executive Committee, a quorum of three when meeting, shall be authorized to make decisions of the Squadron, including financial matters, between the business meetings as required by the situation. Should the E-Board members decide to meet on their own to discuss any manner they see fit, their decisions are advisory only which shall be considered at a regularly conducted membership meeting.

Section 3. The membership shall be advised of decision(s) made as a result of the above Article VIII Section 2 meeting and shall be an item of discussion at the next regularly scheduled business meeting following the meeting of the Executive Committee. All shall be reflected in the official Minutes of that meeting.

Section 4. Any appointed officer may be removed for just cause by the Squadron Commander or by at least four votes of the Executive Committee. Reasons could include irregular or non-attendance at meetings, undependability, failure to perform the position to which appointed, inability to get along with others, etc.. For an elected office, such removal must be by Trial.

ARTICLE IX - SQUADRON ELECTIONS

Section 1. Squadron personnel shall be annually elected and appointed for the same term, normally consisting of one year.

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Section 2. The date of such elections should conform, as close as possible, to the annual election of La Mesa Post 282 Officers. The elected Squadron officers shall be subject to the approval of American Legion Post 282 (Per the Sons of the Legion National Constitution).

Section 3. Members of any age in good standing shall be allowed to participate in the election process and hold any office.

Section 4. The elected and appointed officers shall remain in good standing and their dues maintain current; to do otherwise shall be cause for removal.

ARTICLE X - DUTIES OF OFFICERS

Section 1. Commander, who corresponds to the President of an organization, shall be the executive head of this Squadron of the Sons of the American Legion with full power to enforce the provisions of the Constitution and Bylaws, and the policies and mandates of the National and of the Detachment committees of the Sons of the American Legion, Area 5, District 22, and of the Executive Committee of the Squadron and La Mesa Post 282 Commander.

Section 2. 1st Vice Commander, who corresponds to the 1st Vice President of an organization, shall act as a representative of the Commander on all matters referred to him. He shall perform such other duties as are usually inherent to the Office such as Membership Chairman, Fundraising, Historian, and other duties as assigned.

Section 3. 2nd Vice Commander, who corresponds to the 2nd Vice President of an organization, shall likewise act as a representative of the Commander and he shall specifically be in charge of Squadron programs related to youth, community, and citizenship and who may also function as the lead Historian or so direct those activities. The 2nd Vice Commander shall also perform such other duties as assigned.

Section 4. Adjutant shall be the Chief Administrative Officer of the Squadron. His duties will be performed in accordance with the Constitution; Squadron and Post By-Laws and Standing Rules, and by maintaining the Squadron records and publishing necessary orders, announcements, and instructions. He and the 1st Vice Commander shall be involved with Squadron membership recruiting and renewal and transfer processes. The Squadron Adjutant shall also perform such other duties as assigned.

Section 5. Finance Officer shall be the Chief Financial Officer of the Squadron and the custodian of all funds. He shall be charged with receiving and disbursing the funds of the Squadron, accounting and monitoring financial matters, and shall make regular reports upon the condition of the Squadron's treasury. The Finance Officer shall also perform such other duties as assigned. This position (and others if on the bank account as authorized to disburse funds) must be properly Bonded by the Department of California.

Section 6. Chaplain shall be charged with the spiritual welfare of all Squadron comrades and offer divine but non-sectarian service in the event of dedications, funerals, public functions, meetings, etc..

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The Chaplain will adhere to such ceremonial rituals as are recommended by the National or Detachment Headquarters. The Chaplain shall also perform such other duties as assigned.

Section 7. Historian shall be charged with the individual records and incidents of the Squadron's members; take pictures of meetings and events; assist with maintaining the Post's website and/or other Squadron approved social media by inputting of articles, pictures, etc.; and perform such other duties as assigned.

Section 8. Sergeant-at-Arms shall be responsible for ensuring the meeting room is properly set-up; preserving order at all Squadron meetings and to ensure only those authorized persons are admitted to official meetings; have custody of the Squadron's Colors, posting per decorum at meetings; escort and announce dignitaries and guests; and perform such other duties as assigned.

Section 9. Executive Board functions as an advisor in any and all situations of the Squadron, helping ensure all is properly done and executed.

Section 10. Advisor, appointed by the Post 282 Commander, is to advise the Post 282 Commander as to what the Squadron is doing. The Advisor shall not interrupt the affairs of the Squadron nor shall the Advisor act in any way as an enforcer. Should any Squadron officer or member have a problem with any member of Post 282 or of its policies, the Advisor can bring those matters to the attention of the Post 282 Commander for appropriate action if the Squadron Commander cannot, or will not, for whatever reason. If a SAL member, the Advisor can only speak in that capacity.

ARTICLE XI - DUES

Section 1. The annual membership dues of this squadron shall be as stated in the Post 282 Standing Rules; dues can change only per the approval of Squadron membership at a regular business meeting or special meeting called for this purpose and shall not be retroactively applied. Dues for the following year is payable after the close of each year's Detachment Convention.

Section 2. A member whose dues for the current year have not been paid by January first shall be classed as delinquent. If his dues are paid on or before February first, he shall be automatically reinstated. If he is still delinquent after February first, he shall be suspended from all privileges such as holding an elected or appointed office, voting, attending meetings, and Canteen privileges. If he is under such suspension on June 30th of such year, his membership in the Sons of the American Legion shall thus be forfeited.

Section 3. A member so suspended or whose membership has been so forfeited may be reinstated to active membership in good standing (See Article V, Section 2) by a favorable vote of the Squadron and payment of current dues for the year in which reinstatement occurs. The Squadron, Detachment and/or National Organization may waive the provisions hereof, upon payment of dues for the year in which reinstatement occurs, with reference to former members who had been prevented from the payment of dues by reason of active military service.

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ARTICLE XII - SQUADRON MEETINGS AND RULES OF ORDER

Section 1. The schedule of regularly scheduled business meetings will be as listed in the Post 282 Standing Rules. Change of meeting days and times shall be as approved by the Squadron's membership which are normally held at the same location as La Mesa Post 282's meetings.

Section 2. Special meetings shall be called upon a majority of vote of the Executive Committee or upon the written request of five Squadron members. There shall be a minimum of five days notification which shall state the object and purpose thereof, location, date and time. No business shall be transacted at such special meetings except for such business as is pre-announced in the notification to all members. Notification will be via membership email (whose email address is known), Post 282 website, and notice in the Post 282 facility.

Section 3. Baseball type cap coverings or other non-approved head coverings of the Sons of the American shall not be worn at business meetings. Authorized uniform caps shall only be worn.

Section 4. Activities sponsored by the Squadron or performed in conjunction with, or in support of, Post 282 shall be for the benefit of the membership, community, American Legion, and/or facility.

Section 5. The ceremony for opening and closing of meetings, initiation of new members and installation of officers shall be conducted as prescribed and approved by the Sons of The American Legion National Constitution as of October 2010 with subsequent amendments as adopted and approved from time to time by the membership at National Conventions.

Section 6. Roberts Rules of Order, Revised, shall govern the conduct of all meetings except as may be otherwise provided in these Bylaws and the Post's Standing Rules.

Section 7. No member will be permitted to speak on any one subject (Pro or Con) more than twice; and the first time no longer than five minutes, and the second time no longer than three minutes. The exceptions would be a committee report, analyses and recommendations with the goal to improve Squadron operations, and/or approved visiting guests who have a message to impart.

Section 8. When necessary to provide notice to the entire membership, such written notice is defined as meeting minutes posted on the bulletin board, website, and electronic mailing to those who have provided a current email address. For the normal business transactions of the Post, posting of the minutes and notices on the bulletin board and website are deemed sufficient to inform the membership.

Section 9. Minutes of each meeting shall be posted on the website and available in the facility.

Section 10. The Squadron Order of Business in a regularly scheduled business meeting shall be:

1. Opening Ceremonies (National Manual of Procedure)
2. Roll Call of Officers
3. Reading of Minutes of Previous Meeting

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4. Introduction of Past Commanders, VIPs, and Guests
5. Nomination, Election, Appointment or Installation of Officers
6. Applications for Membership and Balloting of the same
7. Installation Ceremony of New Members
8. Chaplain Report (death, sick call and/or relief)
9. Thirty Seconds Silence in Honor of our Departed Comrades
10. Report of Finance Officer (Business and Non-Business)
12. Report of Committees
13. Old Business
14. New Business
15. Good and Welfare of the Legion
16. Closing Ceremony (National Manual of Procedure)

Section 11. There shall be a minimum of ten regularly scheduled business meetings per year.

ARTICLE XIII - QUORUM

Section 1. A total of five members that includes the presiding officer shall constitute a quorum at any regular or special meeting of the Squadron.

Section 2. The presiding officer is the Commander and in his absence, shall be the senior Vice Commander present; if all elected officers are absent, the Adjutant may preside the meeting.

ARTICLE XIV - FINANCES

Section 1. The Squadron shall maintain a general operating account.

Section 2. A yearly budget shall be developed and the approved yearly budget will reflect regularly foreseen disbursements and which shall be approved by the general membership at a regularly scheduled business meeting which shall also be the forum for revising an approved budget. Emergency expenditures can be approved by the Squadron Executive Committee in a special meeting called for that purpose.

Section 3. At each business meeting, the membership shall be provided a full financial report to include income, expenditures, expected bills and income, money owed, and money remaining in the account. Excel spreadsheet accounting is strongly encouraged.

Section 4. An approved budget does not again require membership approval for expenditure of funds since it in fact becomes approved financial guidance provided the income is sufficient for the payment of budgeted items.

Section 5. The officers authorized to sign checks and access the funds of the account of the Squadron shall be the Squadron Commander and Finance Officer (and assistant Finance Officer if so named); The Post 282 Commander and Finance Officer shall be allowed electronic access to the

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account but not authorized to disburse funds unless in an emergency for Squadron 282 obligations. One signature is required for any check.

Section 6. Those having access to the bank account and authorized to disburse funds shall be properly Bonded by the Department of California.

Section 7. The Post 282 Finance Officer shall be the account's Administrator who is authorized to deny account access of those so authorized if rationale exists; Post 282 Commander shall be so consulted. All who are authorized to electronically access the account should regularly monitor the account to ensure financial integrity.

Section 8. The Post 282 Finance Officer is available for whatever assistance may be necessary.

Section 9. An audit shall be finalized not later than 30 days after the Detachment convention. There shall be three elected or appointed officers who are not approved to disburse funds and not registered on the bank account, nor otherwise involved with Squadron banking in any way. The Finance Officer does not sign the audit but may be present to answer questions.

Section 10. Sometime within the month of January of each year, the Finance Officer shall provide a signed report to Post 282 Finance Officer that lists: Dues received, donations received, funds spent and rationale, dues remittances to District and/or National, and money in the account as of 31 December. Since the Squadron is a Program of Post 282, this report will be consolidated with Post 282 for income tax reporting to the Internal Revenue Service.

ARTICLE XV - STANDING COMMITTEES

Section 1. Standing committees are determined by the Commander and/or the membership. At the very least, committees shall be created for Membership, Fundraising, Youth Development, Citizenship, Community Service and the committees shall consider the youth in the SAL organization and the activities and needs of Post 282. Committees consider requirements and resources. Note the duties of the officers, in particular that of the 1st and 2nd Vice Commanders who have committee responsibilities and are thus chairs of certain named committees and who may solely perform the duties of that committee.

Section 3. The committee chair is responsible for determining the need for additional committee members.

Section 3. Post 282 committees are a guide to follow by the Squadron and who may wish to fully participate in that particular Program.

Section 4. Fund raising is a constant consideration for Squadron and Post 282 Programs, facility, and as needs may exist (approved by the membership) for SAL District, Detachment, and National causes.

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ARTICLE XVI - CONVENTION NATIONAL AND DETACHMENT

Section 1. Delegates and alternates to the National and/or Detachment Convention shall be elected by the general membership at the first general meeting in May considering the quantity of allowed delegates and alternates as received from Detachment. The Squadron Commander and Adjutant shall be automatic delegates.

Section 2. Elected Squadron delegates and alternates should have attended at least 50% of the Squadron general membership meetings.

Section 3. Delegates and alternates should attend all of the Detachment Convention meetings.

Section 4. Reimbursement for convention expenses shall only be considered if approved in advance of such convention by the general membership at a regular business meeting.

ARTICLE XVII - CONVENTION DISTRICT

Section 1. Delegates to the District Convention shall be the Commander, one or more Senior Vice Commanders, and the Adjutant.

Section 2. Voting at the District meeting, normally by the senior officer present, shall consider the wishes of the elected Squadron's officers and be consistent with the Constitution, By-Laws, and guidance of the District.

ARTICLE XVIII - AMENDMENTS TO BYLAWS

Section 1. These Bylaws are adopted, subject to the provisions of the National Bylaws and the Detachment Bylaws, of which this Squadron is a subordinate member. Any amendment to the National or Detachment Bylaws, which is in conflict with any provision hereof, shall be regarded as automatically repealing or modifying the provisions of these Bylaws to the extent of such conflict.

Section 2. These Bylaws may be amended at any Squadron meeting by a vote of two-thirds of the members so present at a regular business meeting or special meeting called for this purpose; provided, however that the proposed amendment(s) shall have been submitted by resolution and read at the immediate preceding Squadron meeting, and provided further, that all members are notified at least five days in advance that such a proposal to amend the Bylaws is to be voted upon with notification per email to those members with a known email account, a notice within the facility where meetings are regularly held, and on the website.

CERTIFICATION

Per the signatures, the Commander, Adjutant, and Post 282 Commander certify to the following:

We hereby certify that the above Bylaws were read at two meetings, the first being held at the Special Business meeting of the Squadron on 8 Aug 2015 and the second at the Special Business

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meeting of the Squadron 15 August 2015. At both meetings, a quorum was present and these Bylaws were approved by at least two-thirds vote cast by members entitled to vote, excluding blanks or abstentions, at these special meetings.

First Reading: 8 August 2015

Second Reading and Adoption: 15 August 2015

NOTE: ALL WERE SIGNED BY THE APPROPRIATE OFFICIALS ON 15 AUGUST 2016

Signed: _____ Date: _____
Commander MATTHEW C. MARLOW, Sons of the American Legion, Squadron 282

Signed: _____ Date: _____
Adjutant/Finance Officer JOHN R. PORATH, Sons of the American Legion, Squadron 282

Signed: _____ Date: _____
Post Commander JOHN R. PORATH, La Mesa Post 282, The American Legion

By-Laws of The Sons of The American Legion, Squadron 282 attached to La Mesa Post 282, La Mesa, California; located at 8118 University Avenue, La Mesa, CA 91942; mailing address: P.O. Box 265, La Mesa, CA 91944-0265.

**Approved By James A Eubanks
Detachment Constitution and Bylaws Chairman 02/13/16
Confirmation of signature to be by transmitting of said document to the Detachment of California Adjutant this 13th day of February, Two thousand and sixteen.**

Note: These Constitution and Bylaws not valid unless signed by Squadron and Post Officers and after signed, upon receipt by Committee Chairman and Detachment Adjutant.