

THE LONE STAR GAZETTE

THE QUARTERLY PUBLICATION OF THE TEXAS SOCIETY MOS&B

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DONALD E. LEE, EDITOR

2000 TEXAS SOCIETY CONVENTION

The Texas Society will hold their annual meeting at Camp Allen, June 16-18, 2000, hosted by the Grimes County Greys Camp Number 924. By now everyone should have received the Texas Division notice along with the recent mailing of the *Texas Division Dispatch*. If you did not receive it yet, please contact Compatriot Jim Westmoreland, P. O. Box 174, Navasota, Texas 77868, or make photocopies of the Registration Forms. They have a web site that you can download the Registration Forms from: www.rootsweb.com/~txscvsrc/regformscv.htm. The Convention General Information web site for the preliminary convention agenda can be seen at: www.rootsweb.com/~txscvsrc/reginfoscv.htm.

SCV-MOS&B NATIONAL CONVENTION IN CHARLESTON, SOUTH CAROLINA

It is not too early to start making plans for our national convention in historic Charleston on August 2-5, 2000. Registration forms should be coming out in the next *Confederate Veteran*. If you are on the internet you can download the forms and get updated information at: www.scv4.com/. The host hotel is all ready sold out!

NEW MOS&B CHAPTER IN TEXAS!

The Captain David Whitfield Snodgrass Chapter Number 245 of Fort Worth, Texas has been granted a Charter which will be presented at the upcoming 2000 Texas Society MOS&B Convention at Camp Allen. They have started out with seven Charter Members. Their Charter will be presented at Camp Allen.

There are several other Camps in the process of establishing a MOS&B Chapter. The John Bell Hood Camp Number 50 in Galveston is getting close. The Capitol Guards Camp Number 1262 in Austin almost has almost the required number, the Granbury's Texas Brigade Camp Number 1479 in Conroe just needs a few more recruits to meet the required number of five.

THE TEXAS SOCIETY MOS&B ROSTER

A note to the Chapter Adjutants and members: please forward any address changes to G. Ronald Aldis, Texas Society Adjutant and any e-mail addresses. We are in hopes that when all the data is gathered together to send the Chapter's Texas Society Rosters to the Chapter Adjutant for

distribution. E-mails are quick and economical (no postage or printing costs). Hopefully, much of our correspondence and distribution of The Lone Star Gazette can be done by this method.

TEXAS SOCIETY LIFE MEMBERSHIP

We need to discuss and act upon Life Membership for those wishing it in the Texas Society. We have had the problem of the cost of the lapel pins. This is not a problem as they are being underwritten by a donor who wishes to be anonymous. Doug Moore has been appointed to look into a proposed fee. The national fee for Life Membership is \$200. Let us hear your wishes.

TEXAS SOCIETY CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENTS

PROPOSED SOCIETY CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENTS

COMMANDER'S NOTE: For many years both the State and National Societies have conducted elections without regard to the provisions of their respective constitutions. The purpose of this proposed amendment is to bring our State Society Constitution in line with the de facto method of electing officers followed historically. This amendment was prepared at my request by your State Parliamentarian, Judge Edward F. Butler, Sr., who also serves as the National Deputy Judge Advocate General.

HISTORY:

With regard to election of officers the national constitution, is substantially identical to the Texas State Society Constitution. The national (Art. IV, Sec. 1) provides as follows: "The Commander General and the Lieutenant Commander General shall be elected by a ballot vote of the majority of the delegates present and entitled to vote at the General Convention of the Society held in even-numbered years".

The state constitution (Art. IV, Sec. 1) provides as follows: "The Commander and the Lieutenant Commander shall be elected by a ballot vote of the majority of the delegates present and entitled to vote at the annual Convention of the Society".

Up until last year's state society convention, all election of officers at both the state and national levels had followed the provisions of national constitution entitled: Article X "Delegates - Voting", regarding which there is no similar article in the state society's constitution. Basically Sec. 1 of Art. X provides for the appointment of one delegate for every 5 active members or major fraction thereof. Sec. 2 of Art. X covers votes by delegates for matters other than the election of officers:

"In all questions to the General Convention the Chair shall put the question for a voice vote. On motion of at least one-third (1/3) of the delegates present and voting, each delegate having one vote, the chapters shall be called in order, the number of votes each is entitled to stated and the vote on the question announced by the chairman of each delegation...

"A. Each chapter in roll call or ballot voting shall be entitled to cast the number of votes equal to the number of delegates to which it is entitled...If only one delegate is present, the delegate shall be entitled to cast the total number of votes to which his chapter is entitled".

PROPOSED AMENDMENT NO. 1:

To delete the current Art. IV, Sec. 1 of the state constitution provides as follows:

"The Commander and the Lieutenant Commander shall be elected by a ballot vote of the majority of the delegates present and entitled to vote at the annual Convention of the Society", and to insert in lieu thereof, the provision of the national society constitution, Sec. 2 of Art. X, Sub-section A, which has governed the election of officers; the following:

"Art. IV, Sec. 1

"A. The Commander and the Lieutenant Commander shall be elected by a ballot vote at the annual Convention of the Society".

"B. For the election of the Commander and Lieutenant Commander, and in all questions to the General Convention the Chair shall put the question for a voice vote. On motion of at least one-third (1/3) of the delegates present and voting, each delegate having one vote, the chapters shall be called in order, the number of votes each is entitled to stated and the vote on the question announced by the chairman of each delegation.

"C. Each chapter in roll call or ballot voting shall be entitled to cast the number of votes equal to the number of delegates to which it is entitled. If only one delegate is present, that delegate shall be entitled to cast the total number of votes to which his chapter is entitled".

"D. Only delegates with proper written credentials may be entitled to cast his chapter's votes. Each chapter should notify the convention credential committee in writing with the names of its authorized delegates".

RATIONALE:

To bring the constitutional provisions relating to the election of officers in line with the historical Practices of both the state and national societies.

PROPOSED AMENDMENT NO. 2:

If, and only if, PROPOSED AMENDMENT NO. 1 is defeated, then the following amendment is proposed:

To Add the following as Section 5 of Article IV of the state society constitution:

"In all questions to the General Convention the Chair shall put the question for a voice vote. On motion of at least one-third (1/3) of the delegates present and voting, each delegate having one vote, the chapters shall be called in order, the number of votes each is entitled to stated and the vote on the question announced by the chairman of each delegation.

"A. Each chapter in roll call or ballot voting shall be entitled to cast the number of votes equal to the number of delegates to which it is entitled. If only one delegate is present, the delegate shall be entitled to cast the total number of votes to which his chapter is entitled".

RATIONALE:

This is a verbatim copy of Sec. 2 of Art. X of the national society constitution, which covers votes by delegates for matters other than the election of officers. If proposed amendment No. 1 is passed, there is no need for proposed amendment No. 2.

CHAPTER COMMANDERS AUTHORIZED TO AWARD TWO NEW MEDALS. CONVENTION TO VOTE ON STANDARDIZING MEDALS; ALLOW SOCIETY COMMANDER TO AWARD THREE MEDALS

Your State Society Commander appointed Judge Edward F. Butler, Sr., as the Special Projects Chairman. I asked him to come up with a program that would allow the chapter commander to award medals to members of the chapter. It was felt that mere certificates were inadequate to reward the many compatriots who have worked so hard over the years to further the cause.

Judge Butler is also the State Society Parliamentarian and the Deputy Judge Advocate General for the national society. The following Resolution will be introduced at the state society convention by the San Antonio Chapter, with a second by the Houston and Plano Chapters. The medal design contest was judged by Compatriots John Wilmeth, Joe Ware and Judge Butler. We urge each delegate to support this much needed resolution.

Based upon a legal opinion from the National Judge Advocate General, each chapter is now free to award such medals as it sees fit. This resolution will not only standardize the medals awarded in Texas, but will also authorize the state society commander to award three new medals. There will be a table at the convention where each chapter can order the medals it wishes to award. It is hoped that once our state society passes this resolution, we can get the national society to adopt the same medal for international use.

TEXAS SOCIETY MILITARY ORDER OF THE STARS AND BARS RESOLUTION

WHEREAS, each chapter in the Military Order of the Stars and The Bars is given great autonomy in the presentation of medals and awards; and

WHEREAS, the Judge Advocate General has informed this Society that he knows of no prohibition that would prevent this Society and its local chapters from designing and presenting awards and medals; and

WHEREAS, there is no prohibition in the Constitution or By Laws of the Military Order of the Stars and The Bars that would prevent a State Society or its chapter from creating and awarding medals to members of that society or chapter; and

WHEREAS, there are many members of this society and its chapters who have performed their duties as officers and committee members in an exemplary manner, and are deserving of more than just a Certificate of Appreciation; and

WHEREAS, it is desirable to standardize the medals awarded by the society and its many chapters; and

WHEREAS, the Special Projects Committee has come up with an attractive design for the medals and will have samples and drawings at the convention;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED AS FOLLOWS:

1. The TEXAS SOCIETY of the MILITARY ORDER OF THE STARS AND THE BARS adopts three new medals: one to awarded solely at the society level; and two medals for the chapters, the first award of each to be made in 2000. At that time all current members who have performed meritoriously at any time in the past shall be eligible for award of said medals. At the first award, there shall be no limit to the number of medals of each category that may be awarded.

2. The three medals will be different in appearance.
 - A) The highest medal shall be known as the "MOSB Gold Star of Honor". It may be awarded only by the Society Commander.
 - B) The second medal will be the highest award that can be bestowed by the chapter. It shall be known as the "MOSB Silver Star of Honor". It may also be awarded by the Society Commander.
 - C) The third medal, will be for meritorious service which does not qualify for award of the first medal. It may be awarded by both the Society Commander and Chapter Commanders. It shall be known as the "MOSB Bronze Star of Honor".
3. The medals shall be manufactured in compliance with the attached drawings.
4. A small silver star shall be used to designate the subsequent award of said medal.
5. The State Society Commander may award as many medals of each class as he deems fit at any time before the 2001 convention
6. To insure that there is wide distribution of medals on the state level, from 2001 and thereafter, at least 50% of all medals awarded by the State Society Commander shall be upon the recommendation of the "Special Star of Honor Medal Awards Committee". Such committee shall consist of six members appointed by the Society Commander, each of whom shall be from different geographical areas of "Special Star of Honor Medal Awards Committee" of the state.
7. The "Special Star of Honor Medal Awards Committee" shall promulgate guidelines for the award of each medal. It shall also design forms which will allow any compatriot to recommend another compatriot to be selected at the state or chapter level.

COMMANDER'S COMMENTS

If you have not yet paid your national or Texas Society MOS&B dues please so immediately! We will accept the Chapter's dues until Saturday noon prior to the opening of the MOS&B meeting at the Convention. We would greatly appreciate receiving them earlier so they can be included in the printed Report of Texas Society Adjutant. The national MOS&B dues are \$20.00 and the Texas Society dues are \$2.00 per member. To be eligible to vote at Camp Allen in the Texas Society Convention and the International MOS&B Convention at Charleston, South Carolina THESE DUES MUST BE PAID.

We have an extra thirty minutes that does not show on the schedule that was mailed out by the Texas Division, so our session will be for one and one half hours. As we have many things to discuss, please be prompt for the meeting as it will begin on time. We will be giving the Charter to a new Chapter in Fort Worth, the Captain David Whitfield Snodgrass Chapter Number 254. Also, we will be voting on a Constitutional Amendment(s) to the Texas Society Constitution that is contained in to the new *Lone Star Gazette*, the newsletter of the Texas Society. We will also discuss Life Membership in the Texas Society. Past Commander Doug Moore is heading up this committee and will give a report to the Society membership. The cost of the lapel pin has been donated by an SCV member, that is not eligible for MOS&B, who wishes to be anonymous. The National fee for Life Membership is \$200.

The Texas Society has always been a leader in the Military Order of the Stars and Bars. Our Society needs a web site. There are currently three Societies that have web sites. Take a look at them at the SCV web site <http://www.scv.com/>. Two Texas Chapters have their web sites in operation. They are: the Major Chatham Roberdeau Wheat Chapter Number 224 in Plano, Texas and the Sul Ross Chapter Number 184 in San Antonio, Texas. The Albert Sidney Johnston Chapter Number 5 in Houston has a web site ready to air shortly.

Copies of the *Lone Star Gazette* for your notice and notice to your Chapter for Constitutional Amendments. and your chapter members have been mailed. The Texas Society has long needed such a publication! Also, I will have a few copies of the revised national *MOS&B Member's Handbook* on consignment from International Headquarters for \$10 if anyone wishes to purchase one.

Deo Vindici,

Walter P. Nass, Jr., Society Commander
Texas Society, MOS&B