

or impairment of, our constitutional Union; and to inculcate and broadly sustain the American principles of representative government, of equal rights, and of impartial justice for all.

(Aug. 20, 1954, ch. 774, § 3, 68 Stat. 749.)

#### § 534. Powers of corporation

The corporation shall have power—

- (1) to have succession by its corporate name;
- (2) to sue and be sued, complain and defend in any court of competent jurisdiction;
- (3) to adopt, use, and alter a corporate seal;
- (4) to choose such officers, managers, agents, and employees as the activities of the corporation may require;
- (5) to adopt, amend, and alter a constitution and bylaws; not inconsistent with the laws of the United States or any State in which the corporation is to operate, for the management of its property and the regulation of its affairs;
- (6) to contract and be contracted with;
- (7) to take by lease, gift, purchase, grant, devise, or bequest from any public body or agency or any private corporation, association, partnership, firm, or individual and to hold absolutely or in trust for any of the purposes of the corporation any property, real, personal, or mixed, necessary or convenient for attaining the objects and carrying into effect the purposes of the corporation, subject, however, to applicable provisions of law of any State (A) governing the amount or kind of property which may be held by, or (B) otherwise limiting or controlling the ownership of property by, a corporation operating in such State;
- (8) to transfer, convey, lease, sublease, encumber and otherwise alienate real, personal or mixed property; and
- (9) to borrow money for the purposes of the corporation, issue bonds therefor, and secure the same by mortgage, deed of trust, pledge or otherwise, subject in every case to all applicable provisions of Federal and State laws; and
- (10) to do any and all acts and things necessary and proper to carry out the objects and purposes of the corporation.

(Aug. 20, 1954, ch. 774, § 4, 68 Stat. 749.)

#### § 535. Membership

Eligibility for membership in the corporation and the rights, privileges, and designation of classes of members shall, except as provided in this chapter, be determined as the constitution and bylaws of the corporation may provide. Eligibility for membership in the corporation shall be limited to male blood relatives of persons who served between April 12, 1861, and April 9, 1865, as soldiers or sailors of the United States Army, Navy, Marine Corps or Revenue-Cutter Service, and of such State regiments as were called into active service and were subject to orders of United States general officers between the dates above mentioned and were honorably discharged therefrom at the close of such service or who died in such service.

(Aug. 20, 1954, ch. 774, § 5, 68 Stat. 750.)

#### REVENUE-CUTTER SERVICE

Coast Guard established in lieu of Revenue-Cutter Service and Life-Saving Service by act Jan. 28, 1915, ch.

20, § 1, 38 Stat. 800. That act was repealed by act Aug. 4, 1949, ch. 393, § 20, 63 Stat. 561, section 1 of which reestablished the Coast Guard by enacting Title 14, Coast Guard.

#### § 536. Government; composition; form; meeting plan

The supreme governing authority of the corporation shall be the national encampment thereof, composed of such officers and elected representatives from the several States and other local subdivisions of the corporate organization as shall be provided by the constitution and bylaws: *Provided*, That the form of the government of the corporation shall always be representative of the membership at large and shall not permit the concentration of the control thereof in the hands of a limited number of members or in a self-perpetuating group not so representative. The meetings of the national encampment may be held in any State or Territory or in the District of Columbia.

(Aug. 20, 1954, ch. 774, § 6, 68 Stat. 750.)

#### § 537. Council of administration

##### (a) Duration of authority; responsibilities

During the intervals between the national encampments, the council of administration shall be the governing board of the corporation and shall be responsible for the general policies, program, and activities of the corporation.

##### (b) Composition of initial council

Upon the enactment of this chapter the membership of the initial council of administration of the corporation shall consist of the present members of the council of administration of the Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War, the corporation described in section 548 of this title, or such of them as may then be living and are qualified members of said council of administration, to wit: Major General Ulysses S. Grant, 3d, retired; Dewey B. Mead; Reverend Hermon L. Brockway; Laurence J. Parker; George W. Kimball, Frederick K. Davis; and Albert C. Lambert.

##### (c) Composition of subsequent councils

Thereafter, the council of administration of the corporation shall consist of not less than seven members elected in the manner and for the term prescribed in the constitution and bylaws of the corporation.

(Aug. 20, 1954, ch. 774, § 7, 68 Stat. 750.)

#### § 538. Officers

The officers of the corporation shall be a commander in chief, a senior vice commander in chief, a junior vice commander in chief, a secretary and a treasurer (which latter two offices may be held by one person), and such other officers as may be prescribed in the constitution and bylaws. The officers of the corporation shall be selected in such manner and for such terms and with such duties and titles as may be prescribed in the constitution and bylaws of the corporation.

(Aug. 20, 1954, ch. 774, § 8, 68 Stat. 751.)

**§ 539. Principal office; territorial scope of activities; agent for service of process**

(a) The principal office of the corporation shall be located in Trenton, New Jersey, or in such other place as may be determined by the council of administration; but the activities of the corporation shall not be confined to that place, but may be conducted throughout the various States and District of Columbia, and Territories and possessions of the United States.

(b) The corporation shall have in the District of Columbia at all times a designated agent authorized to accept service of process for the corporation; and notice to or service upon such agent, or mailed to the business address of such agent, shall be deemed notice to or service upon the corporation.

(Aug. 20, 1954, ch. 774, §9, 68 Stat. 751.)

**§ 540. Distribution of income or assets to members; loans**

(a) No part of the income or assets of the corporation shall inure to any of its members or officers as such, or be distributable to any of them during the life of the corporation or upon its dissolution or final liquidation. Nothing in this subsection, however, shall be construed to prevent the payment of compensation to officers of the corporation or reimbursement for actual necessary expenses in amounts approved by the council of administration of the corporation.

(b) The corporation shall not make loans to its officers or employees. Any member of the council of administration who votes for or assents to the making of a loan or advance to an officer or employee of the corporation, and any officer who participates in the making of such a loan or advance, shall be jointly and severally liable to the corporation for the amount of such loan until the repayment thereof.

(Aug. 20, 1954, ch. 774, §10, 68 Stat. 751.)

**§ 541. Nonpolitical nature of corporation**

The corporation and its officers and agents as such shall not contribute to or otherwise support or assist any political party or candidate for public office.

(Aug. 20, 1954, ch. 774, §11, 68 Stat. 751.)

**§ 542. Liability for acts of officers and agents**

The corporation shall be liable for the acts of its officers and agents when acting within the scope of their authority.

(Aug. 20, 1954, ch. 774, §12, 68 Stat. 751.)

**§ 543. Prohibition against issuance of stock or payment of dividends**

The corporation shall have no power to issue any shares of stock or to declare or pay any dividends.

(Aug. 20, 1954, ch. 774, §13, 68 Stat. 751.)

**§ 544. Books and records; inspection**

The corporation shall keep correct and complete books and records of account and shall keep minutes of the proceedings of its national encampments and council of administration. All

books and records of the corporation may be inspected by any member, or his agent or attorney, for any proper purpose, at any reasonable time.

(Aug. 20, 1954, ch. 774, §14, 68 Stat. 751.)

**§ 545. Repealed. Pub. L. 88-504, §4(21), Aug. 30, 1964, 78 Stat. 637**

Section, act Aug. 20, 1954, ch. 774, §15, 68 Stat. 751, related to audit of financial transactions and report of such audit to Congress. See sections 1101 to 1103 of this title.

**§ 546. Annual report**

On or before March 1 of each year the corporation shall report to the Congress on its activities during the preceding fiscal year. Such report may consist of a report on the proceedings of the National Encampment covering such fiscal year. Such report shall not be printed as a public document.

(Aug. 20, 1954, ch. 774, §16, 68 Stat. 752.)

**§ 547. Exclusive right to name, emblems, seals, and badges**

The corporation and its subordinate divisions shall have the sole and exclusive right to use the name, the Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War. The corporation shall have the exclusive and sole right to use, or to allow or refuse the use of, such emblems, seals, and badges as it may legally adopt, and such emblems, seals, and badges as have heretofore been used by the Illinois corporation described in section 548 of this title and the right to which may be lawfully transferred to the corporation.

(Aug. 20, 1954, ch. 774, §17, 68 Stat. 752.)

**§ 548. Acquisition of assets and liabilities of existing corporation**

The corporation may acquire the assets of the Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War, a corporation organized under the laws of the State of Illinois, upon discharging or satisfactorily providing for the payment and discharge of all of the liability of such corporation and upon complying with all laws of the State of Illinois applicable thereto.

(Aug. 20, 1954, ch. 774, §18, 68 Stat. 752.)

SECTION REFERRED TO IN OTHER SECTIONS

This section is referred to in sections 537, 547 of this title.

**§ 549. Use of assets on dissolution or liquidation**

Upon dissolution or final liquidation of the corporation, after discharge or satisfaction of all outstanding obligations and liabilities, the remaining assets, if any, of the corporation shall be distributed in accordance with the determination of the council of administration and in compliance with the constitution and bylaws of the corporation and all Federal and State laws applicable thereto.

(Aug. 20, 1954, ch. 774, §19, 68 Stat. 752.)

**§ 550. Reservation of right to amend or repeal chapter**

The right to alter, amend, or repeal this chapter is expressly reserved.