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John Twardus, Stratham, New Hampshire; Gustave G. W. Laegeler, Newark, New Jersey; George F. Patton, Portales, New Mexico; William F. Schwab, Buffalo, New York; E. G. Kittles, Charlotte, North Carolina; Victor E. Morgan, Bridgeport, Ohio; Ray Snider, La Grande, Oregon; Leslie E. Barnhart, Uniontown, Pennsylvania; J. L. FitzGibbon, Columbia, South Carolina; C. W. Nevins, Fort Worth, Texas; Howard Houck, San Pedro, California; Charles Wetter, Santa Ana, California; A. Thomas Wheaton, Dearborn, Michigan; T. D. Ladd, Amarillo, Texas; Cornelius B. Prins, Fort Pierce, Florida;

Charles Ulmer, Wellington, Kansas; Louis Alterici, Charleroi, Pennsylvania; Robert Brown, Minneapolis, Minnesota; Joseph J. Strobel, Molalla, Oregon; James R. McClain, Springfield, Illinois; Henry H. Hitchings, Johnson City, New York; Albert J. Graf, Lake View, New York; William E. Kilgore, Ludlow, Kentucky; Leo Thornton, Hammond, Indiana; Daniel A. Chester, Spencer, North Carolina; Frank B. Pace, Oklahoma City, Oklahoma; O. B. Pritchett, Jefferson City, Missouri; Dayton H. Montgomery, Hot Springs, Arkansas; Melvin D. Eddy, Belmont, Massachusetts; James L. Culbert, Haverhill, Massachusetts;

Joseph Perrone, New London, Connecticut; George H. Hoak, Houton Lake Heights, Michigan; and William A. McVeigh, Victorville, California, and their associates and successors, are created and declared to be a body corporate of the District of Columbia, where its legal domicile shall be, the name of which shall be Veterans of World War I of the United States of America, Incorporated (hereinafter referred to as the "corporation"), and by such name the said corporation shall be known and have perpetual succession, the powers, limitations, and restrictions herein contained.

(Pub. L. 85-530, §1, July 18, 1958, 72 Stat. 370.)

SECTION REFERRED TO IN OTHER SECTIONS

This section is referred to in section 762 of this title.

§ 762. Completion of organization

The persons named in section 761 of this title are authorized, a majority concurring, to complete the organization of the corporation by the selection of officers and employees, the adoption of regulations and bylaws, not inconsistent with this chapter, and the doing of such other acts as may be necessary for such purpose.

(Pub. L. 85-530, §2, July 18, 1958, 72 Stat. 371.)

§ 763. Objects and purposes of corporation

The purposes of the corporation shall be patriotic, fraternal, historical, and educational, in the service and for the benefit of veterans of World War I and are as follows:

(1) To provide for the veterans of World War I an organization for their mutual benefit, pleasure, and amusement, which will afford them the opportunities and means for personal contact with each other in order to keep alive friendships and memories of World War I and to venerate the memory of their honored dead;

(2) To cooperate to the fullest extent and in a harmonious manner with all veterans' organizations to the end that the best interests of all veterans of all wars in which the United States of America has participated, and the widows and orphans of deceased veterans of such wars, may be best served;

(3) To stimulate communities and political subdivisions into taking more interest in veterans of World War I, the widows and orphans of such deceased veterans, and the problems of such veterans and their widows and orphans;

(4) To collate, preserve, and encourage the study of historical episodes, chronicles, mementos, and events pertaining to World War I;

(5) To fight vigorously to uphold the Constitution and laws of the United States, as well as the individual States of the Union and to foster the spirit and practice of true Americanism;

(6) To fight unceasingly for our national security in order to protect Americans from enemies within our borders, as well as those from without, to the end that our American way of life be preserved;

(7) To fight to the utmost all those alien forces, particularly forces such as communism, whose objectives are to deny our very existence as a free people; and

(8) To do any and all acts and things necessary and proper to carry out the objects and purposes of the corporation.

(Pub. L. 85-530, §3, July 18, 1958, 72 Stat. 371.)

§ 764. 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, 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;

(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.

(Pub. L. 85-530, § 4, July 18, 1958, 72 Stat. 371.)

§ 765. Membership

Eligibility for membership in the corporation and the rights, privileges, and designation of classes of members shall be determined as the constitution and bylaws of the corporation may provide but in no case shall eligibility for all classes of membership include persons who did not serve honorably in the armed forces of the United States during the period beginning April 6, 1917 and ending November 11, 1918.

(Pub. L. 85-530, § 5, July 18, 1958, 72 Stat. 372.)

SECTION REFERRED TO IN OTHER SECTIONS

This section is referred to in sections 761, 767 of this title.

§ 766. Governing authority; composition; form; meeting places

(a) The supreme governing authority of the corporation shall be the national convention 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, each of such duly elected representatives to be entitled to one vote at such national convention. 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 convention may be held in any State or Territory or in the District of Columbia.

(b) Each member of the corporation, other than associate or honorary members, shall have the right to one vote on each matter submitted to a vote at all other meetings of the members of the corporation.

(Pub. L. 85-530, § 6, July 18, 1958, 72 Stat. 372.)

§ 767. Board of administration

(a) Governing period

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

(b) Initial board

Upon the enactment of this chapter the membership of the initial board of administration of the corporation shall consist of such of the following present members of the board of administration of the Veterans of World War I of the United States of America, Incorporated (the corporation described in section 778 of this title) as qualify for membership under section 765 of this title and who are qualified members of said board of administration, to wit: Harlan W. Barnes, Lewis Brake, Fred J. Hollenbeck, Reginald H. Murphy, Junior, Stanton L. Smiley, Catherine Sawyer, Emerson R. J. Follett, M. George Deutsch, Patrick F. O'Connor, Charles L. Gore, Arch MacIntyre, G. Edwin Slater, John E. Erickson, A. H. Ohlsen, and Arthur G. Estes.

(c) Election

Thereafter, the board 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.

(Pub. L. 85-530, § 7, July 18, 1958, 72 Stat. 372.)

REFERENCES IN TEXT

Enactment of this chapter, referred to in subsec. (b), means enactment of Pub. L. 85-530, which was enacted July 18, 1958.

§ 768. Officers

The officers of the corporation shall be a national commander, a national senior vice commander, a national junior vice commander, a national quartermaster, a national adjutant (which latter two offices may be held by one person), a national judge advocate, nine regional vice commanders, 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.

(Pub. L. 85-530, § 8, July 18, 1958, 72 Stat. 373.)

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

(a) The principal office of the corporation shall be located in Washington, District of Columbia, or in such other place as may be determined by the board of administration; but the activities of the corporation shall not be con-