**BY-LAWS**

**Blazing Star POST # 1574**

**VETERANS OF FOREIGN WARS OF THE UNITED STATES**

***ARTICLE I***

***NAME AND LOCATION***

Sec. 1. By virtue of charter granted, this Post shall be known as Blazing Star Post No. 1574 Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States.

Sec. 2. The location of this Post shall be in Staten Island, County of Richmond, State of New York.

***ARTICLE II***

***SUBORDINATION***

Sec. 1. The supreme power of this association is vested in the National Convention and this Post shall be at all times governed by the Congressional Charter and By-Laws of the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States, the By-Laws of the Department of New York, orders issued by authority of the National Convention, National Council of Administration, the Commander-in-Chief, the Department Convention, Department Council of Administration and the Commander of the Department of New York. For the purposes of this Article and Section, Resolutions adopted by the National Convention are held to be lawful orders.

***ARTICLE III***

***MEETINGS***

Sec. 1 Place: The regular meeting place of this Post shall be at Blazing Star Post, 17 Cannon Avenue, Staten Island, NY 10314.

Sec. 2. Time: The regular meetings of the Post shall be held on the first Wednesday of each month, to be called to order at 1:00 p.m.

Sec. 3. The post may, after at least 14 days notice to the members of the post and department commander, change its meeting place, appointed day or time upon a majority vote of the members present at a regular or special meeting called for such purpose.

Sec. 4. Special meetings may be called in accordance with the provisions of the National By-Laws.

Sec. 5. Quorum: 7 members in good standing shall constitute a quorum for the transaction of business.

***ARTICLE IV***

***MEMBERSHIP***

Sec. 1. Membership in this Post, eligibility to, application for, acquiring and maintenance of, loss of and discipline shall be in accordance with the provisions of the National By-Laws.

Sec. 2. The dues of this Post shall never be less than the amount required to cover Department and National dues.

Sec. 3. Membership chairman will ensure the payment of any post member's dues while serving on an active duty deployed status.

***ARTICLE V***

***OFFICERS***

Sec. 1. Eligibility to, nomination, election or appointment, installation and term of office shall be in accordance with the provisions of the National By-Laws.

Sec. 2. The duties of all officers shall be those prescribed by National and Department By-Laws, lawful orders as the Post may direct and as these By-Laws may provide.

***ARTICLE VI***

***COMMITTEES AND DUTIES***

Sec. 1. All Committees and their chairmen, unless otherwise provided, shall be appointed by the Commander as promptly as possible after election to office, and as such shall serve at his will and pleasure. The Post Quartermaster, by virtue of his office, shall be treasurer of all committees handling funds.

Sec. 2. The Standing Committees of the Post shall be as follows:

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| (a) Membership | (d) Publicity | (g) Ways and Means |
| (b) Relief | (e) Community and Youth Activities | (h) Safety |
| (c) Poppy | (f) Americanism |  |

***ARTICLE VIII***

***EXPENDITURE OF FUNDS***

Sec. 1. Expenditure of funds shall be made only after prior majority vote and approved by the Commander. All checks for the expenditure of Post funds shall be numbered in sequence. Unless otherwise provided for in these By-Laws, all disbursements of Post funds shall bear the signature of the Quartermaster or other person(s) authorized by the Quartermaster. Such other authorized person(s) shall be bonded in accordance with Section 703 of the National by-Laws.

Sec. 2. No other payment or expenditures of more than $100 for utilities or routine administration such as postage costs shall be made except on the specific authorization of the post.

***ARTICLE IX***

***COMPENSATION***

Sec. 1. No compensation shall be paid to any officer of this Post for his services as such officer.

***ARTICLE X***

***FUND RAISING PROMOTIONS/SOLICITATIONS***

Sec. 1. This Post shall solicit funds or donations only by prior vote of the members agreeing to the proposition. It shall not solicit funds or donations or otherwise engage in fund-raising activities or projects outside the immediate geographical area or community of the Post.

Sec. 2. This Post shall not enter into any agreement with a promoter for the purpose of raising funds unless the said promoter shall have first furnished a good and sufficient surety bond in a principal sum sufficient to give the Post ample protection in the particular circumstances. The said bond shall be subject to the approval of the Post Advocate, bear the endorsement of the Post Commander and be kept in the possession of the Post Quartermaster. The bond will be conditioned on the payment to the Post Quartermaster of all monies due the Post as a result of the solicitation within thirty (30) days of the close of the campaign. If the promoter has made satisfactory settlement within the thirty day period, then surety will be determined to be discharged, otherwise the bond will remain in full force and effect.

Sec. 3. If the bond cannot be furnished, then all collections shall be made by the members of the Post sponsoring the campaign or entertainment and said funds shall be paid to a bonded officer of the Post who shall hold the funds in his custody pending proper pro rata distribution.

Sec. 4. Fund-raising organizations or individuals conducting solicitations, activities or projects for a profit shall not be engaged or used by the Post for such purpose unless such engagement is made by written agreement between the Post and the organization or individuals providing those services. The form of any such written agreement must be submitted to the Department Commander for review at least thirty (30) days prior to any Post entering into any such agreement.

Sec. 5. Unless previously authorized by a majority vote of the Post, no solicitations or ticket sales shall be permitted in the Post quarters or at socials or meetings unless such solicitations or ticket sales shall have been approved by the Post.

Sec. 6. The Ways and Means Committee shall confine any such approved solicitations or ticket sales to stated meetings and socials of the Post in or around the Post quarters.

***ARTICLE XI***

***MISCELLANEOUS***

Sec. 1. Every member of this Post shall keep the Post Adjutant and Quartermaster advised of his current address by promptly reporting any change of same.

Sec. 2. One copy of these By-Laws shall be issued to each elected and appointed officer of this Post.

Sec. 3. In all Post procedure not provided for by the Congressional Charter and By-Laws or these By-Laws, Demeter’s Manual shall be the Authority, and it shall be the duty of the Post Advocate, in an advisory way, when called upon to do so by the Post Commander to advise the Post Commander on the proper rule or rules.

# ARTICLE XII

***SPEECHES***

Sec. 1. 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 (5) minutes, and the second time no longer than three (3) minutes, with the exception of a committee report and recommendations and visiting guests who have a message to impart.

***ARTICLE XIII***

***AMENDMENTS***

Sec. 1. These By-Laws shall become effective after adoption by this Post and after review by the Commander of the Department and Commander-in-Chief of the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States.

Sec. 2. Unless otherwise provided for in these By-Laws, these By-Laws may be amended by the Post by a two-thirds vote of the members present at a stated meeting provided each member had been notified at least twenty (20) days in advance and upon request provided a copy of the proposed amendments. All amendments shall be forwarded through channels and reviewed by the Department Commander and the Commander-in-Chief before becoming effective.

Sec. 3. Wherever these By-Laws or subsequent amendments may be found to be in conflict with the present or any future National By-Laws and By-Laws of the Department, the latter shall prevail and be binding upon this Post as though written herein.

These By-Laws were adopted, subject to the review of the Commander-in-Chief and the Commander of the Department of New York, Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States on this first day of February, 2017, at a regular meeting of this Post in Staten Island and County of Richmond, State of New York.

 Blazing Star Post No. 1574

 Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States

 By **Albert J. Porto**

 Commander

OFFICIAL:

By **William Alcock**

 Adjutant