

1 **Federal Volunteer Brigade**
2 **By-Laws**

3 October 20th, 2014
4

5 **Article 1 Mission**
6

7 The Federal Volunteer Brigade (FVB) is formed as a living memorial, to provide living historians
8 a means to honor the men, who fought to preserve the Union during the War of the Rebellion
9 from 1861 through 1865, and the women and families who supported them. The Federal
10 Volunteer Brigade members pledge to accurately portray the lifestyle of the period with honor,
11 dignity and respect to themselves, each other and to the memory of those we represent.

12 **Article 2 Definitions**
13

14 *Brigade Commander (BC)* – Brigadier General (BG) elected by eligible Companies for a period of
15 three years. The elected BG is the absolute commander of all FVB field events and is expected
16 to exercise command and control as authority mandates. This authority does not extend to
17 individual Company sponsored/hosted events unless invited to command. The BG manages FVB
18 governance and business matters in cooperation with the Board of Company Officers (BCC). The
19 BG serves as the non-voting Chairman of the Board of Company Commanders (BCC). He is
20 permitted a tie-breaker vote in the event of a stalemate on any issue.
21

22 *Company* – Defined as the base foundational unit of any Infantry, Cavalry, Artillery, Engineer or
23 Medical group in service with the FVB and not subject to staff appointment by the elected BG. A
24 Company obtaining full FVB membership must contain, at least, six soldiers and one
25 officer/senior NCO commanding. Companies will continue in probationary status until this
26 requirement is met. Member companies in each category in line 22&23 above are
27 grandfathered into membership upon ratification of this these by-laws.
28

29 *Unless specifically stated in these by-laws, staff personnel appointed by the elected BG*
30 *are not to be considered a “Company” and do not have individual or collective voting*
31 *rights. Their vote is expressed through their parent Company. These non-voting positions*
32 *include Chief of Staff or Deputy Chief of Staff, Provost Marshall, Regimental*
33 *Commanders and all other appointed staff positions.*
34

35 *Board of Company Commanders (BCC)* – a quorum of Company Commanders eligible to vote on
36 FVB governance issues and business affairs. Each eligible commander has one vote. This
37 includes all combat Infantry, Cavalry and Artillery Companies along with the Engineer Company
38 and Medical Company assigned to the Brigade. The board is chaired by the elected Brigade
39 Commander (BC).
40

41 *Field Events* – All reenactments, parades, living history and other Brigade/Regimental level
42 activities being conducted to portray soldiers and civilians of the Civil War period.
43

44 *Eligible commander* – Any FVB Company Commander or designee who’s Company has
45 participated in at least two (2) brigade/Regimental level events (not to include meetings) during
46 the one calendar year prior to any subject vote.

47
48 *Quorum* – The FVB establishes that two thirds of the eligible company commanders will
49 constitute a quorum.

50
51 **Article 3 *Company Membership***

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53 The FVB welcomes and encourages all perspective Companies and/or Regiments which share
54 our vision and support our mission to apply for membership. No dues or entrance fees will be
55 charged by the FVB.

- 56
57 A) All impressions and military sub-components must adhere to FVB authenticity
58 standards.
59 B) Each new perspective Company will serve one year probation and be assigned a
60 mentor Company by the BC to ensure their successful transition into the FVB. A
61 perspective Company must be voted into full membership by a majority vote of the
62 BCC after a period of one year probation.
63 C) The FVB strongly encourages participation in all Brigade events.
64 D) Organization within a Company is the sole responsibility of that Company
65 E) Member Companies will obtain their own insurance, either through the FVB
66 provider or other company, and be responsible for the conduct of their members
67 F) Individual persons seeking membership will be referred to a member Company or
68 Companies within their geographical area
69 G) See definition of a “Company” in *Article 2*, lines 22-33 above

70
71 **Article 4 *FVB Business Meetings***

72
73 FVB business will be conducted at winter meetings or during emergency meetings called by the
74 Chairman or membership of the BCC.

- 75
76 A) A meeting will be held each year in November and in January/February.
77 1) The purpose of the November meeting is to review the previous year
78 performance and to present by-law amendments and other proposals for
79 discussion. Items presented and deemed appropriate for a vote will be
80 placed on the January/February meeting agenda. Every third year beginning
81 2014, candidates for the Brigade Commander (BC) position will present
82 themselves for election in January. No nominations for Brigade Commander
83 will be accepted after the November meeting.
84
85 2) The January/February meeting is the primary voting meeting of the FVB. A
86 two-thirds vote of eligible Company commanders(BCC) is required for a vote
87 on:

- 88 i. By-law amendments,
- 89 ii. Removal of a Company from membership
- 90 iii. Removal of an elected Brigade commander (BC).

91
92 3) A majority vote is required to:

- 93 i. Accept a new Company/Regiment into membership
- 94 ii. Elect a new Brigade Commander (BC) every third year beginning in
- 95 2015 or in the year immediately following any BC removal for cause
- 96 iii. Select annual events for FVB participation

97
98 4) Voting in January will be in person through the Company Commander or his

99 designee. Voting on all non-emergency matters will occur only during the

100 January/February meeting.

101
102 B) Meetings may be called at any time by members of the BCC or the Chairman (BC) to

103 address emergency/interim appointments, removal of a Company, removal of the

104 elected BC, problems with appointed staff or other matters of immediate concern.

105
106 **Article 5 Selection and authority of the Brigade Commander**

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108 Brigade Commanders are elected by a majority vote of eligible Company commanders (BCC)

109 The Brigade Commander will carry the rank of Brigadier General and have absolute authority

110 during field events (reference Article #2). Candidates for the position of BC must have displayed

111 a commitment to the FVB and have demonstrated the appropriate experience and knowledge

112 to hold the position. The Brigade Commander will Chair the BCC and can convene this body as

113 required.

114
115 A) The Brigade Commander will appoint Brigade staff from within the FVB as he deems

116 appropriate. The appointed staff serves at the pleasure of the BC. A Brigade is more

117 than one Regiment. Primary Staff may be, but are not limited to:

- 118 1) Regimental Commanders as required with the rank of Colonel
- 119 2) Chief of Staff with the rank of Lt Col/Colonel
- 120 3) Brigade Clerk with rank of Lt/Captain/Major
- 121 4) Quartermaster Officer with rank of Lt/Captain/Major
- 122 5) Provost Marshal with rank of Major/Lt. Col.
- 123 6) A Medical Officer with the rank of Major/ Lt Col.

124
125 B) Regimental Commanders will have the rank of Colonel, be appointed by and also

126 serve at the pleasure of the BC. Regimental Commanders will appoint their staff in

127 consultation with the BC. A Regiment is two or more Companies. Regimental

128 Commanders do not have independent votes in FVB business, but instead their

129 views must be represented by their parent Companies. Regimental Commanders

130 have absolute authority over their Regiments during field events; superseded only

131 the BC. Regimental Staff may be, but are not limited to:

- 132 1) One Adjutant with rank of Lt/Captain
133 2) One Sergeant Major
134 3) Wing Commanders as necessary with rank of Captain/Major
135 4) Quartermaster Officer with rank of Lt/Captain
136 5) Provost Officer with rank of Lt/Captain
137
138 C) If the Brigade Commander (BC) is unable to attend an event, must leave the field or
139 is delayed while executing command staff business, he has full authority to
140 temporarily delegate his authority down to the Colonel he determines suitable to
141 assume his role. In the event that the BC fails to attend an event and no notifications
142 were made, the Regimental Commanders (Colonels) will determine who will assume
143 the duties of the BC. If Regimental Commanders are not present, Company
144 Commanders will decide command structure.
145

146 **Article 6 Board of Company Commanders – Authorities**
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148 The BCC is comprised of all Company Commanders, or their representative, whose
149 Companies have attended at least two (2) FVB events during the preceding one calendar
150 year prior to any vote. (Reference line #45 above). Member Companies who have not
151 met the two (2) FVB field event attendance requirement will not have voting rights until
152 attendance requirements are met. The BCC is charged with deciding all organizational
153 and administrative matters of the FVB not specifically assigned to the BC. The following
154 authorities are specifically assigned to the BCC:
155

- 156 A) Voting for the BC every three years beginning in 2015 – requires majority vote
157 B) Acceptance of a new Company/Regiment into membership – requires majority vote
158 C) Voting for FVB events annually – majority vote
159 D) FVB By-Law Amendments – two-thirds vote required
160 E) Removal of a Brigade Commander (BC) or a member Company – two-thirds vote
161 required
- 162 a. Removal of a BC or member Company must be for “cause”. Exhibited lack of
163 integrity, poor performance, incompetence, or legal problems which portray
164 the FVB in a negative light are some, but not all, examples of “cause”
 - 165 b. Upon proposed removal of a member Company or the elected BC, the BCC
166 will be established
 - 167 c. A quorum, as described in Article 2, line #48, must be obtained for any vote
168 to occur and before the BCC is formed. Voting eligibility will be determined
169 according to Article 6, lines 148-152, and be attested to by the Brigade Clerk
170 who has final word on BCC eligibility.
 - 171 i. If the vote concerns removal of a Company, the BCC Chairman (BC)
172 will manage the meeting, vote and process
 - 173 ii. If the vote involves the removal of the BC, the meeting will be chaired
174 by an impartial BCC member chosen by the group
 - 175 d. Reasons for proposed removal will first be stated by initiating party

- 176 e. All involved persons will be given the opportunity to present their position
177
178 f. A two-thirds vote of the BCC is required to remove a Company from
179 membership or an elected Brigade Commander from his position (reference
180 Article 4, Section A, sub-section 2). These proceedings and subsequent vote
181 can occur in-person or virtually within a prescribed period of time
182 g. If a BC is removed from his position, nominations must be taken and an
183 election held immediately to fill the void until the next January/February
184 permanent election. During emergency elections, BCC member's
185 nominations and votes may be taken in person or through email. A mutually
186 acceptable member of the BCC will be chosen from the FVB to coordinate the
187 emergency election and report the results.
188 F) The BCC is authorized to form committees for special projects deemed necessary for
189 the betterment of the FVB
190 G) Other business as determined to be appropriate and within the scope of
191 responsibilities outlined

192 These By-Laws are ratified this 20th day of October, 2014, by a quorum of the Federal
193 Volunteer Brigade and shall remain so until a mandatory review in 2019 or such time as
194 deemed appropriate by the Board of Company Commanders.
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