

**CONSTITUTION AND BY-LAWS OF THE
USS CONSTELLATION CVA/CV-64 ASSOCIATION INC.**

**ARTICLE I
AIM AND OBJECTIVE**

SECTION A.

This organization shall be known as the USS Constellation CVA/CV-64 Association and is organized independent of any other USS Constellation organization. It shall operate as a not for profit organization and is formed for the following reasons:

1: To encourage fellowship of past and present crewmembers of the USS Constellation CVA/CV-64 and to revive the friendships and spirits we lived when serving aboard the USS Constellation.

2: To keep members apprised of current information about USS Constellation.

3: To further our beliefs in the Constitution of the United States of America and uphold the principles of freedom, liberty and justice for all.

**ARTICLE II
MEMBERSHIP**

SECTION A.

1. Any person who, as a member of the U.S. Armed Forces, served aboard the USS Constellation CVA/CV-64 as a Duty Station is eligible for membership in the Association.

2. Application for membership shall conform to Provisions set forth in the By-Laws (Article III).

SECTION B.

Membership in the Association shall consist of Active, Life Active, Sustaining Active, Associates and Honorary members as defined.

SECTION C.

The Active membership in the Association shall be persons who are in compliance with the Fiscal year dues as specified in the By-Laws (Appendix 1). They are eligible to vote on all matters brought before the membership. Active members shall not lose their status as long as they remain in good standing.

SECTION D.

There is hereby adopted a system of Life Active and Sustaining Memberships, which shall forever exempt a member from paying dues and assessments. These memberships will be granted as follows:

1. Life Active Members shall be Past Presidents of the Association. They are eligible to vote on all matters brought before the membership.
2. Sustaining members shall be members of the Association who pay a one time non-refundable Life membership fee as set forth in Appendix 1. They are eligible to vote on all matters brought before the membership.
3. Associate members shall be
 - a). Spouses of all members qualified under Section A of this Article They shall not be entitled to hold any office but are permitted to vote on the location of the annual reunion.
 - b). All reputable persons who have not served aboard the USS Constellation but have an interest in belonging. They shall, in all respects, be subject to the same rules, fees and charges and entitled to the same rights and privileges as other members except they shall not be entitled to hold any office.
4. Honorary members shall consist of
 - a) Former Commanding Officers,
 - b) Former Prisoners of War who have served aboard the USS Constellation,
 - c) Former employees of the New York Naval Shipyard who
 - (1) were actively involved in the construction of Constellation or
 - (2) who sail on her during sea trials.
 - d) Spouses of deceased members of the Association who were in good standing. (Article XVI, Section A)
 - e) Any other person who has made a notable and worthwhile contribution to the Constellation Association or the US Navy or to the Country, upon the recommendation of the Executive Committee and vote of the membership at an annual meeting.
5. Honorary members shall be put on the rolls upon motion by any member in good standing and shall be excused from payment of dues or assessments. They shall not be eligible to vote or hold office.

**ARTICLE III
APPLICATION FOR MEMBERSHIP**

SECTION A.

Application for membership shall be made upon the official form of the Association and submitted to the Membership Chairman along with the annual dues and assessments in the amount set forth herein. In the event membership is denied, dues and assessments will be returned to the applicant

SECTION B.

It shall be the responsibility of the member recommending the applicant to insure that the applicant meets all the qualifications for membership.

SECTION C.

When the applicant meets all the requirements for membership, the Membership Chairman shall notify the applicant of his/her acceptance and shall forward to him/her a membership card dated for the time period for which dues are paid. Membership cards are to be presented at annual meetings to verify member's eligibility to vote at such meeting.

**ARTICLE IV
DUES AND ASSESSMENTS**

SECTION A.

The annual dues of the Association are to be set by the membership. Any change in the dues or new members assessments shall be made at the annual meeting of the membership.

SECTION B.

The annual dues of the Association shall be projected to meet future needs of the Association according to the By-Laws

SECTION C.

Dues are established in accordance with Appendix 1

SECTION D.

Dues shall be paid on or before the month of each members anniversary renewal date of each year.

SECTION E.

When any member shall be in default of membership dues by virtue of non payment by one month (30 days) of the current year, he/she shall be deemed not in good standing and it shall be the duty of the Membership

Chairman to notify such member of the fact immediately thereafter and to remove such members from the mailing list of the Association pending payment of such dues. The members shall be put on the Non-Members list and will not be eligible to receive mailings, attend meetings and have no voting privileges until dues and assessments are paid for the full current fiscal year.

ARTICLE V
CONVENTION (Reunion/Meeting)

SECTION A.

The Association shall hold an Annual Convention.

SECTION B.

The time and place of the annual convention shall be by majority vote of the membership of the Association at the convention assembled. The Executive Committee shall give a report and a non-binding recommendation.

ARTICLE VI
ORDER OF BUSINESS

SECTION A.

The order of business at the annual meeting of this Association shall be:

1. Call to Order
2. Invocation and pledge of allegiance
3. Roll call of officers
4. Announcement of committees and committee reports
5. President's report
- 6 Report of the Treasurer
7. Unfinished business
8. New business
9. Election of Officers
10. Installation of Officers
11. Selection of Site for next Convention
12. Recommendation of location for subsequent Conventions
13. Benediction and
Adjournment

SECTION B. [Deleted 2009 Annual Meeting]

SECTION C.

Annual Donation: To show our appreciation and support for the military, the Association will make a donation at the annual meeting, providing

- a) The recipient of the donation, to be determined by the executive committee, is to be an organization that directly supports the military such as (but not limited to) USO, Navy-Marine Relief,
- b) The balance in the Association General is a minimum of \$17,500.
- c) The total amount of the donation is not to exceed \$500.00
- d) The donation is to be made from the Reunion Activity Fund

**ARTICLE VII
FISCAL YEAR**

SECTION A.

The Fiscal Year of the Association shall commence on January 1, and end of December 31, annually.

**ARTICLE VIII
OFFICERS and COMMITTEES**

SECTION A.

There are hereby created the following officers of the Association

- 1. President
- 2. Vice-president
- 3. Secretary
- 4. Treasurer

SECTION B.

Any eligible member, in good standing, may submit a letter of intent to run for an office that will be coming up for election. Letters of intent should be received by March 1st of the year elections will be held. Nominees must give written consent for their name to be placed in nomination. Nominations will be permitted from the floor. Those who submit a letter of intent will have their names published in the *STARSCOPE* for the office they seek. All applications must be sent to the chairman of the Nominating Committee.

SECTION C.

Any qualified person who is a member in good standing in the Association and is an Active, Life Active, or Sustaining member is eligible to be nominated and elected President, Vice-President, Secretary, or Treasurer to serve a two year term.

SECTION D.

Officers may automatically succeed themselves providing there are no nominations from the floor.

SECTION E.

All the forgoing officers shall be elected at the Annual Meeting; nominations may come from the floor.

SECTION F.

Officers shall be elected by paper ballot or show of hands from the floor except when there is no contest for the elective office in question.

SECTION G.

Officers shall be installed immediately upon completion of the elections.

SECTION H.

A vacancy of any office because of death, resignation, disqualification or otherwise, shall be filled by the Executive Committee for the remainder of the term, except for the office of the President which will be filled by the office of Vice-president as set forth below.

SECTION I.

No member shall be a candidate for, nor elected for more than one (1) office during any year.

**ARTICLE IX
DUTIES OF OFFICERS**

SECTION A.

It shall be the duty of the president to:

1. Preside at all meetings of the Association
2. Appoint all Committees
3. Call Special Meetings
4. Call Executive Committee Meeting

SECTION B.

It shall be the duty of the Vice-president to:

1. Preside at all meetings in the absence of the President
2. Succeed to the position of President upon the inability of the President to perform his duties.

SECTION C.

It shall be the duty of the Secretary to:

- a. Keep minutes of all meetings
- b. Act as Secretary of the Association

SECTION D.

It shall be the duty of the Treasurer to:

1. Act as Treasurer of the Association
2. Pay all bills of the Association by check only and sign all checks drawn against the treasury
3. Act as custodian of all funds of the Association, unless limited by by-laws
4. Submit to the Executive Committee on a quarterly basis accurate records of all financial transactions for the year-to-date period ending March 31, June 30, September 30, and December 31.
5. Be in charge of all Association property and equipment
6. The Treasurer shall be bonded by a Nationally Recognized Surety Company in the amount deemed appropriate by the Executive Committee, but such bond shall be no less than the maximum amount of money held at any one time by such Officer or individual on behalf of the Association.

**ARTICLE X
EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE**

SECTION A.

The Executive Committee shall consist of all current elected Officers of the Association, all past Presidents of the Association, plus three Members-at-Large elected at the annual meeting; two former Naval Service members and one Marine Service member. A nominating committee consisting of the President and three Association Members whom he shall appoint to serve, will receive and propose At-Large Committee names for election as above. This committee shall elect a Chairman of the Executive Committee.

SECTION B.

This committee is empowered to elect new officers in the event of vacancies as noted in Article VIII, Section 8.

SECTION C.

Four (4) members of the Executive Committee shall constitute a Quorum for the transaction of business for the Association.

SECTION D.

This committee shall receive the Financial Records of the Association for the purpose of auditing. This audit is to be presented to the membership for their review and approval at the Annual Meeting.

**ARTICLE XI
IMPEACHMENT OF OFFICERS AND EXPULSION OF MEMBERS**

SECTION A.

Motions for impeachment of Officers and Members must be made in writing to the Executive Committee by at least ten (10) members in good standing. A two-thirds vote of the Executive Committee will be required to impeach the member in question. The full-qualified voting membership will be notified of the above procedure either by mail or publication in the Association newsletter "*STARSCOPE*". The allegation will be presented and reviewed at the next annual membership meeting.

SECTION B.

The Officer or Member in question shall be notified in writing of this action at least fourteen (14) days before the final action shall be taken.

SECTION C.

The Officer or Member in question shall be allowed to present his defense before the final vote is taken.

**ARTICLE XII
COMMITTEES/OFFICES**

SECTION A.

The President shall appoint all committees except as limited by the Constitution. He will be the ad hoc member of all committees. All committee chairmen shall serve at the pleasure of the President.

SECTION B.

The President shall appoint all other committees deemed necessary to conduct Association business.

SECTION C. All committees shall deliver to the Treasurer any funds held by them within 48 hours of filing a report to the Association Officers, except as otherwise provided.

SECTION D. Duties of Committee Chairs listed in Appendix 2

**ARTICLE XIII
MEETINGS**

SECTION A.

Robert's Rules of Order, new revised, shall govern the deliberations of proceedings at any session or meeting of this Association, except that,

where those provisions of this Constitution are inconsistent or in conflict with Robert's Rules of Order then this Constitution shall prevail.

SECTION B.

In accordance with Article 2 only those members who shall present a paid-up membership card to the Master-at-Arms shall be permitted to cast a vote on any procedure at the Annual meeting except when the Secretary and/or Treasurer verify to the Master-at-Arms that any particular member is not in good standing for voting privileges.

**ARTICLE XIV
AMENDMENTS**

SECTION A.

All proposed amendments must be introduced in writing prior to the annual meeting at which they are to be considered. The proposed amendments must be sent to the By-Laws Chairman by April 1st so they can be forwarded to the *STARSCOPE* Newsletter Editor for publication before the next annual meeting. All proposals will then be distributed to the By-Laws Committee where they will consider the proposal and make a recommendation at the annual meeting when the vote comes to the floor.

SECTION B.

Every proposed amendment must be introduced, duly seconded and approved by a two-third (2/3) vote of the eligible members present at the annual meeting of the Association.

**ARTICLE XV
SUSPENSION OF CONSTITUTION AND BY-LAWS**

SECTION A.

This Constitution and By-Laws shall not be suspended except by unanimous vote of the Association membership present at the annual meeting.

**ARTICLE XVI
TAPS**

SECTION A.

In the case of the passing of any Association Member, the surviving spouse will:

1. Become (if so desired) an Honorary Member at no cost (Article II, Section D 4)
2. Receive any mailings the Treasury is sufficiently funded to

- supply.
3. Be permitted to attend, at their own expense, all functions of the Association

**ARTICLE XVII
EMBLEM**

SECTION A.

Only those members of this Association, who are in good standing, shall use the emblem of the Association.

**ARTICLE XIII
WOMEN'S AUXILLARY**

SECTION 1

The wives of members may form their own Auxilliary. The Auxilliary will be an organization operating independent of the Association.

**ARTICLE XIX
DISSOLUTION**

SECTION A.

In the event the Association should be dissolved or otherwise terminated, the assets and income thereof shall not benefit any member or private individual.

The Preceding by-laws were submitted to the membership of the USS CONSTELLATION CV/CVA-64 Association at the annual membership meeting held On the 27th Day of October 2006 in Myrtle Beach South Carolina.

Ross F. Leonard

President

William Smerekanicz

Secretary

The bylaws will be submitted to all members to be approved no later than 90 days from the date of distribution and in no case later than 30 JUNE 2007.

Any member failing to return their vote for or against approval will be considered to have **submitted a positive proxy vote**. Approval of 2/3 positive vote of ballots and proxy votes of the membership as of 31 MARCH 2007 is needed to adopt these by-laws.

The above by-laws, having been approved by 2/3 vote of the membership, are here by adopted this 30th Day of June 2007

President

Secretary

Amendment Passed October 30, 2008

(1) Annual Donation: To show our appreciation and support for members of the military, the Association will make an annual donation, providing;

a) The recipient of the donation to is to be an organization that directly supports the military such as (but not limited to) USO, Navy-Marine Corps Relief, Navy League, VFW etc

b) The recipient of said donation will be chosen by the executive committee of those worthy organizational located in the city of our annual reunion.

c) The balance in the Association General is a minimum of \$17,500.

(2) In that the USS CONSTELLATION CVA/CV Association is a 501 (C) 3 duly registered Incorporation, and

In that the name "USS CONSTELLATION CAV/CV-64" is a registered name

a) No person shall be allowed to sell or cause to sell any items and merchandise unless said merchandise is sold through the Association Shop store , or;

b) No person shall sell or cause to sell any items and merchandise unless they have obtained the written consent of the executive board of the Association.

These resolutions were duly and properly introduced, read to, and discussed by the membership during the annual meeting of the USS CONSTELLATION CVA/CV-64 Association at the annual membership meeting in the City of Corpus Christi Texas on Thursday, 29 OCTOBER 2008.

Following same, there were approved by 2/3 of the members present and are hereby added to the by-laws of the Association.

Thomas M. Bell, By Law Committee Chairman for
Ross F. Leonard, President

John T. Kiacroft, Secretary and Presiding Officers

Amendment Passed October 22, 2009

The following section under Article VI was deleted at the 2009 Annual meeting.

SECTION B.

Election of Officers shall be held one day prior to the closing of the convention.

There resolutions were duly and properly introduced, read to, and discussed by the membership during the annual meeting of the USS CONSTELLATION CVA/CV-64 Association at the annual membership meeting in the City of Norfolk, Virginia on Thursday, 22 OCTOBER 2009.

Following same, there were approved by 2/3 of the members present and are hereby added to the by-laws of the Association.

Ross F. Leonard, President

Thomas M. Bell, By Laws Committee Chairman for
John T. Kiacroft, Secretary and Presiding Officers