

**USS SAM HOUSTON  
VETERANS' ASSN., INC.  
(SSBN/SSN 609)**

**BYLAWS**

Revision 1  
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# **Article I. ORGANIZATION**

## **Section 1.01 Name**

The name of the organization shall be the **USS Sam Houston Veterans' Association, Inc.** hereafter referred to as SHVA.

## **Section 1.02 Purpose**

The SHVA shall function primarily for the following purposes:

- To provide social and recreational activities for its members.
- To sponsor or participate in certain activities of a patriotic nature.
- To participate in certain charitable, literary, or educational programs.
- To perpetuate the memory of deceased members and veterans of the US Armed Forces.

The SHVA is a nonsectarian, nonpolitical, and nondenominational organization that has no affiliation with the US Navy, the federal government, or any local government agencies.

None of the activities of the SHVA or of its members on behalf of the SHVA shall:

- Be associated with propaganda or any attempt to influence legislation.
- Be associated with propaganda about religious matters.
- Participate or intervene in any political campaign on behalf of or in opposition to any candidate campaigning for public office, any incumbent, or any religious leader.
- Arbitrarily publish or distribute related statements or documents to individual members.
- Arbitrarily publish or distribute opinions about controversial issues related to governmental actions or decisions or religious matters.

## **Section 1.03 Nonprofit Status**

The SHVA is founded as a nonprofit, volunteer veteran's organization as defined in Section 501(c)(19) of the Internal Revenue Code (IRC). It shall be incorporated in the US and remain so. No part of its earnings shall be distributed to any official, member, or affiliate of the SHVA, or any private persons solely for their personal benefit. The SHVA is empowered to pay reasonable compensation, reimbursement, or advance payments for expenditures and services rendered and to make payments and distributions in furtherance of compliance with its corporate charter and Section 501(c)(19) of the IRC.

All activities of the SHVA shall comply with those specified in its Certificate of Incorporation, Section 501(c)(19) of the IRC, and regulations of state and local governments that apply to the SHVA.

## **Article II. MEMBERSHIP & MEETINGS**

### **Section 2.01 Membership Classifications**

#### **(a) Veteran**

An individual who was listed on a crew roster of USS Sam Houston. Approval by the Board of Advisors (BoA) is not required for this classification of membership.

#### **(b) Associate Member**

An individual who was not listed on a crew roster of USS Sam Houston but desires a relationship with the SHVA. Examples of such individuals follow:

- A widow of a deceased veteran of the boat.
- A domestic partner of a deceased veteran of the boat.
- An ancestor or lineal descendant of a veteran of the boat.
- An individual who made a significant contribution from a variety types to the SHVA.
- An individual who had an association with the boat itself; e.g., government contractor.

The roster of the SHVA shall state the classification of each member. Approval by the BoA is not required for this classification of membership.

A majority vote exercised in good faith and without prior notice by the BoA is required to terminate a member. Termination can occur because of numerous reasons that include noncompliance with requirements set forth by the Certificate of Incorporation, Section 502(c)(19) of the IRC, these Bylaws, or the following list of some other reasons. The list is not all-inclusive:

- Falsifying information on a membership application.
- Failure to pay dues, if dues are required.

### **Section 2.02 Voting Rights**

Only Veterans are eligible to vote. To cast votes, these members must be in good standing with the SHVA. They may cast only one vote for each matter of business put to vote for which members are entitled to vote. This applies to all officials of the SHVA. Any Veteran may vote by written proxy if the BoA has arranged.

### **Section 2.03 Regular Meetings**

Regular or Business Meetings will occur during each periodic reunion established for the SHVA by its Reunion Planner. All membership classifications may attend but only Veterans in good standing may cast votes.

## **Section 2.04     Special Meetings**

Special Meetings may be called by the Chairman as the result of one of the following situations:

- Written request of at least two BoA officials.
- Written request of at least 10% of the Veterans in good standing.
- Written request with one BoA official and 5% of the Veterans in good standing.

Written requests shall state the purpose of the proposed meeting. Such meetings may be conducted by teleconferences or other technology during which all participants can deliberate with all other participants. Minutes of these meetings shall be recorded and forwarded to the Chairman. Only the business stated in the purpose of the meeting shall be conducted.

## **Section 2.05     Notice of Special Meetings**

Notices of Special Meetings shall be written and contain at least the following information:

- Place or technological method.
- Date and time.
- Purpose of the meeting.

The chair shall ensure that written notice is sent to all Veterans in good standing by e-mail or postal mail not less than 10 or more than 50 days in advance of the meeting.

## **Section 2.06     Quorums & Adjournment**

The percent (10%) of the Veterans in good standing present or by proxy shall constitute quorum at Business Meetings. In the absence of a quorum at a Business Meeting, the Veterans in good standing present have the power to adjourn the meeting without notice other than announcement at the meeting until a quorum is present or represented.

A quorum does not apply to Special Meetings.

## **Section 2.07     Majority Required**

A vote of the majority of the Veterans in good standing present or by proxy shall decide all matters put to vote unless these Bylaws require otherwise. Voting shall occur by either the plurality and preferential methods. Voting by mail (e-mail) shall only be permitted if a method is approved by the BoA.

## **Section 2.08     Meeting Minutes**

The chair may permit audio/visual recording of the proceedings at these meeting. Minutes will be produced from those audio/video files. The chair shall assign an individual to produce the minutes from those electronic media before or at those meetings.

## **Article III. DUES/DONATIONS**

The BoA may determine from time to time any initiation fee or annual dues payable to the SHVA by its members. The BoA shall determine if only donations by members and/or other sources is adequate to support administration of the SHVA.

## **Article IV. OFFICIALS**

### **Section 4.01 Board of Advisors**

#### **(a) Positions & Elections**

The BoA shall determine the positions needed for the BoA. Positions on the BoA are decided by majority vote of the BoA. The current positions are Chairman, Vice Chairman, Reunion Planner, Chief of the Boat, and Treasurer. Veterans shall hold all positions on the BoA with exception of the Treasurer.

#### **(b) Power & Duties**

Subject only to the provisions of these Bylaws, the BoA shall have sole authority and responsibility for the business and overall operation of the SHVA.

##### **(i) Chairman**

Unless otherwise designated, the Chairman shall preside at all meetings of the BoA and at Business Meetings. The Chairman shall provide authenticating signatures for all official business of the SHVA except on Contracts and other documents related to SHVA reunions established by the Reunion Planner. The Chairman shall ensure that all activities of the SHVA comply with the requirements of the Certificate of Incorporation, the IRS, and any other applicable federal and state laws.

##### **(ii) Vice Chairman**

The Vice Chairman shall have all of the powers of and have the ability to perform all of the duties of the Chairman in the event of his temporary absence. In cases of resignation, permanent absence, or incapacity, the Vice Chairman shall become the Chairman and a new Vice Chairman elected by the BoA.



### **(iii) Reunion Planner**

The Reunion Planner has overall responsibility for planning the reunions of the SHVA. He shall negotiate with destination-management organizations, the organizations in the hospitality industry, and organizations associated with cruises to obtain a reasonable value for the costs. The Reunion Planner shall keep the BoA informed of milestones during each reunion being planned. The Reunion Planner is also responsible for the production and distribution of the self-contained, reunion-related information to members.

### **(iv) Chief of the Boat (CoB)**

The Chief of the Boat is responsible for monitoring membership but without any financial responsibilities. These duties are limited to finding new members or coordinating the effort. The CoB also is responsible for researching and coordinating research concerning the history of USS Sam Houston and its crews.

### **(v) Treasurer**

The Treasurer manages all financial aspects of the SHVA. This includes the receipt of dues and donations and all financial bookkeeping necessary to fulfill requirements of the Certificate of Incorporation, the IRS, and any other applicable federal and state laws. Additionally, the Treasurer shall provide financial reports at Regular Meetings of the BoA, at Business Meetings, and at other times as deemed by the Chairman. *This position may be filled by a nonveteran of the SHVA.*

### **(c) Elections & Terms of Service**

Veterans shall serve terms that span official reunions of the SHVA, but terms shall be staggered such that the potential for replacing all active BoA positions cannot occur during a vote of Veterans at any one Business Meeting. This situation can result in personnel serving extended or abbreviated terms or the appointment of individuals to Acting Positions. Acting Positions, i.e., new positions created between general elections or current positions being filled temporarily, shall be assigned by a majority vote of the BoA. Members of the BoA shall serve their terms until resignation or removed or replaced by vote of the BoA for a variety of reasons that include death, illness, or other conflicting obligations.

### **(d) Vacancies**

When vacancies occur on the BoA, the BoA may fill vacancies by a majority vote. These positions shall then be put to vote by Veterans along with other nominees for the positions at subsequent Business Meetings.

### **(e) Voting Rights**

All members of the BoA have voting rights at all meetings of the BoA and at Business Meetings. In the event of a tie, the BoA collectively shall agree on a method of resolving the tie.

### **(f) Regular Meetings**

Regular Meetings of the BoA shall be held in conjunction with official SHVA reunions and, preferably, before the Business Meeting at the reunions. Minutes shall be kept of all Regular Meetings.

### **(g) Special Meetings**

Special Meetings are held as deemed necessary by the Chairman. The use of technology, such as teleconferences, chat, and e-mail may be used for these meetings provided everyone involved in the meetings can hear all others simultaneously or that all related e-mail messages are sent and received by all involved. Minutes shall be kept of all Special Meetings.

### **(h) Notice of Special Meetings**

Written notice of Special Meetings of the BoA shall occur by postal mail or e-mail to each member of the BoA in not less than 5 days or more than 30 days prior to the meeting. The notices shall contain at least the following information:

- Date and time
- Physical location or the technological method to be used.
- Agenda of the meeting.

### **(i) Meeting Minutes**

The chair may permit audio/visual recording of the proceedings at these meeting. Minutes will be produced from those audio/video files. The chair shall assign an individual to produce the minutes from those electronic media before or at those meetings.

### **(j) Quorum & Adjournment**

A quorum shall consist of a majority of the members of the BoA. The concurrence of a majority of BoA members present at a meeting shall be sufficient to conduct business of the SHVA. In the absence of a quorum, members of the BoA present may adjourn the meeting from time to time without notice other than an announcement at the meeting until a quorum occurs.

**(k) Majority Required**

A majority vote of the members of the BoA at meetings shall decide deliberations put to vote.

**(l) Action Without a Meeting**

Unless otherwise restricted by these Bylaws, any action required or permitted to be taken at any meeting of the BoA may be taken without a meeting if all members of the BoA provide consent in writing and the written consent is filed with the minutes of the proceedings of the BoA.

**Section 4.02 Appointed Positions & Committees**

**(a) Appointed Positions**

The Board of Advisors (BoA) shall determine the appointed positions required to facilitate operation of the SHVA. The BoA may permit the SHVA to operate temporarily without the positions being filled. The current positions are Chaplain, Newsletter Editor, and Storekeeper.

**(i) Chaplain**

The Chaplain is responsible for Invocations at official reunion events, being the officiant at formal Memorial Services at reunions, and providing spiritual guidance to members who seek it.

**(ii) Newsletter Editor**

The Newsletter Editor is responsible for production and distribution of editions of the official newsletter of the SHVA.

**(iii) Storekeeper**

The Storekeeper is responsible for obtaining and maintaining stock of items approved by the BoA and/or providing to the member vendor-contact information so that members may purchase items of interest. For the latter situations, the Storekeeper is responsible for coordinating with those vendors the availability of items specific to the SHVA.

**(b) Committees**

**(i) Finance & Audit Committee**

The Finance & Audit Committee is responsible for reviewing expenditures to ensure that they comply with requirements of the Certificate of Incorporation and applicable IRS, federal, state, and local regulations. This committee reports to the Chairman as he specifies and shall provide a statement or report at/for each BoA and Business Meeting. This committee has no authority to act for the BoA of the SHVA.

**(ii) Reunion Committee**

This committee is ad hoc for each reunion and assists the Reunion Planner as needed before, during and after each official SHVA reunion. Some duties of this committee might include preparation and break down of Hospitality Rooms and registration of reunion attendees at reunions. The Reunion Planner establishes and chairs this committee.

**(iii) Bylaws Committee**

The Chairman calls for the formation of this committee for either of the following purposes:

- Performing periodic review of the Bylaws to determine their adequacy.
- Incorporating amendments.

**(iv) Nominations Committee**

This committee receives the names of candidates for election to positions on the BoA and presents the names or candidates at the elections.

**(c) Voting Rights**

Personnel serving in any appointed position or on any committee have no voting rights at BoA meeting, but are entitled to vote at Business Meetings and on any committees on which they may serve.

**(d) Terms of Service**

Persons serving in any appointed position shall serve their terms until resignation or removed or replaced by vote for a variety of reasons that include death, illness, or other conflicting obligations. Those serving on a committee shall serve their terms until the committee is disbanded or until resignation or removed or replaced by vote for a variety of reasons that include death, illness, or other conflicting obligations.

**Article V. GENERAL**

**(a) Offices & Location**

The BoA shall establish the address of the official office of the SHVA in accordance with the Certificate of Incorporation and that address shall be contained in each edition of the newsletter and in the headings of official stationery.

The BoA may establish satellite offices for specific business functions as needed. The addresses of these offices shall be published on documents related to their functions.

**(b) Fiscal Year**

The fiscal year of the SHVA shall be the regular calendar year; i.e., 01 January through 31 December.

**(c) Parliamentary Authority**

These Bylaws do not establish a parliamentary authority. Parliamentary authority will apply only to BoA and Business Meetings. The chairman at any of these meeting may invoke a suitable parliamentary authority (e.g., Robert’s Rules of Order or special rules that the SHVA may establish) and establish a Parliamentarian based upon the need or desire for orderliness at meetings.

**(d) Books & Records**

The official books and records of the SHVA are listed below. These items shall be maintained for the life of the SHVA unless otherwise specified below for the document(s) and shall be retrievable upon request by any regulatory agency, the BoA, or member of the SHVA.

The BoA shall take reasonable steps to inform all members of the contents of the books and records. Upon written request to any member of the BoA, any member may view any of these books and records at a reasonable time and place and for a reasonable amount of time. If productions of the documents become necessary, the requester might incur the related fees. All such payments become the property of the SHVA.

**(i) Certificate of Incorporation**

(Issued by the state of incorporation.)

**(ii) Bylaws**

All revisions shall be maintained.

**(iii) Roster**

The current version of the roster shall exist. It shall contain at least the following information:

- Contact information of each member.
- Membership type and status.
- Classification of being or having been a nonveteran.

**(iv) Treasurer’s Records**

All records shall be maintained.

**(v) Storekeeper Financial Records**

Financial records associated with the storekeeper’s receipts and expenditures shall be maintained.

**(vi) Money Received & Expenditures**

All financial records related to temporary activities such as those related to task forces/committees shall be maintained and submitted to the Treasurer.

**(vii) Meeting Minutes**

Minutes of all BoA and Business Meetings shall be maintained for the life of the SHVA.

**(viii) Committee Reports**

The BoA shall determine retentions of reports of other committees based on the correlations of the records with regulatory requirements. Financial-expenditure records shall be maintained independently of records related to purpose of the committee.

Exempt from these record-retention requirements are the Bylaws Committee and the Nominations Committee.

The Reunion Committee shall maintain financial records related to financial advances from the Treasurer and leftover money from reunion-attendee payments that is either to remain in a separate reunion bank account or transferred into the principal corporate bank account.

**(e) Waiver & Indemnification**

Every member, by accepting affiliation with the SHVA, holds harmless the SHVA and its individual members and waives them from any claims, liabilities, and expenses (including attorney's fees) related to the actions or business affairs of the SHVA. This condition does not apply in situations where special agreements between the SHVA and a member are documented or between members themselves. Each member is responsible for obtaining his/her professional services that includes attorneys and accountants.

**Article VI. BUSINESS MEETING ORGANIZATION**

An arrangement for the topics at Business Meetings follows. The chairman of the meeting may alter this suggested arrangement or add topics as needed to facilitate the conduct of business.

1. Call to order by the chairman.
2. Invocation by the Chaplain or alternate.
3. Pledge of Allegiance to the United States.
4. Chairman appoints a Master-at-Arms, and if warranted, a Parliamentarian.
5. Reading of the past meeting minutes with a vote for approval.
6. Reading of recent significant communications correspondences.
7. Reading of the Treasurer's report.
8. Reading of the Secretaries report.
9. Reading of Committee Reports
10. Unfinished business.

11. New Business.
12. Announcements.
13. Business not covered by the above categories.
14. Adjournment.

## **Article VII. VOTING**

Voting shall be accomplished by either the Plurality Method or the Preferential Method. Beside the casting of votes “in person” at physical meetings, balloting by teleconference, postal mail, or e-mail is permitted based on the choice of the chair and adherence to the requirements of this section and other sections of the Bylaws as they relate to the particular situation.

### **Section 7.01 Plurality Method**

Plurality method is the typical method of voting in which the choice that receives the most votes wins. This method is used when only two choices are involved but may be used with more than two choices but can be problematic.

### **Section 7.02 Preferential Method**

Preferential balloting is a method that redistributes votes based on the order of “preference” of the options and has an excellent application for balloting by mail because it will eliminate the need for re-balloting in the event of a tie. Preferential voting also has considerable advantages because it enables the group to make the best choice by taking into account each voter’s second (or third, fourth, etc.) choice. Refer to the Appendix for an example of preferential voting.

### **Section 7.03 Teleconference**

Voting by teleconference or a technological equivalent is permitted provided all individuals involved in the voting can hear all personnel involved simultaneously. These teleconferences are effectively hands-on meetings. Thus, the chair of the teleconference shall ensure that minutes are produced of the meeting and distributed and archived in accordance with these Bylaws. **Voting by individual phone calls is not permitted.**

### **Section 7.04 Postal Mail**

Voting by postal mail is permitted as determined by the chair of the process provided the criteria set forth in this section are followed. In essence, any process that results in two members each receiving duplicate hardcopies of ballots and tallying them for any item being voted upon shall be acceptable. **This method shall be used simultaneously with an e-mail method for voters involved that do not have access to e-mail.**

A typical method is one in which post cards that detail the item being voted upon with the voting choices and due date shall be prepared. The cards shall be preaddressed for return by postal mail to two predesignated members for independent tallying. Each person eligible for the vote shall be sent two cards—one for each recipient. The original recipients of the cards shall indicate their vote(s). The SHVA shall affix appropriate postal to each card for the return mailing. After the due date has passed, those counting the votes shall provide independent reports for the chair. If the chair determines that no

discrepancies exist, the counts are final. If discrepancies exist, the chair shall coordinate with the counters for resolution. Votes are valid only when both counters have received cards from any one individual voter. If only one counter received a card from a voter, that vote shall be nullified. Forwarding the hardcopies shall not be necessary to the chair shall not be required unless deems it necessary the he/she receive them.

### **Section 7.05     E-Mail**

Voting by e-mail is permitted as determined by the chair of the process provided the criteria set forth in this section are followed. In essence, any process that results in two members each receiving e-mails with the voting choices from each voter is acceptable. These two members will also independently tally the votes after the deadline and independently provide the chair with those results. **This method shall be used simultaneously with a postal-mail method for voters involved that do not have access to e-mail.**

The process is similar to that for postal mail except that e-mail is the media being used. The sender of the original e-mail shall include the e-mail address of another person predesignated to count the votes in the “copy to or ‘cc’” section of the message. The body of the e-mail shall detail the item being voted upon with the voting choices and due date. The recipients of the original message shall indicate their vote(s) and use the “Reply to All” process to return send his/her results. With e-mail, the original sender and the individual whose e-mail address is in the “cc” section will tally the votes.

## **Article VIII. BYLAW AMENDMENTS**

These Bylaws can only be amended by an affirmative vote of the majority of the Veterans in good standing. The Chairman shall provide a written notice of proposed changes to all members in good standing at least 10 days and not more than 60 days before the next Business Meeting.

*NOTE: Editorial changes shall not be subjected to any vote. Such changes are limited to textual or graphic modifications that do not alter the intents of the statements in which they are incorporated or that clarify existing actions or practices resulting from statements in the Bylaws.*

## **Article IX. CESSATION OF THE ASSOCIATION**

The SHVA shall cease existence as a corporation and nonprofit, tax-exempt organization if a regulatory agency issues a cease and desist order. It may also cease existence following a suggestion by BoA based on infeasibility to remain in existence. The cessation will occur in accordance as follows:

1. The BoA shall inform in writing all members in good standing of this decision and the reason(s). The notification shall occur as soon as practicable if ordered by a regulatory agency or within 120 days before the next Business Meeting if decided solely by the BoA.
2. The Treasurer shall ensure that all outstanding bills are paid and all business accounts are closed.
3. All remaining monies and properties of the SHVA shall be donated to qualified veteran’s organization(s) selected by the BoA or donated as specified in regulatory requirements, whichever prevails.



4. The Treasurer shall issue a final Financial Report to individuals who had been members in good standing.
5. The BoA shall assign an individual to inform the state of incorporation and the IRS of the cessation of the SHVA.

## **Article X. APPENDIX**

This appendix contains supplemental information considered worthy of safekeeping regardless of its relationship to these Bylaws. No information requiring a vote by either the BoA or membership to change it shall be placed in this appendix. Therefore, specific information can be added or deleted or its content altered without written notice to the membership or vote. The information in this appendix is not part of the Bylaws although it appears here.

### **Section 10.01 Oath of Office**

The statement that follows is the suggested oath members of the BoA take upon assumption of a term of office following an election. The oath shall be administered in the presence of one or more witnesses.

*I, (state your name), solemnly promise to abide by the policies and Bylaws of the USS Sam Houston Veterans' Assn., its Certificate of Incorporation, and other governmental regulations applicable to its operation. I further promise that I will perform the duties of my position to the best of my knowledge and ability.*

### **Section 10.02 Missing-Shipmate Remembrance**

The suggested program for the Missing-Shipmate Remembrance ceremony to be conducted at each reunion where permitted follows:

*As you entered the banquet hall this evening, you may have noticed a small table in a place of honor. This table is our way of acknowledging and remembering the crew members of USS Sam Houston who are not in our midst at this meal because they are on Eternal Patrol. Tonight, in the warmth and safety of this room, and with heartfelt gratitude, we will remember them, and we acknowledge their willingness to sacrifice their lives to preserve the freedoms that the citizens of this country enjoy daily and that we in this room enjoy this evening. They were—they ARE—our shipmates.*

Please be seated. I will explain the meanings of the items on this special table.

- This *table*, set for one that recognizes the frailty of one person, alone against the rigors of this life and it symbolizes our belief in the uniqueness and abilities of each individual shipmate. (*Two peals of the bell*)
- The *tablecloth* is white; it symbolizing the purity of their intentions as they responded to their country's call to arms. (*Two peals of the bell*)

- The single *red rose* displayed in a vase reminds us of the families and loved ones of those shipmates—those who honored them, daily, in their thoughts, memories and prayers. (*Two peals of the bell*)
- The *candle*—the candle is lighted, symbolizing the upward reach of their unconquerable spirit. (*Two peals of the bell*)
- A slice of *lemon* on the bread plate reminds us of their bitter fate. (*Two peals of the bell*)
- There is *salt* upon the bread plate is symbolic of the tears of families and loved ones left behind. (*Two peals of the bell*)
- The *glass* is inverted—our shipmates cannot toast with us this evening. (*Two peals of the bell*)
- The *chair*—the chair is empty. They are not here. (*Two peals of the bell*)

Remember! All of us who served with them and called them comrades, friends, and shipmates; who depended upon their might and aid; and who relied upon them. For surely, they have not forsaken us. (*Two peals of the bell*)

Remember. Until the day we meet again in the next life. Remember. (*Two peals of the bell*)

Table Setup:

- A small, round bistro table
- White tablecloth
- Single place setting, preferably all white
- Wine glass – inverted
- Salt shaker
- Slice of lemon on bread plate with a pile of spilled salt
- Small bud vase with a single stem red rose
- RED ribbon tied around the vase
- Candle – lit
- Empty chair
- Bell

### **Section 10.03 Preferential-Voting Concept**

As an example of preferential voting, suppose a group is electing a treasurer, and Mr. I. M. Great, Ms. Raz M'tazz, Mr. Slug, and Ms. Gliggenschlapp are on the ballot. The results follow:

- Mr. Great                    91 votes
- Ms. M'tazz                    96 votes
- Mr. Slug                      35 votes
- Ms. Gliggenschlapp    75 votes

Who wins? If you were electing by plurality, Ms. M'tazz wins. But out of the total of 297 votes, 201 members wanted someone else. Thus, Ms. M'tazz is hardly the right choice for the group. Nevertheless, Ms. M'tazz wins because only the person with the most votes wins.

Consider if we could redistribute based on the second choice the votes of those whose first choice was Mr. Slug. If all of them had Ms. Gliggenschlapp as their second choice and we were using preferential voting, then she is the holder of 110 votes including secondary preference. That puts Mr. Great in last place! Now, if the members who voted for Mr. Great as their first choice had other ideas as their second choice, then his votes could be redistributed to Ms. M'tazz and Ms. Gliggenschlapp, and one of the two of them would have the largest stack of ballots. Preferential voting takes into account everyone's preference, and thus, avoids the cost of taking another ballot by mail or time when voting in person.

While preferential voting might sound complicated, it is not. Voters indicate their choices by order of preference (1, 2, 3, etc.), and the ballots are sorted based on the first choice listed with each option having its own stack. The smallest stack is redistributed among others based upon the second choices provided on the ballots. The next round takes the remaining smallest stack and redistributes it based on the second or third choices indicated. This process continues until one option receives a majority of the ballots, and that choice wins.

Preferential voting is a good system because it comes closer than plurality in choosing the most desirable option and because it is less costly and time-consuming than continuing to re-ballot until a majority is achieved.

## **Article XI. Revision-Summary Section**

The Revision-Summary Section is a log of changes to the Bylaws.

### ***Revision 0***

- 01 Dec 2009: Preapproval for acceptance by the BoA.
- 25 Apr 2010: Removed position of Recording Secretary. Technology can be used to record proceedings at BoA and Business Meetings. Minutes will be produced from those audio/video files. The chair of these meetings shall assign an individual to produce the minutes from those electronic media before or at those meetings.
- ***Bylaws accepted by unanimous vote of the Veterans at the Business Meeting on 23 Oct 2010.***

### ***Revision 1***

- 05 Feb 2011: Added Article VII, "Voting," that delineates two voting methods and includes an example of preferential voting in Article X, "Appendix." This establishes methods for voting by teleconference, postal mail, and e-mail.
- 02 Jul 2015: Editorial changes in Section 2.01(b), Associate Member. The intent of the original statements was not altered.
- ***Bylaws accepted by unanimous vote of the Veterans at the Business Meeting on 17 Sep 2016.***

***Howard Dobson, Chairman & Reunion Planner***