



G.P.H.
GRAND OF THE PACIFIC
M.O.C.
MILITARY ORDER OF THE COOTIE



30 June 2021

Supreme Shyster
Military Order of the Cootie
604 Braddock Ave.
Turtle Creek, PA 15145

Bylaws, Grand Pup Tent of the Pacific Areas

Attached for your scrutinization and final onceover and seal of approval by the Supreme Commander, are the amended bylaws adopted by two thirds (2/3) vote at the Grand of Pacific Scratch held on 26 June 2021.

Yours in L.O.T.C.S.
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CC:
File
Grand Commander
Grand JA
Supreme ADJ
Supreme JA

Approved
Gerald L. Constable
GERALD CONSTABLE
Supreme Judge Advocate

APPROVED

Olin Parks
Supreme Commander

BYLAWS



GRAND PUP TENT OF THE PACIFIC AREAS

Military Order of the Cootie of the United States

"Honor Degree of the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States"

Amended: 26 June 2021

Approved: 26 October 2021

ARTICLE I – NAME AND JURISDICTION

Article 101 – Name:

By the authority of the National By-Laws of the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States and the By-Laws of the Supreme Pup Tent, Military Order of the Cootie of the United States, this sub-division of the Military Order of the Cootie of the United States shall be known as the Grand Pup Tent of Pacific Areas, Military Order of the Cootie of the United States.

Section 102 – Jurisdiction:

The jurisdiction of this Grand Pup Tent shall coincide with that of the Department of Pacific Areas of the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States.

ARTICLE II – OBJECTIVES

The objectives of the Grand Pup Tent of Pacific Areas shall be to promote and further the objectives of the Military Order of the Cootie and the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States.

ARTICLE III – AUTHORITY

Section 301 – Supreme Pup Tent:

This Grand Pup Tent shall be subordinate to the Supreme Pup Tent and at all times be governed by the By-Laws, mandates and directives adopted by the Supreme Scratch or promulgated by the Supreme Commander or the Supreme Council of Administration.

Section 302 – Local:

Subject to the provisions of the Supreme By-Laws, the governing of this Grand Pup Tent shall be vested in the Grand Scratch and Grand Council of Administration between Grand Scratches as well as the lawful orders of the Grand Commander.

Section 303 – VFW:

This Grand Pup Tent shall, at all times be and remain under the jurisdiction of, and be governed according to the Constitution and By-Laws of the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States.

ARTICLE IV – GRAND SCRATCH

Section 401 – Composition:

- a. The Supreme Commander and all Past Supreme Commanders of the Military Order of the Cootie who are members in good standing of a Pup Tent within the Grand Pup Tent of Pacific Areas.
- b. The Grand Commander and all Past Grand Commanders of the Military Order of the Cootie who are members in good standing of a Pup Tent within the Grand Pup Tent of Pacific Areas. The term Past Grand Commander shall be applicable to any member qualified for such title regardless of the Grand Pup Tent in which the title was earned.
- c. All elective officers of the Grand Pup Tent and the Grand Adjutant, Grand Chief of Staff, Grand Inspector, Grand Master of Ceremonies (Shirt Reader), Grand Officer of the Day (Provost Marshal), Grand Officer of the Guard (Jimmy Legs), and Grand Hospital Chairman.

- d. Seam Squirrels of Pup Tents within the jurisdiction of the Grand Pup Tent of Pacific Areas. In the absence of the Seam Squirrel, the Pup Tent Blanket Bum or Hide Gimlet or a Past Pup Tent Seam Squirrel (in that sequence) may represent the Pup Tent provided the Past Pup Tent Seam Squirrel representing a Pup Tent under these provisions is a member in good standing of that Pup Tent.
- e. Delegates elected by Pup Tents within the Grand Pup Tent in accordance with the provisions of the Supreme By-Laws which is One (1) delegate for each fifteen (15) or fraction thereof Pup Tent members in good standing.

Section 402 – Standing Committees:

- a. Credentials Committee: The Credentials Committee at a Grand Scratch shall consist of the Grand Quartermaster as Chairperson and such other members as may be appointed by the Grand Commander.
- b. Budget Committee: The Budget Committee shall consist of the Grand Quartermaster as Chairperson, the Grand Commander, Grand Senior Vice Commander, Grand Junior Vice Commander, the Junior Past Grand Commander and others as may be appointed by the Grand Commander.
- c. By-Laws Committee: The By-Laws Committee shall consist of the Grand Advocate as Chairman and others as appointed by the Grand Commander.

Section 403 – Convening of Grand Scratch:

The annual Grand Scratch of the Grand Pup Tent of Pacific Areas shall be held at the same time and place as the annual Convention of the Department of Pacific Areas, Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States.

Section 404 – Voting:

- a. Each member of the Grand Scratch, except delegates elected by the Pup Tents, present at the Grand Scratch shall be entitled to one vote. An individual possessing more than one qualification for membership in a Grand Scratch shall have no more than one vote. The only exception to this rule is that if a Pup Tent Seam Squirrel is the only one present from his (her) Pup Tent at the Grand Scratch the Seam Squirrel may vote as Seam Squirrel and shall also vote the delegate strength of the Pup Tent. The delegates present at a Grand Scratch shall be entitled to vote the full delegate strength to which the Pup Tent is entitled provided the Pup Tent is duly registered at the Grand Scratch. Should there be a division among the delegates representing a Pup Tent each delegate present shall cast his pro-rata share of the total delegate strength to which the Pup Tent is entitled. For the purpose of this section, if the Pup Tent Seam Squirrel is voting with the Pup Tent Delegates he may also cast a pro-rata share of the total delegate votes.
- b. A roll call vote may be called on any matter requiring a vote of the Grand Scratch, upon demand for a roll call vote by any three (3) officers or delegates representing three different Pup Tents.
- c. A quorum for transacting business at a Grand Scratch will be not less than one (1) delegate from majority of the Pup Tents in good standing at the time of the Grand Scratch and not less than seven (7) members of the Grand Council of Administration, one of whom must be the Commander, Senior Vice Commander or Junior Vice Commander.

ARTICLE V – REGISTRATION

Prior to the commencement of the business of the Grand Scratch, all authorized officers and Pup Tents must register with the Grand Quartermaster. A registration fee

must be paid of each authorized vote at the Grand Scratch. Pup Tents are responsible for paying the delegate fees of its Seam Squirrel and delegates and any Grand Officers from that Pup Tent entitled to a vote. If any officer elects to vote separately from his Pup Tent that officer is responsible for paying his delegate fee. The amount of the registration fee shall be established by the Grand Council of Administration.

ARTICLE VI – OFFICERS

Section 601 – Elected:

Elected officers of this Grand Pup Tent shall be: Commander, Senior Vice Commander, Junior Vice Commander, Quartermaster, Judge Advocate, Surgeon, Chaplain, Historian, and seven (7) Grand Council Members with one (1) to be elected from each VFW District within the VFW Department of Pacific Areas.

Section 602 – Appointed:

The appointed officers of this Grand Pup Tent shall be: Adjutant, Chief of Staff, Inspector, Deputy Inspectors, Master of Ceremonies (Shirt Reader), Officer of the Day (Provost Marshal), Officer of the Guard (Jimmy Legs), Hospital Chairman, National Home Chairman, Audit Committee and any other officers the Grand Commander deems necessary.

Section 603 – Eligibility:

Any Third-Degree member of the Military Order of the Cootie in good standing of a Pup Tent within the Grand Pup Tent of Pacific Areas is eligible to hold any elected or appointed office. No member shall hold two or more elected offices simultaneously. Such members must remain a member in good standing for the duration of their term of office.

Section 604 - Elections:

- a. Grand elected officers shall be elected at the Grand Scratch by roll call vote or by written ballot.
- b. A majority of all votes cast shall be necessary for election. If there is not a majority on the first two ballots the name of the Nominee receiving the lowest number of votes shall be dropped and so on for each successive ballot until an election is made.

Section 605 – Term of Office:

- a. Elected officers shall be installed prior to the adjournment of the Grand Scratch and shall immediately assume office and shall hold such office until a successor has been elected and installed or the position declared vacant as provided herein.
- b. The term of office for appointed officers shall be at the pleasure of the appointing official or upon expiration of the appointive authority of the appointing officer.
- c. Upon termination of the term of office to which an officer has been elected or appointed or sooner, if so ordered by proper authority, such officer will surrender immediately to only the duly authorized person or persons, all records, money or other properties of the organization in his possession or under his control.

Section 606 – Vacancies:

Vacancies in elective offices shall be filled by vote of the Grand Council of Administration except for vacancies in the office of Commander and Senior Vice Commander which shall be filled by succession of the Senior Vice or Junior Vice Commander, in that order, in which case a new Junior Vice Commander may be elected by the Grand Council of Administration.

Section 607 – Vacating Offices:

The Grand Council of Administration may, by two thirds (2/3rd) vote of members present at a Council Meeting, declare vacant the position of any elected officer who has failed or refuses to perform the duties of his office, provided that notice of the proposed action has been given to the officer and the members of the Grand Council of Administration at least thirty (30) days prior to voting on such action. The Grand Commander shall give the notice, except that if vacating the office of Grand Commander is being considered, and then notice shall be given to the Grand Commander by the Grand Senior Vice Commander.

Section 608 – Duties of Grand Officers:

- a. **Grand Commander:** Immediately upon assuming office the Grand Commander shall appoint an Adjutant, Inspector and such other officers as provided for in Article VI, Section 602 of these By-Laws. Shall preside at the Grand Scratch and at all meetings of the Grand Council of Administration. Shall enforce strict observance of these By-Laws and the By-Laws of the Supreme Pup Tent and all other rules and directives of the Grand Scratch, Grand Council of Administration and the Supreme Pup Tent. Shall perform such other duties as prescribed by Supreme By-Laws.
- b. **Grand Senior and Junior Vice Commanders:** Shall assist the Grand Commander as directed and as prescribed by Supreme By-Laws. In the absence or disability of the Grand Commander, they shall discharge the duties of the Grand Commander according to seniority as prescribed by Supreme By-Laws.
- c. **Grand Adjutant:** Shall, by order and direction of the Grand Commander, Grand Scratch or the Grand Council of Administration issue Grand General Orders and memorandums and distribute the same as required. Shall maintain a current listing of names and addresses of all Grand Officers and Pup Tent Shavetails, and is responsible for maintaining complete files of applicable publications.
- d. **Grand Quartermaster:** Shall be responsible for the receipts, disbursements and custody of Grand Pup Tent funds in accordance with the provisions of the Supreme By-Laws and such other directives of the Grand Scratch and Grand Council of Administration.
 - 1) Shall be responsible for the prompt remission of Supreme Per Capita tax transmitted to the Grand Quartermaster from Pup Tents within Grand.
 - 2) Shall be responsible that the office of Grand Quartermaster is adequately bonded.
 - 3) Shall maintain a current record of Grand membership by Pup Tent and submit membership reports as required.
 - 4) Shall be the Chairman of the Grand Budget Committee.
 - 5) Shall perform such other duties as prescribed by Supreme By-Laws or as directed by the Grand Commander, Grand Scratch or Grand Council of Administration.

- e. **Grand Chief of Staff:** Shall have responsibility for Pup Tent organizational work within the Grand. Shall perform such other duties as prescribed in Supreme By-Laws or as directed by the Grand Commander, Grand Scratch or Grand Council of Administration.
- f. **Grand Inspector:** Shall have charge of and supervise the work of instruction and inspection with the Grand Pup Tent and shall require timely inspections of all Pup Tents within the Grand at least once annually or more often as required and shall perform all duties as prescribed by Supreme By-laws. Shall recommend to the Grand Commander the names of nominees for appointment as Grand Deputy Inspectors.
- g. **Grand Judge Advocate:** Shall prepare and submit for approval Rules of Order for each Grand Scratch and Grand Council of Administration meeting. Shall receive, review and submit to the Grand Scratch all proposed By-Laws amendments or revisions and Resolutions that have been properly submitted for consideration. Shall advise the Grand Commander, Grand Scratch and Grand Council of Administration on legal matters relative to the Military Order of the Cootie as may be required and requested and will perform such other duties as may be directed by the Grand Commander.
- h. **Grand Hospital Chairman:**
 - 1) Shall promote hospital activity within the Grand of Pacific Areas.
 - 2) Shall supply Pup Tents with blank hospital report forms and shall forward complete hospital report forms to the Supreme District Hospital Chairman.
 - 3) Shall perform such other duties as prescribed by Supreme By-Laws and directives as directed by the Grand Commander, Grand Scratch and Grand Council of Administration.
- i. **Grand Audit Committee:** Committee will meet at least annually prior to the Grand Scratch and as further prescribed by the Council of Administration for the purpose of conducting an audit of the books and records of the Grand Quartermaster and such other Grand Officers who may have access to funds that are the property of or under the control of the Grand. They will submit a written report of their audits to the Council of Administration for approval or with other recommendations as deemed necessary.
- j. **Budget Committee:** Will meet prior to the Incoming Council of Administration Meeting to formulate a proposed balanced budget for the ensuing term subject to approval of the Grand Council of Administration. They shall again meet prior to the Midterm meeting of the Grand Council to review and propose any changes deemed necessary to the existing budget subject to Council approval. They shall again meet prior to the Outgoing Council Meeting preceding the Grand Scratch to review the final report of the previously approved budget and report their findings to the Outgoing Council Meeting and Grand Scratch.
- k. **Grand Council Members:**
 - 1) Grand Council Members shall assist the Grand Chief of Staff as required, by the Grand Chief of Staff or the Grand Commander.
 - 2) Each Council Member shall visit the Pup Tent(s) in his District as required, but not less than once during his term of office.
 - 3) Grand Council Members should attend all meetings of the Grand Council of Administration and the Grand Scratch. Council Members are expected to submit a written report of Cootie and/or Pup Tent activities, within their District, at each Council of Administration Meeting and each Grand Scratch.
 - 4) Grand Council Members shall perform such other duties as prescribed by these By-Laws, Supreme By-Laws or as directed by the Grand Commander, Grand Scratch or Grand Council of Administration.

- I. **Other Grand Officers (Elected and Appointed:** The duties and responsibilities of other Grand Officers are prescribed by the Supreme By-Laws, Supreme Program Book, and other Supreme directives. All Grand Officers will familiarize themselves with their responsibilities and shall perform such other duties as directed by the Grand Commander, Grand Scratch or Grand Council of Administration.

ARTICLE VII – GRAND COUNCIL OF ADMINISTRATION

Section 701 – Composition:

- a. The Grand Commander and all Past Grand Commanders of the Military Order of the Cootie, Grand of Pacific Areas, Grand of Japan, and Grand of Oki-Tai, provided such Past Grand Commanders are members in good standing of a Pup Tent, within the Grand Pup Tent of Pacific Areas. All elected Grand of Pacific Areas Officers, Grand Adjutant, Grand Inspector, Grand Chief of Staff, Grand Shirt Reader and Grand Hospital Chairman.
- b. The Supreme Commander and all Past Supreme Commanders of the Military Order of the Cootie who are members in good standing of a Pup Tent within the Grand Pup Tent of Pacific Areas.

Section 702 – Powers & Duties:

- a. The Grand Council of Administration shall be responsible for the working interests of the Grand Pup Tent of Pacific Areas between Grand Scratches.
- b. Budget - The Grand Council of Administration shall, at its first meeting following the Grand Scratch, approve and implement an annual balanced budget covering the financial transactions of the Grand and will consider any changes to this budget at the Mid-Term meeting of the Council of Administration. During the term, the approved budget may be amended only by a majority vote of the Council of Administration. Voting on a budget amendment may be conducted in accordance with the provisions of Section 703d of these By-Laws. The Outgoing Council of Administration will review the final budget figures but shall make no amendments thereto. Final budget figures may be used by the Incoming Budget Committee in establishing a budget for the ensuing term.
- c. Audits – The Grand Council of Administration shall have the power to audit the books and records of various Grand Officers having access or responsibility for Grand funds and shall require the books and records of the Grand Quartermaster be audited at least annually.

Section 703 – Meetings:

- a. Frequency and Location – The Grand Council of Administration shall normally meet in session three times annually. The first meeting shall be during the Grand Scratch period following installation of Grand Officers. The second meeting shall be during the same period and at the same place as the Department of Pacific Areas, Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States Mid-Term Council meeting. The third meeting shall be preceding the annual Grand Scratch. Additional meetings may be convened only by order of the Grand Commander or by two thirds (2/3rd) vote of the Council members. The time and place of any special meeting will be at the direction of the Grand Commander.
- b. Voting – Each member of the Ground Council of Administration present at a meeting shall be entitled to one vote. Voting by proxy is not allowed.
- c. Quorum – The presence of at least seven (7) members of the Grand Council of Administration, one of whom must be the Commander, Senior Vice Commander

or Junior Vice Commander, shall constitute a quorum for the transaction of business.

- d. Business by Mail – To facilitate the conduct of important and urgent business the Grand Pup Tent, the Grand Council of Administration may authorize the use of an electronic ballot (e-mail or FAX) for a decision on a specific matter of business. A majority vote by electronic ballot shall be legal and binding provided at least fifty per cent (50%) of eligible Council members have cast a ballot.

ARTICLE VIII – GRAND PER CAPITA TAX AND EXTENSION FEE

The Grand Per Capita Tax shall be \$14.00 for each regular member for the ensuing term and a Grand Extension Fee of \$1.00 for each new member. The assessed Grand Per Capita Tax shall never be less than the Current Supreme Per Capital Tax

ARTICLE IX – ARREARAGES

Any Pup Tent under the jurisdiction of the Grand Pup Tent of Pacific Areas in arrears, for membership transmittal, audit reports, approved inspection reports, or other financial obligations may be excluded from all representation in the Grand Scratch until such deficiencies have been corrected or by special exemption by the Grand Scratch.

ARTICLE X – REVOCATION OR SUSPENSION OF CHARTER

Section 1001 – By Grand Commander:

- a. The Grand Commander may suspend the Charter of a Pup Tent for up to sixty (60) days for violation of the laws and usages of the organization or failure to comply with the lawful orders of the Supreme Scratch, Supreme Commander, Supreme Council, Grand Commander or Grand Council of Administration, or for such other conduct by the Pup Tent or its Officers, acting on behalf of the Pup Tent, which the Grand Commander believes harmful to the best interests of the Military Order of the Cootie. The Grand Commander taking such action shall notify the Supreme Commander in writing of such action within forty-eight (48) hours thereof giving the reasons therefore. During or at the close of the suspension period the Grand Commander may remove the suspension or recommend to the Supreme Commander that the Pup Tent Charter be cancelled or revoked.
- b. Establishment of trusteeship. – Upon the imposition of any suspension by either the Supreme Commander or the Grand Commander, the Grand Commander shall appoint a trusteeship to consist of three to five Trustees, at least one of whom shall reside sufficiently near the Pup Tent to effectively carry out the business and affairs of the Trusteeship. Pursuant to a written grant of powers and limitations such Trustees shall carry on the business and affairs of the Pup Tent during the suspension. The business and affairs of the Pup tent shall be limited to current MOC activities. While under suspension, no meetings (Scratches) shall be held in the name of the Pup Tent except for the purpose of discussion of the cause, effect and removal of the suspension and no funds of the Pup tent may be expended or obligations incurred; except as may be approved by the Trustees. Trustees appointed shall remain in office until the suspension has been lifted or the Charter has been cancelled and the Charter and all other Pup Tent property has been recovered by them and forwarded to proper authority.
- c. If the charter is cancelled or revoked by the Supreme Commander, the appointed Trustees shall recover the Pup Tent Charter and all monies and other property of the Pup Tent and forward same through the Grand Quartermaster to the Supreme Quartermaster.

Section 1002 – Grand Commander's recommendations to Supreme Commander:

- a. At the close of the suspension period implemented by the Grand Commander or sooner if deemed appropriate, the Grand Commander may recommend to the Supreme Commander that the Pup Tent Charter be (1) suspended for an additional period by the Supreme Commander or, (2) that the Supreme Commander cancel or revoke the Pup Tent Charter.
- b. Any recommendation for the cancellation or revocation of the charter shall be in writing and shall show the causes for the recommendation.

ARTICLE XI – AMENDMENTS

These By-Laws may be revised or amended at any Grand Scratch provided that the proposed revision, amendment or amendments be presented in writing (mail) or electronically (email/fax) to each Pup Tent and Council of Administration member in the Grand at least thirty (30) days prior to the Grand Scratch. The proposed revised amendment or amendments shall be subject to approval by the Grand Scratch by two thirds (2/3rd) majority of the members voting.

ARTICLE XII – EFFECTIVE DATE

These By-Laws were approved by a two-thirds (2/3rd) majority vote of the delegates present at the grand scratch held on 26 June 2021 but shall not be in force and effect until approved by the Supreme Commander, Military Order of the Cootie.

Grand of the Pacific Areas
Military Order of the Cootie of the United States

By: Ronald Davis
Grand Commander

Official:

By: X-S. Watson
Grand Adjutant