



**Spring Conference**  
**March 18, 2023**

**Rules of the**  
**Conference**

## **RULES OF THE CONVENTION**

Rule 1: Robert's Rules of Order, revised, will govern except as hereinafter specifically stated, and when not in conflict with the Disabled American Veterans Constitution and Bylaws and the Rules of the Convention.

Rule 2: For the purpose of recognition, a member of the Convention must (a) address the chair as Comrade Commander; (b) state name and chapter or title; (c) proceed only after recognition from the chair.

Rule 3: Debate on any question shall be limited to five minutes for each speaker except by consent of two-thirds of the delegates present.

Rule 4: Not more than two (2) representatives from any one Chapter shall be permitted to discuss any one subject except by a two-thirds (2/3) consent.

Rule 5: Recognition shall be granted only once to any one speaker on any one subject. A rebuttal of not more than two minutes may be permitted. Additional recognition may be granted by two-thirds (2/3) consent.

Rule 6: No person who has spoken for or against any motion, resolution or report on the Convention floor shall be permitted to make a motion to table. A motion to table is not debatable and shall require a majority affirmation vote. A tabled motion may be taken from the table for reconsideration by a majority vote.

Rule 7: All resolutions shall be submitted to the office of the Department Adjutant in electronic form, signed by the sponsoring Chapter or Department Committee, not later than 14 days prior to the opening of the Department Convention. The Department Adjutant will submit resolutions to the Resolution Committee for review prior to the opening session of the convention. The Department Adjutant will determine the time and place of the Resolution Committee meeting(s) and notify the chairperson/members. The Resolution Committee shall meet on the first day of the Convention, if possible.

Rule 8: Standing Committees of the Department will be considered Convention Committees during the Convention. Convention Committees may originate and sponsor such resolutions as they desire as long as they pertain to the subject to which the committee is charged.

Rule 9: All resolutions must be signed by all committee members present whether approved or rejected.

Rule 10: All committee reports will be typed or written and signed by the committee members and provided to the Adjutant after the final report of the committee.

Rule 11: A resolution may not be discussed by the convention until it has been reported by the responsible convention committee except by unanimous consent.

Rule 12: Resolutions referred to but not favorably reported by such committee are in order and may be called up for consideration by proponents at the moment of discharge of the committee.

Rule 13: If the resolution under consideration relates to change of the Constitution and Bylaws, it may not be considered unless the proponent had it read at the time the resolutions favorably reported by the Constitution and Bylaws Committee were read to the Convention.

Rule 14: Resolutions and mandates adopted at the Convention shall be effective only until the next Convention, unless readopted at such Convention.

Rule 15: All personal grievances and claims of members with respect to their personal interests shall be submitted to the committee having jurisdiction thereof, and the committee shall report to the Convention. An appeal may be taken to the Convention in the event of an adverse decision.

Rule 16: Voting shall be via voice, except when a roll call is demanded by the presiding officer or at least one (1) delegate from five (5) Chapters, except in the election of Department Officers; however, vote may be via voice, if there is no contest.

Rule 17: Each Chapter delegation shall elect a chairperson who shall announce the vote of the delegation. When a poll of any delegation is demanded by a delegate thereof entitled to vote, the chairperson shall poll the vote of such delegation without debate or discussion.

Rule 18: In the case any delegation is entitled to cast more votes than the number of delegates present, the votes of those absent shall be cast in the same proportion as the votes of those present.

Rule 19: No person shall be entitled to vote or act as a delegate or alternate unless that individual is a member of the Disabled American Veterans in good standing in the Department of Virginia.

Rule 20: No Department officer, Past Department Commander, Department Executive Committeeperson or Chapter delegate may be permitted to vote unless he/she has paid the registration fee.

Rule 21: The voting strength of each Chapter will be determined on the basis of the membership in good standing as of the last day of the preceding month in which the Convention is held.

Rule 22: Roll call voting shall be numerical beginning with the lowest numbered Chapter in ascending numerical order in even-numbered years and in descending numerical order beginning with the highest numbered Chapter in odd-numbered years. The At-Large Chapter is not entitled to voting privileges.

Rule 23: The final report of the Credentials Committee, the report of the Nominating Committee, and the election of Department officers, in that order, shall begin no earlier than 1:00 PM or later than 3:00 PM on the last day of the Convention.

Rule 24: The ruling of the Credentials Committee as to the right to vote will be final unless a majority vote of the delegates present shall decide otherwise.

Rule 25: Nominations for Department officers shall be made by the Nominating Committee and from the floor.

Rule 26: Only one nominating speech of five (5) minutes and one seconding speech of three (3) minutes shall be permitted for each candidate for any elective office.

Rule 27: In the event more than two (2) candidates are nominated for the same office, and one candidate does not receive a majority of the votes cast by the Convention on the first ballot, the top two (2) candidates only will be eligible for subsequent ballot.

Rule 28: Department officers will be installed at the annual banquet held in the evening of the same day as the election of Department officers.

Rule 29: The Rules of the Convention may be suspended only by a majority vote of the delegates present and voting.

Rule 30: The proceedings of the convention will be recorded on magnetic tape or durable electronic archival equipment which will be deposited in the records of the Department and retained for a period of five (5) years. Typewritten Minutes of the Convention indicating the Record of Motions, i.e., the motion, any amendments, the maker, and the vote on the main motion and amendments will be made available to each Chapter within sixty (60) days following the close of the Convention.

Rule 31: These Rules of Convention may be amended by a two-thirds majority vote at the first business session of the Convention.