



SPECIAL FORCES ASSOCIATION

CHAPTER XLVIII

By-Laws

June 30, 2014

ARTICLE I
ORGANIZATION

Section I. Formation

The Special Forces Association, on 21 November 1990, chartered Chapter 48 in Rhode Island with the following Charter members:

Andy Trudeau, Bob Dolan, Joe Silva, Bob Knight, Rick Comerford, Jay Tucker, Larry Pezza, Bob Miller, Bob LaChance, Don Oulette, Charlie Knowles, Joe Stetz, Fred Vocatura, Jimmy Chin, Bill McNaughton, Bob Paquette, Charlie Stallings, Dick Bradley, Bob Antuono, Ken Benoit, Walt May, Bob Delomba, Bob Perry and Steve Kelley.

Section II. By-laws.

- a. Chapter 48, hereinafter known as the Chapter, is organized under the Special Forces Association Constitution. The Special Forces Association is hereinafter known as the National.
- b. These Chapter By-laws supplement the National Constitution. The provisions of the National Constitution apply unless otherwise modified herein.

ARTICLE II
MEETINGS

Section I.

The Chapter shall generally meet at 7:30PM on the 3rd Wednesday of each month at a location determined by the members.

- a. Social Meetings: The Chapter intends to promote camaraderie amongst the Chapter members and guests at such meetings. *The social purpose of these meetings shall preclude the members from conducting any Chapter business and any discussions will not commit the Chapter to any financial, structural, or goal oriented course(s) of action except for election business as contained in Article III Section III a, b and c or unless the membership at such a meeting (with a quorum present) votes by a two-thirds majority to suspend said rule for specifically pre-identified matters that are otherwise time-sensitive.*

The officers of the Chapter shall attempt to provide speakers or other appropriate professional enlightenment of the members.

- b. Business Meetings: The Chapter shall conduct four such meetings each year in the months of January, April, July, and October. Officers and committees shall offer their reports and, if a quorum is present, members may vote on Chapter business.
- c. Emergency Meetings: The President may call such meeting, as he may deem necessary provided that written, electronic, or verbal notice is attempted to all of the voting members at least two days prior to the meeting. Members may vote on Chapter business if a quorum is present.
- d. Ceremonial Meetings: The Chapter shall meet at 8:30 AM at the Chapter Memorial in the Veteran's Cemetery, Exeter, RI on Memorial Day and Veteran's Day.
- e. Board of Directors Meetings: The Board of Directors shall meet at such time and place as the President may determine necessary but no less than two weeks prior to each business meeting. Board shall meet and set the agenda for the next business meeting before the Newsletter editor's deadline.
- f. Quorum: A quorum shall consist of 20 voting members or 25% of membership whichever is smaller.

Section II. Assessment.

The Sergeant at Arms shall assess a fine of \$2 to each member who fails to wear a green beret at the opening ceremony of a Chapter Social or Business Meeting. The Sergeant at Arms shall assess an additional \$2 fine to any member who fails to present a valid SF coin at the opening ceremony. The president shall decide all debates.

ARTICLE III

ELECTIONS

Section I.

Elections of officers shall take place on every even year.

Section II. Nominating Committee.

- a. Composition. The President shall appoint the chairman of the Nominating Committee during the January business meeting. The members present shall elect the two remaining members at the same meeting.

- b. Activities. The committee shall obtain and agree upon at least one name of a willing and qualified candidate for each of the officer and Board of Directors positions.

Section III. Nominations.

- a. The Nominations Committee shall present its preliminary list of candidates to the membership at the *February* Meeting.
- b. Once the Nominating Committee gives its report, a majority of the voting members present at the meeting may nominate additional willing and qualified candidates.
- c. The Secretary shall provide a ballot with the final slate of candidates to the voting membership by electronic mail *to all members with identified electronic mail addresses and by regular mail with pre-paid postage to those members without such identified electronic mail address* or hand delivered at the March meeting. The ballot will include a provision for write in candidates

Section III. Voting.

- a. The voting members will return the ballots to the Secretary who will deliver the ballots to a Tellers Committee, appointed by the President at the April Business Meeting.
- b. The Tellers Committee shall tabulate the ballots and announce the results to the membership.
- c. A tied vote shall be determined by a runoff vote by the voting members present at the April meeting.

ARTICLE IV

OFFICERS

Section I. Terms of Office: Officers shall serve a term of two years. The President shall not serve for more than one consecutive term.

Section II. Vacancies. The Board of Directors shall fill all vacancies between elections.

Section III. Qualifications.

- a. President and Vice President. These officers must meet the prerequisites outlined in the National constitution, Article IV, Section II, B. The Chapter shall endeavor to alternate the office of President between the officer and NCO corps. Their duties are as outlined within the National Constitution.

b. Secretary, Treasurer, and Sergeant at Arms. These officers must meet the prerequisites outlined in the National constitution, Article IV, Section II. Their duties are as outlined within the National Constitution.

Section IV. Sergeant at Arms.

The Sergeant at Arms shall maintain custody of the Chapter guidon. He shall also collect all fines at Chapter meetings.

Section V. Powers.

- a. *The Treasurer (with the advice and consent of the Executive Board) shall submit to the membership, not later than the October business meeting, a proposed budget for the chapter's ensuing fiscal year which, upon adoption by a majority of the members present at said business meeting, shall provide the financial structure which shall govern the chapter's anticipated income and proposed expenditures for said fiscal year. Said fiscal year shall be a calendar year.*
- b. *Exclusive of expenditures from the Family Relief Fund, the President has the authority to expend up to \$250 in non-budgeted chapter funds on an emergency basis (i.e. without obtaining advance approval of the membership at a business meeting, said meeting not having arisen within one week of a scheduled monthly meeting) and to be able to do the same up to \$500 with prior unanimous approval of the board of directors.*

ARTICLE V

Board of Directors

Section I. Composition. The board shall consist of the President, Vice President, Secretary, Treasurer, and three members elected by the voting membership.

Section II. Terms of Office: Board members shall serve a term of two years.

Section III. Vacancies. In the event a vacancy occurs on the board, the Board of Directors shall fill all board vacancies-between elections with a qualified member for the remainder of the unexpired term.

Section IV. Qualifications. *Except for the Secretary, Treasurer and no more than one non-officer board member,, Board members must meet the prerequisites outlined in the National constitution, Article IV, Section II, B.*

Section V. Agenda. The Newsletter Editor shall include the Board of Directors Report from the most recent board meeting in the newsletter, which he shall *transmit to the membership by electronic mail to all members with identified electronic mail addresses or by regular mail with pre-paid postage to those members without such identified electronic mail address* no later than one week prior to each business meeting.

Section VI. Minutes. The Secretary shall record the minutes of all Board of Directors and Emergency Meetings.

Section VII. Powers.

- a. The board shall consider all issues referred to it by the membership or the President.
- b. The board shall make its recommendation to the membership at the next business or Special meeting.
- c. The Board's recommendation shall carry in the event a quorum of voting members are not present at the Chapter meeting where such recommendation is made.
- d. The Board may authorize action on any matter of an emergency nature that must be decided before a Business Meeting and where an Emergency Meeting is not practical.
- e. The Board shall decide any tied vote for elected office, in the event no quorum is present at the April Meeting.

This is a true copy of the CURRENT Chapter By-laws (with the changes made by amendment by the membership during my term of office as Secretary being in italics).

Charles T. Knowles 6-30-14