



CONSTITUTION AND BYLAWS

NATIONAL ORDER OF TRENCH RATS DUGOUT 570

Seaside, California

CONSTITUTION

ARTICLE I - NAME

This Dugout shall be known as Dugout 570, of the NATIONAL ORDER OF TRENCH RATS.

ARTICLE II - PURPOSE

The purpose of this Dugout is to build better lives for all of our nation's disabled veterans and their families and, in furtherance of that purpose, to support the programs of the Disabled American Veterans as provided in the National Constitution and Bylaws and Regulations of the National Executive Committee.

ARTICLE III - MEMBERSHIP

Membership in this Dugout shall conform with the requirements as set forth in the Imperial Constitution and Bylaws. There shall be no associate, special or honorary memberships in this Dugout.

ARTICLE IV - ADMINISTRATION

Section 1: The administrative affairs of this Dugout shall be vested in the Dugout Red Eyed Gnawer and must be ratified by a majority vote of those Dugout members present and voting, at the next regular Dugout meeting.

Section 2: At the time specified in the Dugout Bylaws, the Dugout shall elect annually a Golden Rodent, Silver Rodent and Blue Rodent. Such other officers as may be necessary to operate the Dugout may be appointed by the Golden Rodent, with the approval of the Dugout. Neither the Dugout Golden Rodent nor any Dugout elected officer may serve as Dugout Red Eyed Gnawer.

ARTICLE V - EXECUTIVE

The executive power of this Dugout shall be vested in the Dugout Golden Rodent.

ARTICLE VI - AUXILIARY

This Dugout recognizes an Auxiliary known as the Alley Cats, subject to such supervision as conforms with the Imperial Constitution and Bylaws of both organizations.

BYLAWS

ARTICLE 1 - ORGANIZATION

Section 1: This Dugout recognizes the National Organization known as Imperial Van, incorporated by Act of Congress, and affirms its allegiance, and subordination to the National Organization, its Constitution, Bylaws and all rules, mandates and regulations promulgated pursuant thereto.

Section 2: The governing body of this Dugout shall be the Dugout in session, except as otherwise provided in this Constitution and Bylaws.

Section 3: Minutes of the meetings of the Dugout, shall be kept and be available for inspection by any Dugout member.

ARTICLE II - CHARTER

Section 1: The Charter of this Dugout, issued by the Imperial Van, is its authority to function and shall be displayed behind the Golden Rodent's station at all regular meetings.

Section 2: Upon dissolution of the Dugout, the assets remaining after the payment of its debts shall be distributed as provided in Article 18, of the Imperial Bylaws.

ARTICLE III - OFFICERS

Section 1, Para. 1: The Dugout shall elect annually Dugout Officers in accordance with the Imperial Constitution and Bylaws, Article 11 – Dugouts. Neither the Dugout Golden Rodent nor any Dugout elected officer may serve as Dugout Red Eyed Gnawer.

Para. 2: The Golden Rodent, with the approval of the Dugout, shall appoint the Red Eyed Gnawer and Dugout Committees, with the exception of the Nominating Committee which shall be elected by the Dugout.

Para. 3: Such other officers as may be necessary to operate the Dugout may be appointed by the Golden Rodent, with the approval of the Dugout.

Para. 4: A Dugout officer report shall be submitted to the State Department and National Organization within ten (10) days after the installation of newly elected or appointed Dugout officers or in the event of any subsequent change in the Dugout officers during the membership year.

Para. 5: There shall be no voting by proxy or voting by absentee ballot.

Para. 6: The Dugout, at the time of their annual elections, elect an Imperial Executive Rat for their Dugout and an Imperial Executive Rat Alternate. Qualification for Imperial Executive Rat and Imperial Executive Rat Alternate are as Past Dugout golden Rodent or Past Dugout Red Eyed Gnawer. The Imperial Executive Rat will represent their Dugout on the Imperial Executive Committee. See Imperial Constitution and Bylaws, Article 3 – Imperial Rendezvous, Section 9 for further details.

Section 2, Para. 1: The Golden Rodent shall be the presiding officer at all Dugout meetings and, in his absence, the duty will fall to the next highest officer in line of succession who is present.

Para. 2: The Silver Rodent shall be the Membership Chairman and as such is responsible for campaigns to increase membership.

Para. 3: The Red Eyed Gnawer shall keep an accurate record of all monies received and disbursed and shall deposit any monies received as soon as possible. The Red Eyed Gnawer shall make a report on Dugout finances at each meeting and records shall be open to any member when a request is made in writing. An annual

financial report, in accordance with the requirements of the Imperial Bylaws, shall be submitted to the State Department and Imperial.

Section 3, Para. 1: Upon election or appointment, and installation of the successor to any such Dugout office, all Dugout property in his or her predecessor's possession shall be surrendered to the newly installed officer.

ARTICLE IV - QUALIFICATIONS

Section 1: Dugout elected officers must be either Past Dugout Golden Rodents or Past Dugout Red Eyed Gnawers. Appointed officers may be filled by any Dugout member in good standing, except as otherwise provided in this Constitution and Bylaws.

ARTICLE V - TENURE OF OFFICE

Section 1: Officers for the Dugout shall be nominated, elected and installed during the May meeting, elected in June meeting and installed at our annual Dugout Installation and Dinner.

Section 2: Elected and appointed officers shall be installed within thirty (30) days of their election or appointment. They shall serve for one (1) year or until newly elected or appointed officers have been installed.

Section 3, Para. 1: Unexcused absence of any officer from three (3) consecutive meetings shall be cause for removal by the Dugout, and the Golden Rodent is empowered to appoint a Dugout member to serve the unexpired term, subject to the approval of the Dugout.

Para. 2: In the event the office of Dugout Golden Rodent shall be vacated for any reason, the Silver Rodent shall be elevated to Golden Rodent, Blue Rodent to Silver Rodent and the vacancy filled as outlined in Para. 1 of this Section.

Section 4: It shall require a majority vote of those Dugout members present and voting to elect a candidate for any Dugout office. It shall also require a majority of votes cast to elect delegates or alternates to a Dugout or Imperial Rendezvous.

ARTICLE VI - MEMBERSHIP

Section 1: No new applicant shall be denied Dugout membership if he or she meets the eligibility requirements as set forth in the Imperial Constitution and Bylaws.

Section 2: Only members of the Dugout in good standing are eligible to vote on any motion or at any election.

Section 3: Members of another Dugout may secure a transfer of membership to this Dugout, with the approval of the membership of this Dugout.

ARTICLE VII - FINANCES

Section 1: The Red Eyed Gnawer or other designated officer shall deposit all monies in the name of the Dugout and shall countersign with the Golden Rodent or one other designated Dugout officer on all checks.

Section 2: The Red Eyed Gnawer or other designated Dugout officer shall be charged with handling normal finances in the operation of the Dugout.

Section 3: Membership dues shall be as provided in the Imperial Bylaws.

ARTICLE VIII - MEETINGS

Section 1: Regular Dugout meeting dates, time and location shall be determined by majority vote of the Dugout in session.

Section 2: The Dugout must hold at least two (2) regular meetings with a quorum present within a membership year.

Section 3: Special meetings of the Dugout may be called by the Golden Rodent whenever the Golden Rodent may deem it necessary, or when the Golden Rodent is requested in writing to do so by ten (10) or more Dugout members.

Section 4: Rules of Dugout meetings shall be as follows:

RULE 1. A quorum shall consist of seven (7) members in good standing, of which at least two (2) must be elected Dugout officers.

RULE 2. Robert's Rules of Order, Revised, shall govern the Dugout in all cases to which they are applicable and in which they are not inconsistent with this Constitution and Bylaws, the Dugout Constitution and Bylaws, or the Imperial Constitution and Bylaws.

RULE 3. Discussion of personal grievances will not be in order on the floor unless introduced by the Grievance Committee or other Committees having the authority to consider any such matters.

RULE 4. Matters concerning only an individual member, with respect to his or her own personal interest, shall not be in order but may be taken before the proper Committee.

RULE 5. Voting shall be by voice unless otherwise requested by at least seven (7) members.

ARTICLE IX - COMMITTEES

Section 1: All Dugout committees will meet at the call of the Golden Rodent, or as otherwise provided in this Constitution and Bylaws.

Section 2: Committees shall consist of not less than three (3) nor more than seven (7) members (except as may otherwise be herein provided), including the Chairman. Committees shall be appointed by the Golden Rodent, with the approval of the Dugout, with the exception of the Nominating Committee which shall be elected by the Dugout.

Section 3: The Dugout shall have an Audit Committee composed of at least three (3) members of the Dugout, excluding the Golden Rodent, Silver Rodent, Red Eyed Gnawer and Finance Committee Chairman. The Audit Committee shall conduct an annual audit in accordance with the requirements of the Imperial Bylaws.

ARTICLE X - MISCELLANEOUS

Section 1, Para. 1: These Bylaws may be amended at any Dugout meeting by a vote of two-thirds of those Dugout members present and voting, subject to approval of the Dugout and Imperial Bench Rats, and effective only after date of said approval, provided that any such amendment is read at two (2) meetings and that all Dugout members were notified of the proposed change prior to each of the two (2) meetings.

Para. 2: A copy of this Constitution and Bylaws shall be properly affixed to the back of the framed Charter to prevent its loss and in order that it may always be available for reference.

Para. 3: To the extent to which any of the provisions of this Constitution and Bylaws are, or may at any time become, inconsistent or in conflict with the provisions of the Constitution and Bylaws and lawful mandates, decisions and regulations of the Imperial Organization, as now in force or as hereafter amended or adopted, this instrument shall be deemed amended so as to conform thereto.

Section 2: All disciplinary actions shall be conducted in accordance with Article 18 of the Imperial Bylaws and applicable Regulations of the Imperial Executive Committee.

Section 3: The masculine gender, whenever used in these Bylaws, and any documents used by the National Order of Trench Rats, shall include the feminine gender.

ATTEST: _____

Adopted after this second and final reading on the 9th day of October, 2013.

Michael Silver, Jr
RED EYED GNAWER

Juan Jose
GOLDEN RODENT

Michael A. O'Brien, ISR
BENCH RAT

Joel C. Devenish, IR82
IMPERIAL BENCH RAT