

THE UNITED VETERANS' GROUPS OF OREGON

Articles of Agreement

**Approved: October 22, 2011
Revised: October 14, 2017**

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Article I: Name

Section 1. The name of the organization shall be "United Veterans' Groups of Oregon", also known as the "UVGO".

Article II: Purpose

Section 1. The purposes of the UVGO shall be to identify areas of mutual interest and concern to member organizations, plan courses of action in those areas, and to carry out unified efforts for the betterment of veterans' and their families, survivors, or dependents.

Section 2. The UVGO shall be authorized to participate in politics only to the extent permitted by the Constitution and Bylaws of the member organizations; participation in activities supporting advocacy, legislation, or administration of laws for veterans' welfare shall be permitted.

Section 3. UVGO public positions on applicable legislative matters shall require unanimous approval by all voting member organizations whose dues are paid and whose membership is current. All other public positions expressed by UVGO leaders and members, when representing and/or speaking on behalf of the organization, shall require a simple majority vote of the same member organizations.

Section 4. To ensure there is no misrepresentation of the UVGO or its member organizations, elected officers and other authorized spokesperson shall be prudent in their public comments when expressing the organization's position on any matter of interest to Oregon's military veterans'.

Article III: Membership

Section 1. Eligibility for voting membership in the UVGO shall be extended to Oregon Department (State) elements of nationally-established veterans' service organizations. The organizations must have a membership base comprised primarily of currently serving, retired, or former members of the uniformed services or their family members or survivors.

Section 2. Individual posts or subchapters of the statewide departments or chapters shall not be qualified for separate membership, but rather shall be represented by the state organization.

Section 3. Associate, nonvoting membership may be extended to Oregon state, regional, county, or area veterans' organizations which are not nationally-established.

Section 4. Associate, nonvoting membership may be extended to auxiliary organizations of those nationally-established and non-nationally-established veterans' service organizations who qualify for voting or associate membership in the UVGO.

Section 5. It shall be the responsibility of each member organization to inform the UVGO Chair and/or the UVGO Secretary/Treasurer whenever there is a change in the organization's State Leadership or organization's representative to the UVGO.

Section 6. The Oregon Department Commander/State President/State Chair of a voting or associate member organization may withdraw their organization from UVGO membership by submitting a letter to that effect to the UVGO Chair. Such a letter must contain a statement saying that withdrawal from the UVGO is in accordance with the wishes of a majority of the members of that particular organization.

Section 7. The official UVGO letterhead shall at all times bear the title of all voting member organizations.

Article IV: Dues

Section 1. The membership and fiscal accounting year for the UVGO shall extend from the first day of July through the last day of June of the following year (July 1st through June 30th of each year).

Section 2. Annual dues for voting member organizations shall be **fifty-five dollars (\$55.00)**.

Section 3. Annual dues for associate member organizations shall be **twenty-seven dollars and fifty cents (\$27.50)**.

Section 4. Nonpayment of dues beyond the ninetieth (90th) day following the beginning of the fiscal year (September 29th) shall constitute non-renewed membership and shall result in loss of voting privileges by a voting member organization until such time as dues are paid in full.

Article V: Representation and Voting

Section 1. Primary representation of member organizations to the UVGO shall be provided by the Oregon Department Commander/State President/State Chair of each organization, hereafter called "organization leader."

Section 2. Additional or alternate representation of member organizations may be provided by the Oregon Department Adjutant/State Vice President/State Vice Chair or designated representative of each organization, hereafter called "organization representative."

Section 3. The officers indicated in Section 1 and 2 above may speak for their respective organizations, but each organization shall have only one (1) vote in all matters of business internal or external to the UVGO.

Section 5. Each of the organization representatives indicated in Section 1 and 2 of this article is eligible to serve on committees and subcommittees appointed by the Chair. In the event of committee or sub-committee action, each member of such committee shall have a vote without regard to membership status of their particular organization, provided that organization's dues are current.

Section 6. The Secretary/Treasurer of the UVGO shall record the vote of the organization leader/representative on all measures calling for action by the UVGO, stating the position of the UVGO, or the election of UVGO officers. In the absence of any organization leader/representative, that organization shall lose its vote.

Section 7. Nonvoting member organizations shall not be permitted to make or second motions, or nominate persons for election to UVGO officer positions.

Section 8. A quorum of the UVGO shall consist of not less than a majority of the voting member organizations.

Section 9. By unanimous vote of all other voting member organizations, UVGO membership may be revoked in the event that any voting member organization is absent from representation at three (3) consecutive regularly-scheduled quarterly UVGO meetings. Such revocation action may be appealed in the event Article VI, Section 4 of the Articles of Agreement relative to required meeting notification has not been complied with.

Article VI: Meetings

Section 1. Four (4) regular meetings of the UVGO shall be conducted annually during the months of July, October, January, and April.

Section 2. All regular quarterly meetings shall be at a time and location to be determined and announced by the Chair at the close of each regular meeting.

Section 3. At the discretion of the Chair, special membership meetings or meetings of the UVGO officers, may be called at any time. However, when the Oregon Legislature is in session, the Chair may call special meetings at his/her discretion. Should an emergency situation arise at any time when insufficient time is available to adhere to the required seventy-two (72) hour notice period, as required by Article VI, Section 4, the Chair may conduct a telephone or e-mail poll of the voting member organizations. The results of those polls shall be confirmed in writing and presented at the next regular meeting of the UVGO.

Section 4. Notice of any meeting of the UVGO shall be provided to the organization leader of each member organization (voting and associate) at least seventy-two (72) hours in advance. It shall be the responsibility of each organization leader to ensure that their organization is

represented at all meetings.

Section 5. Each member organization (voting and associate) may submit agenda topics to the Chair or the Secretary/Treasurer not less than thirty (30) days prior to a scheduled meeting.

Section 6. Additional topics not submitted in accordance with Section 5 above may be added to the agenda upon the approval of a majority of the member organizations at a meeting where a quorum is present.

Section 7. All regular and special meetings of the UVGO membership, of its officers, and of all committees and subcommittees shall be conducted in accordance with the provisions of the current edition of *Robert's Rules of Order, Newly Revised*.

Article VII: Officers and Election of Officers

Section 1. The elected officers of the UVGO shall be a Chair, First Vice Chair, Second Vice Chair, and Secretary/Treasurer.

Section 2. The election of officers shall be conducted during the regular July meeting each odd-numbered year. Candidates for any elected office may be nominated by any authorized representative of any voting member organization. An assembly ballot shall be conducted after the presiding officer closes all nominations. A plurality vote of all voting member organizations present shall elect a candidate to office provided a quorum is present for nomination and election of officers.

Section 3. The Chair, First Vice Chair and Second Vice Chair shall be elected from amongst the representatives of the voting member organizations. None of those officers need be an organization leader of their respective organizations in order to hold office in the UVGO.

Section 4. A chaplain and a legislative spokesperson(s) will be appointed by the Chair, subject to approval by a majority of voting member organizations present. The UVGO Chair and the legislative spokesperson(s) shall be empowered to press for enactment of Oregon and Federal legislation as defined by UVGO resolution. With unanimous approval of the voting member organizations voting thereon, the UVGO Chair and the legislative spokesperson(s) shall oppose pending legislation which is known to be contrary to the best interests of veterans and their families or survivors.

Section 5. The Immediate Past Chair of the UVGO shall be a member of the slate of officers and shall have a voice and a vote in all matters considered in any meeting of the member organizations and/or the UVGO officers.

Section 6. The Secretary/Treasurer may be any person who is a member in good standing of a voting or associate member organization. If this person is from an associate member organization, he/she shall have no vote in any matter of business before a UVGO officer meeting

or any regular or special meeting of the UVGO membership.

Section 7. The Secretary/Treasurer shall render written minutes and a published financial report at each regular UVGO meeting.

Section 8. In the event of a vacancy caused by any reason in the office of Chair or First Vice Chair, each officer subordinate to the vacated position, except the Secretary/Treasurer, shall assume the next higher position. This will cause a vacancy to occur in the office of Second Vice Chair, in which case a nomination and election process shall be held in order to fill the unexpired term of that office.

Section 9. Any officer of the UVGO may be removed from office for cause by a three-quarters (3/4) vote of all UVGO member organizations.

Section 10. An annual audit of the UVGO treasury shall be conducted immediately following the election of officers. The incoming Chair shall appoint a three (3) member committee to perform the audit; that committee shall present a report of their findings at the next regular meeting. A similar audit committee shall be appointed and shall report their findings at any time there is a change in the office of the Secretary/Treasurer. No present or immediate past officers may be appointed to the audit committee.

Article VIII: Amendments

Section 1. These Articles of Agreement may be amended or revised at such time as the UVGO member organizations desire. Such amendments or revisions shall require a two-thirds (2/3) vote of all voting member organizations present at the meeting.

Section 2. Any voting member organization may submit proposed amendments or revisions; however, proposals will not be considered for vote unless every voting member organization has been notified in writing at least thirty (30) days prior to a meeting where such a vote is to be taken.

Section 3. Amendments or revisions of these Articles of Agreements may be incorporated through additions, deletions, or minor pen changes. A major revision in the entirety shall require a complete rewrite in order to incorporate the changes. In the event of a complete rewrite of this Articles of Agreement, all minor additions, deletions, or revisions shall be incorporated which were previously approved.

Section 4. Copies of the revised Articles of Agreement shall be provided to all voting and associate member organizations within thirty (30) days of any vote which approved such amendments or revisions. Such revisions may be promulgated through pen changes, page changes, or complete revisions.

Article IX: Effective Date

Section 1. Each year, at the July meeting of the UVGO, the Oregon organizations leaders or the authorized representatives of every voting member organization, shall sign the current Articles of Agreement as part of the membership renewal. Any failure to sign these Articles of Agreement constitutes ineligibility for voting membership until such time as that lack of approval is satisfied.

This is to certify that the **UVGO Articles of Agreement** have been revised, with changes approved by the voting membership and as reflected in the minutes of the **October 14, 2017 meeting**.

- *Signed* -

MARY J. MAYER

Chair

- *Signed* -

MARCO OSWALD

Secretary

By affixing their signatures hereto, the following veterans' service organizations agree to voting membership in the **United Veterans' Groups of Oregon (UVGO)**. In agreeing to that membership, these organizations also ascribe to the contents and will adhere to the provisions of the **UVGO Articles of Agreement** as approved at the regularly scheduled quarterly meeting on October 14, 2017.

Air & Space Forces Association

American Legion

Association of the United States Army

Disabled American Veterans

Korean War Veterans' Association

Marine Corps League

Military Officers Association of America

Military Order of the Purple Heart

Gold Star Wives of America, Inc.

Non-Commissioned Officers Association

**Paralyzed Veterans of America
Tri State Chapter**

Veterans of Foreign Wars

Vietnam Veterans of America

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