RHODE ISLAND ENLISTED ASSOCIATION OF THE NATIONAL GUARD OF THE UNITED STATES (RIEANGUS)

BYLAWS



List of Revision/Changes

1 Complete Revision: 8 May 2014 2 Administrative Revision: 31 July 2014 3

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ARTICLE I - ORGANIZATION

NAME OF CORPORATION

The Name of the Corporation is THE RHODE ISLAND ENLISTED ASSOCIATION OF THE NATIONAL GUARD OF THE UNITED STATES, INCORPORATED (RIEANGUS), hereinafter referred to as the "ASSOCIATION".

OFFICIAL LOGO

The official logo of ASSOCIATION is displayed on cover page of this document.

CHANGE OF NAME PROCEDURES

The name of the ASSOCIATION may be changed at any meeting of the general membership of the ASSOCIATION by a vote of two-third (2/3) of those present and voting, provided that first a proposed name change shall have been posted on ASSOCIATION website at least 30 days prior to Regular Membership Meeting.

CHANGE OF LOGO PROCEDURES

The logo of the ASSOCIATION may be changed at any meeting of the general membership of the ASSOCIATION by a vote of two-third (2/3) of those present and voting, provided that first a proposed logo change shall have been posted on ASSOCIATION website at least 30 days prior to Regular Membership Meeting.

ARTICLE II - PURPOSE

STATED PURPOSE OF CORPORATION

Said ASSOCIATION is organized for the purpose of engaging in any lawful activity for which corporations may be formed under Rhode Island Non-Profit Corporation Act, Chapter 7-6.34, Title 7. Its objective is to promote the wellbeing of the members of the Rhode Island National Guard and their families. Its purposes are:

- 1) To promote the welfare of the Rhode Island National Guard Community.
- 2) To encourage friendly social relationships among all military personnel and particularly members of this ASSOCIATION.
- 3) To endeavor through professionalism and leadership; to improve the position and status of the Guardsman in relationship with the civilian community and the military environment.

- 4) To support the Enlisted ASSOCIATION of the National Guard of the United States and its By Laws.
- 5) To assist disabled and needy war veterans and members of the Rhode Island National Guard, their dependents, and the widows and orphans of deceased Rhode Island National Guardsmen.
- 6) To provide entertainment, care, and assistance to hospitalized members of the Rhode Island National Guard.
- 7) To carry on programs to perpetuate the memory of deceased members of the Rhode Island National Guard and to comfort their survivors.
- 8) To conduct informational programs for its members.
- 9) To promote insurance benefits for members or their dependents.
- 10) To provide social and recreational activities for members.
- 11) To uphold the interests of the serving and retired personnel of the Rhode Island National Guard, when service matters are under consideration.

CHANGING PURPOSE OF CORPORATION

The purpose of the ASSOCIATION may be changed at any meeting of the general membership of the ASSOCIATION by a vote of two-third (2/3) of those present and voting, provided that first a proposed change of purpose shall have been posted on ASSOCIATION website at least 30 days prior to Regular Membership Meeting.

ARTICLE III - MEMBERSHIP

ENLISTED MEMBERSHIP

Enlisted membership shall be current and former (to include retired service members) enlisted persons of the Army and Air National Guard units of the State of Rhode Island who voluntarily elect to become enlisted members of this ASSOCIATION and shall so become in good standing upon payment of dues IAW these By Laws. An enlisted membership holder may become an accredited state delegate to the RIEANGUS and/or EANGUS Annual Conferences, may hold office, and be entitled to vote.

ASSOCIATE MEMBERSHIP

Associate membership shall be current and former officers or warrant officers of the Army and Air National Guard units of the State of Rhode Island or civilians who voluntarily elect to become associate members of this ASSOCIATION and shall so become in good standing upon

payment of dues IAW these By Laws, or, associate membership shall be awarded to annual, associate, or life members of The Enlisted ASSOCIATION of the National Guard of the United States (EANGUS) who voluntarily elect to become associate members of this ASSOCIATION and shall so become in good standing upon payment of dues IAW these By Laws. An associate member may not be an accredited state delegate, is not entitled to delegate representation during Annual Conferences, may not hold office, and will not have voting privileges.

ENLISTED LIFE MEMBERSHIP

Upon application and payment of dues IAW these By Laws, a person who is qualified to hold an enlisted membership may be issued an enlisted life membership.

ASSOCIATE LIFE MEMBERSHIP

Upon application and payment of dues IAW these By Laws, a person who is qualified to hold an associate membership may be issued an associate life membership. An associate life member may not be an accredited state delegate, is not entitled to delegate representation during Annual Conferences, may not hold office, and will not have voting privileges.

CORPORATE MEMBERSHIP

Upon application and payment of dues IAW these By Laws, and approval of the Board of Directors of the ASSOCIATION; organizations with a common interest in the goals and objectives of the ASSOCIATION may join as a corporate member. A corporate member may not be an accredited state delegate, is not entitled to delegate representation during Annual Conferences, may not hold office, and will not have voting privileges.

HONORARY MEMBERSHIP

The Board of Directors of the ASSOCIATION may, by majority vote, confer honorary membership upon a person who has rendered outstanding service to the United States, any political subdivision thereof, and the National Guard of the United States. An honorary member may not be an accredited state delegate, is not entitled to delegate representation during Annual Conferences, may not hold office, and will not have voting privileges.

REMOVAL OF MEMBERSHIP STATUS

No member shall be removed or denied renewal, except for cause. Cause shall include, but is not limited to, violation of the ASSOCIATION bylaws and/or policies, or conduct unbecoming a member of the National Guard.

Removing a member of the ASSOCIATION requires a two thirds (2/3) vote of the Board of Directors for approval.

Recommendations for removal must be submitted in writing to the RIEANGUS Secretary 30 days prior to the removal vote being taken. Members approved for removal are immediately removed from membership in the ASSOCIATION.

RESIGNATION OF MEMBERSHIP

Dues paying members may resign from the ASSOCIATION, upon written notification to the Secretary of the ASSOCIATION. However, as dues are paid on an annual basis, such members will remain on the active membership rolls, with appropriate annotation, until the end of the current membership year as defined herein.

DUES RATES

The Annual and Life rates include the portion of dues that are paid to EANGUS for the member's EANGUS membership. The Board of Directors has the authority to approve discounted dues measures lasting less than 12 months in duration, for the purposes of increasing membership.

ENLISTED AND ASSOCIATE ANNUAL DUES

The annual dues shall be \$36.00 for all Enlisted and Associate Memberships (\$3.00 per month but paid annually).

ENLISTED AND ASSOCIATE LIFE DUES

Life membership shall be made available to those members who shall so elect. The fee shall be payment of ten (10) years of the state and national annual dues rate regardless of age.

CORPORATE

Corporate Membership dues are IAW the RIEANGUS Corporate Membership Program.

HONORARY

Honorary Membership dues are at no cost.

ARTICLE IV - BOARD OF DIRECTORS BOARD POSITIONS The Board members of the ASSOCIATION are: a) PRESIDENT b) VICE-PRESIDENT-ARMY c) VICE-PRESIDENT-AIR d) BOARD SECRETARY e) BOARD TREASURER f) PARLAMENTARIAN BOARD DUTIES PRESIDENT The President shall be the Chairman of this ASSOCIATION and is responsible to: a) Preside at all meeting of the Board of Directors and the ASSOCIATION. b) Issue the call for all regular and special meeting of the Board of directors and the ASSOCIATION, and ensure that these meetings are conducted. c) Appoint the Standing and Special Committees chairmen with the approval of the Board of Directors. The appointees will serve concurrently with the serving President, unless sooner replaced by the President. d) Ensure that regular elections are held. e) Perform other duties as customarily with this office. VICE-PRESIDENT- ARMY The Vice-President-Army, under the direction of the President,

The Vice-President-Army, under the direction of the President, shall oversee the function of such committees of the ASSOCIATION, as the President shall designate. When the President is unable to perform his/her duties for any reason, the Vice-President-Army shall occupy his/her position and perform the duties of the President.

39 VICE-PRESIDENT- AIR

The Vice-President-Air, under the direction of the President, shall oversee the function of such committees of the ASSOCIATION, as the President shall designate. When the Vice-President-Army is unable to perform his/her duties for any reason, the Vice-President-Air shall occupy his/her position(s) and perform the duties of the Vice-President-Army or President if necessary.

BOARD SECRETARY

The Board Secretary shall, under the supervision of the President and the Board of Directors, act as a liaison between the Board of Directors and the membership of this ASSOCIATION. In fulfillment of this, the Secretary will:

- a) Have custody of, keep and maintain, general records of the ASSOCIATION, including records of minutes of the ASSOCIATION and Board meetings, attendance, committees appointed, elections and addresses of all ASSOCIATION members.
- b) Have custody of the official copy of the By Laws with all amendments posted thereto.
- c) Shall maintain a record of all Standing or Special Rules established at regular membership, regular Board of Director meetings, or special meetings. Record shall include but are not limited to motions that are approved during such meetings.

BOARD TREASURER

The Treasurer acting through the President shall:

- a) Receive receipt for and be custodian of all funds of any nature whatsoever due the ASSOCIATION and such contributions as may be made to it and deposit the same in the name of the ASSOCIATION in a bank, banks, or trust company, or companies to be designated by the Board of Directors.
- b) The Treasurer shall ensure that all bills and claims of the ASSOCIATION are paid, and shall render to the Board of Directors, at its regular meetings, or when the Board of Directors so requires, an account of all such transactions as Treasurer and of the financial condition of the ASSOCIATION. There shall be an annual audit of the books and finances of the ASSOCIATION by an internal Audit Committee, and report thereof submitted by the Treasurer to the Board of Directors at its regular meetings.
- c) The Treasurer shall make an annual report of finances to the Regular Membership Meeting. The Treasurer shall furnish such bond as may be required by the Board of Directors, the premium of which will be paid from funds of the ASSOCIATION.
- d) The Treasurer shall perform all the duties incident to the office of Treasurer and such other duties as from time to time may be assigned to him or her by the Board of Directors.

PARLIAMENTARIAN

The Parliamentarian shall:

- a) Have custody of a copy of the Constitution and By Laws and all amendments posted thereto.
- b) Expect as otherwise noted or stated in the Constitution and By Laws, all questions of order or procedure, with respect to any meeting or action of this ASSOCIATION, its Board of Directors, or any committee appointed hereunder, shall be determined by the Parliamentarian in accordance with Robert's Rules of Order, New Revised, as revised from time-to-time, whose ruling shall be binding.
- c) However, a vote of two-thirds (2/3) of the members present and voting, upon appropriate motion, can overrule any parliamentarian decision.
- d) The Parliamentarian is a non-voting member on the Board of Directors.

BOARD MEMBERS ELECTIONS

- a) The President shall appoint a Committee on Nominations to meet for the purpose of organizing the election of officers for the ASSOCIATION.
- b) The Committee on Nominations shall receive the nomination forms for each elected office.
- c) The Committee on Nominations shall present eligible nominations to the general membership during the Regular Membership Meeting for a vote.
- d) Nominations may be made from the floor of the general membership meeting, but must be made prior to the report of the Committee on Nominations.
- e) Elections will take place after the report of the Committee on Nominations, but before the adjournment of the Regular Membership Meeting.
- f) The positions of President, Vice-President-Army, Vice-President-Air, Board Secretary, and Board Treasurer shall be elected by plurality vote of a Regular Membership Meeting of the ASSOCIATION, meaning that regardless whether any one nominee receives a majority of all the votes cast, the nominee with the most votes after voting closes wins the election.
- g) For the purpose of leadership continuity, the position of President shall be elected every three not to coincide with the Vice-President elections.
- h) The Parliamentarian is an appointed position by the President, and is not an elected position of the Board of Directors.

BOARD MEMBERS TERMS OF OFFICE

Election of Officers to the Board of Directors shall be held on odd number years (2015, 2017, etc.) of the Regular Membership Meeting for the term of two (2) years and shall take office on the first day following the completion of Regular Membership Meeting.

BOARD MEMBER VACANCIES

- a) In the event the office of President becomes vacant, the Vice-President-Army will fill the office, and the office of Vice-President-Army will be filled by the Vice-President-Air.
- b) In the event of the office of Vice-President-Air becomes vacant, the President will fill the office until a Special Meeting with an election can be announced and coordinated. This should happen as timely as possible but no later than 90 days from the vacancy.
- c) In the event of a vacancy in another office, the Board of Directors shall appoint another member of the Board of Directors (except the Parliamentarian) to fill the unexpired term.
- d) In the event of a vacancy in the office of Parliamentarian, the President appoints another Parliamentarian.

ARTICLE V - MEETINGS

REGULAR MEMBERSHIP MEETING (also known as Annual Conference)

An annual meeting of the ASSOCIATION shall be held each year.

SPECIAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING

The President may call special meetings after a majority vote of the Board of Directors.

REGULAR BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING

The Board of Directors shall meet quarterly.

SPECIAL BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING

a) Special meetings of this ASSOCIATION may be called by the President, at his/her discretion, and shall be called by the President when requested by the Board of Directors, at a time and place determined by the person requesting it.

b) A majority of the Board of Directors may call a special meeting of the Board by verbal or written notice to all members of this Board.

QUORUM

- a) BOARD OF DIRECTORS: A quorum shall exist at any meeting of the Board of Directors when at least 50% of the members of the said Board are present. Proxy votes are not permitted. Substitute members who are active members of the ASSOCIATION, and designated in writing by the absent member shall be permitted in directing the affairs of the ASSOCIATION by the Board of Directors. Substitute members shall not be other members of the Board of Directors and substitute members shall represent only one absent member.
- b) REGULAR MEMBERSHIP MEETING: A quorum shall exist at any conference or meeting of the active membership when not less than 5 active members are present.

ORDER OF MEETINGS

The order of business at the Regular Membership Meeting of the ASSOCIATION shall be as follows:

- a) Conference or Meeting is called to order by the President
- b) Posting of the Colors and the Pledge of Allegiance
- c) Invocation
- d) Posting of the Sergeant at Arms
- e) Roll Call
- f) Remarks by the President
- g) Reading and Approval of the Minutes
- h) Reading of Communications
- i) Report of the Secretary
- j) Report of the Treasurer
- k) Report of the Committees
- 1) Unfinished Business
- m) New Business
- n) Election of Officers
- o) Adjournment

The President may alter the agenda to meet exigencies.

RESERVE AUTHORITY

The rules contained in Robert's Rules of Order, Revised, shall govern the ASSOCIATION in all cases to which they are applicable except where modified by:

- a) The By-Laws of the ASSOCIATION
- b) Standing or Special Rules established by a Regular Membership or Regular Board of Directors Meeting.

UNEXCUSED ABSENCES

Members of the Board of Directors absent from two consecutive Board of Director Meetings (either Regular or Special Board of Director Meetings) without being excused by a majority vote of the Board of Directors may be considered to have resigned. Any member of the Board of Directors may report their absence to any other member of the Board of Directors before the start of the Meeting and request approval for an excused absence by majority vote of the Board of Directors.

ELECTRONIC MEETINGS

The Chairman is authorized to convene Board of Director meetings by means of teleconference, video teleconference, web conference or other electronic means available.

VOTING

- a) All voting by general membership shall be by popular vote unless otherwise specified in the Constitution and By Laws of this ASSOCIATION, and shall be in accordance with Robert's Rules of Order
- b) A vote by written ballot may be taken but must be submitted and received prior to the actual vote.

ARTICLE VI - BOARD OF DIRECTORS

OATH OF OFFICE

The following Oath of Office shall be administered to all elected or appointed Officers and Directors prior to assuming office:

"I (repeat full name) do solemnly swear (or affirm) I will faithfully perform the duties of (repeat Position) of the Rhode Island National Guard Enlisted Association and will, to the best of my knowledge and ability, preserve and protect the Constitution of the United States of America, the Constitution of Rhode Island, and the By Laws of this great Association, so help me God."

REMOVAL FROM THE BOARD

Tenure in office is terminated by a two-thirds vote of the Board of Directors, or by two-thirds vote of the membership at a Regular Membership meeting, provided sufficient cause has been presented.

ARTICLE VII - COMMITTEES

STANDING COMMITTEES

The standing committees of the ASSOCIATION shall be:

COMMITTEE ON NOMINATIONS

- a) The Committee on Nominations will consist of at least 1 person, who will receive all nomination forms for all offices being elected during the annual Regular Membership Meeting.
- b) The Committee on Nominations will convene on the first day of a Regular Membership Meeting where elections shall take place.
- c) The Committee on Nominations Chairman will prepare a slate of nominations consisting of the names of eligible members of the ASSOCIATION for each office required to be filled at that Regular Membership Meeting.
- d) The Committee on Nominations Chairman will submit a report at the Regular Membership Meeting to the active membership on nominations forms received and the office for which they are running.

COMMITTEE ON LEGISLATION

- a) The Committee on Legislation shall consist of no less than two members, one for National Legislative efforts and one for State Legislative efforts.
- b) Members of this Committee may be currently serving or retired members of the Rhode Island National Guard, and shall be appointed for a term of two years, running concurrently with the Board of Directors elections.
- c) This committee shall keep informed on all matters relating to proposed legislation affecting the National Guard, especially that referred to it by the Association.
- d) It shall make a report at the Regular Membership Meeting and publish quarterly updates to the active membership on a semi-quarterly basis through electronic or paper means.

COMMITTEE ON SCHOLARSHIPS

a) The Committee on Scholarships shall consist of members of the RIEANGUS, who will accumulate all scholarship applications, establish criteria and deadline dates to

- be used in the selection of the recipients of any and all RIEANGUS scholarships.
- b) The Committee on Scholarships shall render an annual report to the active membership at the General Membership Meeting. The report shall include, at a minimum, the following information:
 - a. Names of recipients for that year.
 - b. Names and information pertaining to the judges selecting the scholarship winners for that year.

COMMITTEE ON CONFERENCES

- a) The Committee on Conferences shall consist of a Chairperson who will be the focal point for the planning and execution of all General Membership Meetings, and in the event of an EANGUS National Conference where RIEANGUS is the host state, will be the focal point for the State's portion of the EANGUS National Conference planning and execution.
- b) The Committee on Conferences will provide recommendations to the Board of Directors on Conference requirements, including but not limited to:
 - a. Event Space
 - b. Lodging
 - c. Food and Beverage
 - d. Transportation
 - e. Support Equipment

COMMITTEE ON BYLAWS

The Committee on Bylaws shall consist of a Chairperson and a number of committee members determined by the Chairperson of the Committee on Bylaws for the purpose of:

- a) Reviewing the ASSOCIATION Bylaws and recommending areas for amendment.
- b) Review Bylaws amendments submitted from the active membership and present those amendments for consideration at a Regular or Special General Membership Meeting.

COMMITTEE ON FINANCIAL AUDIT

The Committee on Financial Audit shall:

- a) Perform an annual audit of the Treasurer's records.
- b) Consist of one to three active members of the ASSOCIATION.
- c) No currently serving member of the Board of Directors shall serve on the Committee on Financial Audit.

1 COMMITTEE ON CORPORATE RELATIONS 2 The Committee on Corporate Relations shall: a) Consist of a member(s) of the ASSOCIATION. 3 4 President will serve as an Ex-Officio member of this 5 committee. b) The member(s) shall maintain connection with current 6 7 and potential corporate members and personnel that 8 support the objectives and administration of the 9 ASSOCIATION. 10 c) The Committee will make reports to the Board of Directors and an annual report to the membership at 11 12 the Regular General Membership Meeting. 13 14 SPECIAL COMMITTEES 15 The President of the ASSOCIATION may appoint such special committees, as he/she deems necessary. The membership 16 17 thereof shall consist of such members as the President determines will democratically represent the active 18 19 membership. 20 21 ARTICLE VIII - AMENDMENTS TO THE BYLAWS 22 23 BYLAWS AMENDMENT PROCESS

The following procedure shall govern the process:

- a) These Bylaws may be amended by a majority vote of the members present and voting at any Regular Membership Meeting or Special Membership Meeting.
- b) Notice of Amendments to the ASSOCIATION Bylaws must be provided to each member's last known mailing address, in person, posted on Association website, or by email to each member's last known email address.
- c) The notice and proposed changes must be provided at least 30 days before the Regular Membership Meeting or Special Membership Meeting at which such amendment is to be offered.
- d) In the event that 30 days notice has not been given, the ASSOCIATION Bylaws may be amended at any Regular Membership Meeting or Special Membership Meeting by unanimous vote.
- e) Amendments to the Bylaws shall be effective immediately upon adjournment of the forum at which they are adopted.

ARTICLE IX - AWARDS

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PRESIDENT'S AWARD

 PURPOSE: The President's Award is to provide a means of recognition to an individual who distinguishes themselves with outstanding and exceptional service to the ASSOCIATION.

- a) Recipient must be an active member of the ASSOCIATION.
- b) The recipient will be selected by the Chairman.
- c) Awarded to an individual who has contributed outstanding and exceptional service to the ASSOCIATION.
- d) Although a single accomplishment may be deemed a qualification for this award, it must be of such a nature that stands out above all others.
- e) Particular consideration should be give to those individuals who have contributed outstanding and exceptional service of a sustained nature.
- f) Honorary and Corporate Memberships are also eligible for this award.

RI EANGUS MEMBERSHIP AWARD

PURPOSE: The RI EANGUS Membership Award is to provide a means of recognition for achieving the membership goals of the ASSOCAITION.

- a) Units will have a membership goal established at every Regular General Membership Meeting, prior to the close of the business session.
- b) All units that achieve their membership goals 30 days prior to the next Regular General Membership Meeting will receive a membership award from the ASSOCIATION.
- c) The unit that achieves the highest RIEANGUS membership percentage of their current manning will have an engraved plate affixed to the John R. Greene Membership trophy along with the year it was earned.
- d) This trophy will be a travelling trophy that will be housed at the unit headquarters and returned to the Regular General Membership Meeting each year to be awarded to the next recipient.

MINUTEMAN AWARD

PURPOSE: The Minuteman Award is to provide a means of recognition to an individual.

- a) For outstanding service which was performed on behalf of the ASSOCAITION.
 - b) Recipients of this award do not have to be active members of the ASSOCIATION.
 - c) The recipient will be selected by the Board of Directors.
 - d) Awarded to an individual who has contributed outstanding and exceptional service to the ASSOCIATION.

e) Although a single accomplishment may be deemed a qualification for this award, it must be of such a nature that stands out above all others.

ARTICLE X - DISSOLUTION

f) Particular consideration should be give to those individuals who have contributed outstanding and exceptional service of a sustained nature.

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DISSOLUTION PROCESS:

The duration of the corporate existence shall be perpetual until dissolution. Upon the dissolution of the corporation, assets shall be distributed to one or more exempt purposes within the meaning of section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code, or the corresponding section of any future federal tax code, or shall be distributed to the federal government, or to state or local government, for a public purpose. Any such assets not so disposed of shall be disposed of by a Court of Competent Jurisdiction of the county in which the principal office of the corporation is then located, exclusively for such purposes or to such organization or organizations, as said Court shall determine, which are organized and operated exclusively for such purposes.