

**Yadkin Stars and Yadkin Boys Living History Association
Companies B, C, F & I 28th Regiment North Carolina State Troops (Reactivated)**

**Bylaws
Adopted at the February 13, 2021 Annual Meeting**

The Yadkin Stars and Yadkin Boys Living History Association shall exist for the purpose of:

- A) The enjoyment (fun) of its members.
- B) To portray the historic Companies B, C, F & I of the 28th Regiment of North Carolina State Troops at memorial services, living history events, parades and battle reenactments. We will especially make every reasonable effort to assist our local school systems when they call upon us to help them teach the War Between the States to their students.
- C) To educate and assist the people of Yadkin County, North Carolina, in understanding and appreciating the service and sacrifice of the men and women of our area during the years 1861 through 1865.

The Yadkin Stars and Yadkin Boys Living History Association does not exist to espouse racial superiority. We will abide by the laws of the State of North Carolina and the United States of America, of which we are proud citizens.

I. Membership

An individual may be eligible for membership in Companies B, C, F & I of the 28th NC Troops if he or she:

- 1. Applies for membership to the Adjutant of the unit and is approved by the board of directors with advice from the membership. An individual may apply as a military, family, civilian or associate member.
 - A. All new applicants must be sponsored by a member and approved by the Captain and First Sergeant before participating in an event. New applicants only need to pay the appropriate ANV insurance fees and will be in probationary status in the unit until their membership is approved by the board of directors. While in probation status the applicant will be observed as to their knowledge of their role, understanding of the time period, adherence to safety practices, and compliance with the provisions of these Bylaws.
 - B. Individuals seeking full membership must be at least eighteen years of age. Military individuals meeting the minimum age requirement for participating on the field as provided in the 1st North Carolina Battalion, 4th Regiment, 1st Division, Army of Northern Virginia SAFETY RULES AND REGULATIONS, may join the unit, providing that a parent or legal guardian also joins 28th NC Troops until the individual reaches the age of eighteen. All persons under eighteen years of age

must have parental/legal guardian consent and supervision at all events. Individuals may be allowed to train and participate on the field with the unit as provided in the 1st North Carolina Battalion, 4th Regiment, 1st Division, Army of Northern Virginia SAFETY RULES AND REGULATIONS, including minimum age requirements for participating as military on the field.

2. Pays the appropriate fees by the requested dates to the adjutant of the unit. Fees for military, family, civilian or associate members may not be the same amount. A member who does not pay the unit dues and fees within 90 days of the requested date and does not contact the unit adjutant about paying them will be considered to have left the unit of his own free will.
3. Agrees to abide by the rules and regulations of the unit.
4. Agrees to purchase uniforms and equipment approved by the unit as soon as possible. A civilian member or associate member is not required to purchase uniforms or period attire unless they plan to camp with the unit during a reenactment or living history event.
5. Agrees to attend unit events as often as possible.

New military members joining the unit start out with the rank of private. They are, of course, eligible for elected offices or appointment to other ranks as stated in the by-laws. If new members are associated with another branch of service, such as artillery or cavalry that is attached to the unit, the unit officers may approve of a rank commensurate with their responsibilities.

II. Meetings

1. The unit leadership will call at least one annual business meeting for the unit, preferably in January, for the purpose of electing officers and planning for the year's event schedule. Other meetings may be scheduled during the year as necessary to share information or update the event schedule. Changes to the bylaws will be considered and voted on only at the annual business meeting. Any member may call for a meeting but the elected unit officers will have the sole authority for setting the date and time of the meeting. Meetings may be held at reenactment or living history events.
2. A majority vote will decide the election of officers, board of directors, passage of proposed by-law amendments, and the choice of events.
3. All elections for unit officers and board of directors shall be by confidential ballot box.
4. All elections for unit events shall be by acclamation or show of hands.
5. Proxy voting will not be allowed.
6. In order to be eligible to vote for unit officers, board of directors, by-laws changes, and events, members must attend at least one official unit reenactment or living history calendar event during the year and have their membership dues and unit fees paid up to date.
7. The following procedures shall be used for all elections at the annual meeting:
 - A. Voting for unit officers and board of directors:
 1. The election of officers and board of directors shall be facilitated and certified by at least two members of the board of directors not up for re-election, who shall in turn be designated as the Election Committee for duration of the election process at the meeting.

2. Nominations shall first be accepted by secret ballot (one sheet) for officers and board members.
 3. Nominations shall be collected from the membership and then closed.
 4. Nominations shall be compiled by the Election Committee.
 5. The slate of nominees shall then be presented by the board to the membership in the form of one voting ballot sheet for electing unit officers and board of directors.
 6. At that point, any nominee shall be allowed to decline nomination. If this results in no nominee for an office, then nominations for that office only will be reopened until a nominee is successfully presented for that office.
 7. The qualified membership shall then vote on the slate of nominees via secret ballot.
 8. The ballots shall then be collected by, elections closed by, and the vote counted/certified by the Election Committee.
 9. The results of the election shall then be presented by the Election Committee to the membership.
 10. Those elected to office shall begin serving their term immediately.
- B. Voting on events to be placed on the official unit calendar:
1. A starting list of events will be presented to the membership by the elected unit officers for consideration.
 2. Unit members will then propose additional events to be considered as well.
 3. The unit Captain will facilitate the voting process of events to be placed on the unit's official event calendar.
 4. Once events have been selected, the unit Adjutant will then create the official unit calendar, including the events decided at the meeting.
- C. Voting on unit by-law amendments:
1. The unit Adjutant shall present all submitted proposed amendments.
 2. The unit Captain shall facilitate the unit vote on each proposed amendment.
 3. The unit Adjutant shall then incorporate passed amendments into the by-laws, and publish to the unit.
- D. All voting records from the meeting will be kept by the unit Adjutant for future reference as needed.

III. Unit Officers.

1. Elected unit officers shall be:
 - A. Captain: Commander of the military reenactment organization known as Companies B, C, F & I of the 28th Regiment of North Carolina State Troops. The Captain shall be charged with officially representing the unit and its members at all meetings pertaining to the unit and its command on the field. The person elected to this position also serves as the President of the Corporation.
 - B. Adjutant: Official contact person of the Unit and the Corporation. This position carries the rank of Lieutenant and second in command in the unit. The person elected to this position also serves as the Secretary and Treasurer of the Corporation, unless the board elects someone else to fill those positions.
 - C. First Sergeant: As the highest ranking enlisted man, or Orderly Sergeant, will be ultimately responsible for the preparation and comfort of the unit members at all events. The First Sergeant will carry all concerns of the enlisted members of the

unit to the attention of the unit adjutant, who will in turn, consult with the Captain to seek resolution of all concerns to the benefit of the unit as a whole.

- D. If circumstances require, the Captain, Adjutant and First Sergeant may vote to settle any differences brought before them. If the grievance involves one of the elected officers, then the Second Sergeant or Chaplain shall assist in the resolution of the grievance.
2. In the event of a vacancy in the elected unit officer positions during the year, a special meeting will be called as soon as possible to elect a replacement by a majority vote of the members present at the meeting.
3. Any officer or member of the unit may resign at any time by providing a written declaration of his intentions to the unit adjutant. Resignations may be accepted or declined by a majority vote of the members at a meeting designated by the board of directors.
4. Any officer or member who the unit membership determines to be derelict or negligent of his duties may be impeached. The specifications of the negligence must be submitted in writing to the unit adjutant. The person charged with the negligence will be given 30 days to respond in writing to the charges. The board of directors will determine a proper time and place for the unit membership to hear the charges and response. After allowing adequate time for discussion among the membership, a confidential ballot vote will be held to decide the issue. A two-thirds majority vote will decide the issue. All parties agree to abide by the results of the election.

IV. NCO Rank.

As the need arises, the elected unit officers will select a second sergeant, one or more corporals, and one or more high privates to assist them in the administration of the unit. To hold these positions, an enlisted man should expect to attend at least 75% of the units voted on events and be up to date on all unit fees. These appointments should be considered ended on the date of the annual business meeting and may or may not be extended after that date.

V. Event Schedule.

It shall be the responsibility of the elected unit officers to present a proposed schedule of events for the approval of the membership at the annual business meeting. Members may submit events for consideration by the unit. A majority vote will decide which events the unit will support. Unit leadership and membership understand that other events, not to be considered "maximum effort" events, may be added to the schedule as they become known.

VI. Annual Dues.

Annual membership dues are due and payable on April 1st. and shall be set by the board of directors.

1. Military members will bear arms on the field with the unit. Other fees, such as liability and/or accidental insurance, etc., may be required.
2. Family members may or may not bear arms on the field with the unit. Other fees, such as liability and/or accidental insurance, etc., may be required. All members of the family must share the same legal residence.

3. Civilian members will not bear arms on the field with the unit. Other fees, such as liability and/or accidental insurance, etc., may be required.
4. Associate members portray neither military nor civilian period impressions.
5. Dues will be prorated after October 1st to one-half of the annual amount for each type of membership.
6. All participants at a unit event must sign a liability waiver or have one on file with the unit adjutant.

VII. Bylaws.

1. Unit leadership will provide each member of the unit a copy of the bylaws.
2. Unit bylaws may only be changed or amended at the annual meeting. Any member may submit proposed changes to the bylaws. To be considered for a vote, the changes and amendments must be submitted in writing at least 30 days prior to the election to the unit adjutant. These changes will be posted on the unit website forum or published for consideration by the membership.

VIII. Discipline of Members.

Problems involving the conduct of a member of the unit may be brought to the attention of the unit officers. The elected unit officers have the responsibility to reprimand or bring to the attention of the unit as a whole, the nature of the problem. If the matter cannot be resolved to everyone's satisfaction, a two-thirds majority vote of the membership at a called meeting of the same, may decide to expel the offending member. All members agree to abide by the results of the election.

IX. Charter Membership.

1. All members of the unit who have joined the unit prior to the ratification of these bylaws will be considered charter members of the unit.
2. Every member of the unit will be given a membership number with which to identify his equipment. This number will be issued by the unit adjutant upon the member's admission to the unit. Charter members will establish their membership numbers by mutual agreement.

X. Board of Directors.

1. There will be seven members of the board of directors, any five of which will constitute a quorum in order to conduct business of the board on behalf of the unit.
2. Directors will serve a staggered two year term, with four directors being elected on "odd" numbered years and three directors being elected on "even" numbered years.
3. Directors will meet at least once a year. Additional meetings can be held at the discretion of the board.
4. The chairman of the board, selected by the other members of the board will cast a vote only in the case of a tie. The board will elect the chairman of the board at the first board meeting of each year.
5. The board will elect a secretary and a treasurer. Both positions can be filled by the same person. The unit adjutant can be elected as the secretary and treasurer. If this is not the case, then the secretary and treasurer will provide records at the annual meeting to assist the unit adjutant with ascertaining each member's eligibility to vote. The board will elect a secretary and treasurer at the first board meeting of each year.

The treasurer will present a financial report to the board and/or unit at the annual meeting of the 28th NC Troops or at the request of the board of directors. The captain shall have the authority to approve all expenditures up to \$250.00. Any expenditure above \$250.00 (excluding event, insurance, and associated fees) must be approved by a quorum of the board of directors.

6. A quorum of the board of directors must participate in the unit's annual meeting.
7. The board of directors can appoint ad-hoc committees as necessary. All committees appointed by the board are subject to decisions and the authority of the board.
8. In the event of a vacancy on the board of directors during the year, the position shall be filled by the person with the next highest vote received at the prior annual meeting. In case of a tie, then the board of directors shall vote as soon as possible to fill the vacant board position.
9. In the event of catastrophic events/pandemics or other such "acts of God" the BOD, by unanimous vote, may override the voting requirements and modify the voting process for a single election cycle, should they desire to do so.

XI. Dissolution

1. In the event of dissolution of the Yadkin Stars and Yadkin Boys Living History Association, the funds and equipment thereof will be distributed by its board of directors to the 501(c)(3) organization of their choice.