

*National Constitution
And
By-Laws*

Of the

National Order of Trench Rats

*As revised at the
National Rendezvous at New Orleans, Louisiana
July 31, 2017*

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CONSTITUTION

PREAMBLE

For God and Nation, and for our commonwealth, we members of the Disabled American Veterans maintain the honor, integrity, and supremacy of our country, holding in remembrance the sacrifices in common made and drawn together by strong bonds of respect and mutual suffering, solemnly and firmly associate ourselves together in creating the National Order of Trench Rats, the principles and purposes of which shall be supreme allegiance to the Disabled American Veterans, fidelity to its Constitution and laws; to hold aloft the torch of true patriotism; strive for a better understanding between nations that peace and goodwill may prevail; to cherish and preserve the memories of our military association; and to aid and assist worthy wartime disabled veterans, their widows, their orphans and their dependents.

ARTICLE I – NAME

The name of this organization shall be “National Order of Trench Rats”.

ARTICLE II – PURPOSE

The National Order of Trench Rats is formed for the purpose of providing a closer bond by which disabled veterans may be drawn together for the further benefit of the disabled veteran, and to provide a fun and philanthropic Order of the Disabled American Veterans to aid and assist in its aims and purposes in every way possible.

ARTICLE III – MEMBERSHIP

Any disabled veteran is eligible for membership in the National Order of Trench Rats, who has been an active member in good standing of the Disabled American Veterans who, by their personal work, aid, help, effort, sacrifice and service, has shown their devotion to the best interest and welfare of disabled veterans, their dependents and survivors.

ARTICLE IV – POWERS

To have perpetual succession, to adopt a corporate seal and alter the same at pleasure; to adopt a constitution, bylaws and regulations to carry on its purposes, not inconsistent with the laws of the United States or any state, to use, in carrying out the purposes of the corporation, such emblems and badges as it may adopt, to establish and maintain offices for the conduct of its business; Sectors and territorial

organizations and local Dugout organizations; to do any and all such acts and things as may be necessary and proper in carrying into effect the purposes of the corporation.

ARTICLE V – ADMINISTRATION

Section 1. The administrative affairs of this organization shall be vested in the Imperial Council, to be composed of all the Imperial Executive Rats.

Section 2. Each Imperial Rendezvous shall elect an Imperial Golden Rodent, Imperial Silver Rodent, Imperial Blue Rodent, Imperial Turquoise Rodent, Imperial Bubonic Plague, Imperial Black Plague, and Imperial Iron Claw.

Section 3. No person shall succeed himself as Imperial Golden Rodent.

ARTICLE VI – LEGISLATION

The supreme legislative powers of this organization shall be vested in an Imperial Rendezvous, which shall be composed of the Imperial Officers and Imperial Executive Rats, which are now, or may be hereafter, included in this organization.

ARTICLE VII – EXECUTIVE

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

ARTICLE VIII – AUXILIARIES

The National Order of Trench Rats recognizes as an auxiliary the National Order of Alley Cats subject to mandates of the National Order of Trench Rats, its constitution and by-laws; they will make an annual report to their respective Sectors including a complete financial statement.

ARTICLE IX – AMENDMENTS

This Constitution may be amended at any National Rendezvous by a written resolution submitted to the Resolutions Committee and a vote of two-thirds of the delegates represented at the By-Laws Committee. Approved resolutions will be read at the next two General Business meetings before a vote of all members present can be taken.

IMPERIAL BYLAWS

ARTICLE 1 - ORGANIZATION

Section 1. “The National Order of Trench Rats recognizes the National Organization known as Disabled American Veterans, 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. Upon dissolution of the National Order of Trench Rats, the assets remaining after the payment of its debts shall be distributed as provided in Article 6, Sections 6.4, Paragraphs 5 and 6, of the National Bylaws.”

Section 2. The governing bodies of the Organization shall be the Imperial Council, Sectors and Dugouts.

Section 3. Each such body shall keep records of its proceedings, which shall be open for inspection to any recognized officer of the Organization.

Section 4. The National Order of Trench Rats shall be composed of an Imperial Board, Imperial Council, and Imperial Van, Sectors and Dugouts.

Section 5. The term "Sector" shall be composed of all Dugouts located within a given State, Territory, or the Sector of Columbia of the United States. Sectors shall function as a unit between the Dugouts and Imperial Van.

Section 6. It shall have no political or administrative significance.

Section 7. The National Order of Trench Rats recognizes as an auxiliary the National Order of Alley Cats subject to mandates of the National Order of Trench Rats, its constitution and by-laws; they will make an annual report to their respective Sectors including a complete Financial Statement.

Section 8. No elected Imperial Officer will hold an elected office in the Sector or Dugout at the same time. No Sector Officer will hold an elected office in both the Sector and Dugout at the same time.

ARTICLE 2 – POLICY

Section 1. The National Order of Trench Rats is a fraternal and philanthropic organization and is a recognized Auxiliary of the Disabled American Veterans.

Section 2. This Organization shall be non-political and non-sectarian and the name of this Organization or name of any subdivision thereof shall not be used in representing the desires or wishes of its membership in any political, sectarian or labor dispute, except as hereinafter provided. Provided, however, that the foregoing shall not prevent this Organization or any subdivision thereof from participating in political issues which have a direct bearing upon the welfare of America's disabled veterans, their dependents and survivors.

Section 3. It is the policy of this organization not to condone the exploitation of any person or persons because of their race, creed, ethnic background, age, or gender.

Section 4. Immoral or demeaning conduct of any nature during any NOTR initiation ceremony is prohibited. Each subordinate unit is responsible to ensure that its initiation ceremonies conform to this policy.

Section 5.

Para. 1: No member shall appear before any legislative body or speak in the name of this Organization or any subdivision thereof propounding a position contrary to any resolution then in effect with regard to such legislation, which resolution has been regularly adopted by the Imperial Rendezvous and the Imperial Board.

Para. 2: No federal legislation shall be sponsored or endorsed by an Imperial Officer or any member on behalf of or in the name of the NOTR National Organization or any subordinate unit unless it has been approved by an Imperial Rendezvous or by the Imperial Council, except as otherwise provided in Paragraph 3 of this section.

Para. 3: In the absence of any mandate covering any matter herein laws already enacted by Congress are under attack, the Imperial Golden Rodent, Imperial Red Eyed Gnawer and Imperial Council are hereby placed under a continuing mandate by these Bylaws to resist and oppose any changes in laws or regulations advocated by any Presidential commission, Executive Order, by special investigative commission created by Congress, or any legislative bill sponsored by any standing or special committee of the congress that would repeal or deprive disabled veterans, their dependents and survivors of benefits already provided by such laws or regulations. However, they may support those that are deemed by them to be beneficial to disabled veterans or their dependents.

ARTICLE 3 – IMPERIAL RENDEZVOUS

Section 1. The legislative body of the National Order of Trench Rats shall be the National Rendezvous, to be held annually at a time and place to be selected by the

Imperial Council.

Section 2. At the National Rendezvous, each Dugout shall be entitled to one delegate for each 15 members or fraction thereof who's current per capita has been received by the Imperial Red Eyed Gnawer 20 days before the convening of the current National Rendezvous. Any Dugout chartered between July 1st and the holding of the National Rendezvous, will be recognized at the National Rendezvous and its delegates will be seated with full power to vote. However, the number of members shown on the roster will determine the number of delegates to which such Dugout will be entitled. Each Dugout shall also be entitled to one alternate for each delegate, who shall have the same power as delegates with the exception of voting power, provided, however, that the delegates of any Dugout which is indebted to Imperial Headquarters shall not be entitled to vote at the National Rendezvous.

Section 3. The highest standing Sector officer present and each delegate, each Elected Officer and Appointed Officer, with the exception of the Imperial Rendezvous Rat (IRR) and Imperial Historic Rat (IHiR) of the Imperial Van, and each Imperial Rodent shall be entitled to one vote. The majority of the delegates present from their Dugout shall cast the vote.

Section 4. Proxies of any kind are forbidden.

Section 5. A quorum of a National Rendezvous shall consist of a majority of Dugouts registered.

Section 6. The Imperial Golden Rodent will be entitled to vote only to break a tie on any question that arises.

Section 7. The Imperial Council shall have full power to make all arrangements for the National Rendezvous and shall act as a credentials committee passing on the number of votes that each Dugout is entitled.

Section 8. Rules of the Imperial Rendezvous

Rule 1. Roberts Rules of Order, revised, will govern except as hereinafter specifically stated.

Rule 2. For the purpose of recognition, a member of the Imperial Rendezvous must (1) stand, (2) address the chair as "Most Worthy Golden Rodent", (3) 'salaam', (4) state their name and Dugout, Sector or title and (5) shall proceed only after recognition by the chair.

Rule 3. Debate shall be limited to five (5) minutes for each speaker, except by two-thirds (2/3) consent.

Rule 4. Not more than two (2) representatives from any one (1) Dugout shall be permitted to discuss any one (1) subject, except by two-thirds (2/3) consent.

Rule 5. Recognition shall be granted only once to any one (1) speaker on any one (1) subject. A rebuttal of not more than three (3) minutes may be permitted. Additional recognition may be granted by two-thirds (2/3) consent.

Rule 6. All resolutions originating in a Imperial Rendezvous Committee must be submitted to the Imperial Rendezvous office of the Imperial Red Eyed Gnawer in proper resolution form (IN TRIPLICATE), and must be typed or printed and must be signed by the Chairman and Secretary of the Originating Committee.

Rule 7. The Imperial Red Eyed Gnawer shall deliver all properly prepared resolutions to the appropriate Imperial Rendezvous Committee. Resolutions not considered shall be returned to the Imperial Red Eyed Gnawer for further reference.

Rule 8. The Imperial Rendezvous can discuss no resolution, except by unanimous consent, until an Imperial Rendezvous Committee has reported the same in. Resolutions referred to, but not favorably reported in by such Committee are in order and may be called up for consideration by proponents at the moment of discharge of such Committee.

Rule 9. Imperial Rendezvous Committees may originate such resolutions, as they desire to sponsor, which pertain to the subject with which they are charged. However, no resolution shall be accepted for consideration after 10:00 A.M. of the third day of the Imperial Rendezvous, except by unanimous consent of the members present.

Rule 10. Each Dugout shall elect a Chairman, who shall announce the vote of the Dugout. When a delegate thereof demands the poll of any Dugout, entitled to vote, the Chairman shall poll the vote of such Dugout without debate or discussion.

Rule 11. In viva voce voting on any subject before the Imperial Rendezvous, no person shall participate except full-accredited delegates and alternates acting as delegates, who have registered and paid the registration fee. Visitors other than the voting members of the Imperial Rendezvous shall not vote.

Rule 12. The unit rule of voting shall not be permitted.

Rule 13. Delegates and alternates of a Dugout which are indebted to Imperial Headquarters in any amount, except supplies for current or future sales, or delegates and alternates of the Dugout which have not complied with the Rules and Regulations shall not be seated and cannot vote in the Imperial Rendezvous until such indebtedness has been paid and/or establish compliance with the Imperial Bylaws, Rules and Regulations.

Rule 14. Voting shall be given by viva voce, except when a roll call is demanded by the Imperial Golden Rodent or his designated replacement or by at least three (3) Dugout units, except in the case of election of Imperial Officers. All roll calls shall be numerically by Dugouts.

Rule 15. Nominations for Imperial Officers shall come from the Nominating Committee. The Imperial REG must receive Imperial Officer Candidate Applications not later than thirty (30) days prior to the Imperial Rendezvous.

Rule 16. The Chairman of the Nominating Committee will read the list of Officers to the Imperial Council for consideration. Additional candidates may be made at this time.

Rule 17. The Imperial Council will vote to accept the Nominating Committee's report. In the event other candidates will be recommended, Imperial Council will address each candidate individually.

Rule 18. Discussion of personal grievances, local conditions, or claims concerning one (1) individual only, with respect to his personal interest, shall not be in order before the Imperial Rendezvous but may be discussed before the Grievance Committee of the Imperial.

Rule 19. In conformity with the Imperial Bylaws, the Imperial Officers shall serve as the Officers of the Imperial Rendezvous. The Imperial Red Eyed Gnawer shall serve as the Adjutant and Secretary of the Imperial Rendezvous.

Rule 20. The Imperial Iron Claw shall be the Sergeant-at-Arms of the Imperial Rendezvous. The Assistant Imperial Iron Claw, appointed by the Imperial Golden Rodent, shall assist him.

Rule 21. No person who has talked for or against any motion, resolution, or report on the Imperial Rendezvous floor shall be permitted to make a motion to table same. A motion to table is not debatable and shall require a two-thirds (2/3) affirmative vote. A tabled motion may be taken from the table, for reconsideration, by a majority vote.

Rule 22. No person shall be entitled to vote or act as a delegate or alternate unless he is a member of the Imperial Order of Trench Rats, in good standing.

Rule 23. The nomination, election and installation of the Imperial Officers designated by these Bylaws shall be the last order of business of the last day of the Imperial Rendezvous.

Rule 24. The Nominating Committee shall be composed of Imperial Rodents. They shall be the three (3) junior Imperial Rodents and two (2) senior Imperial Rodents appointed by the Imperial Golden Rodent. No two Committee members shall be from the same Sector except in emergencies due to a lack of Imperial Rodents. The Chairman of the Nominating Committee will be the junior past Imperial Golden Rodent. The Nominating Committee shall elect a Secretary. No candidate for office shall be considered by the Nominating Committee unless they appear before the Nominating Committee.

Rule 25. The following Committees are hereby provided as the Standing Committees of the Imperial Rendezvous. They shall meet at the call of the Imperial Rendezvous, the Imperial Golden Rodent, or the Chairman of the Committee, provided, however, such Committees shall not meet during the prescribed hours of the General Sessions except by affirmative vote of two-thirds (2/3) of the Imperial Rendezvous Delegates present and voting. Each Committee Secretary shall notify all Committee members, and the Imperial Red Eyed Gnawer as to time and place of each meeting. Each Committee Chairman shall report the conclusion of his Committee in writing in whole or in part, to the Imperial Rendezvous when called for by the Imperial Golden Rodent, the report to be approved by a majority of the Committee. A Committee Advisor shall be assigned by the Imperial Golden Rodent to each Committee because of his knowledge of the subject under consideration; and shall be subject to the call of the Committee for advice or council, without the privilege of voting, unless such appointed advisor is a Delegate to such Committee. Only registered Delegates will be allowed to participate in Committee discussions. Each Committee shall consist of a Chairman selected by the Imperial Golden Rodent and an Advisor. All committees are open to the membership.

(a) Committee on Credentials: This Committee shall consider all matters of credentials and determine the eligibility of all persons seated and voting and shall specifically notify the Imperial Rendezvous and delegates as to the number of votes to which each Dugout shall be entitled.

(b) Committee on Resolutions: This Committee shall consider all matters which are not referable to the other Imperial Rendezvous Committees and shall formulate and give expressions of thanks, appreciation or condolences in resolution form.

(c) Committee on Finance:

Para 1. This Committee shall consider those regulations dealing with NOTR finances and dues and the approval of the proposed budget with recommendations of the Imperial Board on the proposed budget.

Para 2. There shall be a Finance Committee of five members. Three members shall be the Imperial Silver rodent, the Imperial Blue Rodent and the Imperial Turquoise Rodent, and two appointments by the Imperial Golden Rodent with the approval of the Imperial Council. The Imperial Silver Rodent is the Chairman of the Committee. The Imperial Bench Rat and the Imperial Red Eyed Gnawer are ex-officio members of the finance committee with no voting rights.

Para 3. The Imperial Finance Committee shall meet on a bi-annually basis. The meetings shall be held within a twenty-four (24) hour period prior to each mid-year and pre-convention Imperial Council Meeting, or upon call of three (3) members of the finance committee and/or the Imperial Golden Rodent.

(d) Committee on Bylaws: This Committee shall give consideration to those resolutions, which pertain to proposed additions, changes or amendments to the Imperial Bylaws. No resolutions or changes to the Constitution and By-Laws will be considered unless submitted to the Imperial Headquarters 120 days prior to the pre-rendezvous meeting of the Imperial Council.

(e) Committee on Membership: This Committee shall give consideration to all matters pertaining to membership.

(f) Committee for Awards: The Awards Committee shall have three (3) members, one of which shall be an elected chair Imperial Officer.

Rule 26. Accredited delegates or alternates acting as delegates and Imperial Officers may appear before any Imperial Rendezvous Committee to argue for or against any resolution being given consideration, providing they contact the Chairman or Secretary, and make an appointment for such appearance. All Imperial Officers and members of Permanent Imperial Rendezvous Committees are subject to call during Committee sessions.

Rule 27. The Imperial Board at the mid-year meeting shall make Imperial Rendezvous requirements.

Rule 28. Policy regarding Initiation Teams. At the annual Imperial Rendezvous, it shall be the responsibility of the Imperial Bubonic and Black Plagues to supervise the initiation team. At the Imperial council meeting prior to the Imperial Rendezvous, the Imperial Golden Rodent shall appoint a committee of

two (2) or more Imperial Rodents to monitor the initiation. A similar system of monitors is to be utilized by all subordinate bodies.

Section 9. Imperial Executive Rat

Section 9.1. Composition and Election

- (a) The Imperial Executive Rat from each Sector in good standing to be recommended and/or endorsed from the membership thereof and which has no legal indebtedness owing and due to the Imperial Headquarters. Each Sector shall also recommend and/or endorse and alternate.
- (b) The Sectors shall recommended and/or endorse an Imperial Executive Rat and an Alternate at the same time as their regular Sector elections. The term of office of each recommended and/or endorsed Imperial Executive Rat shall be for one (1) year. In the event of the removal, death, or resignation or inability to discharge the duties of his or her office, the duties shall devolve upon the Alternate Imperial Executive Rat. In the event of any of the foregoing circumstances with respect to the Alternate, the Sector at its next meeting, shall recommend and/or endorse his or her successor to serve the unexpired portion of the term of office. The newly recommended and/or endorsed Imperial Executive Rats and Alternates will be reported to the Imperial Red Eyed Gnawer for his records.
- (c) It is requested that the candidates letter of recommendation be submitted with the forms required for the position. This form must be filled out, and the candidate must go before the nominating committee.

ARTICLE 4 – IMPERIAL BOARD

Section 1:

The Imperial Board shall be composed of all Imperial Rodents. They shall establish the policy for the management of the Life and Building Funds. They shall act as Trustees and guide the direction of all Funds. They may grant exceptions to these constitutions and by-laws by a two-thirds affirmative vote of those in attendance at a meeting of the board. Any exceptions will be valid until the next Imperial Rendezvous and may only be changed permanently by resolution approved by the Imperial Council. They shall act as a body exercising good judgment and their collective wisdom to further the best interest of the NOTR.

Section 2:

The board shall meet twice a year. At the first meeting each year they shall elect a Chairman and a Secretary. A quorum shall be 51% of those registered and they shall establish their own operating Articles.

ARTICLE 5 – IMPERIAL COUNCIL

Section 1. The Imperial Council shall be composed of all members of the Imperial Van and all Imperial Rodents with vote.

Section 2. Full administrative powers shall be vested in the Imperial Council.

Section 3. A quorum shall exist where there is present a majority of those members of the Imperial Council or Imperial Van who possess the voting power.

Section 4. The Imperial council shall fill any vacancy in office, which may occur between meetings of the National Rendezvous. Seniority shall be given due weight when making such selections.

Section 5. Any vacancy occurring in the Office of Imperial Executive Rat shall be filled by an Alternate Imperial Executive Rat and a new Alternate Imperial Executive Rat will be elected at the next Sector meeting.

Section 6. The Imperial Council, at its first meeting following the National Rendezvous, shall appoint an Imperial Red Eyed Gnawer and such Assistant Red Eyed Gnawers as necessary, an Imperial Bench Rat, an Imperial Nightingale, an Imperial Cure Rat, and an Imperial Hole-y Rat, and such officers to hold office at the pleasure of the appointing body. They shall also, at this first meeting, select the time and place at which the next National Rendezvous shall be held.

Section 7. Any question that may come up between meetings of the Imperial Council, which requires their action, shall be handled by means of a mail ballot.

Section 8. The Imperial Council shall meet within one week after the adjournment of the National Rendezvous and immediately preceding the holding of the succeeding National Rendezvous.

Section 9. The Imperial Council shall provide for the appointment and employment of such subordinate officers and employees as may be needed for the administration of the affairs of the National Order of Trench Rats, and prescribe their duties and emoluments. All questions affecting the election, eligibility and conduct of Imperial Officers shall be referred to and determined by the Imperial Council.

Section 10. At the meeting of the Imperial Council preceding the National Rendezvous, the Council shall act as a Credentials Committee for the Rendezvous

and shall appoint Finance Committee and a By-Laws Committee and such other committees for the National Rendezvous they may find necessary.

Section 11. Imperial Officers will not hold elected officers in any subordinate units (Sectors & Dugouts) so as to give more members the opportunity to progress within the organization. They may assist any appointed officers only.

ARTICLE 6 – IMPERIAL VAN

Section 1. The Imperial Council, at its first meeting following the National Rendezvous, shall appoint an Imperial Red Eyed Gnawer and such Assistant Red Eyed Gnawers as necessary, an Imperial Bench Rat, an Imperial Nightingale, an Imperial Cure Rat, and an Imperial Hole-y Rat, and such officers to hold office at the pleasure of the appointing body. They shall also, at this first meeting, select the time and place at which the next National Rendezvous shall be held.

Section 2. No one shall be elected to any office on the Imperial Van unless he is present at the National Rendezvous. Exception, for cause, will only be granted by a two-thirds affirmative vote of the Imperial Nominating Committee present at the National Rendezvous.

Section 3. Such officers shall serve until the adjournment of the succeeding Imperial Rendezvous following their election and thereafter until their successors are chosen.

Section 4. No elected National Line Officer of the Disabled American Veterans therein or a candidate for national office shall be eligible as a candidate for an office of the Imperial Van.

Section 5. The term of office of all members of the Imperial Van shall commence immediately upon the adjournment of the National Rendezvous at which they are elected, and shall end at the adjournment of the next succeeding National Rendezvous. In case of death, resignation or removal of any member of the Imperial Van, the successor shall be appointed by the Imperial Council, and the term of office of such successor shall be until the adjournment of the next National Rendezvous.

Section 6. The duties of the various Imperial Officers shall be as follows: Imperial Golden Rodent - Supreme Head and Chief Executive; Imperial Red Eyed Gnawer - Secretary and Treasurer; Imperial Silver Rodent - Senior Vice Commander; Imperial Blue Rodent - First Junior Vice Commander; Imperial Turquoise Rodent - Second Junior Vice Commander; Imperial Bubonic Plague and Imperial Black Plague - Master of Ceremonies and of the Ritual; Imperial Hole-y

Rat - Chaplain; Imperial Historic Rat - Historian; Imperial Bench Rat - Judge Advocate; Imperial Iron claw - Sergeant at Arms and Imperial Guard; Imperial Cure Rat - Surgeon; Imperial Nightingale Rat - entertainment Chairman; Keeper of the Cheese (Capes and Robes).

ARTICLE 7 – NOTR SECTORS

The term "Sector" may be employed when referring to all Dugouts located in Sector within a State. It shall have no political or administrative significance; it is solely geographical in nature.

ARTICLE 8 – CHARTERS

Section 1. In addition to the revocation or suspension as provided in Article 17, Section 6 of these bylaws, charters of Sectors and Dugouts may be suspended. This function rests with the Imperial Council.

Section 2. The Imperial Council may suspend any Sector or Dugout ceasing to function as a Trench Rat Sector or Dugout. This suspension may be lifted anytime during the next fiscal year by the presentation of satisfactory evidence that the Sector or Dugout is functioning. If this is not done, the Imperial Council may revoke the charter or place the Charter in permanent suspension.

Section 3. Whenever the charter of a Sector or Dugout is revoked it may only be reinstated as provided for in the constitution or by the submission of a new charter application.

Section 4. A Sector or Dugout with less than fifteen (15) paid-up life members, twenty (20) days prior to the National Rendezvous, shall be declared inactive and not allowed to vote in the rendezvous.

Section 5. Merger of Two or More Existing Dugouts

- (a) Upon receipt of a letter of intention to merge from the Red Eyed Gnawer of the Dugout concerned, the Imperial Golden Rodent may approve their merger with the concurrence of the Imperial Council.
- (b) If one of the Dugouts is a non-functioning Dugout and cannot hold a legal meeting, the Sector Golden Rodent may require the Sector Red Eyed Gnawer or the Dugout Red Eyed Gnawer to poll the membership of the Dugout as to their wishes regarding the merger.
- (c) Upon receipt of a favorable report from the membership concerned, the Sector Golden Rodent shall then affect the transfer of the membership and

the property of the non-functioning Dugout into the Dugout that is the survivor of the merger.

- (d) If no favorable report is received by the Sector Red Eyed Gnawer, and the Dugout is non-functioning, then Article 17, Section 8, of the Imperial Constitution and Bylaws shall govern the necessary action of the Sector Golden Rodent.

ARTICLE 9 – RITUAL AND CEREMONIES

Section 1. The Imperial Council alone shall possess the right to adopt, prescribe, change and amend the ritual and Ceremonies of the National Order of Trench Rats, except the "First Part of Third Degree," which shall be left to the ingenuity, initiative, and common sense of each Dugout to devise and carry out. The Imperial Red Eyed Gnawer shall check all candidates or a person designated by him.

Section 2. The Imperial Council thereto shall furnish each Dugout two copies of the Ritual and Ceremonies. The custodians of these shall be the Golden Rodent and the Red Eyed Gnawer of the Dugout in question. They shall keep them inviolate and in a safe and secret place. The only Rituals and Constitution and By-Laws that shall be used are those prescribed by the Imperial Council.

Section 3. Each Dugout shall be held strictly accountable by and to the Imperial Council for its due and unfailing observance of the ritual and Ceremonies, except where a dugout is organized in a locality where there is no degree team of an active dugout nearby to initiate the members of the newly organized Dugout. The Imperial Council shall have the right to suspend the observance of the ritual and Ceremonies with the exception of the obligation of the First Degree. It is further provided that the Second and the Third Degree may be suspended in the case of any Scavvie where the Golden Rodent or Red Eyed Gnawer is of the opinion it would be injurious to him.

Section 4. No Dugout shall present a full membership card to a Scavvie until he shall have received all three degrees of this order. After the Scavvie has received the first two degrees, and paid all the required fees in full, the Dugout may issue him a Temporary Dugout Receipt. Said receipt shall entitle such Scavvie to attend business meetings of the Dugout without the right to vote or hold office unless the presence of such is objected to by any member in good standing who has received the third degree. Such Scavvie shall receive the full third degree of this order at the earliest possible opportunity either at a Dugout, Sector, or National Rendezvous. This Section shall be subject to the provisions of Section 3 of this Article above.

ARTICLE 10 – SECTORS

Section 1. To be recognized by the Imperial Council and operate as a Sector in any state, officers shall be elected at a Sector Rendezvous each year by all of the Dugouts present. Their eligibility to hold office shall be as Past Golden Rodents or Past Red Eyed Gnawers of a Dugout. Their duties shall be to keep the existing Dugouts active and to form new Dugouts within the Sector and to hold a Rendezvous within the Sector at some time within the year, preferably in conjunction with the Department Convention. They will confer with and be responsible to, the Imperial Executive Rat of the Sector.

Section 2. Where there is no Imperial Officer and no Dugout within a Sector, the Imperial Golden Rodent may appoint a Sector Golden Rodent. Where there is one or two Dugouts in a Sector, the Imperial Golden Rodent may appoint a Sector Golden Rodent and Sector Red Eyed Gnawer. The appointments will be subject to review by the Imperial Golden Rodent. States with three or more Dugouts may appoint a Red Eyed Gnawer and a Bench Rat and elect a Golden Rodent, Silver Rodent, Blue Rodent, etc., at their Sector Rendezvous in accordance with the number of Dugouts in good standing (3 Dugouts - 3 Officers) up to the number and in rank according to those of the Imperial Chair Officers, providing at least three Dugouts are present to elect the officers. The remaining chair officers will be filled by appointment of the Sector Golden Rodent who shall make such appointments in an order that each Dugout shall have representation in the Sector. For voting purposes each Dugout shall have one vote. The Sector Red Eyed Gnawer shall notify the Imperial Red Eyed Gnawer within 30 days after the election of the name and address of the officers. Elected Sector Officers should serve in each office for a term of one year, but no more than two years.

Section 3. Those States with large numbers of Dugouts and geographical distances exceeding 500 miles, may petition the Imperial Council to divide the State into Geographical Sectors within the State, provided there are not less than five (5) Dugouts in each of the Sectors.

Section 4. When a Sector has been duly formed and recognized by the Imperial Council, the Imperial Council shall issue an appropriate Charter.

Section 5. All Sector accounts shall be in the name of the NOTR with the Sector Name. No funds shall be kept in any personal accounts. All accounts must require any two of three signatures. All Sectors shall furnish Imperial each year, along with their Annual Financial Report, one voided check or bank statement dated June 30, from all their accounts for the Imperial Records. Sectors will post the Finance report from the National Order of Alley Cats in the 'OTHER' section of their Finance report and attach a copy of the National Order of Alley Cats Finance report with voided check or bank statement.

Section 6. Any Sector that has over three times their annual budgeted expenses held in funds and assets shall conform to the guidelines established by the parent organization or they shall be subject to suspension of their Charter for failure to comply with this mandate.

Section 7. Each Sector shall adopt its own Constitution and By-Laws, provided they shall in no manner conflict with the Constitution and By-Laws of the National Order of Trench Rats, and will be sent to Imperial Headquarters for the approval by the Imperial Bench Rat.

Sector By-Laws shall contain the following:

"This Organization recognizes the National Organization known as the National Order of Trench Rats and its Imperial Board and affirms its allegiance, and subordination, to this National Organization, its Constitution, by-Laws and all rules, mandates and regulations promulgated pursuant hereto. Upon dissolution of the Corporation, the assets remaining after payment of its debts shall be distributed as provided in Article 17, Sections 1,2, and 3 of the NOTR Bylaws.

This organization and its members shall not have the right to any of the regalia, ritual, name, initials, symbols or emblems pertaining to the National Order of Trench Rats."

ARTICLE 11 – DUGOUTS

Section 1. Those who desire to form a Dugout shall apply for a charter to Imperial Headquarters. Whenever the Imperial Council approves such application, the Imperial Red Eyed Gnawer shall forthwith issue the necessary charter over his signature and that of the Imperial Golden Rodent. Imperial Council may, however, delegate approval of charters to the Imperial Golden rodent and the Imperial Red Eyed Gnawer.

Section 2. The Imperial Council shall not approve an application for a charter from those seeking to establish a Dugout in either a town, or a city wherein a Dugout is already located, except in cities with a population of 1,000,000 or more shall be entitled to more than one but not more than four Dugouts subject to approval of the Imperial Council.

Section 3. The Imperial Council shall not approve an application for a charter in any sector without first receiving the approval of the Department Executive committee of the D.A.V. in the State wherein such Dugout is to be established, provided, however, in such states as have no D.A.V. State Department, such prior approval shall be obtained from the D.A.V. National Executive Committee.

Section 4. Fifteen (15) or more eligible persons may apply for a charter. The application must be accompanied by a charter fee of \$10.00 and dues (Minimum Part Life) for each name appearing on the application. Funds will be held until full membership is received before submitting to Imperial Headquarters.

Section 5. Dugouts shall have no names either prefixed or suffixed to them, but shall be known solely by the numerical designation given at time charter is issued to them.

Section 6. The officers of a Dugout shall correspond both in number and in name to those of the Imperial Van, with these two exceptions; that first the term "Imperial" shall be dropped and never used, and secondly, that no such office as that of Executive Rat shall exist.

Section 7. Each Dugout shall adopt its own Constitution and By-Laws, provided they shall in no manner conflict with the Constitution and By-Laws of the National Order of Trench Rats, and will be sent to Imperial Headquarters for the approval by the Imperial Bench Rat.

Dugout By-Laws shall contain the following:

"This Organization recognizes the National Organization known as the National Order of Trench Rats and its Imperial Board and affirms its allegiance, and subordination to this National Organization, its Constitution, By-Laws and all rules, mandates and regulations promulgated pursuant hereto. Upon dissolution of the Corporation, the assets remaining after payment of its debts shall be distributed as provided in Article 17, Sections 1, 2, and 3 of the NOTR Bylaws.

This organization and its members shall not have the right to any of the regalia, ritual, name, initials, symbols or emblems pertaining to the National Order of Trench Rats."

Section 8. Each Dugout must submit an Annual Officer report to Imperial Headquarters within 10 days after installation. Failure to submit such reports at the proper time shall prohibit the seating of the Delegates of a Dugout at the Annual Business Meeting of the National Order of Trench Rats. Failure to furnish such report may lead to suspension and/or revocation of the charter of a Dugout.

Section 9. All Dugout accounts shall be in the name of the NOTR with Dugout Number (Name, if desired, may also be included). No funds shall be kept in any personal accounts. All accounts must require any two of three signatures. All Dugouts shall furnish Imperial each year, along with the Annual Financial Report, one voided check or bank statement dated 30 June from all their accounts for the Imperial Records not later than 1 October of each year.

Section 10. Any Dugout that has over three times their annual budgeted expenses held in funds and assets shall conform to the guidelines established by the parent organization or they shall be subject to suspension of the Charter for failure to comply with this mandate.

ARTICLE 12 – REGALIA

Section 1. The Imperial Council alone shall possess the right to adopt, prescribe, and change the regalia and the paraphernalia employed, used, and worn both by itself and any Dugout.

Section 2. Each Dugout or member of the organization and from no one else shall procure the fez, the lapel insignia, and any other regalia or paraphernalia adopted by the Imperial Council from Imperial Headquarters.

Section 3. Life members of the N.O.T.R. may purchase from Imperial Headquarters a white patch with red letters, LM, NOTR which they may wear anywhere but not on the fez.

Section 4. The only recognized regalia for the National Order of Trench Rats shall be a fez as prescribed in Article 13 of the By-Laws.

Section 5. In order that all fezzes of Trench Rat members may be uniform and made in the fashion conforming to the true meaning of same, all fezzes shall be purchased through the Imperial Red Eyed Gnawer.

Section 6. The regulation Fez for Dugout members will be Royal Purple in color with the Red Rat embroidered on the front and with a Red (9”) Tassel, Golden Rodents of local Dugouts shall wear the Purple Fez with the Gold Rat and a Gold (9”) Tassel. The recognized elected and appointed Sector Officers shall wear a Maroon Fez with a Red Rat and a Red (18”) Tassel. Sector Golden Rodents shall wear a Maroon Fez with a Gold Rat and Gold (18”) Tassel. Past Sector Golden Rodents may wear a Black Fez with a Red Triangle with a Gold Rat and Gold (18”) Tassel and a Past Sector R.E.G. may wear a Black Fez with a Gold Triangle with a Red Rat and Red (18”) Tassel. The Imperial Golden Rodent shall wear a White Fez with a Gold (24”) Tassel and a Tri-color on the front with the words "Imperial Golden Rodent" beneath it; Imperial Van Officers shall wear a White Fez with Red Rat and White (18”) Tassel for Chair Officers and Red Rat and Red (18”) Tassel for Executive Officers.

Section 7. Imperial Officers, Sector Officers and Dugout Golden Rodents shall have the right to wear their distinctive fezzes after their term of office has expired only when the word "Past" has been placed below the rat on the fez. The

letters will be in Gold for Past Golden Rodents and in Red for Past Imperial Officers and Past Sector Officers. Imperial Golden Rodents, on becoming members of the Imperial Board, will place the words "Imperial Council" in Gold beneath the Tri-color on their White Fez. No other mask, word, or insignia of any kind than above shall be worn on any fez.

Section 8. Dugout Red Eyed Gnawers who have served one complete year may purchase from Imperial Headquarters a purple patch with gold letters P.REG that is placed on their fez below a red rat or in place of the "Past" below a gold rat.

ARTICLE 13 – MEMBERSHIP

Section 1. Any disabled veteran is eligible for membership in the National Order of Trench Rats, who is an active member of the Disabled American Veterans and who, by their personal work, aid, help, effort, sacrifice and service, has shown their devotion to the best interest and welfare of Disabled Veterans, their dependents and survivors.

Section 2. There shall be none other than active members and dues shall be payable for life, with the exception that every Past Imperial Golden Rodent shall be awarded a GOLD Life Membership Card by the National Order of Trench Rats.

Section 3. Membership by application is prohibited. An eligible person may become a member only by written recommendation of two members who will vouch that they meet the eligibility requirements. Their eligibility will be checked thoroughly by the Dugout. The IER for the Sector will double check eligibility and will contact the Imperial Red Eyed Gnawer for approval before they are elected to membership. Their NOTR membership shall not be final until the Imperial Red Eyed Gnawer has issued their membership card and 3rd Degree Initiation.

Section 4. They will be voted upon by a 2/3 vote of members present necessary for election to membership. Any member in good standing who has attained the third degree may object to the accepting of any member or to the advancement from first to second degree or from second to third degree without regard to Dugout affiliation.

Section 5. The name of a rejected candidate shall not be divulged to any person not a member.

Section 6. Dual Membership may be permitted in more than one Dugout but not in the same sector with the exception to form a new Dugout. A member holding dual membership can be a delegate from only one Dugout at a National

Rendezvous. Dual membership may be defined as having a Membership in two or more Dugouts.

Section 7. The Imperial Council shall have the right to suspend Sections 3 and 4 of this Article if, in their opinion, such action is both necessary and expedient in order to organize and establish a Dugout in an isolated or hitherto unrepresentative locality.

Section 8. Any person eligible for membership as required and has full paid-up Life Membership in the D.A.V. may become a life member of the NOTR by the payment of a lump sum as follows:

Up to age 41 on July 1st	\$175.00
41 to 60 on July 1st	\$150.00
61 to 70 on July 1st	\$125.00
71 to 80 on July 1st	\$90.00
81 and over on July 1st	\$00.00

Funds received will be invested in time certificates, which will draw the highest possible interest available.

Section 9. Partial payment of not less than thirty dollars (\$30.00) may be made provided that the balance of the life membership fee must be paid "within two (2) years from the date of the application or all partial payments will be forfeited." Dugout Red Eyed Gnawers and/or other Dugout Officers must hold all membership fund until the total amount is received before forwarding to Imperial Headquarters.

Section 10. Membership at large may be granted at a Sector or National Rendezvous. Any two members who will vouch that he meets the eligibility requirements may, in writing, submit the name of a candidate with the payment of the initiation fee, provided, however, that where the candidate resides in a city where a Dugout is functioning, one of the signers of the application must be either the Golden Rodent or Red Eyed Gnawer of the Dugout if present at the Rendezvous, and the other signer must be a member of that Dugout.

Section 11. Any member in good standing in a Dugout may make application for transfer to any other Dugout and if accepted by the receiving Dugout shall be issued a letter of acceptance by the Red Eyed Gnawer of the Dugout. No other membership card shall be issued.

Section 12. Any member in good standing as a member-at-large may make application for transfer to any Dugout and if accepted by the receiving Dugout, the Red Eyed Gnawer shall notify Imperial Headquarters by forwarding an approved

transfer slip.

Section 13. There shall be no other membership dues other than Life Membership in the N.O.T.R. as that listed in Article 14, Section 8 above.

ARTICLE 14 – IMPERIAL HEADQUARTERS

Section 1. The National Headquarters of the National Order of Trench Rats shall be located at a location convenient for the Imperial Red Eyed Gnawer and approved by the Imperial Council. Such address will be published on the title page of this constitution and By-Laws.

Section 2. Sectors and Dugouts are strongly encouraged to incorporate themselves to minimize individual liability of their Officers and members and to assure that they can take full advantage of tax-exempt laws.

All By-Laws shall contain the following:

"This Organization recognizes the National Organization known as the National Order of Trench Rats and its Imperial Board and affirms its allegiance, and subordination to this National Organization, its Constitution, By-Laws and all rules, mandates and regulations promulgated pursuant hereto. Upon dissolution of the Corporation, the assets remaining after payment of its debts shall be distributed as provided in Article 17, Sections 1, 2 and 3 of the NOTR Bylaws.

This organization and its members shall not have the right to any of the regalia, ritual, name, initials, symbols or emblems pertaining to the National Order of Trench Rats."

ARTICLE 15 – IMPERIAL FINANCES

Section 1. The Imperial Council may authorize a fund raising project or drive for the National Order of Trench Rats after approval for such has been secured from the D.A.V. National Executive Committee.

Section 2. Local Dugouts and Sectors shall not conduct any Fund Raising project or Fund Raising activity without the prior consent of the D.A.V. State Department in which located and if there be no such State Department, then prior approval must be obtained from the National Adjutant of the D.A.V.

Section 3. If any Dugout or Sector desires to hold any Fund Raising project or Fund Raising Activity before requesting approval as provided in *Section 2*, it shall give written notice of its intention to seek such approval with reasonably full information about the proposed drive or activity to the Chapter or Chapters located in the territory in which it intends to raise funds, not less than two weeks before

seeking such approval.

Section 4. In order to obtain approval, write to the Department Adjutant setting forth complete details of the proposed drive or Fund Raising activity; give the territory to be solicited (including mail solicitation, if any); enclose a copy of any contract or proposed contract relating to the drive and otherwise comply with any specific requirement of the Department Constitution, by-Laws, or Convention Mandates. A copy of the Dugout or Sector's request to the Department will be forwarded to Imperial Headquarters for final approval.

Section 5. Any Dugout, which shall conduct and finance a Fund Raising project without prior approval, shall be subject to revocation of charter.

Section 6. Following the completion of approved Fund Raising, the Dugout or Sector shall submit to Imperial Headquarters a report of such Fund Raising along with a remittance of 10% of the NET gains.

Section 7. Dugouts and Sector Bank Accounts: All bank accounts shall be in the name of the NOTR with the Dugout or Sector name on account. No funds shall be kept in any personal accounts. All accounts must require any two of three signatures. All Dugouts and Sectors shall furnish to Imperial each year an account statement or one voided check with their Annual Financial Report.

Section 8. Any Dugout or Sector that has accumulated funds over \$50,000 shall bond all officers for three times the amount and send proof of such bond to Imperial Annually. Any Dugout or Sector that has over three times their annual budgeted expense and who does not conform within one year will be just cause for Imperial to suspend said Charter.

Section 9. Dugout and/or Sector Audit or Investigation: If this action is necessary, and found that problem(s) did justify this action by Imperial, all cost of such will be at the expense of the Dugout/Sector. The Dugout/Sector will pay such expense within 30 days of notice or will be suspended until such is recovered.

Section 10. It is the responsibility of every Dugout and Sector to apply to the Internal Revenue Service for an Employee Identification Number (EIN). Once the EIN is received, the Dugout and Sector will apply to the Internal Revenue Service for a Letter of Determination to establish tax-exempt status for their Dugout and Sector. The Dugout and Sector will also apply to the appropriate state agencies to register for their tax-exempt status within their state. Copies of these approvals will be submitted to Imperial Headquarters. It is the responsibility of each Dugout and Sector to file their annual tax information with the appropriate state and federal agencies before 15 November of each year.

ARTICLE 16 – SOURCES OF INCOME

Section 1. The revenue of the National Order of Trench Rats shall be derived from membership dues and such other sources as may be adopted or approved by the Imperial Council.

Section 2. Dugouts may collect membership dues and, upon receipt, must immediately forward to the Imperial Red Eyed Gnawer without offset.

Section 3. The fiscal year of the National Order of Trench Rats shall begin July 1st and shall end on June 30th of the following year.

ARTICLE 17 – DISCIPLINARY ACTIONS

Section 1. The Imperial Golden Rodent may suspend or expel any member of the National Order of Trench Rats for violation of his obligations or for any act unbecoming a member of this organization.

Section 2. This proceeding shall be done in open trial. The accused shall be presented with a copy of the charges brought against them in writing and signed by the complainant, or complainants, at least one week before their trial.

Section 3. The accused may make an appeal from any finding or order of the trial body to the Imperial Executive Committee at its next regular meeting. A written notice of appeal must be filed by registered mail with the Imperial Red Eyed Gnawer within 30 days after mailing of notice of such finding or order by the trial body.

Section 4. The Red Eyed Gnawer shall keep a Roll of Suspension and/or Expulsions containing the names of all suspended or expelled members and make a report to the Imperial Council immediately upon conviction of any member.

Section 5. The Imperial Council shall have the right upon two-thirds vote to revoke the charter of any Dugout for disobedience, or any act which may be deemed as detrimental to the welfare and the interest of the National Order of Trench Rats or to the disabled veteran.

Section 6. Dugouts whose charter have been revoked by the Imperial Council may appeal for reinstatement at the next following National Rendezvous, at which time they shall state fully the details on which they rest their appeal either by letter or in person.

Section 7. When the Imperial Council shall revoke a charter of a Dugout, all property of the Dugout shall be returned to Imperial Headquarters.

Section 8. Any member of the NOTR may be placed permanently into the At-Large Dugout by the Imperial Council for the failure to comply with orders of the Imperial Council or orders made with their authority. The Imperial Council can also impose a lesser penalty or can impose a penalty of expulsion. The member, once notified of said action, may appeal the decision in writing within 60 days of the notification of the action. The member will be notified of the time and place for a hearing before the Grievance Committee. No member shall be entitled to any reimbursement for any cost of his appeal and hearing, if held. Permanent action can only be reconsidered after five years and only by a vote of the Imperial Council.

Section 9. The penalty for wrongful sponsorship is expulsion.

Section 10. The Imperial Red Eyed Gnawer (and/or the Imperial Golden Rodent) may suspend the Charter of any Dugout or Sector for a period of up to 180 days pending the approval of the Imperial Council. During this 180-day suspension the Imperial Red Eyed Gnawer (and/or the Imperial Golden Rodent) will show cause and will ballot the Imperial Council for approval. Upon approval by the Imperial Council the Imperial Red Eyed Gnawer (and/or the Imperial Golden Rodent) may recommend further action.

Section 11. Upon any Dugout/Sector notification of Suspension, all funds and bank statements will be mailed to Imperial Headquarters within 15 days. These funds shall be held by Imperial until either the Suspension is removed or Revocation of Charter is approved. If Suspension is removed, Imperial will return all funds and records to the Dugout or Sector. Failure to comply may result in Trustee's being assigned to act on behalf of the Imperial Van.

Section 12. The expenses for an audit or investigation and hearings into the conduct of a Dugout or Sector by Imperial shall be paid by the Dugout or Sector concerned if it is found that the action was justified. The Dugout or Sector will pay such expenses within 30 days or the suspension will continue until the amount is recovered.

Section 13. Any member of the Imperial Board who is Suspended may be placed in permanent 'LIMBO'.

ARTICLE 18 – AMENDMENTS

Section 1. These By-Laws may be amended at any National Rendezvous by a written resolution submitted to the Resolution Committee and forwarded to the By-Laws Committee, and a vote of two-thirds of the total authorized representation there. Final approval will be made by a majority vote of the Imperial Council.

ARTICLE 19 – MISCELLANEOUS

Section 1. The masculine gender, whenever used in these Bylaws, and any documents used by the National Order of Trench Rats, shall include the feminine gender. The Imperial Bench Rat shall be authorized to make minor housekeeping changes to these bylaws without changing the effect and rules of these Bylaws.

Section 2. The National Order of Trench Rats will not tolerate any malicious form of discrimination, including racial, religious, gender, age and sexual orientation. Violations will be subject to disciplinary action which may also include forfeit of membership in the National of Trench Rats.

AS ADOPTED AT THE NATIONAL RENDEZVOUS AT

New Orleans, Louisiana on July 31, 2017

Bruce Novack
Imperial Golden Rodent

Albert Sorrentino
Imperial Red-Eyed Gnawer

Joel C. Devenish
Imperial Bench Rat