



The Sons of the Republic of Texas
Thomas J. Rusk Chapter No. 8

Chapter By-Laws

Proposed for adoption December 13, 2007

**BYLAWS OF
THE THOMAS J. RUSK CHAPTER NO. 8
THE SONS OF THE REPUBLIC OF TEXAS
DALLAS, TEXAS**

Amended and Revised October 26, 2007

ARTICLE 1 – NAME

The name of this organization shall be the “Thomas J. Rusk Chapter No. 8,” a subordinate Chapter of the Sons of the Republic of Texas (hereinafter called and referred to as “SRT” and “the National Organization”).

ARTICLE II – OBJECTIVES

Section 1. The objective of this organization shall be to support and carry out the objectives stated in the Constitution and Bylaws of the National Organization.

Section 2. It will support and advance those items of geography and historical facts associated with Texas, and the Thomas J. Rusk Chapter No. 8 areas of interest.

Section 3. It will coordinate, associate with and assist other organizations with the same or similar objectives as ours to advance the study, recording and perpetuation of knowledge of Texas history and heritage.

ARTICLE III – MEMBERSHIP

Section 1. REGULAR MEMBERSHIP – Regular Membership in the Thomas J. Rusk Chapter No. 8, SRT and in the National Organization can only be granted upon application to and approval by the National Organization, Sons of the Republic of Texas. Any man having attained his eighteenth birthday is eligible for regular membership, provided he is a lineal (direct) descendant of an ancestor who was a resident and a loyal citizen of the Republic of Texas prior to consummation of the Annexation Agreement of the Republic of Texas with the United States of America on February 19, 1846. Membership requirements are governed by the National Organization.

Section 2. JUNIOR MEMBERSHIP – Junior Membership in the Thomas J. Rusk Chapter No. 8, SRT and in the National Organization will be available to boys under eighteen (18) years of age who are otherwise qualified may be admitted as junior members upon written application by their parents or guardians, said application being made as elsewhere herein set out. Membership requirements and fees are set by the National Organization.

Section 3. Members of the Thomas J. Rusk Chapter No. 8 will actively seek out qualified applicants and assist them in whatever way possible to complete their application to the National Organization.

Section 4. All new members of this Chapter will be invited to the next meeting after their approval by the National Organization, both by letter notification, by e-mail and by a personal telephone call by a designated officer of the Chapter. Every attempt will be made to have the new member attend the meeting at which he will be greeted by a designated officer, will be introduced to other members and guests and during the meeting will be introduced as a new member.

Section 5. ASSOCIATE MEMBERSHIP – Associate Membership in the Thomas J. Rusk Chapter Number 8, SRT, can be granted upon application to and approval by the officers and Executive Committee of the Chapter. Any man who has reached his eighteenth birthday and has expressed interest in becoming a member and supports the goals and objectives of our organization may apply for Associate Membership. Associate members may attend and participate in all meetings and Chapter functions except voting, holding office and wearing the SRT emblem. Associate Members of Thomas J. Rusk Chapter are NOT members of the National Organization.

Section 6. HONORARY MEMBERSHIP – Honorary Membership in the Thomas J. Rusk Chapter Number 8, SRT, may be awarded to men who the local Chapter wishes to recognize for outstanding contributions to Texas history and who support our organization's goals and objectives. Honorary members may attend and participate in all meetings and Chapter functions except voting, holding office and wearing the SRT emblem. No more than three (3) Honorary Memberships may be bestowed in a year. Honorary members of Thomas J. Rusk Chapter are NOT members of the National Organization.

Section 7. PROCESSING FEES - Fees to accompany applications for membership are established by the National Organization.

Section 8. DUES – National and Chapter Dues

- a. Annual dues are established by the National Organization.
- b. Junior Membership dues are established by the National Organization.
- c. Associate Member Dues - Will be set and paid to the local Chapter.

Section 9. DELINQUENT DUES - National and local dues become delinquent if not paid by ninety (90) days after January 1st each year and the National Organization may suspend a member for nonpayment. Nonpayment of dues for two (2) successive years will result in the member being dropped from active membership and eligibility for any benefits.

Section 10. REINSTATEMENT - Membership may be regained by payment of annual dues and any fees required by the National Organization.

ARTICLE IV – OFFICERS

Section 1. The elected officers of this Chapter shall be:

- President
- Vice President
- Secretary
- Treasurer
- Chaplain
- Historian

Section 2. The President will preside at all meetings of the Chapter and of the Executive Committee. He has the authority to call special meetings of the Executive Committee and of the Chapter when in his judgment it may be necessary. He shall appoint all members of standing and special committees unless otherwise provided for in these Bylaws. Should the Chapter President become unable to serve, the Vice President will assume the duties of the President.

Section 3. The Vice President will preside and perform all of the duties of the President in his absence or inability to serve. He will assist the President in furthering the interests of the Chapter and the National Organization. He will be responsible for developing and arranging programs for meetings and for selecting the meeting sites in coordination with the President.

Section 4. The Secretary shall keep accurate records of all Chapter activities and meetings and at all times have them in proper shape for presentation to the Executive Committee and/or meetings of the Chapter. He shall prepare notice of executive and general membership meetings and insure that they are mailed at the proper time. He will prepare, publish and distribute the quarterly newsletter to all members. He shall perform such other duties as assigned by the President.

Section 5. The Treasurer shall receive and deposit all monies for the Chapter, and funds and other things of value entrusted to his keeping. He shall maintain detailed records and render an itemized accounting of same at each meeting or Executive Committee meeting as requested. He shall keep a complete and accurate account of all expenditures made for the organization and render an accounting for them, just as for receipts. He will receive reservations and oversee the collection of all reservation fees. He will execute and sign all checks drawn upon the funds of the Chapter. All checks over one hundred dollars (\$100.00), for other than standing business, must be approved by either the Executive Committee or by members present and voting at a General Membership meeting of the Chapter.

Section 6. The Chaplain will offer the invocation and benediction at the opening and closing of meetings of the membership. He will be responsible for the safekeeping of the Chapter's flags, decorations, and Chapter medallion and for insuring their presence at each membership meeting, or activity where they are deemed necessary by the President.

Section 7. The Historian will be responsible for receiving, screening, reviewing, processing [i.e., he will photocopy the membership applications, and all associated documents to be transmitted to the National Organization, and retain these copies of new membership

Applications for the Chapter records] and then forwarding all applications for membership to the appropriate officer of the National Sons of the Republic of Texas Organization.

Section 8. Vacancies in offices will be filled by the Executive Committee.

Section 9. Progression of offices will follow the natural advancement as determined from time to time.

ARTICLE V – ELECTIONS AND NOMINATIONS

Section 1. All officers will be elected and will serve for a period of one (1) year or until their successors are elected. The President will serve no more than two (2) consecutive years in that position. Officer elections will be held at the December meeting. Installation of officers will be at the December general membership meeting and they will assume their offices immediately.

Section 2. A majority vote of the members present and voting shall be required for the elections of officers. The nominating committee shall present their slate of candidates to the general membership.

Section 3. Nominating Procedure – At each June meeting, the President shall appoint the Nominating Committee which will meet in person at least once to contact, select and nominate qualified members for the officers for the following year. The committee shall be composed of the most recent serving past president as its chairman, two (2) regular members and two (2) recent past Presidents as the other members. These members should be most familiar with the qualifications of these members nominated. The committee will make its selection of nominees and will announce them to the membership in writing to be included with the notification for the December meeting of the Chapter. Officers for the succeeding year will be elected at the December general membership meeting. It may be advisable that the election meeting be a member's only meeting in elections where opposing candidates are known or expected to be nominated from the floor. Additional nominations for all elected positions can be made from the floor at the time of the election. All nominees contacted for office shall be read the respective duties and responsibilities from the Chapter Bylaws by the nominating committee prior to indicating their willingness to serve if elected. The President shall preside over the nominations and election process.

ARTICLE VI – MEETINGS

Section 1. General membership meetings shall be held at least quarterly each year.

Section 2. Special membership meetings may be called by the President when in his judgment there is good reason for such meetings. A two (2) week written notification to the membership will be given.

Section 3. There shall be at least two (2) meetings of the Executive Committee each year. Such meetings shall be at such times and in such places as may be fixed by the Chapter President.

Notification of time and place should be given to the committee at least two (2) weeks in advance. The notification may be shorter if unusual circumstances arise.

ARTICLE VII – EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Section 1. The Executive Committee will be composed of:

- a. The Chapter Officers
- b. The most recent past President who maintains membership in our Chapter;
- c. All past Presidents shall be ex officio members of the Executive Committee. They shall be privileged to attend meetings and have a voice but not a vote.

Section 2. The members of the Executive Committee will attend all meetings of the committee; shall advise, plan, consult and assist the elected officers in all ways possible and perform such duties as may be requested of them by the President.

Section 3. A minimum of one-half (1/2) of the members of the Executive Committee present constitute a quorum for the conduct of business. Any emergency telephone or e-mail business that is required will be documented with a memo for the record and be reviewed at the next Executive Committee meeting.

ARTICLE VIII – COMMITTEES

Section 1. The President will appoint committees as he and the Executive Committee deem necessary for the conduct of the affairs of the Chapter.

ARTICLE IX – PARLIAMENTARY AUTHORITY

Section 1. The rules contained in the current edition of Robert’s Rules of Order Newly Revised shall govern the Thomas J. Rusk Chapter No. 8 SRT in all cases to which they are applicable and in which they are not inconsistent with these Bylaws and any special rules of order the Thomas J. Rusk Chapter No. 8 SRT may adopt.

ARTICLE X – AMENDMENTS OF BYLAWS

Section 1. These Bylaws may be amended at any regular meeting of the Thomas J. Rusk Chapter No. 8 SRT by a two-thirds vote, provided that the amendment has been submitted in writing at the previous regular meeting.

Revised October 26, 2007