

Military Order of the Cootie
Of the United States
Supreme By-Laws Committee Chair 2018-2019
Mark P. Larkin #122, Pup Tent # 3,
Grand of North Carolina

July 29, 2019

To: MOC Supreme Staff Judge Advocate, Gerald "Jerry" Constable

From: MOC Supreme By-Laws Chair, Mark P. Larkin

Subj: By-Laws and Ritual Amendments as approved at the 2019 Convention, Orlando Florida

Listen Up Cooties,

Below are the results of the proposed By-Laws and Ritual amendments for the year of 2018-2019 as passed by the Convention attendees at the 2019 Convention held in Orlando, Florida on July 27th, 2019. The specific proposed By-Laws and Ritual amendments can be found in the archived issue of the April 2019 Cootie Courier.

1. By Laws – proposed amendments
 - a. B-1, B-2 and B-3 were rejected as written in their entirety.
 - b. B-4 was accepted as written in its entirety.
2. Rituals – proposed amendments
 - a. R-1 was accepted as written in its entirety.
 - b. R-2 was accepted with the following amendment – Replace the word ("fellowmen") with ("fellow veterans") in the second paragraph 1st sentence. Also, to replace the word ("fellowmen") with ("comrades") in the third paragraph 2nd sentence.
 - c. R-3 was accepted with the following amendment – Replace the word ("dependents") with (residents") first paragraph 1st sentence.

Attached for clarification are the proposed By-Laws and Ritual amendments. If there are any questions or information required please contact me.

Respectfully Submitted,

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By-Law Amendments

B-1 - REJECTED

Recommended by the Grand of Ohio Proposed by the Supreme Commander

ARTICLE V – Supreme Pup Tent, Sec. 505 – Supreme Officers

Amend Sec. 505 C. Supreme Council of Administration; by inserting after “(see paragraph A.)”, the following: **“current Commander-in-Chief of the Veterans of Foreign Wars”**.

B-2 - REJECTED

Recommended by the By-Law Committee Proposed by the Grand Commander of Ohio

ARTICLE IV – GRAND COUNCIL OF ADMINISTRATION, Sec. 1 – Grand Council Member

Amend Section 1, Grand Council Member; by inserting after “Past Grand Commanders of Ohio” the following: **“current Department Commander of Ohio of the Veterans of Foreign Wars”**.

B-3 - REJECTED

Recommended by the Grand Council of Administration of South Carolina
Proposed by the Grand Commander of South Carolina

ARTICLE VII – Section 701. Uniforms

Insert the following paragraph: **“j. Cootie Bug Collar Pin: Any *BUG* authorized for sale by Supreme will be considered an authorized device. *The collar pin will be worn on the collar in the area between the ears, approaching, but not touching the center of the shirt. The bug should appear to be climbing up the neck. The collar pin can be worn on any shirt, jacket, or coat.*”** AND re-designate the current paragraph j as “k.”

B-4 - APPROVED

Recommended by the By-Law Committee Proposed by the Supreme Commander

The following paragraphs are recommended for amendment to remain in compliance with the By-Laws of the National VFW Organization as amended in 2018 in accordance with Robert’s Rules of Order. The amendment is to include the following words: “present and voting” at the location specified by an * in each of the paragraphs identified below:

ARTICLE I – Section 103 – Paragraph B.

An application for membership in the Military Order of the Cootie must be accompanied by a certificate verifying that the applicant has been a member in good standing in the post for the preceding six months, and has completed satisfactory service on a major Post committee or has satisfactorily performed Post duties or participated actively as a leader of Post functions; said certificate enumerating such qualifying service and showing approval of application by a majority vote of the members * at a meeting of the Post shall bear the endorsement of the Post Commander attested to by the Post Adjutant.

ARTICLE II – Section 217 – Paragraph A.

Any Pup Tent may change its name by a two-thirds (2/3) vote of the membership **present** * at a regular or special meeting called for the purpose, of which meeting and proposed action at least thirty (30) days notice in writing has been given to all members, and provided that such change shall be approved by the Grand Commander and the Supreme Commander.

ARTICLE II – Section 219

When two or more Pup Tents in good standing desire to consolidate, written or printed notice of such proposed action shall be given to all members in good standing at least two (2) weeks prior to date of meeting for consideration of such proposition in each of said Pup Tents. If such proposition shall then be adopted by a vote of two-thirds (2/3) of the members **present** * at such scratch, the vote being records by ayes and nays; the fact shall through channels, be certified by resolution of each Pup Tent to the Grand Commander, or if no Grand Pup Tent exists, then to the Supreme Commander. When the resolutions are so approved by two (2) or more Pup Tents, the Grand Commander shall forward said approved resolutions to the Supreme Commander (where no Grand Pup Tent exists, the two Pup Tents shall send them directly to the Supreme Commander) who shall approve or disapprove, depending, and he or she will issue without charge a new Charter reciting the facts of such consolidation and bearing the names of such Pup Tents. The new Charter shall rank from the date of the senior numbered Pup Tent but the number shall be either number of the consolidating units agreed upon by the consolidating Pup Tents, and the new name shall be one agreed on by the consolidating Pup Tents, both of the foregoing having been agreed on by vote of two-thirds (2/3) of the members **present** * of any and all Pup Tents consolidating at a Scratch for the specific purpose of consolidation, due notice of at least two (2) weeks having been mailed all members of said Pup Tent concerned. The property of the consolidated Pup Tent shall be conveyed to the new Pup Tent and become the property thereof. All past officers in each shall be entitled to ranks as of date of service in their respective Pup Tent. Upon the consolidation of Two (2) or more Pup Tents, new officers shall be elected and installed. In the event two (2) or more Pup Tents consolidate, all officers of the consolidated Pup Tents having fulfilled their obligations shall be recognized as past officers, provided, however, the past

Seam Squirrels of the consolidated Pup Tents for the purpose of representing either the Pup Tents consolidated, or for the new Pup tent formed by such consolidation at any District or Grand Scratch.

- ARTICLE III – Section 307 – Paragraph B

A Pup Tent at a regular scratch, if notice of intent to do so has been given at a prior scratch, may by two-thirds (2/3) vote of the members **present ***, declare vacant the position of any elective officer who has absented them self from two (2) consecutive scratches or has failed to fulfill the duties of that office. No Pup Tent member may bring a motion before any Pup Tent meeting to vacate any elective office unless written notice of the proposed action has been given to the officer holding such office, the Seam Squirrel, the Hungry Cootie and the Grand Commander at least seven (7) days prior to the meeting. The notice shall state the reasons for the proposed action. At the meeting, the officer shall be advised of the facts underlying the proposed action and afforded the opportunity to present evidence on their own behalf.

ARTICLE III – Section 333

Any former member of the Military Order of the Cootie may become reinstated in the Pup Tent to which they formerly belonged upon their re-instatement in the Veterans of Foreign Wars providing such member shall have paid their dues in the Veterans of Foreign Wars. This reinstatement is subject to two-thirds (2/3) vote of the members **present *** of the Pup Tent at any regular meeting.

RITUAL AMENDMENTS

R-1 - APPROVED

Recommended by the Grand Council of Administration of South Carolina
Proposed by the Grand Commander of South Carolina

The guidelines and instructions within the Ritual conflict with those specified in the By-Laws. Therefore, propose that BOTH INSTRUCTIONS TO SEAM SQUIRRELS, page 5, Paragraph 5, and 1ST DEGREE INSTRUCTIONS TO SHAVETAILS, Page 14, Paragraph 3, read as follows:

"Pup Tent Shavetails shall hold a Scratch once every month and plan the Pup Tent activities for the next month or specified period; and give this information to all members of the Pup Tent. This will build up membership and keep the members active in the Pup Tent."

R-2 - APPROVED

Recommended by the By-Law Committee Proposed by Pup Tent 83, Grand of Ohio

To remove any gender bias in the Opening Prayer adjust the prayer on Page 8 to read:

“O Thou Great and Eternal God, We are reminded there are times of sorrow and of joy, times when we should be quiet and times we should be heard. We would pray Thy blessing on our beloved military order.

*In these days of great concern, help us to assert ourselves when we should and to accomplish our purposes without offense to our **fellowmen**. Give us the insight we pray Thee to have all concern for sick comrades not only by material giving but also showing concern by praying for them and their dependents.*

*As we look to the days ahead, may we by our faithfulness to the VFW advance its cause and programs and by so doing also advance our cause. May we serve our beloved order and our **comrades** in such a way that we will receive eternal life as our reward, so help me God.*

Amen.”

R-3 - APPROVED

Recommended by the By-Law Committee Proposed by Pup Tent 83, Grand of Ohio

To remove any gender bias in the National Home Prayer adjust the first prayer on Page 34 to read:

*“Almighty God, we ask Thy Divine blessing on the **dependents** and children in our National Home. May Thy Divine spirit be within them forever, giving them health and guiding their lives. Trust us always, to honor our departed comrades. Amen.”*