

WISCONSIN SOCIETY SONS OF THE AMERICAN REVOLUTION
ELISHA RAYMOND CHAPTER, EIN # 23-7062878
CONSTITUTION AND BY-LAWS

ARTICLE 1 – NAME

The name of this Chapter shall be the “Elisha Raymond Chapter, Wisconsin Society of the Sons of the American Revolution”.

For IRS purposes, the Chapter name shall be the “Wisconsin Society of the American Revolution,” with the EIN # of 23-7062878. This name change was done by the IRS upon reinstatement of the Chapter’s 501c3 status on May 30, 2014.

The Chapter shall be considered a Public Charity, per IRS regulations, and shall be able to receive tax deductible donations from corporations or individuals.

Elisha Raymond, Patriot

Elisha Raymond, son of William and Amey Raymond, was born at Gloucester, Rhode Island, November 9, 1761. In February 1776, at the age of 14, Elisha joined the state militia. He served a one month enlistment each for John Warner, Jeremy Ballard, Joshua Matterson, his brother Thomas, and Daniel Barnes, until about February 1777. In March or April of that year he served as a substitute for his father, William, in the militia of Providence, Rhode Island.

Beginning on July 1, 1777, he served one month as a substitute for John Inman of Gloucester and then enlisted for three more months. After serving this enlistment, he returned to Gloucester. In 1781, he joined the Light Infantry. After the capture of Cornwallis, and after serving about one year of a 15-month enlistment, he transferred to the Continental Army. He was discharged at Saratoga, New York, in December 1782.

Elisha married Abigail Inman in Gloucester on April 25, 1781. They had 12 children: Alfred, Elisha Jr., Truman, Direxa, Anne, Reuben, Jason, Adin, Melita, Abigail, Matilda and Zelick.

Shortly after peace was declared between Great Britain and the Colonies, Elisha, his wife and first child, moved to Stamford, Bennington County, Vermont. There they raised cattle, sheep and swine. Elisha also served as a Selectman of Stamford and was among those appointed a highway surveyor.



Elisha apparently wanted to visit his sons and grandsons, who had gone west to the Territory of Wisconsin, and died here before returning to his wife, who was still in Stamford, Vermont. He died on June 11, 1842, at age 81 and was buried on his son's farm in Raymond Township, Racine County. Later, his remains were transferred to Racine's Mound Cemetery and buried in Lot 85, Block 19, Grave 5.

ARTICLE II – OBJECTS

The objects of this Chapter are declared to be patriotic, historical and educational and shall include those that are intended or designed to perpetuate the memory of those patriots who by their services or sacrifices during the War of the American Revolution achieved the independence of the American People; to unite and promote fellowship among their descendants; to inspire them and the community at large with a more profound reverence for the principle of the government founded by our forefathers; to encourage historical research relative to the American Revolution; to acquire and preserve the individual service records of the patriots of the War and the wartime documents, relics and landmarks, to mark the scenes of the Revolution by appropriate memorials; to celebrate the anniversary of prominent events of the War and of the Revolutionary period; to foster true patriotism; to maintain and extend the institutions of American freedom, and to carry out the purposes expressed in the Preamble of the Constitution of our Country and the injunctions of General Washington in his farewell address to the American people.

ARTICLE III - MEMBERSHIP

Any man shall be eligible for membership in this Chapter who, being of the age of eighteen or over, and a citizen of good repute in the community, is the lineal descendant of an ancestor who was at all times unfailing in loyalty to, and rendered assistance in the cause of American Independence, as defined by the NSSAR Constitution Part I, article III. Such member shall be designated officially as "Compatriot." Furthermore, he shall fulfil the requirements outlined in Section I of the By-Laws of this Chapter.

ARTICLE IV - ORGANIZATION

The State Society is a Corporation, incorporated in the State of Wisconsin as a non-profit organization. This Chapter, like other State Chapters, is a constituent part of the incorporated State Society. As such, this Chapter is a Subordinate local body organized by the WISSAR, INC., for the purpose of carrying out the objects of the Wisconsin Society.

The period of duration of this Chapter is perpetual, however, upon surrender, forfeiture or revocation of the Chapter's Charter, the Board of Managers of WISSAR, INC, pursuant with the State Society Constitution Section 6, Article VIII shall act as trustee and take over the real and/or personal property owned and held by this Chapter at the time of dissolution.

Notwithstanding any other provision of the By-Laws, this chapter shall not carry on any other activities not permitted to be carried on by (A) a corporation exempt from Federal Income Tax under section 501 (C) (3) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1954 or (B) a corporation whose contributions are deductible under Section 170 (C) (2) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1954 or any other corresponding provision of any future United States Internal Revenue Law.

Notwithstanding any other provision of the By-Laws, the purposes for which this Chapter is organized are exclusively charitable and educational within the meaning of Section 501 (C) (3) of the Internal Revenue Code. It is understood that the WISSAR, INC has unilaterally decided to be self-insured insofar as liability insurance is concerned. It follows that this Chapter also has now liability insurance to cover any liability or responsibility for such matters, for members and officers acting in pursuit of business of the Society.

ARTICLE V - OFFICERS

The officers of this Chapter shall consist of a President, Vice-President, Secretary, Treasurer, or Secretary/Treasurer, Registrar, and Chaplain. The above named officers, together with the immediate past President, shall comprise the Chapter Board. Duties of the Chapter Officers and the Board are outlined in the By-Laws of the Chapter.

A Nominating Committee of three members shall be proposed by the President at the November Meeting and approved by the membership in attendance by majority vote. It shall be the duty of this committee to nominate a candidate, whose consent to serve has been obtained, for each office to be filled at the annual meeting in November. Additional nominations may be made from the floor, provided the consent of the nominee shall first have been obtained.

The election of officers shall be held at the November meeting. If there is more than one candidate for an office, the election shall be by ballot and a majority vote shall elect. All officers shall hold office for one year, or until their successors are elected and installed. Their term of office shall begin at the end of the January meeting at which they are to be installed.

The installing Officer shall be the WISSAR President, or a member of the WISSAR Board, if the WISSAR President so designates.

No member shall hold more than one office (Secretary/Treasurer to be considered one office if applicable) at a time except Chaplain or Registrar. No member shall serve as President for more than two consecutive terms, unless there are no other members willing to serve as President. A member who has served more than half a term in any office shall be considered to have served the full term.

In case a vacancy occurs in the office of President, the Vice-President shall become President. Vacancies in other offices shall be filled by the Board.

ARTICLE VI - MEETINGS

Regular meetings shall be scheduled five (5) times a year, (January; March; May; September; and November).

No meetings will be held in June, July or August unless approved by the Board.

Conduct of the meeting shall follow procedures outlined in the SAR Handbook as applicable.

Special meetings may be called by the President, with the approval of the Board.

Regularly scheduled meetings and special meetings may be held without a Quorum. However Chapter business transactions can only be conducted at a regular or special meeting and shall require a quorum, such quorum shall comprise a minimum of ten-percent of the Chapter membership of which 2 officers in good standing.

The Board is authorized to conduct business of the Chapter. All matters that are approved must carry a positive vote of a majority of the members of the Board.

Robert's Rules of Order, Revised Edition shall be used to resolve any dispute for which provision has not been made in the Constitution and By-Laws of the Chapter, State and National societies.

The fiscal year of the Chapter will be from January 1 to December 31 of each year. The regular meeting in January will be the annual Meeting at which time the new officers will be installed and take office at the conclusion of the meeting.

ARTICLE VII - AMENDMENTS

The articles of this Constitution may be amended at any regular business meeting of the Chapter by a 60 percent vote of the members present, said amendment having been provided in writing to the active members, no later than two weeks prior to the meeting at which the amendments are to be considered.

BY-LAWS

ARTICLE 1 - MEMBERSHIP

Application for membership in WSSAR and NSSAR may be made through this Chapter, or the State Genealogist. Procedures for membership outlined in the Constitution and By-Laws of the NSSAR and WSSAR shall control.

Any man shall be eligible for associate membership in this Chapter who, being of the age of eighteen or over, and a citizen of good repute in the community.

Associate members shall be afforded the respect and fellowship of the lineal members of the Chapter, and shall be considered Compatriots-in-Waiting if they are working on their lineage.

The expulsion of any lineal member of the Chapter will require that the same procedures and rules outlined in Article X of the WSSAR Constitution be followed.

Any associate member may be expelled for just cause upon that cause being submitted in writing to the Chapter President and Board, and the agreement of the full Board.

ARTICLE II - FEES AND DUES

Initiation fees and annual dues are established by the National and State Societies. Dues are invoiced and collected in accordance with WISSAR policy.

Associate members annual dues shall be affixed at the November meeting each year.

Dues will be paid for the following year, and shall be meant primarily to cover the cost of postage and mailings. Such dues shall be paid only to the Chapter.

ARTICLE III - OFFICERS

PRESIDENT

The President will be the official executive officer of the Chapter, and will be responsible for calling and conducting meetings, appoints the Chairman and members, and acts as the member ex-officio of all committees. He is responsible for the budget, represents the chapter in public, presides at Chapter Board meetings, maintains general supervision over the affairs and business of the Chapter, and is responsible for all assets of the Chapter.

VICE-PRESIDENT

The Vice-President shall, in the absence of the President, assume the duties of the President's Office. He shall serve as Chairman of the Program Committee. He shall also serve as the Publicity Officer of the Chapter.

SECRETARY

The Secretary shall be responsible for maintaining the official records of the Chapter, recording the minutes of all meetings in a neat and legible manner, and keeping the register of all members. He shall advise the WISSAR Secretary of the membership, notification of all meetings, and conduct the correspondence of the Chapter. He shall, in the absence of the President and Vice-President, preside over Chapter meetings. He shall maintain the current membership roster. He shall be responsible for preparing all reports required for WISSAR and NSSAR. He and/or the Chapter Treasurer shall be responsible for filing the required State and/or Federal tax reports.

TREASURER

The Treasurer is in charge of collecting, safekeeping, and depositing all funds of the Chapter, disbursing funds only within budgeted accounts unless there is prior approval of the President. He shall maintain the financial records in ready form for an audit at any time. He and/or the Chapter Secretary shall be responsible for filing the required State and/or Federal tax reports. He will serve as chairman of the budget committee.

REGISTRAR

The Registrar shall review all new applications for membership, examine the application for completeness, and forward the required copies and related documentation to the State Genealogist. He shall maintain records of all applications received, dates of receipt and mailings to the State Genealogist, and results of interim actions ending in final approval of the memberships, maintain a membership service record which will include deaths, transfers, dual memberships, dues payments, delinquencies, and a copy of each individual member's record application, NSSAR number, and WISSAR number, honors and certificates of each member. The Registrar will apprise the Secretary and Treasurer of any change in the membership report.

CHAPLAIN

The Chaplain shall assist in meetings by being prepared to offer an invocation and a benediction proper on such occasions, the "friendship" Chairman of the Chapter, making every effort to stay informed of the health, illness, birthday, wedding anniversary, hospitalization, death or misfortunes of Chapter members and their families, respond with appropriate expressions that will evidence the Chapter's concern, and visit with each new member, answer any questions concerning the SAR and generally make the new member welcome into the Chapter.

ARTICLE IV - CHAPTER BOARD

The Chapter Board shall be the custodian of all Chapter assets and shall have charge of and manage the business and affairs of the Chapter, prepare a budget to allocate monies for desired programs and activities, and be responsible for subsequent performance against that budget.

The President and other elected officers, plus the immediate Past President shall comprise the Chapter Board, and shall meet at such frequency as called for by the President.

ARTICLE V - COMMITTEES

The Chapter President may appoint the following Committees of the Chapter which may be the Program Committee, the Finance Committee, Membership Committee and the Auditing Committee.

The Program Committee consisting of the Vice-President and two other members of the Chapter appointed by the President upon nomination by the Vice-President. The Vice-President shall serve as Chairman. Their duty shall be to plan the programs for the Chapter.

The Finance Committee is composed of the members of the Board. The Secretary or Treasurer will chair the committee when meeting for this purpose. It is the duty of this committee to develop the budget for the Chapter for the year.

The Chairman of the Audit Committee will be appointed by the President. The Chairman of the Committee will appoint two other members from the membership. It will be the duty of this committee to audit the financial records of the Secretary/Treasurer after the closing of the books on December 31. The Chairman will report to the Chapter at the annual meeting in January.

A Membership Committee shall be appointed by the President. It shall be their responsibility to lead in the Chapter's effort to recruit new members. The Registrar will serve as Chairman of this committee.

Such other committees or chairman of committees will be appointed by the President as the Chapter may authorize or the National or State Societies require.

ARTICLE VI - AMENDMENTS

The articles of this Constitution may be amended at any regular business meeting of the Chapter by a 60 % vote of the members present, said amendment having been provided in writing to the active members at least one week prior to the meeting at which the amendments are to be considered.